



Building Faith and Finances

Module 1 Meeting – Offerings as Worship

Introduction

- I'm facilitating these group discussions. Please feel free to share your thoughts and experiences. Also, please help me read the scriptures and text in these meetings.
- Module 1 is titled Offerings to God. This is the Module 1 meeting – Offerings as Worship.

Introduction

- Let's look at how the course works on the chart on page 8 of the course book. We first read the book, then do the exercises in the coursebook, then have these group discussions.
- The goal of this group is **encouragement** and **fellowship**, not accountability. So, you can relax and focus on what you can get out of the discussions.

Introduction

- Everyone has the outline of the meeting, which starts on page 27. As I mentioned, please volunteer to help me read the scriptures and text.
- This course is for everyone, whatever your stage of life or financial situation.

Module 1: Offerings to God - Overview

- Reading: Chapter 1 – Honor God with Your Wealth
- 3 Personal Exploration Exercises: What Was Your Financial Upbringing?, Resolving Bitterness Toward God, Setting a Baseline for Giving.
- Meeting Title: Offerings as Worship

Module 1: Offerings to God – Key Concepts

Review

- Key Concept #1: Understanding yourself is important for finding personal happiness and making needed changes to your mindset and behavior.
- Key Concept #2: Complaining Directly to God is good, because he cares for you and has the power to help you!

Module 1: Offerings to God – Key Concepts

Review

- Key Concept #3: Setting a baseline offering amount and periodically reevaluating it is a good dynamic, because it helps you to examine your generosity and engage your heart.

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- From page 27: read the introduction.
- **Icebreaker:** What do you hope to get out of the Building Faith and Finances program?
- Opening Prayer
- Question 1: Would anyone like to briefly share something they got out of the personal exploration exercises?

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- Question 2: Why do you think discussing financial matters can be awkward or uncomfortable for the general population?
- Question 3: Why do you think discussing financial matters can be awkward or uncomfortable in the Christian context?

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- Question 4: What benefits do you think might come from discussing perspectives on wealth and handling wealth as part of our fellowship?
- From page 28 – read the definition of “worship.”

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- Question 5: Generally speaking, what are some ways we can worship God?
- Key Concept #4: Offerings are an important part of your relationship with God.
- From page 28 – read Genesis 4:2b-5

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- Things we can learn from this passage:
 - Abel gave his best to God.
 - Cain did not.
 - The Lord reacted by expressing his favor and disfavor.

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- Question 6: Have you felt that your financial offerings have brought you closer to God? Have they pushed you away from God? Why?
- Question 7: Why do you think God expects offerings from his followers?

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- From page 28 – read 2 Corinthians 9:5-7
 - God wants us each of us to decide what we give.
 - God wants us to give from our hearts.
 - God doesn't want our giving to be reluctant.
 - God doesn't want our giving to be under compulsion.
 - God wants our giving to be cheerful and generous.

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- Question 8: Why do you think “God loves a cheerful giver”?
- Question 9: What do you think Paul means when he says, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously”?

Meeting 1: Offerings as Worship

- Read Spiritual Conversation Starter text (from page 29): “How have you been feeling about your offerings lately?”
 - Consider volunteering how you are feeling first.
 - Discuss not only practicals, but the emotions and spiritual issues involved.

Reminders for the Next Meeting

- The next meeting is titled “Disciplined Finances” on [date & time]. Remember, it’s not an accountability meeting, so do not fear!
- Read chapters 2-4 for the Module 2 meeting.
- Do the exercises in Module 2 for the next meeting.

Thank You for Coming.

- See you next time!
- For free blog articles, book reviews, and resources, check out www.faith-finances.com.

