

# spiritual caffeine

*a monthly shot of encouragement and equipping for student leaders*



Cadre Ministries

## a time to give

*what God's Word says about giving*

### day 1: an honor issue

*Read Proverbs 3:9–10*

“Honor the Lord with your wealth,” said the wisest man who ever lived. You may not think of yourself as wealthy, but that’s not the point. We’re to honor God with our wealth—whatever it is that we have, not what we don’t have. If there was a ledger listing everything you’d ever done with your money, what would it show that you honor? Video games? Clothing (your image)? Yourself? Others? God? How can you adjust your stewardship habits so that God is more honored by your money?



### day 2: holding loosely

*Read 1 Corinthians 7:29–31*

This is a passage that’s been on my mind recently. What does it look like to use the things of this world but not be engrossed in them? To buy things but treat them as if they’re not ours to keep? I think it helps to remember that life is short, and only a few things are eternal. What we’re given on this earth can be used and wasted, or it can be invested in something that outlasts it. How are you using the things God gives you for eternal purposes?

### day 3: what do you love?

*Read 1 John 2:15–17*

The book of 1 John has a lot to say about love. Which is no surprise, I guess, considering that Jesus summed up the whole law in the commands to love God and love others. But this particular passage in 1 John is interesting because it tells us what not to love: the stuff of this world. Too often we fail at loving people and get so caught up in loving things. But things break, and fail, and ultimately aren’t all that important. And they can get in the way of loving God and loving people. What do you love? Is there anything that distracts you from God, anything that you’re holding with too tight a grasp? Surrender it to God today.

### day 4: robbery!

*Read Malachi 3:6–12*

Are you robbing God? I doubt anyone wants to admit to that, but God makes it clear that failing to bring our offering—a tithe of the blessings he’s given us—is robbery. Why is this such an important issue to God? Obviously he doesn’t need our money. But he wants us to trust him. And bringing our tithe faithfully, whether we feel like we can afford it or not, is one of the most tangible ways we show our trust in him as our Provider. Giving back a tenth of our money to God is a way of saying, “You’re enough for me, and I trust you to take care of everything I need.” God’s promise is that he will do so—abundantly. It may not come like we expect it, but there is a blessing that comes with obedience in this area.





## day 5: contentment

*Read 1 Timothy 6:6–10*

How content are you? Are you more likely to be thankful or to complain? Paul encourages us that if we have food and clothing, we should be content with that. (That's more than much of the world can count on every day!) Marketing tries to convince us to want more and more things, but that's not what satisfies. God is. We are most joyful when we choose to be content with what we're given. Spend some time today thanking God for his blessings in your life. Ask him to help you be content with them.

## day 6: where's your security?

*Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19*

One of the dangers of having a regular paycheck, a place to live, food on the table, and clothes on our backs, is that we tend to trust ourselves (or our families). We think that it's our own hard work that provides for us. We trust our savings account to get us through college, our job to pay for our car, and our education to secure our future. But really, our security should be in God. He's the one who truly provides for us. What is making you feel secure (or insecure) right now? Ask God to help you trust him alone.

## day 7: a fraction of a penny

*Read Mark 12:41–44*

Would you be willing to give God everything you have? Don't answer that too quickly. Most of us are happy to give some of our extra to a good cause. We may even be faithful to bring our 10% to church. But everything? Imagine being this widow. All she had to her name was a fraction of a penny. It was all she had to buy food and pay rent. But instead she gave it to God. Talk about trust! She truly knew the meaning of generosity. When was the last time you gave enough that it hurt a little? Have you given up something you wanted to buy in order to bless someone else? If you can't remember a time recently, stretch yourself to do it soon. It won't go unnoticed by Jesus.

