



A GOD-LIVED LIFE

- A Life of Being a Disciple
- A Life Lived for Others
- A Life of Hospitality
- *A Life Lived Shrewdly*

MONTH 4

A Life Lived Shrewdly

While stewardship of our finances isn't the only part of stewardship, it is a part of it. God's Word encourages us to use all of the financial gifts God has given us with an eye on our purpose.

WEEK 15

Each week in our God-Lived Life Challenge, we'll have a midweek devotion to remind us what it's all about—why we do what we do. This week, we remember that we all have our gifts, and they are to be shared freely!

IT'S A GIFT. SHARE IT FREELY!

Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 10:8b

Maybe you had one too—an uncle or aunt who never failed to bring a gift when they visited. Maybe it was a box of expensive kids' cereal your mom would NEVER get, a whole sleeve of candy bars, or a bunch of pies that would disappear in five minutes. But the gift would come with a caveat usually understood but sometimes spoken, "share this with your siblings." It was a gift meant to be shared by more than just one.

Jesus gave his disciples a gift—a mission to share the good news of Jesus and the power to do it. Jesus equipped them with all they would need for their mission. If they lacked something, God would provide it through other people. Jesus sent them out with these words ringing in their ears, "Freely you have received; freely give."

As we consider living life shrewdly, isn't that the best motivation? It begins with recognizing the things we call our own are really gifts from our gracious God. God always takes care of us, through normal channels or the miraculous, and teaches us something about his faithfulness in the process. That means our possessions, finances, time, and talents are not to be held with clenched fists and furrowed brow shouting, "Mine!" How much time we have wasted doing that! How many relationships have been strained or opportunities in our lives or the church missed because of our selfishness! No, all we have is for God's glory and for the good of our neighbor.

To live a shrewd life is to recognize the mercy and grace of God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. He suffered for our sins and selfishness to earn our complete forgiveness, peace with God, and eternity in heaven. Jesus rose from the grave with power and authority. He is the one who will be with us and provide our every need. He gave forgiveness to us freely, eternal life freely, and everything we have freely, and he continues to give! These are gifts to share! We give back to him in thankfulness to support his work among us. We share ourselves, his message, what we have with our families, our neighbors, all who need it. They are all gifts from a gracious God. Share them freely.

"Freely you have received; freely give."