

The Four Priorities Chapter 7

Book by John Tolson

Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church



Chapter 7: Why Do I Need to Give?

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

Open (10 min.)

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Open with a brief prayer **modeling A.C.T.S.** from last week's description.

Recap (2 min.)

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week.

- We talked about how to grow in our intimacy with God through our communication with Him. One way this occurs is through prayer.
- **Ask:** Did you try praying using the ACTS model or the prayer model in Matthew?
- Another way to communicate with God is through fasting.
- We then finished by discussing the methods of worshipping God both individually and corporately.

Ask: Do you have any further questions from last week?

Opening (10 min.)

Say: The author opens the discussion by framing **giving** as a river of life flowing out, carrying life downstream. However, when greed or other things that “block” our desire to give, it is like the Sea of Galilee flowing into the Dead Sea, where nothing living can flow out.

Ask: What are your feelings about monetary giving? (Consider sharing your own experience briefly and how God has potentially changed your thinking for the positive in relation to giving.)

Read Matthew 16:24-27.

At the bottom of page 67, what does the author say is the key to legacy investing regarding the Matthew scripture? (the key is in verse 24 – “give up your own way and follow me.” Following Jesus means following his ways and teachings and not our own. Jesus and His Word say a lot about giving.)

Ask: What do these passages say about who to show care for?

Deuteronomy 10:18, Isaiah 1:17, James 1:27, 2:15-16? (Care for the oppressed, the ones who cannot provide for themselves, widows/orphans.)



Joyful life of
faithful
stewarding,
pgs. 68-70
(20 min.)

Ask: Are you familiar with something called the prosperity gospel?
(The prosperity gospel, or "health and wealth" theology, is a belief, often found in Charismatic/Pentecostal circles, that God desires believers to be financially prosperous and physically healthy. It teaches that, through faith, positive confessions, and donations ("seed faith"), Christians can command divine blessings, including wealth, in this life.)

Many of these teachers use Malachi 3 (as the author mentioned) to teach that tithing to their church/ministry will multiply the giver financially.

Do: Read Malachi 1:7-8, 2:1-9, and 3:8-12 and explain what the problem was and how God could bring them blessing instead of a curse. (The temple priests corrupted the truth of God's instructions to the people, offered defiled sacrifices, committed adultery, and withheld tithes and offerings from God)

Say: The point of chapter 3 is to tell the Jewish priests who are supposed to care for the temple and the people to stop cheating God. Back in **Deuteronomy 28**, God instituted the blessings and curses tied to their obedience to His word. If they obeyed, they would have blessings and success in the land he was giving them. If they disobeyed, they would receive the curses. This was specific to the Jewish nation. This does *not* speak to *our* giving and tithing to God.

In this section, the author distinguishes between Old Testament tithing and New Testament giving.

Ask: What else did you see in this section that stood out to you?



**A Good
Investment,
pg., 70
(15 min)**

Say: Increased blessing does not always indicate monetary increase.

Ask: In this next section, what types of “blessing” does the author mention stem from our giving? (friendship, discerning God’s will, our needs will be provided for, contentment, and joy)

- The author mentions a passage from Luke 6. Let’s see what blessing comes from *giving* in this scripture. Read Luke 6:37-38 (*give forgiveness, not condemnation; the amount we give determines the amount we get back*)
- Galatians 6:1-10 (v4. share burdens of other believers and hear a commendation of “well done,” and v7. harvesting everlasting life)
- Read Luke 6:24-26 with Luke 16:19-26. What is the **danger** of living for riches here and now, rather than following the ways of Christ and helping believers in need? (*Enjoying the pleasures of this life is temporary; we should focus on things that will impact our eternity. Living for this life can shortchange rewards in heaven.*)

**Giving what is
not owned, pgs.
70-73
(20 min)**

Ask: What is the mind shift that can occur when we look at “our belongings” as “God’s belongings?” (*The things of this life begin to lose their grip on us, and we can choose to loosen our grip on the things that once owned or enslaved us.*)

Say: At the top of page 72, the author refers to Matthew 19:16-26. Jesus tells the man to sell his possessions and receive “treasure in heaven.”

Ask: What do you *think* is meant by treasure in heaven? (discuss)

Do: Watch the short video about treasure in heaven found in Got Questions. <https://www.gotquestions.org/treasures-in-heaven.html>

Do: Discuss your findings.



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More on giving	Say: The New Testament promotes financial giving. Let's see what we can find. • 2 Corinthians 8:10-15 (when giving, give eagerly and in proportion to what they make; helping other believers in need) • 2 Corinthians 9:71-14 (There were needy <i>believers</i> in Jerusalem; these believers in Corinth were urged to give to them willingly, cheerfully, and generously. Their blessing was sharing in helping the needs of fellow believers, bringing them joy, having God meet their own needs (not wants), and sharing in joyful thanksgiving to God.) • Galatians 6:6 (provide for your church teachers) • 1 Timothy 5:17-18 (caring for the financial needs of elders) Say: Let's now apply this directly to our own lives.
Take Action (30 min.)	Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter. Next week, we'll begin Priority #2 – Commitment to Yourself.
Close (5 min.)	Homework: Read Chapter 8 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions. Close in prayer.