



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Why We Give

Preached by Andrew Arndt

August 2, 2026

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Andrew preaches from Deuteronomy 26 to present a full theology of giving as an essential act of worship. Drawing on Moses' instructions about first fruits and tithes, he outlines five key principles: giving is a response to God's prior generosity; it is proportionate to what we have; it is regular and habitual; it powers the faith community; and it blesses both the giver and the community.

In this sermon, Pastor Andrew addresses common distortions of the teaching on giving and warns against treating God like a vending machine that dispenses blessings in exchange for offerings. He calls the church to a radical, trust-filled generosity that mirrors the self-giving nature of God Himself. He connects giving to communion and to Romans 12, arguing that true worship involves offering not just a percentage of our income but our whole selves to God. The sermon closes with a challenge to step out in faith, shift our sense of security from our bank accounts to the living God, and enter the blessing that begins and ends with Him.

Key Passages

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Matthew 6:19-21
- Matthew 6:31-33
- Romans 12:1
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
- Malachi 3:10
- 1 John 4:19

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Father, we come grateful for your generosity toward us. You gave first, you gave fully, and you gave freely. As we open your Word and discuss what it means to live generously, open our hearts to what you want to say to us today. Remove any defensiveness or fear, and replace it with faith and trust. May this time together not just inform our minds but transform our lives. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is the most memorable gift you have ever given to someone, and what made it feel meaningful to you?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Pastor Andrew said that 'giving is a response' because God always goes first. How does understanding God's generosity toward you personally change the way you think about giving?
2. He outlined five principles of giving: it is a response, proportionate, regular, community-powering, and blessing-producing. Which of these is most challenging for you personally, and why?
3. Pastor Andrew warned against treating God like a vending machine, where we put in money and expect to get out exactly what we want. Have you experienced this kind of distorted view of generosity? How did it affect your faith?
4. Jesus says in Matthew 6 that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. What do you think your current financial habits reveal about where your heart is?
5. Pastor Andrew described giving as the single thing in the Christian life that disrupts us into living trust in God. Do you agree? What other practices have pushed you to trust God more deeply?
6. The sermon connected giving to communion, suggesting that both involve bringing what we have before God so that He can bless it and give it back

filled with life. How does seeing giving as an act of worship rather than a financial transaction change your perspective?

7. Romans 12:1 calls us to offer our whole bodies as living sacrifices. How does that vision of total surrender relate to the way you think about your money, your time, and your resources?
8. Pastor Andrew challenged faithful tithers whose giving has become too comfortable, suggesting that C.S. Lewis said the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. What would it look like to take a step of generosity that stretches your faith right now?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, take a step to align your giving with the principles from Deuteronomy 26. If you have never given regularly, commit to starting at any percentage and set it up as an automatic, recurring gift. If you are already a consistent giver, prayerfully ask God whether He is calling you to increase your giving to a level that genuinely requires you to trust Him. Write down a specific action you will take before next Sunday, and share it with someone in your group so they can pray for and follow up with you.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- Giving is a response to God's generosity, not a strategy to manipulate God into blessing us. Because God always goes first, our giving flows out of gratitude for what He has already done.
- Biblical giving is proportionate, regular, and habitual. It is not driven by emotion or inspiration but practiced as a spiritual discipline, with the first fruits of our strength going to the Lord.
- Generous giving powers the whole faith community, supporting those who minister and providing for the poor, the orphans, and the widows.
- Giving is the single act in the Christian life that most powerfully disrupts us into genuine trust in God, requiring us to shift our sense of security away from our bank accounts and onto the living God.
- The call of the New Testament goes beyond a 10 percent tithe to the total surrender described in Romans 12:1, offering our whole selves as living sacrifices, because God gave all of Himself to us in Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord, thank you for being the God who gives first and gives fully. Thank you that you did not hold back even your own Son but gave him freely for us all. As we leave today, we ask that you would do a deep work in our hearts around the area of generosity. Where there is fear, instill faith. Where there is tightness, bring freedom. Where giving has become routine and comfortable, stir us to a fresh and stretching trust in you. Help us to take one real step this week that shifts our body weight off our own resources and onto you. May we enter the circle of life and blessing that begins and ends with your goodness. We offer ourselves to you, not just our money but our whole lives, as living sacrifices. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **Amen**.