

## **7 Habits**

*A seven-week program designed to equip people to live a Christ-Driven life at  
Cornerstone Church*

### **GIVE SACRIFICIALLY**

*7 Habits  
Student Syllabus*

Welcome to Cornerstone Church! If this is your first time in this class, I just want you to know how much we appreciate you attending this class.

This is one of seven classes that we call the “7 Habits”. The purpose of 7 Habits is to teach everyone what a Christ-driven life looks like. It’s our main pipeline for the entire church. It’s something we want everyone to go through because it puts us all on the same page.

GOAL OF 7 HABITS: Commitment to live a Christ-Driven Life.

#### Seven Habits of a Christ-Driven Life

Week 1 – Obey God

Week 2 – Love Others

Week 3 – Daily Worship

Week 4 – Small Group Involvement

Week 5 – Attend Church

Week 6 – Serve Faithfully

Week 7 – Give Sacrificially

#### So here are some basic facts about 7 Habits...

- This is not intended to be your church fix. Please attend worship service.
- People can enter these weeks at any week. We just want them to complete all seven weeks.
- This not a traditional Sunday School class. We hope and pray that after seven weeks, people make strong commitments to these seven habits and LCFC.
- We want everyone who attends LCFC to go through these classes.
- If you have gone through the Membership Class at LCFC, we ask that you attend the seven weeks related to living out a Christ-Driven life.

## **GIVE SACRIFICIALLY**

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

7 "You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully."

The reason why we dedicate an entire class to generous giving is because it is a HUGE part of a spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ follower of Christ.

Please understand...generous giving to a church, is not something that Cornerstone thought of all by ourselves. This is a biblical issue. It's a God-issue.

We talk openly about this subject because we want to do everything possible to teach you, how to position yourself for God's \_\_\_\_\_ in your life.

### **QUESTION 1 – HOW DOES GOD WANT ME TO VIEW MONEY?**

The message the world tells us is money buys \_\_\_\_\_ . The more money we make the more happy we become. We can experience more out of life, we can go more places, we can play more, we spend more, we have more pleasure in life, and we have more freedom.

Money is \_\_\_\_\_ a bad thing. We need money to live. There's a myth that people think God thinks money is a bad thing. Not at all. It was God's plan for man to work.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)

10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

When you drill down to the root of this, it's about our \_\_\_\_\_ to God. God wants to be the only God in our lives. God wants us to love Him, and trust Him, more than we do our checking account or any investment.

Luke 16:13 (NIV)

13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

God wants you to view money as something that God has entrusted you with. God wants you to view yourself as a \_\_\_\_\_ of it. It's ok for you to own money; God doesn't want money to own you!

God wants us to view Him as our ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ for everything we need and for all of life. He wants us to see Him as our Great Provider.

God wants us to view Him as God alone. God wants to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of our hearts. That's why Jesus said this...

Luke 12:34 (NIV)

34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Augustine said: "Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness."

It's been said, if you want to know what's most important to people, all you have to do is look at their checkbook. The checkbook is a paper trail right to the heart. The way we \_\_\_\_\_ our money says a lot about where our treasure is.

Our ability to give generously is NOT determined by how much we have, it's not determined by the amount in our checking account, or how much food is in our pantry, or the stability of our job situation, our giving is determined by where \_\_\_\_\_ is at.

Psalm 37:21 (NLT)

21 The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers.

The biggest giver in the bible is God Himself.

John 3:16 (NIV)

16 "For God so loved the world that **He gave** His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God is a giving God. Giving is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, so that we could experience a life of blessings, and joy, and most importantly we could experience a relationship with God first hand.

Throughout the bible, you can see generosity and God's blessing go hand in hand. God's favor is always part of a generous heart. It gets His attention. It makes His heart dance.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of our heart impacts our ability to give generously.

Fears that prevent us from giving generously to God...

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

These fears grip our hearts and \_\_\_\_\_ our ability to give generously.

Romans 10:11-13 (NLT)

11 As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."

12 Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him.

13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

## QUESTION 2 – WHAT IS TITHING ALL ABOUT?

Tithing simply means “\_\_\_\_\_ percent”. It’s first talked about in the Old Testament. Lot’s of people thing giving money to a church is some kind of man-made law. It’s not. God is the one who orchestrated this.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 (NLT)

22 “You must set aside a tithe of your crops—one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. 23 Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship—the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored—and eat it there in his presence. This applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn males of your flocks and herds. The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to fear the Lord your God.

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your God.” God doesn’t need money. He wants what it represents. He wants you.

Malachi 3:6-12 (NLT)

6 “I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed.

7 Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “But you ask, ‘How can we return when we have never gone away?’

8 “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.

9 You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me.

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!

11 Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

12 “Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

God is concerned about \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 11:42 (NLT)

42 “What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

### QUESTION 3 – HOW SHOULD I GIVE IN A GOD-HONORING WAY?

Romans 10:11 (NLT)

11 As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”

When we honor God with our finances, it communicates to God that we trust Him. God is a faithful God. He will always \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

Incidentally, you could never out-\_\_\_\_\_ God.

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Here’s a picture of a generous heart. What’s really important to see here, is God makes it clear that you determine the \_\_\_\_\_ of your blessing.

There are only two types of people in life: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The happy people in life are people that are generous with their lives.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NLT)

7 You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.

8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

The word “cheerfully” in Greek is the word we get \_\_\_\_\_. Are you hilarious when you give?

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NLT)

6 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.

Whatever you sow, you reap and you reap in \_\_\_\_\_ to what you sow.

God wants you to \_\_\_\_\_ on Him. Not a Human Resource department, not a boss, not the CEO of the company. God wants to SHOW you that He is bigger than all that!

## GIVING OPTIONS AT Cornerstone

Option 1 – You can give during the offering time. Just drop your offering in the bag as it's passed by you.

Option 2 – You can drop your offering in one of the wooden giving boxes at the entrance of the Worship Center. This is a great place to do that if you miss the offering bag.

Option 3 – You can have your bank schedule an automatic withdrawal and have them mail a check to LCFC on a monthly or weekly basis.

Be faithful to it. God will bless you for this step of obedience.

CHALLENGE: Will you commit to honor God with your finances with every check you get? Will you commit to trust God with your resources and trust God as the ultimate provider for your life? That's the challenge we're posing to you this morning. Start today!

NEXT WEEK...we will be looking at Cornerstone Nazarene Essentials. Don't miss it! The truth is you have already learned much about our beliefs as you have sat in this Trail, but this will class will go into some other areas. Don't miss it! It's important that we understand what we believe and why we believe it!

God loves you!