

Discovering God's Financial Blessings

LEADER'S GUIDE

For the Opening Session



GOD'S FINANCIAL BLESSING is providing "GOD'S NEW LIFESTYLE OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM & PEACE"

Thank you for your participation

With great joy our denominational leaders wish to provide God's ways for financial peace and freedom from financial bondage to our church members.

God has something better for us than our old and corrupt financial situation.

This involves 20 lessons for all of your members who have such interest

LESSON GUIDE

INTRODUCING YOUR GROUP TO "THE GREAT EXPERIMENT"

"Financial Freedom as a Lifestyle" means discovering and enjoying *"God's Financial Blessings."*

This is the ONLY time when you as Group Guide will give a lecture or sermon.

THE INTRODUCTION

This whole concept of "The Great Experiment" is brand new to most of your people. You the Group Guide will have to do most of the explaining in this Introduction. This is the time to motivate them to attend. Be sure the people understand:

- a) God's generosity (read Deut. 28:1-14);
- b) The New Testament principle of sowing now and reaping later (read Gal 6:7);
- c) God wishes to bless us abundantly;
- d) God/Jesus invites us to become participants in a "great experiment" Mal. 3:10.

God's Word is the final authority. How do His principles actually affect our management of money? This introduction will explore the GREAT generosity of God. See Deut. 28:1-14.

Based upon this great generosity, God offers us an opportunity to do like He does and become very generous, even to the point of becoming extravagant givers. God suggests that we show our priority for Him in our lives by very simply giving 10% of our earnings, and if we do He promises to give us much, much more. Are we talking about money? Well, He makes some promises concerning that, but money is probably the least important of what He wants to give us! God's "experiment" is "give and it shall be given to you". It is like a snowballing effect, give and receive more; give even more, and receive even more. The catch in all of this is that it must be one's heart's desire to be generous. Giving in order to gain is not part of this experiment. Financial freedom is NOT about getting rich. Rather it is to give generously, cheerfully and to honor God and receive abundantly; such a testimony will result in the salvation of others.

The **20** financial lessons present many practical avenues in which the ways of God may be proven true in the area of finances just as in any other area of life. The contest between Biblical Christianity and materialism is as alive today as ever. Who among God's people will trust Him and acknowledge JESUS as the source of healing and blessing for our country?

As you introduce Financial Freedom as a Lifestyle, you want to create a great desire in your people to become participants in this experiment. – This is the purpose of the “Introduction” and you should measure if you have attained your GOAL! (Expressions on people’s faces, body language, comments afterwards, interaction with each other.)

1. GOD’S FINANCIAL BLESSINGS – WHAT IS IT? GFB, IT IS A GIFT FOR YOU

We are so glad you have come today and I’m sure you have many questions. “What is God’s blessing of Financial Peace and Financial Freedom?” “How can I have a lifestyle that will lead me to have this blessing of Financial Freedom?”

Are you facing financial pressures, or simply trying to avoid problems?

Are you interested in what the Bible has to say about finances?

Our Desire is to give you **Financial Hope**.

All of us are tired of corruption and God has something better for us than our old and corrupt financial situation. So today we will begin a journey with material that has helped thousands of people avoid financial disaster as they have come to understand what the Bible teaches about money and began to apply those principles in their lives.

God can and does use money to accomplish many more purposes than we would humanly think.

God’s Word is full of financial principles.

Let me share this quote with you:

“Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables of Jesus deal with money.

One out of ten verses in the New Testament deals with that subject.

Scripture offers about five hundred verses on prayer, fewer than five hundred on faith,

‘but’ over two thousand on money.

The believer’s attitude toward money and possessions is determinative.”

- John MacArthur

2. UNDERSTANDING GOD AS THE GREAT GIVER

In the past we went from a time when nobody had heard about tithing to a time when people were told: “You *must* tithe to the church”, “You *must* give money to us”, “You *must* give money to God”, or something similar. It is almost as if God is poor and needs our help. This is completely wrong! This is not Biblical! Tithing IS mentioned in the Bible, but like many things written it is based on a much larger principle. This has been an unfortunate misunderstanding. And this course is **NOT** about tithing! We want to see God’s generosity—through His principles.

God our Heavenly Father strongly indicates that HE wants to **give** something to us rather than take something from us. This exuberant giving that God desires to do is our basis for experiencing Financial Peace and Freedom.

