

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Why are the “buts” (excuses) of others so much easier to see than our own? How have you come to terms with that truth? Why is Sean Stephenson's quote so powerful? You may need to google him.
- How have you seen Tom Landry's quote play out in life? How about in your own life? Have you ever cried out to God, “I want to want what you want”? What were you stuck on? Read Psalm 37:4-7 from the Message Guide. How do those verses speak to wanting what God wants in our lives?
- Read the Mark 9 passages from the Message Guide. What strikes you? What are your take-aways? Why do you think we are most like Jesus when we are serving? What are characteristics of being a servant? What is the difference between doing service and being a servant?
- How is Barnabas an example of servanthood? What are all the “buts” he could have used not to have sold his land and giving the proceeds for ministry? Barnabas is remembered as an encourager, but not necessarily a giver. Why do you think that is? How are we to be led to give (look back at his description)? Describe our journey to generosity (look at the church's website)? Where do you think you are in the journey?
- Review the “How about you?” section. How have you seen Proverbs 11:24-25 be true in a person's life? Read Ephesians 5:10–19. What does this have to say about use of time? Do you think you are time-rich compared to someone like Elon Musk? What is the idea behind the idea that we are all time-rich?

Next Steps: Do you consider yourself a difference-maker? Why or why not? Do you think you ought to be looking through the lens of being a difference-maker? What step could you or will you take to increase your difference-making wherever you are?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



We never get off our buts.

Sean Stephenson

[My job is to get a group] to do what they don't want to do, in order to achieve what they've always wanted to be.

Tom Landry

Oh God, I want to want what you want!

⁴Enjoy serving the Lord, and he will give you whatever you ask for. ⁵Depend on the Lord. Trust in him, and he will help you. Psalm 37:4–5 ERV

⁴Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: Psalm 37:4–5 NIV

⁴Keep company with God, get in on the best. ⁵Open up before God, keep nothing back; he'll do whatever needs to be done: ⁶He'll validate your life in the clear light of day and stamp you with approval at high noon. ⁷Quiet down before God, be prayerful before him... Psalm 37:4–7 MSG

⁴³...Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Mark 10:43 MSG

You are most like Jesus when you are serving.

³³They came to Capernaum. When he was safe at home, he asked them, “What were you discussing on the road?” ³⁴The silence was deafening—they had been arguing with one another over who among them was greatest. Mark 9:33–34 MSG

³⁵ Jesus sat down and called the twelve apostles to him. He said, "Whoever wants to be the most important must make others more important than themselves. They must serve everyone else."

Mark 9:35 ERV

⁴⁵ Follow my example: Even the Son of Man did not come for people to serve him. He came to serve others and to give his life as ransom for many.

Mark 10:45 ERV, NIV

➡ Barnabas got off his "but" and said "Yes" by giving.

³² All the believers were one in mind and heart. Selfishness was not a part of their community, for they shared everything they had with one another.

³³ The apostles gave powerful testimonies about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great measures of grace rested upon them all. ³⁴ Some who owned houses or land sold them and brought the proceeds before the apostles to distribute to those without. Not a single person among them was needy. ³⁶ For example, there was a Levite from Cyprus named Joseph, who sold his farmland and placed the proceeds at the feet of the apostles. They nicknamed him Barnabas (or "Encourager").

Acts 4:32–37 TPT

<http://senecacommunitychurch.com/give>

The Journey of Giving not Guilt

- The Gift (First Time)
- The Tithe (Percentage/Proportional)
- The Heart (Generosity that can be Sacrificial)

➡ Barnabas got off his "but" and said "Yes" with time.

²⁴ Barnabas was a good man, full of the Spirit of holiness, and he exuded a life of faith. Because of his ministry even more crowds of people were brought to the Lord! ²⁵ Barnabas left for Tarsus to find Saul and bring him back to Antioch. ²⁶ Together Saul and Barnabas ministered there for a full year, equipping the growing church and teaching the vast number of new converts. It was in Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called as "Christians-little Christs."

Acts 11:22–26 TPT

How about you?

➡ I want to say yes, but I don't have the money.

²⁴ Some people give freely and gain more; others refuse to give and end up with less. ²⁵ The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped. Proverbs 11:24-25 ERV, MSG

➡ I want to say yes, but I don't have the time.

I had the time, I just didn't take it.

I am time-rich, but I feel like I am broke.

¹⁰ Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it. ¹¹ Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. ¹² It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. ¹³ Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ. ¹⁴ Wake up from your sleep. Climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light! ¹⁵ So watch your step. Use your head. ¹⁶ Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! ¹⁷ Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants. ¹⁸ Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life, but be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Encourage each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him. ¹⁹ Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ.

Ephesians 5:10–19 MSG, ERV

Bottom Line:

Be a difference-maker by being a servant

with your money and your time.

Resources for this message include material from Life Church, Mecklenburg Community Church, & Saddleback Church.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.