

# BEYOND BLESSED DISCUSSION GUIDE

## LESSON 1: LIVING BEYOND BLESSED

### FOCUS

When we give generously and learn to manage well what God has given us, we begin experiencing life *beyond* blessed. When we follow this plan, we are using God's resources properly. He wants to bless us by channeling His resources through us to bless others.

### FUN

If it were within your ability, who would you bless and how would you make it an over-the-top expression of your appreciation?

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** GENESIS 12:2;  
1 CHRONICLES 4:9–10

### REVIEW

#### 1. It Takes Two Legs.

The blessed life is comprised of two components: generosity and stewardship. When we are obedient to His Word, we want to bless others because God has blessed us. He has the supply to answer our need.

#### 2. Why Talk About Money?

God does not need our money because He owns everything. All we have is due to His graciousness. We are the stewards of what He has directed to us, and our heart attitude determines what we do with it. Giving is a blessing!

#### 3. Being a Blessing.

Because God loves us, He blesses us. When we are generous to others and are good stewards of what He gives us, He opens the windows of heaven and pours out blessings upon us. God implemented giving for a purpose—to be a blessing to others and to bless us.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** After reading Pastor Robert's book, *Beyond Blessed*, consider asking group members to share something from it that particularly resonated with them.

### DISCUSS

1. What are two important components to not only living the blessed life but also living beyond blessed?
2. "We *get* to give, not give to get" is the proper attitude to have when giving. It is realizing that God gives us opportunities and circumstances in which to bless others. How is this concept of giving improperly used at times?
3. Being a good steward means that we manage well all that God gives us. What can happen when we are not careful in managing these blessings?
4. Explain this verse, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Give examples of how this verse could apply positively or negatively.
5. Read 1 Chronicles 4:10. What are the requests Jabez brings before God? How does God respond? Discuss ways we can apply the prayer of Jabez to our lives today.
6. To fully walk in God's blessings, we must learn to operate generously and to manage our resources wisely. Take a moment to quietly come before the Lord, asking Him if there needs to be a change in your attitude about giving and stewardship. Then ask Him to help you follow through with what you have been shown.

### TAKE HOME

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God wants to bless us because He loves us.
- He has a plan for giving.
- God's plan involves generosity and wise stewardship.
- We are to bless others because God has blessed us.

### PRAYER

Lord, help me to give generously and to handle with wisdom the resources You have given me. Thank You for all of the blessings You have brought into my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Always begin your study with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to be present for guidance and understanding.

## LESSON 2: WHO'S THE OWNER?

### FOCUS

To live a life that is blessed or even *beyond* blessed, we must recognize the foundation of ownership. God owns everything in the world, but He appoints us as stewards to wisely manage it. We are not to confuse God's blessing with materialism. The blessed life is a life that blesses. When we follow God's principle of giving and are good stewards over what He gives us, the supernatural happens.

### FUN

Were you ever given an allowance as a child? If so, what was your favorite thing to spend it on?

**KEY SCRIPTURES: PSALM 24:1; EXODUS 13:2; 23:19; LEVITICUS 27:30**

### REVIEW

#### 1. It all belongs to God.

Everything we have is God's. We get to enjoy what He sends us, but we do not permanently own these things. When God prompts us to share, we are not to grieve our loss. His principle of stewardship enables us to be generous.

#### 2. The first belongs to God.

People were bringing their "firsts" to God even before the law was established. Today, we still bring the first 10 percent of our income, or our tithe, to Him. Although as believers we are not under the law, His principles still affect us. God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

#### 3. The tithe belongs to God.

We may not think we are robbing God when we withhold His tithe, but we are doing exactly that. When we are faithful in bringing our tithe to Him, He blesses us in order to bless others. God sees our hearts. Tithing is the only thing in the Bible where God says to test Him (Malachi 3).

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Discuss the ways we impact God's kingdom by returning the portion that God requires.

### DISCUSS

1. According to God's Word, what belongs to Him (Psalm 24:1; 50:10-12)?
2. Explain what it means to give "the first of the firstfruits" (Exodus 23:19).
3. What was the significance of the "first" offering? Example: the first lamb versus the tenth lamb?
4. What is the definition of "tithe"? How should God's principle of giving work in our lives today?
5. Explain Pastor Robert's statement, "Your name may be on the temporary deed, but it's all His."
6. God blesses us supernaturally for giving, especially when we steward wisely. Give an example of how God supernaturally provided for you when you were obedient to His principle of giving.

### TAKE HOME

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Everything belongs to God.
- We are to bring Him the tithe.
- As we bless others, God blesses us.

