



WEEK ONE: Living in the Boom - Study Guide

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Generosity is a huge theme in the Bible. Throughout scripture, God calls us to give. However, having the proper motivation, and knowing how to make the most of our generosity, is important.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Think of a time that you received a sacrificial gift from someone. Maybe the person who gave it didn't spend a large amount of money on it, but you knew it was a lot for them. How did receiving that gift affect you?

Into the Bible

- 2) Jesus taught clearly about motivations for giving, and about a vibrant prayer life in **Matthew 6:1-14**. What motivation does Jesus mock? By implication, what kind of motivation does He recommend?

BOOM

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- 3) Ultimately, the greatest motivation for giving doesn't come from future rewards. It comes from realizing how generous God has *already* been to us. Giving *because* God has given to us is very different from giving *so that* God will give to us. Look at the following passages as a reminder of how generous God has already been to us. What has He already given us? How can remembering this cause gratitude to well up in us?
- a. **Exodus 4:11**
 - b. **Matthew 20:28**
 - c. **John 3:26-27**
 - d. **John 4:10-14**
 - e. **Acts 17:25**
- 4) Read and meditate on **2 Corinthians 9:6-8** and **Psalm 37:25**. In what ways does what we give affect how God provides for us? How are we able to give cheerfully? What is God's purpose in giving us "at all times ... all that [we] need?"

How Does This Apply?

- 5) Giving financially is a great place to start, but God calls us to give of our lives to the cause of the gospel. This includes our time, energy, expertise and everything we have to offer (**Matthew 16:24-25, 1 Corinthians 15:30-32**). How does this change our thinking from living a life simply to get by, or to please ourselves? How can this lead to greater joy and fulfillment?

- 6) It's good to ask God for things. In "The Lord's Prayer" in **Matthew 6:9-13**, Jesus teaches us to do exactly that. If we consider this prayer a guideline or model for our prayers, instead of a script that must be followed, what kind of things can we start asking God for?

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 7) The word Jesus used when He prayed to His Father was "Abba." In some ways, "Abba" is the Aramaic equivalent of "Da-da" or "Daddy" because it refers to fathers in a trusting way. It shows a simple affection. Some people, in order to follow Jesus' cue, will begin prayers by calling God "Daddy." This is a great way to show affection to God as a Father who is near us, but the translation doesn't work perfectly. While young children in that culture would have called their fathers "Abba," adults also called their fathers "Abba." So it also communicates respect.

It's uncommon for American adults to call their fathers "Daddy," so "Abba" doesn't necessarily translate as "Daddy." It's possible that calling Him "Daddy" gives a false impression that He is not far holier than us. However, it's still healthy to think of God as your Father, your Dad, or however else you may show your earthly father love, admiration, and respect as an adult. How is God like a Father? In what ways is He far better than other fathers?