

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 19 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 19, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- Key Question: How do I best use my _____ to serve God and others?
- Key Idea: I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.
- Key Verse: "But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of _____." (2 Corinthians 8:7)
- (Key Application) Your willingness comes from a heart _____ by God's purposes.
- (Key Application) Resources go _____ money.
- (Key Application) Giving to others _____ your intimacy with Christ.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE: "But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7)



KEY IDEA: I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

- I give away 10 percent or more of my income to God's work.
- I regularly give money to serve and help others.
- My first priority in spending is to support God's work.
- My spending habits do not keep me from giving what I feel I should give to God.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.

1. Fire can be incredibly beneficial and also terribly dangerous, if not used properly. How are material resources similar?
2. In what ways can money give us a false sense of security, satisfaction, and safety?
3. Why do you think God is more concerned about the intentions of the giver than the size of the gift?
4. What present circumstances in your life provide opportunities to give away your resources for God's purposes?

Read Proverbs 11:24–25, 28 and Ecclesiastes 5:10–20 (see the section “Advice from Wise Men” in Believe) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

1. What truths can be found in the Scripture you just read together?

2. Solomon was one of the wealthiest men to ever walk the earth. In what ways, if any, are you surprised by his comments on wealth and money? Which of his comments do you think are the most insightful?

3. If you could sum up Solomon’s advice in one or two sentences, what would you say?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week’s Key Idea into practice.

Karen and Ben were married for twenty-eight years before a year-long battle with cancer took him home to be with Jesus. Left with an abundance of time, money, and a four-bedroom house, Karen ponders what she should do with all of her and Ben’s belongings.

Using the Key Applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Karen find the direction she is looking for? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session’s Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week’s Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the *Believe* church-wide campaign, bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor’s or teacher’s message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your *Believe* journey in one place.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

resources / giving / moved / beyond / strengthens