



“New Year Giving”

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In the first message of our Emerged: New Year Hope series we saw from the life of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1 & 2) that we must 1) define the problem, 2) go to God for the answer and 3) do the hard work and we will see amazing results.

- 1. What area did you identify that you want to take to a new level in 2021? What is one goal you have for your relationships? Your finances? Your physical well-being? Your spirituality?**
- 2. What steps have you taken, or will you take to progress in this area?**

Last week we talked about Emerged and New Year Hope. We discovered Paul’s encouragement to the church of Ephesus (*Ephesians 5:15-17*) to 1) treasure your time, 2) make the most of every chance you get and 3) know what God wants.

- 3. Have you spent time seeking what it is God wants for you this new year?**
- 4. What do you think God would have you do, or change, in the way you use your time this new year?**

Balance is important in life. Balance in our spiritual, physical, and emotional lives is of utmost importance. However, balance is also important in our giving and finances. To maintain proper balance, we need these 3 elements:

- A Reference Point – where to focus
- Constant Correction – needed adjustments to stay on course
- A Clear Objective – know where you are and where you want to go

- 5. Discuss these 3 elements of balance. How do these elements relate to finances?**

Finances follow the law of the harvest: results are not immediately apparent. Finances do not follow the law of Pinocchio: results are immediate.

6. Give your interpretation of the ‘law of the harvest’ in relation to finances.

7. Give your interpretation of the ‘law of Pinocchio’ in relation to finances.

Being out of balance financially does not necessarily create immediate financial problems.

However:

- Imbalance creates habits in one stage of life that have repercussions in the next.
- Imbalance creates worry over having enough when you already have enough.
- Imbalance makes it easy to hoard and hard to give.

8. Which of the above statements may be affecting balance in your finances?

9. What can you do to bring balance to how you view and handle your finances?

Financial imbalance is an indicator that things are out of balance spiritually. Read *Matthew 6:21* and *Luke 16:13 (Message)*.

- There is a relationship between the way you handle your money and your devotion to God.
- There is a relationship between your use of money and the condition of your heart.

10. How does your handling of money affect your devotion to God?

11. What is something that needs to be changed about how you handle your money

Family Connect Discussion Starter:

It is never too early to talk to our kids about handling money. If your child receives money for anything, (allowance, chores, birthdays) discuss with them ways to handle their money – tithing, saving, spending wisely. Share with them your experiences with tithing, saving, and spending wisely.