**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Worshipping, Growing and Serving*

*Sermon: Vision 2020*

 *1-26-20*

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** Opening Question: **Briefly share an example in your life of a time that God miraculously provided for you.**

*(***Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

>>To be committed to the mission of reaching the Back Mountain, the Wyoming Valley and the world with the gospel requires a commitment to the resources required to fulfill the mission.

>>A commitment to the resources required to accomplish the mission proves our commitment to the mission itself.

**Tithing**

Israelites were legally bound to tithe a tenth; Tithes were to be given as an expression of worship, thanksgiving and devotion to God; Our English word ‘tithe’ means one-tenth. OT tithes actually totaled over 23%; NT believers are not legally bound to tithe as Israel was, we are not under the law.

**Why do some Christians still refer to tithing?** Most believers who refer to tithing, are simply using the ‘one-tenth’ as a guide or starting point in their giving.

**Biblical Instruction on NT Giving**

**1) Every believer is to set aside a sum of money to give to the Lord**. **2) The sum should be proportionate to your income**. **3) Our giving should be considered part of our worship**.

*For believers, a tenth should be the floor of our giving not the ceiling.*

Acts 20 - ‘*remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said’*…*It is more blessed to give than to receive*.

**Into The Text** (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the truth. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read Leviticus 27:30-33 (NLT). *Ask: Why did the Lord consider a tithe of grain or fruit holy? How could grain or fruit be holy? What makes it holy? Does the Lord view our new covenant offerings as holy?*
2. Ask someone to read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2*. Ask: What is the significance of setting in advance an amount to give? Why would giving in this way be considered a spiritual discipline? Why does the Lord require that we give ‘in keeping with our income’(NIV)? What does that mean? How would you advise someone who is looking to set a sum aside in advance and to give in keeping with their income? How do you do both?*
3. Ask someone to read Proverbs 3:9-10.  *Ask: What does it mean to give the Lord your first fruits? How does this apply to setting an amount to give in advance? What is the difference between giving God first fruits and giving God leftovers? Is v10 promising health and wealth? Why or why not.*
4. Ask someone to read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 *Ask: According to v4 what were the Macedonian churches begging to do? What is Paul asking the Corinthian church ‘to excel’ in in v7? What does it look like to excel in giving?*

**Application**

1. Say: **Let’s move to application**. *Ask: Did God design the church to function through the use of financial resources? Explain and discuss. Who has God provided to meet those financial needs?*
2. *Ask: Is it wrong to set one-tenth of your income as a commitment for NT giving? Explain. If we are going to establish the spiritual discipline of setting aside a sum that is the Lord’s, does that require a specific amount be set? Is one-tenth the right percentage for every believer? Explain.*
3. Ask: *If every person that called Fellowship Church home gave at least one-tenth of their income – what ministry impact could that have in our church, the Back Mountain, the Wyoming Valley and the world? How is giving an expression of our trust in God? How is not giving an expression of trust?*
4. Ask: *Go around the room and share how God has used specific ministries and people in this church to impact you spiritually.*

**Closing Prayer Time**: **(Leader Say:**) Let’s close with a time of prayer. Pray for your church. Ask God to teach all of us to be disciplined givers, to be generous and sacrificial. Ask him to use each and every resource of this church to accomplish the mission of pervading the Back Mountain, the Wyoming Valley and the world with the gospel. *(Ask someone to open, let people pray as they feel led, and then leader closes.)*