

## 4 WEEK LESSON PLAN

# TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN

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### Introduction

Being “doers” of the Word, and not merely “hearers,” requires several truths to be evident in the life of the Christian disciple.

- First, that the Bible is wholly God-inspired, currently relevant, universally applicable, completely trustworthy, and timeless inerrant. This may be summed up as what we will refer to as a “Biblical worldview.”
- Second, that our posture as disciples reveals a sincere yearning for instruction coupled with a determination to honor, through obedience, that which we receive from the Teacher.
- And third, that our knowledge of who we are in Christ prompts lifestyle choices which yield abundant fruit (John 5). Such behavior evidences true faith through acts of service, sacrifice, and generosity.

In assembling the following four-week course, we have purposed to inspire a “doing” congregation, comprised of all generations and financial backgrounds. This course will help you prepare the soil of your participants’ hearts to receive and nurture the seed of vision, through faith and action, which your ministry leadership has set before them.

The general ideas being conveyed in the four lessons center around four distinct roles embraced by the follower of Jesus Christ:

#### WEEK 1

As His disciples, our attitudes toward finances and giving must be rooted in acknowledgment of Biblical truth.

#### WEEK 2

As His children, our obedience (as evidenced by checkbooks and behavior) matters to the Father and yields abundant fruit.

#### WEEK 3

As members of His family and this body, we are to inquire of the Lord regarding our participation in the work He is doing in and through this fellowship.

#### WEEK 4

As His stewards, we will pursue creative ways to contribute that confirm the level of our commitment and the depth of our individual faith.

Each lesson will focus on a main idea supported by several “Key Concepts.” To keep people alert and engaged, two or three “Discussion Points” will prompt group participation. The “Application” at the close of each lesson provides a personal and/or household point of action to put the main idea into motion in their lives. Highlighted graphically, these three sections bring structure and flow to the weekly lesson and promote class interaction as well as personal follow-up study.

# LESSON 4

## Creative Giving

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### Practical Tips and Suggestions

**Look it up.** Encourage your class or small group to actively follow along in scripture. At the same time, it is not always convenient or efficient to have participants turn to every passage referenced via the footnotes. As the facilitator, prepare ahead of time and know what you want them to do. Your personal style of teaching and interaction with your class will dictate the extent to which you have them dive into specific passages. There is no hard-and-fast rule; rather, simply be engaging and keep the class moving.

**ASK AWAY.** Ask probing follow-up questions to comments and prompt discussion. However, don't get railroaded by "talkers." It is your responsibility to guide the time by keeping the comments on track and the direction for that particular class time very clear.

**TELL US ABOUT IT.** You have a wonderful opportunity to foster great faith in the sharer and the hearer. Recruit volunteers ahead of time who are willing to share. Alternately, present them anonymously or as released to share by an individual. You should be purposeful about creating an opportunity for testimony to be shared, then celebrated and/or lifted in prayer as appropriate.

**WRITE IT DOWN.** Employ a whiteboard or large flip-sheet and be prepared before each class (markers, eraser, etc). Take the time to jot down key points, group ideas, and discussion flow.

**AND, ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO THE SAME.** The participant guide provides sufficient space after each "Discussion Point" for thoughts, action points, or questions. Remind your class that it has been shown that people remember more of what they write down, than what they hear or see.

**SEAL IT IN PRAYER.** This may seem obvious, but it is easy to get going and flowing and suddenly find yourself at the end of your available time. Make sure you leave time to close each session in prayer. As led, tag a trusted and confident participant to wrap up your lesson.

### Legend

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DISCUSSION POINT



PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION



KEY POINT



ADDITIONAL STUDY