3. WHAT GOD DOES AND WHAT WE SHOULD EMULATE

Jesus is our example--Mark 10.45; Jesus desires us to imitate HIM--Mark 10.43. (read this with your group)

In the New Testament we have the financial principle of sowing and reaping — Galatians 6:7; 2 Corinthians 9:6 (have a group member read this.)

Deuteronomy 28 in the Old Testament is a vivid illustration of this New Testament financial principle from Gal 6:7 and 2 Cor. 9:6. You may not see that it is talking about sowing and reaping in Deuteronomy. But it does, because sowing and obedience are synonyms in many ways. For example: a farmer must obey the seasons, a businessman must “obey” his clients. So Deuteronomy talks about obedience to God’s principles, which is the sowing, and then the reaping comes with His blessings on your obedience acted out in faith.

(Take time to have a group member read this whole passage from Deuteronomy.) This passage shows God's Intention is to bless and give gifts to His people. Obedience is a spiritual action to do things God's way, not our own way. But sin is a hindrance – people are selfish – most people squander money. So God does not choose to help them.

God wants to give to people whom He can **trust**.

As with all other things God's test is FAITH.

So God offers us an experiment.

He wants to find out if He can trust us.

Can God trust you?

God is a giver and HE wants you to be a giver like He is.

So **here** is God's experiment.

Malachi 3:10 The Divine Experiment. (Have this verse read)

4. THE DIVINE EXPERIMENT

Galatians 6:7 SOW / REAP

A farmer must sow *first* and *later* harvest.

After a farmer sows his seed in the ground, his seed is gone, so he has less than what he had before.

Sowing is an act of faith.

Next he needs long-term faith to wait for the harvest.

But compared to the little he sowed the harvest is huge.

Likewise in Malachi 3:10 *GIVE / RECEIVE – this is the Great Experiment!*

We give first and later we receive.

We give little but will receive much.

Giving is an act of faith.

God's principle is that we need to obey now and understand His reasons later.

Notice the result! 2 Corinthians 9:6-13 (Read these verses)

5. OUR DESIRE – TO IMITATE GOD

We want to offer you an opportunity for a Divine Experiment.

We want to give you the opportunity to experience God's abundant gift from Deut. 28.

We want to learn about God's generosity.

We want to emphasize that God does not need anything from us financially.

HE owns the cattle on a thousand hills, all the gold—the whole world is His.

God **offers** blessings – This experiment is based on our **generous** God.

To obtain the offer from God we must exercise FAITH.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Heb. 11:6 (read this verse twice)

This is YOUR opportunity.

Walk with us through these lessons. Learn what God's principles are. Experience His generosity as you choose to follow and emulate Him!

INTERACTION WITH LESSON 1

Following this introduction distribute Lesson #1 "*Learn What It Really Means to Be Financially Free.*" Do a preview of this 1st lesson to prepare your people for session 1.

Read page 3 together. It gives a taste of the Bible characters we will be studying.

Next read the **20** steps and their titles on page 4. This will show the wide variety God's gift of Financial Freedom covers.

Briefly review “*Basic Factors to obtain Financial Freedom*” p.6. Explain that the 3 bases to obtain Financial Freedom are *Giving, Receiving, Managing*. God’s test is to begin by showing our generosity!

Show the various questionnaires that should be filled out at home prior to the next session p. 5, 13, 14, 15. The Personal Evaluation on p. 5 should be done BEFORE they read the lesson so they are not tempted to give other than honest answers. Take time to answer any questions they have.

Emphasize that this lesson be read and questionnaires filled out at home prior to the next meeting.

Be sure everyone understands that filling it out is an expected home activity each time – this is simply how GFB steps work. And that p. 5 the ‘Personal Evaluation’ should be done first.

Close with PRAYER!

Dear Heavenly Father, We have often said with our mouths that You are good, but have acted like we don’t believe it. We say before You now that You ARE good, You ARE generous, You ARE faithful and will fulfill Your promises to us. Give us faith to believe Your Word and to act on it. Praise Your holy name. Amen.

Contact Information for God’s Blessing of Financial Freedom

General info, Training, follow-up, help – Vera Lavrinenko – 096 254 33 24

Orders for paper materials – lessons, guides, posters, magnets, banners – Ivanka Dubenchuk – 096 103 98 77

For electronic materials on GFB Website <http://svoboda.sytes.net> – Ivan Onishuk