

**It's A New Year Life-Sharing Lesson 1—What Am I Giving? Proverbs 3:9-10
Luke 18:8-30 Matthew 6:24**

1. Why do you think the Lord gives us a new year?
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, if the Lord had discussed your giving with you at the end of December, how happy would you have been with the discussion?
3. Why do you think people give to the Lord's work?
4. Rewrite the verse below in today's language and instead of using a farmer, use a city worker with a job.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) ⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

5. What is the difference between a tithe and an offering?

Luke 18:18-30 (NIV)

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁹ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone.

²⁰ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'" ²¹ "All these I have kept

since I was a boy," he said. ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²³ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!

²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶ Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." ²⁸ Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" ²⁹ "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God

³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life."

6. How can you tell the ruler was looking for a new start in life?

7. Why do you think Jesus told the man to give away all he had instead of just a tithe and offering?

8. Do you think it would have made a difference if Jesus had said give it away to your family and friends?

9. If you received a million dollars tomorrow, how much could God ask you to give away and you be fully satisfied with it?

10. Do you believe that Jesus was telling the truth when he said you get treasure in heaven by giving away today? Why or why not.

11. The amount of money we make has very little to do with how we give. Why is giving always an indication of what is happening in our hearts?

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

²⁴ "No one 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.

12. In reference to the verse above, how do we know when money is becoming a master in our lives? What are some of the signs?

13. If God wants us all to be blessed, then how come we cannot serve God and money?

14. Will you complete your pledge sheet this week or have you already done it?

15. Give a little extra above your pledge on a regular basis to Above and Beyond and see if the Lord does not bless you with extra income throughout the year.

It's A New Year—Life-Sharing Lesson 2 Where Will You Serve?
2 Kings 3:11-12, Ephesians 4:11-13, Ephesians 2:8-10 , Matthew 20:1-16

1. Why did God create you with the gifts and talents that you have?
2. What ability has God given to you that you now using for God's glory?

2 Kings 3:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD through him?" An officer of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah."

¹² Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

3. What was the ability Elisha used that caused him to be noticed by the officer? Why is God able to use people who are willing to do very humble task?

4. Why do most people in the church want the pastors or paid staff to be responsible for doing the work of the ministry?

5. According to the verse below, what is the real job of pastors and teachers?

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

6. According to the verses below, why did God save us?

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

7. Can you serve God faithfully without getting angry because others did not do their part in a ministry function? Why or why not?

Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV)

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard.

² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³

"About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' ⁵ So they went. "He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing.

⁶ About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' ⁷

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' ⁸ "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

⁹ "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

¹³ "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?

¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

8. Would you have felt cheated if you had of been one of the first servants to show up for work? Why or Why not?

9. Why do you think the landowner handled this situation in the way that he did?

10. When have you been envious of the generosity of God at work in the lives of other people? What do you think was the root cause of your feelings?

11. Why is it important to value whatever talent that God has given to us?

12. Why is it important to try new ministries in the kingdom of God?

13. What's a new ministry that you could try at New Life At Calvary in 2014?

**It's A New Year—Life-Sharing Lesson 3 What At You Becoming? Matthew
16:24-26
2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (NIV)**

1. What's one thing you would like to see different about yourself in 2014?

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2. What do you think it means to regard someone from a worldly point of view?

3. What is the worldly point of view of Jesus?

4. What does it mean for a person to be in Christ?

5. What's the difference between being in Christ and being in Church?

6. What is the new creation, Paul is speaking of in this verse?

7. If we are a new creation, why do we continue to struggle with sin and temptation?

8. Why does it seem so much of the old continues to be a part of our lives?
9. What kind of a strategy does a Christian need to overcome the old nature?
10. How can we know when the new has come?

Matthew 16:24-26 (NIV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

11. When Jesus says "deny himself" what does he mean?
12. What does it mean to "take up his cross and follow me."?
13. How do we go about trying to save our lives for ourselves? Where are you most guilty in your life in this area?
14. What new thing does God want to work in your life in 2014, that you have been resisting?

15. How often do we have to choose to follow Christ?