### PRAYER

Lord, I want to be a faithful manager of all that You give me. Help me to wisely use Your blessing to bless others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Be on the alert to identify future group leaders. You may be the encouragement that someone needs to step out in faith to serve the Lord in this way.

## LESSON 3: GOOD STEWARDS

### FOCUS

When we understand how stewardship works, something supernatural happens. As we generously bless others, God miraculously blesses us. The purpose of good stewardship is to wisely oversee what God has given us. When we do so, God moves supernaturally in His kingdom and in our lives.

### FUN

Play a game where everyone mimics what the leader is doing.

### REVIEW

KEY SCRIPTURES: MATTHEW 25:14–29; LUKE 12:16–21

1. I am not the owner.
2. God owns everything. We are the stewards over what He brings us. Time and again Scripture reminds us that He is the owner and we are His stewards.
3. I am a steward.
4. When we are good stewards, God protects and expands the resources He gives us. He entrusts us with the resources, which we are to manage carefully.
5. Am I a good steward?
6. When we use God's resources wisely for the kingdom or for others, He will supernaturally bless us. There will come a day when the Lord says, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Discuss some dynamic ways an astute and creative steward can make a difference in God's kingdom.

### DISCUSS

1. Pastor Robert defined stewardship as *the management of the property of another*. Have you ever managed someone else's property? How was this experience?
2. What is the lesson we are to learn from Matthew 25:14–29? What determining factor guided how many talents the servants received (verse 15)?
3. Read Psalm 50:12 and 1 Corinthians 10:26 (NASB). What can we learn from these passages? Explain the difference between God's principle of ownership and stewardship?
4. This message stressed that stewardship *protects and expands the resources of another*. How is this principle reflected in Deuteronomy 8:18?
5. Read Luke 12:16–21. What was the rich man reprimanded for doing? What does this caution us about today?
6. Take a quiet moment to ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to become a better steward. If you are being prompted to improve in this area, receive this as conviction and not condemnation. Seek practical instruction on how to finally put your house in order.

### TAKE HOME

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God owns everything.
- I am to be a wise steward in His kingdom.
- God miraculously blesses wise stewardship.

### PRAYER

God, I want to use Your resources wisely and well. Help me be a good steward over what You have given me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** During this series on stewardship, direct those who desire budget guidance to any of Gateway's financial stewardship classes at [stewardship.gatewaypeople.com](http://stewardship.gatewaypeople.com). The information they receive can be the start to a new way of living and giving.

## LESSON 4: THE TEN FINANCIAL COMMANDMENTS

### FOCUS

We are to wisely manage what God gives us and be content with His provision. It is okay to pray for a material need but not to do so selfishly. God sees the condition of our hearts and blesses generous givers and good stewards. We are to be true witnesses of His goodness.

### FUN

Fill a jar with pieces of candy, carefully counting how many you add. Have your members guess how many there are inside. The winner with the closest guess takes home the candy jar.

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** EXODUS 20:3–7; 1 KINGS 17:10–14; LUKE 16:13 (NLT); 1 TIMOTHY 6:6–8; PHILIPPIANS 4:11; ROMANS 8:24; ACTS 20:35; COLOSSIANS 3:5

### REVIEW

- 1. Put God first.** Nothing should come before God (Exodus 20:3). When we put Him first, He miraculously provides for us (1 Kings 17:10–14). When we give God what is His, He takes care of us.
- 2. Don't worship material things.** Anything we put before God is an idol. No material object should come before Him (Exodus 20:4). Pray before every purchase. Ask God how to spend His money.
- 3. Don't use God's name selfishly.** We should not pray selfishly in His name (Exodus 20:7). If we focus on spiritual things rather than the material, we will not cross the line to selfishness. The condition of our hearts should determine our prayers.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Keeping today's message in mind, discuss various things we can do to keep God first in our lives

### DISCUSS

1. Have you ever bought something and later regretted it? What did you do about that?
2. What are some of the idols our society puts in God's place today?
3. According to Pastor Robert, what three things make a good steward?
4. The Apostle Paul stated, "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:22). Are you content? What brings contentment?
5. Budgets require careful planning. Explain this statement, "We plan to fail when we fail to plan."
6. Read Romans 8:24. Discuss how hope is related to delayed gratification.
7. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Is this a reality in your life right now?

### TAKE HOME

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Put God first.
- Manage God's provision wisely.
- Bless others by giving.
- Be a true witness to others.

### PRAYER

God, I want You to be first in my life. Forgive me for placing any desire before You. Help me to be a wise steward. I want to manage my finances well and to be content with what I have. Show me how to be a good model for my family and to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** More resources for personal reflection and group study are available at [gatewaypublishing.com](http://gatewaypublishing.com). This Discussion Guide is also available for download on the website.

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