

# *Rich Toward God*

## LEADER'S GUIDE

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE(S)
Table of Contents .....	1
As We Begin (A Message from Gregg Hood) .....	2
Quick Start: A Step-by-Step Guide .....	3-5
Promotional Resources.....	6-10
Introductory Letter to Church.....	6
Bulletin Ads .....	7
Pulpit Announcements .....	8
Book Insert .....	9
Offering Meditations .....	10
Sermon Resources .....	11-26
Sermon Principles .....	11
Sermon Outline 1: "Rich Toward God" .....	12-13
Sermon Outline 2: "Enter the Power Zone" .....	14-15
Sermon Outline 2 (Option): "Opening the Windows of Heaven" .....	16-17
Sermon Outline 3: "When Heaven Takes Notice" .....	18-19
Sermon Outline 4: "Kingdom Living and the 100 Times Harvest" .....	20-21
Sermon Illustrations.....	22-26
Sunday School or Small Group Resources.....	27-28
Letter to Sunday School Teachers/Small Group Leaders .....	27
Teacher/Small Group How To's .....	28
Follow Up Resources .....	29-31
Decision Card.....	29
Prayer Guidelines.....	30
New Member Letter.....	31

## AS WE BEGIN...

**T**he opportunity to partner with you in teaching and leading your congregation to focus on stewardship is a great privilege. Thank you for allowing me to help you guide people to become “rich toward God.” As we also know, the results will bless them and expand the Kingdom, too!

As Christians grow and truly believe that God has the power to meet their needs as they trust Him with their finances, they will explode in their spiritual growth. At the same time, the devil hates anything that leads people to greater trust in God and His promises, so we must stay ready to encourage our listeners. I’ve heard it said that, “Some people can’t give until they grow spiritually and some can’t grow spiritually until they give.” Thankfully, this book and your sermons will help on both sides of the question.

Preaching is great...yet we know that Sunday morning conviction often cools by Monday. This book was designed to compliment and empower your preaching ministry. Put these two teaching opportunities together: a week of reading and praying, followed by your sermons on Sunday and the leading of the Lord. As we’ve seen so many times, this is what will stimulate true and lasting change in behavior in the area of positive stewardship. Putting your sermons and these chapters together is a powerful spiritual and educational strategy!

Follow these three steps as you present this teaching to your church:

**Pray** Eagerly desire to see your listeners embrace the promises of God. There is no hype or pressure in the book or in your sermons. Relying on God’s Spirit to touch minds and hearts releases you from feeling that it’s all up to you. Invest time in prayer before, during, and after the series, and God will reward your efforts.

**Prepare** The key teaching strategy in this series emphasizes the *combination effect* of reading the book chapters and listening to the sermons. Keep encouraging people to read a chapter during the week. This enables each person to focus on specific Bible passages that will connect with others from which you will be preaching. Spend some extra time reading Luke 12, too.

**Present** As you present your messages, stay positive, practical, and personal. Don’t be afraid to preach on how stewardship might be a growth area for you. God will honor the genuineness of your faith and your desire to see your people invest in eternity. The approach will disarm opposition to preaching on giving and open people up to God.

May the Lord use *Rich Toward God*, this leader’s guide, and your leadership to bless and expand His Kingdom. I’m thrilled to have the privilege of working with you to teach God’s promises about giving. You are in for a wonderful adventure!

KREGG R. HOOD, ED.D.

Ozark, MO

## QUICK START: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

---

### THE KEYS TO THE PROGRAM

As you review the resources in this leader's guide, please feel free to adapt them to fit your needs, style, and church culture. However, the components that are most critical to the success of the program are:

- **Positive Sermons**—Four positive, motivating, benefits-oriented sermons on giving (especially tithing) build excitement, faith, and hope. Guilt and condemnation do not work.
- **Family Reading**—As families read the book together and discuss it at home, they will be better prepared to hear and receive the promises of God that you will share in your sermons.
- **Church-wide Participation**—Not only will church-wide participation give you better results, it is a unifying experience for your congregation.

The Sunday school class/small group resources have been provided for churches who wish to reinforce the *Rich Toward God* principles in Sunday school classes or small groups. Some churches choose to use these settings, rather than the pulpit, as the primary teaching platform. While both are effective, the greater success has come when the pulpit is the primary teaching emphasis and the class or small group settings served as reinforcement.

**A complete download of the Rich Toward God Leader's Guide is available with your purchase of the Rich Toward God program. For more information, please contact our offices at 1-800-962-7499.**