

THE LANGUAGE OF GIVING – LIFE Group Study Guide

"Consecrate to me all the firstborn...it is Mine." Exodus 13:1-2

Pastor Robert Morris: June 12, 2016

This week, the Rock Church welcomed back special guest Pastor Robert Morris from Gateway Church in Dallas. He used Exodus 13 to illustrate how everything belongs to God and He wants us to bring back the first fruits to Him. Pastor Morris shared with us that when we put God first we are speaking His love language. A verse many of have memorized or heard often is John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." From creating the world we have the blessing to live on, to the breath we take few every seconds, to the Son that's been given to us – Our God is a Giver of Gifts.

Opening Discussion:

TAKE A FEW MINUTES:

[1] Share some of the family principles or values that you were taught as a youth and lived by. How do these principles compare to your Christian life now and the principles learn by the word of God?

[2] Share a time when you received a gift where you absolutely knew that planning thought and knowing what you liked was evident. How did that gift impact you?

[3] Share about a time when you gave a gift that you put a lot of time preparing and planning? How was it received?

Study questions:

In Sunday's sermon, we were taught that God did not accept Cain's offering compared to Able's because Cain's offering was not the 1st fruit of his labor -- basically Cain gave second hand good's to God. God considered this stealing what is His to be brought back to Him in obedience.

TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND READ: Act 5:1-11

1. When you read this story what initially comes to mind?
2. What do you think is the risk of putting God as an afterthought in our daily affairs?
3. How did the Lord bring to light Ananias and his wife acts of "stealing" from God?
4. Ananias and Sapphira gave to the Lord, but why was it not acceptable to God? What is the impact of not honoring God as He desires?

5. What circumstances in life sometimes cause us to fear and as a result put other things before God?

6. Take a few minutes to read 1 Corinthians 10:26 and Psalm 24:1. What do these verses help us to see how we should look at our possessions -- homes, cars, family, jobs etc.?

If your group is large, suggest breaking up in groups of 2 or 3 for these questions:

7. What can you do that would put God FIRST in your life?

8. How can you better spend your **time, treasures and talent**?

Take it Home:

1. If you haven't been able to yet take the 5 Love Languages Discovery Test at <http://www.5lovelanguages.com/profile/>

2. Read these Scriptures daily throughout the week asking God what these mean for you. • Proverb 3:9-10 • Exodus 23:19 • Leviticus 27:30 • Genesis 4:3 • Exodus 13:11-12

3. This week, challenge yourself to put God First in everything you do. Observe what happens when you put God first in your day from start to finish.