



**Pay it Forward/ Oct 29, 2017**

**Ice Breaker:**

Pastor Miles began by telling how the Rock Church has grown from its beginnings 17 yrs ago at San Diego State. At each location or campus, there was an investment that led to growth and expansion of the church.

Think about various things you have invested in. Some may have invested in school for kids, or a property, a business, or vacation, or retirement, your own education or training. Others may have invested their time at or for a charity or a relationship. Without revealing amounts (\$ or hrs), share something you have significantly invested in some way.

-or-

What is your first reaction when there is a message about the church asking for money?

**Encouragement:**

Saul was a champion Christian hater against the early church; until Jesus knocked him to the ground, then God used him in a powerful way. Today, we heard several stories about other people making amazing transformations in their life.

Suggest breaking up into groups of 2 or 3 for this:

Share with one another what was your 'thrown to the ground' moment when you made a transformation in your life. NOTE: Not all transformations are as dramatic as Saul (Paul) or like the members on the stage at the service. Some may simply have a quiet revelation that brings them closer to Jesus.

**Scripture:**

- (Consider being in groups of 2 or 3)
  - Does the Bible say everything we have comes from God?
  - Look up verses to support your answer.
  - After discussion, look up **Luke 12:13** and **Philippians 4:19**.
  - How does that affect the answer to the first question?
  - If God provides, why is giving *back to* God difficult?
  - **READ 2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

The original word for cheerful is 'hilaros' which means merry - it is the root of the word 'hilarious'. What would it be like if there was hilarious giving at offering time?

The context of this passage: In the old temples, there were 2 collection chests. One was for what was necessary (what the law *required*). The other chest was for free-will giving. To escape punishment, some would give grudgingly.

In your smaller groups of 2 or 3, finish the following sentence: It would be easier for me to tithe or give back to God or serve if \_\_\_\_\_.

**Discuss your answer.**

A farmer who plants only a few seeds in order to "hold on" or not lose his/her stash of seed, will have way less of a harvest than a farmer who 'loses' or plants or invests all the seed.

Have you ever felt like you were 'losing' when you gave to the church? Why?

What would help change that?

**Trivia:** A single wheat kernel produces a plant with about 50 kernels at harvest time.

**Prayer:**

Has God or the Holy Spirit tugged at your heart or led you to do something?

- Take a few moments. Quietly open up to the leading or direction from the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for others to be guided into action as directed by the Holy Spirit.

*Pastor Miles shared that he would really appreciate prayers for the pastors and staff at the Rock Church. Often, organizations making a difference are subject to great spiritual attack. Have the rGroup spend a few moments in prayer for the Rock Church.*

**Next Steps:**

In 2 weeks, November 12, the Rock will be taking a special year-end ALL IN offering to support Toys for Joy, outreach ministries, each of our campuses, and global evangelism. Begin asking God how He would like you to participate in this offering. There is reason we feel blessed when we give. It is because when we do we are being like God, the ultimate Giver.

**Quotes from Pastor Miles:**

*God has amazing plans for you if you love Him. There are no 'ain't no way' situations with Him.*

*God tends to work on you being uncomfortable.*

**Notes:**

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