

## ***Are You Ready to Make a Difference?***

*Love makes the difference. God's plan for us is to share his love with everyone, everywhere. In every field He gives us, we sow seeds of the gospel so that everyone everywhere can know God and His life-changing love. He even gives us His power and His presence to ensure that we can share His extraordinary love without limitations.*

*During this time of personal renewal that we call SEEDS, we recall how the seed of the gospel was planted in our lives by people who sacrificed for us and how it changed everything. We recount the seeds of the gospel we have been planting in others' lives and how it's changing them. We recommit to plant seeds of the gospel in the coming season of our lives so that more people can experience God, breakthrough, and calling.*

*Our church has the opportunity to increase our impact. God has opened doors locally and globally and it's causing all of us to think about what our lives are really about. To evaluate our level of generosity and openhandedness with God's resources entrusted to us. Each of us should review the powerful spiritual principles of generosity and consider how a Christ-follower can live a countercultural life in this world.*

*Consider these questions:*

- *What if we committed again to live this amazing and abundant life as we join the chain of generous people of faith that have gone before us?*
- *Could we be generous all the time, not just when there is a special project?*
- *Could we pray about giving above and beyond because God has gone above and beyond for us in sending Jesus Christ for us?*
- *What if we depended on God in a new way, stretching our faith and our generosity?*

*S.E.E.D.S: is a time to **Stop and Evaluate Evangelism, Discipleship and Stewardship** . Pray about giving to the Lord, for the Mission, through the Church as an act of worship – recommitting to Jesus Christ, His Kingdom, and His work.*

***Together we'll sow seeds of the Gospel in every field the Lord has given us so that everyone, everywhere can know God. His Love will make the difference.***

## **S.E.E.D.S Discussion Guide**

**S.E.E.D.S:** is a time to **Stop and Evaluate Evangelism, Discipleship and Stewardship.**

*Use these questions and statements to provoke discussion with your family, prayer partner, small group or ministry group.*

### **Consider the following questions**

- *What is the mission of the church?*
- *What moves the mission forward? backward?*
- *What is evangelism? Discipleship? Stewardship?*
- *How do you practice evangelism?*
- *How do you make a disciple?*
- *How do you determine what to give to the Lord?*
- *Why do we give through the church?*
- *Why do we make pledges and commitments about giving?*
- *How did the gospel first impact your life?*
- *Who has God used to show you how to follow him?*
- *How would you fill in this blank: If I were in a healthier position \_\_\_\_\_ (financially, relationally, spiritually, physically, emotionally), I would be able to help people more follow God?*

### **Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Why?**

- *Giving and discipleship are inextricably linked.*
- *Without the church, I struggle to help people eternally.*
- *The culture of our country is becoming more secular.*
- *God has given me all the resources I need to everything He wants me to do.*
- *God has given the church all the resources it needs to follow God's vision for us.*
- *Giving grows me and the mission.*
- *We need to preach the good news locally and globally.*
- *The more secular our culture becomes, the more we need to invest in preaching and teaching the simple gospel.*
- *We should give above and beyond because God has gone above and beyond in sending Jesus Christ for us.*
- *I cannot grow as a disciple of Christ without growing in giving.*

Share your thoughts about the following **scriptures**

- *2 Cor. 9:6-8 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. <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>\*</sup> <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.*
- *Malachi 3:8-10 Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. <sup>10</sup> 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!*
- *Matt 6:19-21 Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*
- *Luke 6:37-38 <sup>37</sup> "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> 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.\*"*
- *Matt 10:42 if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."*
- *John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave<sup>\*</sup> his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*
- *Acts 20:32-35 And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself. <sup>33</sup> "I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes. <sup>34</sup> You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*
- *2 Cor 8:12-15 Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. <sup>13</sup> Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean*

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\* **9:7** See footnote on Prov 22:8.

\* **6:38** Or *The measure you give will be the measure you get back.*

\* **3:16** Or *For God loved the world so much that he gave.*

that there should be some equality. <sup>14</sup> Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. <sup>15</sup> As the Scriptures say, “Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough.”

- 1 John 3:16-18 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister\* in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.
- 1 Tim 6:17-19 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. <sup>19</sup> By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.
- Luke 21:1-4 While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.”
- Prov 11:24-25 Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. <sup>25</sup> The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

*Pray about giving to the Lord, for the Mission, through the Church as an act of worship – recommitting to Jesus Christ, His Kingdom, and His work.*

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\* 3:17 Greek sees his brother.