

Living Connections Bible Study

One of the habits we should want to develop in our Christian lives is generosity, the joy of Christian giving.



Cast Your Bread on the Waters

Prayer

Icebreaker: How many of you have shown kindness to someone and later your generosity came back to you in some unexpected way, either from God or from the person you helped?

Text: Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

1. What do you think it means to *cast your bread on the waters*? Verse 1

2. What principle of Christian stewardship do we learn in the first half of verse 2? 1 John 3:17-18

3. How might we be able to divert trouble and meet needs, not only in our church and the lives of others, but in our own lives?

verse 2b

James 2:15-16

Proverbs 11:24

Proverbs 19:17

Proverbs 21:13

Luke 6:38

Luke 16:1-9

If you are generous, not only will God repay you, but so will many who have been blessed by your generosity. If you use a teaspoon to dish out kindness and good deeds, others will use a teaspoon to measure back a little blessing for you. But if you use a grain shovel or even a dump truck to disperse help and blessing to others the same measure will be used to pour out blessings and kindness on you. Luke 6:38

4. From the first half of Ecclesiastes 11:3 what do we learn about the nature of clouds that relates to Christian stewardship?

5. What does the second half of Ecclesiastes 11:3 teach us about the future?

6. What principle of Christian stewardship do we learn from verse 4?

7. What does Solomon teach us in verse 5?

8. Since this is so, what advice are we given in verse 6?

Picture retirement as a stepping-stone in the middle of a refreshing pool where you become reinvigorated and energized for a self-funded ministry. Some of your most productive years for God are still ahead of you. Don't retire, retread!

9. What is God's promise in 2 Corinthians 9:6

10. What is the attitude that every Christian should have when giving? 2 Corinthians 9:7

11. When God gives us a surplus what should we consider doing with it? 2 Corinthians 9:8

12. What prayer request and promise can we claim from 2 Corinthians 9:10-11?

Think about this week:

All of us are investing our lives in something. You are either investing in self to fulfill the desires of your flesh, or you are investing for God. Either way you are going to reap a harvest. What kind of harvest is it going to be?

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption,
but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season (in God's appointed time there will be a harvest)
we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all,
especially to those who are of the household of faith (to those who are in your church family).*

Galatians 6:7-10