

Giving 101

Week 1 of 3

SHARE

Who has been generous with you by sharing time, service, or resources?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This sharing time is to remind us that someone invested in us. One of our lead principles is that everything we are and have was given to us by God. Knowing that others have been generous points to our God who is generous.

STUDY THE BIBLE

What do we learn about God's generosity and what has He given to us?

NOTES TO LEADERS: **Shepherds, we begin with the character and ways of God. Our calling is to trust in and follow His example. The list below is only a sampler.**

John 3:16; 10:18; Romans 8:32

NOTES TO LEADERS: **He gave us His Son and He gave His life for us.**

Acts 1:8; John 14:16-17

NOTES TO LEADERS: **God gave us the Holy Spirit to be with us – empowering, comforting, leading**

Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:18

NOTES TO LEADERS: **He gave us salvation, eternal life, and the promise of being with Him forever**

James 1:5

NOTES TO LEADERS: **He generously gives us wisdom**

John 1:12

NOTES TO LEADERS: **God gave us belonging and a family – His family.**

Matthew 4:4; John 1:14; 15:3

NOTES TO LEADERS: **God gave us His words, the Bible, etc.**

Philippians 4:19

NOTES TO LEADERS: **He supplies our every need**

What do we learn about giving? How are we imitating God?

2 Corinthians 8:7

NOTES TO LEADERS: **We are called to abound in gracious giving. Please note that the word *grace* or *gracious* occurs repeatedly (6X) in this passage.**

Proverbs 3:9-10

NOTES TO LEADERS: Giving should be first commitment, our priority.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

NOTES TO LEADERS: We are to give proportionally ... as God supplies us, “in keeping with our income,” plan ahead to be giving.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:7

NOTES TO LEADERS: Axiom: Whomever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly . . . We are to pray, to decide, and give cheerfully.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Why is the concept of giving a challenge for us to hear or discuss? What might this reveal?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- Giving is tied with money and our own well being. We all want to maximize our own well-being, our pleasures, our security, and our control.
- Money is also an idol for us. It is easy to slip into the idolatry of trusting in money instead of in God for our security or our happiness.
- Discussing giving can bring on guilt, shame, or hiding.
- We view our money as our own - something we deserve and earn and therefore taboo to discuss.

How can we summarize what it means to ‘give according to God’s design?’ How does it involve how we see God?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- God owns everything and knows everything.
- He is generous; He has given us all that we are and own (including our abilities, opportunities, etc.)
- God knows that it helps us avoid idolatry to give as He has commanded
- We are to give generously, purposefully, proportionally, and cheerfully.

What promises does God give us about giving according to His design?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- He promises to provide all that we need
- He promises to give a generous return on our giving
- He promises that He is pleased
- He promises to reward us