

## Small Group Study Week 5: “The Why Behind The More”

**Theme:** God has created us for "more"—not just to receive His blessings vertically from Heaven, but to share them horizontally with others. This study explores how faithfulness, blessing others, and surrender unlock the abundant life God promises, benefiting both ourselves and His Kingdom.

### Opening Prayer:

"Lord, thank You for designing us for more. Open our eyes to Your plans for our lives and teach us how to live faithfully, bless others, and surrender to You. May we experience the abundance You promise as we pour out for Your Kingdom. Amen."

### Icebreaker

- Share a time when you gave something away (time, money, help) and unexpectedly felt blessed in return. What did that experience teach you?

### Scripture Readings

- **Jeremiah 29:11** – God’s plans for a future and hope
- **Matthew 25:19-21** – The faithful servant receives more
- **Luke 6:38** – Give, and it will be given to you
- **2 Corinthians 9:8, 11** – Blessed to be generous and abound in good works
- **2 Kings 4:2-7** – The widow’s oil and God’s provision through surrender

### Discussion Questions

#### 1. God’s Plan for More

- The sermon states, “God’s plans were created with the end result in mind” and account for our ups, downs, and choices. How does this perspective on God’s sovereignty encourage or challenge you?
- Read Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28. Who benefits from God’s plans, and how does this shift our focus from just ourselves?
- Reflection: Are you OK with God’s plan even if you don’t directly benefit? Why or why not?

#### 2. Step One: Faithful People Get More

- The sermon uses the parable from Matthew 25:19-21 to show that faithfulness leads to more responsibility and blessing. Where have you been faithful with what God has given you (time, gifts, finances, relationships)?
- What happens when we’re unfaithful, like Moses or Peter? How does 2 Timothy 2:13 (“If we are faithless, He remains faithful”) offer hope?
- Application: Identify one area where you’ve struggled to be faithful. What’s one step you can take this week to lean into God’s faithfulness there?

### 3. Step Two: You Are Blessed to Bless

- The sermon emphasizes, “Your abundance is earmarked for the purposes of the Kingdom!” Read Luke 6:38 and 2 Corinthians 9:11. How does giving lead to receiving more?
- What’s one gift or resource God has given you (compassion, skills, wisdom, etc.) that you could use to bless someone else this week?
- Reflection: How might focusing on “returning more” (like Larry Miller’s quote) change your view of your blessings?

### 4. Step Three: Surrender Enables Abundance

- The sermon says, “Abundance begins with surrender,” using Jesus’ example (Titus 2:14, Hebrews 12:2). What’s the hardest thing for you to surrender to God—time, finances, control, something else? Why?
- Read 2 Kings 4:2-7. The widow surrendered her small jar of oil, and God multiplied it. What “small jar” do you need to surrender to see God’s abundance?
- Application: How can shifting your focus from what you lose to what you gain through surrender change your attitude this week?

## Application

### Surrender Prayer:

- On a piece of paper, write down one thing you need to surrender to God (e.g., finances, time, a relationship). Share it with the group if you’re comfortable.
- As a group, pray over each item, asking God to take it and multiply it for His Kingdom, using 2 Corinthians 9:8 as a guide: “God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

## Reflection

- The sermon ends with a call to surrender so we can live to give and experience fulfillment. Which of the three steps—faithfulness, blessing others, or surrender—feels most urgent for you right now?
- Take a moment of silence to ask God: “What do You want me to surrender today?” Share any insights if you’d like.
- This week, pick one area of abundance (a gift, time, resource) and intentionally use it to bless someone else. Journal about how it feels to “pour out” and what God does in return. Share with the group next time.

### Closing Prayer:

"Father, thank You for Your plans to give us more—not just for ourselves, but for Your Kingdom. Help us to be faithful with what we have, to bless others with our abundance, and to surrender all to You. May we live the fulfilling life You’ve designed us for. In Jesus’ name, Amen."