

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

THE SOURCE - IV

More to Come – Proverbs 3:9-10

Pastor Miles McPherson – November 25, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. If you are still rusty with Groups 2.0, or are not using it at all, please check out our video tutorials on Leader Central that will walk you through the process. Moving forward it is important that we are all using the system effectively. Please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com or jason.mayer@sdrock.com if you have any further questions.
3. If you know somebody that is interested in stepping up to lead a Community Group please have them go to <http://www.sdrock.com/communitygroups/lead/> to fill out an application to get started today!

MEMORY VERSE

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Review the Sunday Message
 1. Giving **first** fruits acknowledges God as first.
Proverbs 3:9-10
 2. Giving first fruits is a sign that you trust **more** is coming.
Proverbs 3:9-10
 3. Giving first fruits secures a blessing on **second** fruits.
Romans 11:16
 4. First fruits is about priority and **quality**.
Romans 12:1-2



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – THE SOURCE, PART FOUR

Message Review and Introduction

The concept of “first fruits” is prevalent throughout all of the Old Testament. Everywhere we look we see the need to give of our best and first of everything as a form of worship to God (Ex. 23:16, 19). When we give of our first fruits, the rest of what we were already given from God will in turn become blessed (Prov. 3:9-10). We have to understand that what we have has been given from God in the first place according to his provision and grace (Ecc. 5:19).

However, it is equally important to understand that blessings can be very broad and not always what we expect. When Christ ascended to his throne in heaven, the final command was to proclaim the gospel to the whole earth as anticipation for the end and his returning to establish his reign forever (Rev. 21:2). So how does this help us in understanding the purpose of giving our first fruits? How does this help me here today?

First, we must not start with the assumption that blessing means more money. It doesn't, and in fact it never states that is the guarantee. In America we see many people that don't believe in the Lord and yet still have a lot of money, so that begs a lot of other questions if giving of first fruits equally means more money or stuff. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul gives us a clue as to the purpose of Christian giving, and specifically, how we are to pursue it, and by what attitude should we have?

1. Read 2 Cor. 9 together as a group. Make some notes and observations as a group about the passage. Some key questions to ask:
 - Who is Paul writing to?
 - What is their giving going to?
 - What is the attitude they are to have? Why?
2. In v. 6, Paul states whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. This assumes a large return upon investment, but vv. 10-12 states it produces much more. What does Paul say you will reap?
 - v. 10 – Increase the harvest of your righteousness.
 - v. 11 – Enriched in every way to be generous.
 - v. 11 – It will produce thanksgiving.
 - v. 12 – Supply for the needs (not wants) for the other saints (or believers).
 - v. 12 – Overflow with thanksgiving to God.
 - v. 13 – Others will worship and glorify God through our giving.
 - v. 13 – Others will believe in the gospel of Jesus through our giving.
3. Based on the passage in 2 Cor. 9 it would appear that our giving produces much more than what we think it does. How does this change the way you approach giving of your first fruits, or giving in general? Do you find yourself giving generously or giving out of compulsion? Is your giving self-motivated or gospel ministry motivated?



Add'l Notes:

