



## ALL IN Growth Group Guide

### Week 4 - "Sacrifice"

#### GETTING STARTED

Last weekend we saw Jesus' response to a sacrificial gift from an unlikely person. The woman who gave it had a horrible reputation, but she didn't let that stop her from pouring out her most valuable possessions at the feet of Jesus. Something changes inside of us when we surrender our resources. We move from worshiping our own personal security to worshiping the only One who really deserves our devotion. And that surrender flips a switch in our lives that accelerates our spiritual growth in a unique and powerful way. Her courageous act of love ended up changing her own life in a big way. In fact, her story would go down in history as one worth telling.

#### **Group Discussion:**

*Has someone ever sacrificed something valuable for your benefit? What was it?*

*How did that make you feel?*

#### DIGGING IN

#### **Crazy Love**

Read the account of this woman's gift from Luke 7:36-48, and interact together as a group around the following questions:

1. You may remember from our weekend teaching that this woman had quite a past. Why do you think she was weeping as she anointed Jesus' feet? Does her act seem extravagant to you?
  - What's the most "over-the-top" act of love you've ever observed?
2. Jesus points out in verse 47 that our **demonstration** of love for Him is in direct proportion to our **experience** of His forgiveness. In other words, grace is upstream from generosity; sacrificial generosity flows from our awareness of God's grace in our lives.

- Which aspect of God's grace are you most thankful for in your own life?
- Consider sharing what it was like to realize you've been forgiven.

### **The Great Exchange**

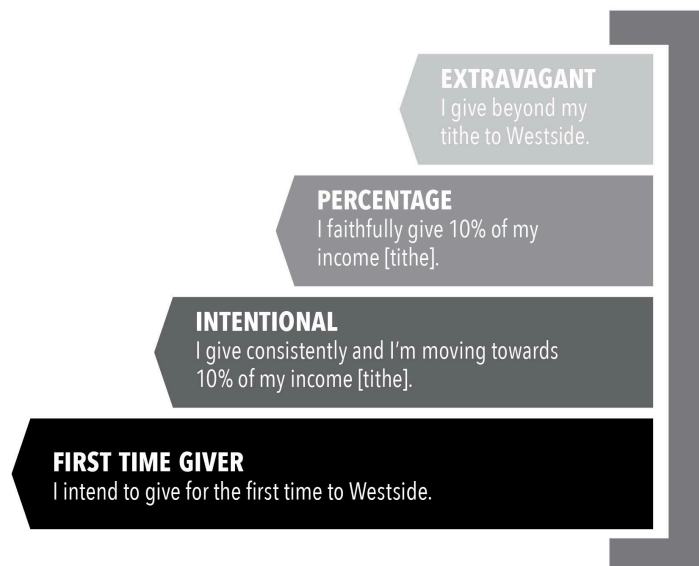
Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (in the Message paraphrase). Here the Apostle Paul talks about "building a treasury" by giving away our valuables in service of God's Kingdom.

3. What does he say we will **gain** if we follow his advice? How does this compare with the woman from Luke chapter 7?
4. Read through the following passages and talk about what God promises us as we surrender our finances to Him: Malachi 3:10; Philippians 4:19; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:7
5. As we experience our ALL IN journey together, what's something you could "gain" by becoming more generous financially?

### **WORKING IT OUT**

We're part of a growing movement of God in our community - a movement of grace that is impacting more and more people every day. Over the next 2 years at Westside, we're going ALL IN with God to see what He can do through our surrendered lives and our financial generosity.

6. Looking at the "Giving Ladder" below, what has been your experience with generosity so far? What questions do you have? What hopes? Where would you like to go next?



## PRAYER

As you wrap up your group this week, pray for one another's needs, and also pray for the following specific requests:

- Pray that we would live such generous lives that - like the woman from Luke 7 - our stories would go "viral" for Jesus and His Kingdom.
- Pray for Westside's ALL IN initiative - that because of our commitment and generosity we would be able to help more and more people find & follow Jesus.
- Pray for our entire church - that as we make our commitments in the coming weeks, God will lead and guide each of us clearly and that we will have the courage to respond in faith.

## BIBLE PASSAGES

### Luke 7:36-48

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat.

<sup>37</sup> When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. <sup>38</sup> Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you." "Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

<sup>41</sup> Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. <sup>42</sup> But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt." "That's right," Jesus said. <sup>44</sup> Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. <sup>47</sup> "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

### 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (Msg)

Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

### Malachi 3:10

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

**Philippians 4:19**

*And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*

**Luke 6:38**

*Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*

**2 Corinthians 9:7-8**

*<sup>7</sup> You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." <sup>8</sup> And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*



**ALL IN RESOURCES, VIDEOS & MORE**

[www.westsidecommunitychurch.com/allin](http://www.westsidecommunitychurch.com/allin)

Join us this Sunday, February 24th, for Part 5 of our ALL IN series  
as we explore the story of one little boy who impacted thousands of lives in a message called  
“What God Can Do Through Ordinary You.” Bring a friend!



All Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the Bible, unless otherwise noted.