

# REALIGN YOUR FINANCES

## FACILITATOR GUIDE

### CPC HAPPENINGS...

#### MAD OFFERING

Sunday, March 14

This is a once-a-year opportunity for you to make a difference at CPC and around the world! What is God asking you to give? The goal for this year's MAD is \$275,000! We believe God can do impossible math! Be praying for a great abundance!

#### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, March 16

#### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB GROUPS (all churches)

Friday, March 19'

#### NIGHT OF PRAYER

Sunday, March 28,

### NICKELS AND DIMES

If someone were to steal your checkbook, what would it say about you? **[You're not very rich! He/she likes to eat out a lot. They sure like to shop a lot. Do they pay their titles to the church? Do they not pay titles to the church? Etc.]**

Pastor Christ made the statement "What you don't master will master you." What did he mean by that? **[ If you don't control something, it will make you a slave to it. You have to have an intentional reason for doing what you do. Where money is concerned, you have to decide the things that are important for you to give your money to. ]**

How can your money be in control of you? **[You may make your decisions on how to spend it according to how much you have. This is leading with your money in mind. It is leading you to make your decisions.]**

What does giving to the church say about you? Likewise, what does it say about you if you don't give to the church?

## Do you think you are in control of your money or is it in control of you?

### Signs that Money is Controlling You

- You **CONSTANTLY WORRY** about having enough money
- You often **WISH** you could buy more things
- Your only goal in life is to **GET RICH**, but you have no realistic plan
- You **SPEND MONEY** to feel better
- You **BLAME OTHERS** for your financial problems (government, spouse)
- You judge people based on the **AMOUNT OF MONEY** they have
- You take unnecessary financial **RISKS** and lose
- **MONEY** controls your mood.

**Matthew 6:24**—No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Jesus gave these words of caution where money was concerned. A good portion of His teaching was a warning against the love of money.

**What did Jesus say in Matthew 6 about money? [The love of money can lead a person to pursue greater amounts of money, leaving the will of God second or third or others in our lives.]**

**Why did Jesus speak so forward about money in a person's life? [Because He cared so much about our attitudes being in check.]**

Pastor Chris mentioned that it is a core value of CPC that we lead with **EXCESSIVE GENEROSITY**.

This means that we believe we have been blessed in order that we might be a blessing to the world around us.

**Can you tell the group a time when you blessed someone in need and how it made it feel afterward?**

**How will the world be blessed through our MAD Offering that will be taken next week? [Ministry here at CPC will be continued uninterrupted, people here in the local community will be blessed and people around the world will receive part of the offering as well.]**

Giving our tithes and offerings is called worship, but anytime we give to others, we are giving to God. That makes it an act of **WORSHIP** because it is a **HEART** matter between you and God.

## WHAT TO INVEST IN

**1 Corinthians 10:31**—So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**Proverbs 16:8**—Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

**Matthew 25:21**—His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

**What do these three verses say to you regarding money? [Everything you do should be done for God’s glory. Even what you spend your money on. Make sure you get your money through positive means, not committing injustices against others. When you have done well with the money entrusted to you, God will be pleased and will reward you accordingly.]**

Over and over, the Scriptures tell us to be careful to worship **WITH** your wealth, but don’t worship **YOUR** wealth.

**Proverbs 6:6-8**—Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.”

**What lesson are we to get from the ant? [It is just a natural event for the ant to prepare for the future. No one has to tell it.]**

**Why do you think humans often have to have someone else to tell and remind them to save for the future? [Humans get their priorities mixed up. New “toys” sometimes take priority over necessities.]**

**Philippians 4:6**—Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**How might this verse be of help for people who are having trouble getting their finances in sync with God’s desires for their money? [It encourages us to:**

- 1. Don’t worry**
- 2. Pray about it.**
- 3. Ask for God’s help.**
- 4. Thank Him for what He is about to do.]**

## DEVELOP A PLAN TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR MONEY

Perhaps you are doing quite well in handling your money. You may even give to the church on a regular basis. If so, that's great! But God blesses us the purpose of us to be a blessing to more people around us. Do you want to live a life of "excessive generosity?" Let's walk through a plan:

If you are married, you and your spouse need to do this together. You need to agree on what is important and where your money should go. Agree on what you would like your bank account to say about you. Remember, this is only a test—an idea of what your bank account could look like.

Total up your income. This is your monthly amount that you have to use.	\$ _____
Minus your tithe (10% to the Kingdom). As a Christian, it is your duty to prioritize tithing. Even if you don't do it right now, try it for this exercise.	\$ _____
Saving for your future (10% for the future).	\$ _____
Minus your monthly total bills. Include house, car, credit cards, phone, electric/gas, water, sewage, insurance, etc.	\$ _____
Minus your monthly food amount.	\$ _____
Minus your monthly total bills.	\$ _____
How much money do you have left over?	\$ _____

**Does the plan work for you? If not, where is your account "too heavy."**

**If you can't pay your full tithe right now, how much are you willing to give toward the tithe?**

### What Should Determine the Amount We Give?

When someone dictates to you how much to give, your heart is cut out of the gift. Such giving is a matter of works, not grace. On the other hand, discipline helps us with what we know to be right. Choosing a standard of giving can help us do what we believe in our hearts to be right, even if our temporary feelings should waver. The Bible talks about 10%, and it should be our goal, but you have to give your best—not what's leftover—but the very best you can give. This is our worship!

## **PRAYER TIME**

- If you have a job, a means to make money, begin to praise God for providing for you what you have.
- Ask God to show you how you can be a blessing to others through your giving.
- Pray specifically for the MAD Offering and that CPC might reach its goal. Ask God how much He is wanting you to give.
- Pray for those in your group, in your family, or others who do not have jobs, can't make ends meet, etc. Pray that God will do a real blessing in their life and put their bank account in line with His plan.