













Small Group/ Reflection Notes

23-06-2024		iGive proportionately	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> Each British Bank note features a famous person and a quote of theirs. Can you identify the Bank notes from these quotes (answers on the back. Thank you, Elaine, for the idea!): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." b. "This is only a foretaste of what is to come and only the shadow of what is going to be." c. "Light is therefore colour." d. "I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!" 		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> What does it mean to give proportionately? <input type="checkbox"/> What does it mean to give sacrificially? <input type="checkbox"/> Chester Road says, " <i>We encourage responsible giving. No-one should feel under any pressure to give. Any gift, big or small, is wonderful. It is healthy to review your personal finances on a regular basis to ensure your giving is affordable and in proportion to your income. It may need to go up or down.</i> " Why is it important to state this?		
 Read	1 Corinthians 16:1-4 Malachi 3:6-12	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor.16:1 : "Now about..." was Paul <i>telling</i> them or <i>responding</i> their question? What would you ask Paul about generosity/ giving? How has the way other Christians or churches approach giving ever made you think? <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 16:2 : When was money to be 'set aside'? What's the equivalent today? Why at the <i>beginning</i> , not the end? What's the significance of <i>planned</i> giving? Why give in <i>proportion</i> to income? Why not simply rely on having a ' <i>collection</i> '? <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor.16:3-4 : Why were the churches so interdependent? How does our/your giving to Chester Road bless others 'and beyond'? [e.g. Baptist Union, HEBA, Timberley Lane Baptist Church, BMS World Mission in Bardai, Chad...] <input type="checkbox"/> Mal.3:6-7 : Why do we/ others sometimes blame God for not 'being there for us'? Why are we sometimes inconsistent with which of God's laws we seek to live by? <input type="checkbox"/> Mal.3:8 : Who is being robbed? How? For it to be a robbery/ theft, who's money must it therefore be in the first place? What is 'stewardship'? Is 'tithing' (giving 10%) reasonable today? How do you restructure your finances? What about those on low incomes or needing to save for a housing deposit? Why for some with greater incomes might it be ' <i>tithes AND (+) offerings</i> '? <input type="checkbox"/> Mal.3:10-11 : What would it mean for you/ us to give the <i>whole</i> tithe? What would it mean for Chester Road and our mission and ministry if more people tithed? What does it mean to 'test' (trust) God with our finances? What's been your experience?		

	<input type="checkbox"/> If all our Church Members are tithing that would mean each person on average has an income (after tax/payslip deductions) of £7,358 a year or £613 a month. What does this say about us and our collective understanding of giving as a discipleship matter?
 Go further	<p>What else does the Bible teach about giving proportionately/ tithing?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 14:18-20 : What did Abram do? Who told him to do this? Why did he instinctively give? How much? What's the significance that this first reference to 'tithing' (giving 10%) was <i>pre-law</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 28:18-22 : Who told Jacob to 'tithe' (give 10%)? How is our giving simply giving back a proportion of what is already God's? How is giving an act of worship, not just of charity? <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 27:30-32 : What is the 'fruit' of your labour? Who do tithes belong to? To what extent is giving an act of obedience? <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 23:23 : Why does Jesus 'call out' the Pharisees? Was Jesus challenging tithing as a discipline or their attitudes/ motives? <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 19:16-25 : What does it mean for those with more to go 'all in' for God? <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 21:1-4 : Why is it easier/ less costly for the rich to tithe? Should those with very little still tithe? What about grace? <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 7 : What does v.1-10 say about tithing? What does v.18-19 mean for tithing? What does it mean to go 'all in' for God as a disciple of Christ?
 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> To what extent are you trusting God with your finances?
 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Work out your giving as a percentage of your total income (after tax/ payslip deductions). Do you need to adjust your giving up or down? ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Give
 Pray	
 My questions:	

Starter quiz answers:

- "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." **Winston Churchill - £5 note**
- "This is only a foretaste of what is to come and only the shadow of what is going to be."
Alan Turing - £50 note
- "Light is therefore colour." **Joseph Mallord William Turner - £20 note**
- "I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!" **Jane Austen - £10 note**

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.

Chester Road Baptist Church, Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5HU
☎ 0121 350 2779 ✉ office@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk 🌐 ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk

Chester Road Baptist Church is a Registered Charity (No 1134180) and a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain