



DANGEROUS  
PRAYERS

## 2. WHAT CAN I GIVE?

Psalm 116.12, Genesis 14.17-20

### Key Points:

- The Psalmist prays *what can I ever give back to God?* (Psalm 116.12) and this is a dangerous prayer, because God loves to answer it! Giving isn't always easy, but when we remember how much God has given to us, it is a natural response.
- Giving 10% of all he had gained was Abram's natural response to God's blessing (Gen 14.20). There was no law to tell him to do it. He gave **thankfully** - it was Abram's response to God giving him victory and blessing him materially. He gave **voluntarily** - no one coerced Abram, it was a sacrificial act of worship giving back to God that which was already God's. And he gave **systematically** - Abram worked out what a tenth of all his income was, not leaving it to chance or an estimate.
- **God delights in our gratitude.** We don't give in order to be blessed more, we give as a result of God's blessings in our life. Abram's response not only shows the way Christians should give, but how Christians should obey as well. Giving is an act of worship and obedience to God.

### Questions:

#### Conversation Starter

1. What's the greatest gift you've ever been given (apart from Jesus!) and why?

#### Start thinking [Get the group thinking around the subject]

2. Why do you think Abram gave 10% of his plunder to Melchizedek?

#### Start sharing [Choose a question to create openness]

3. Do you find giving things away easy or hard? Why do you think that might be?
4. Is praying '*What can I give?*' something you've every prayed before? If not, why not?
5. How does Abram's example and template for giving make you feel?

#### Start praying [Write a short prayer that gets to the heart of 'so what' in your sermon]

6. Father, you are God most high, Lord of heaven and earth. Everything is yours and we thank you for all the blessings you've given to us. As my worship and as my response, what can I give to you? Would you speak by Your Holy Spirit and move my heart to obey Your will. Amen

#### Start doing [draw out some steps to do (either in the meeting or this week)]

7. Pray the prayer 'what can I give?'. You might like to make some time to do this by yourself or with 2 or 3 others and give space to listen to God. Then, take the time to respond!