It is More Blessed to Give – June 2020

“It’s More Blessed to Give”

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier

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INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

**Life Group Lesson Objective:** To understand how we reflect the character of God when we give and why Jesus said to the church “it is more blessed to give than to receive”. No matter the circumstances in our life, in the world around us. God’s word is still our guide.

**Life Group Leader Lesson Preparation:**
During this time of the COVID-19 coronavirus, God is still our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear - Psalm 46:1-2

Acts 20:33-35…. remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”

_Let us not forget the blessing in giving to others during this time_

Luke 6:38 – Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressure down, and shaken together, and running over shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete (deal out) withal it shall be measured to you again.

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times you may abound in every good work. As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” II Cor 9-12 (ESV)

_Think of creative ways we can (still) give to others during this time_

**Always let God’s Word be our final authority!**

It is more blessed to give – The blessing is in the giving!

- The giver is happier than the receiver
- When we give with pure motives it brings pleasure to the giver
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  • God loves cheerful givers

**Jesus expects us to “practice” GIVING**
  • Matt 6:2 – Jesus said to give. Jesus said to His disciples, “*when you give*” not “*if you give*”

**WEEK 1 – Giving**

**Discussion Question:** Every Believer in Christ was created to reflect the character of God. Does your giving reflect His character?

Giving is a good work…

  • “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)
    - God has created His children to do good works so the **world** would see Him for whom He really is and be attracted to Him to serve and worship Him.

To be “More Blessed” means: fortunate, well off

John 3:16 For God so loved the World that he gave his only begotten Son….

**Let the Holy Spirit work in your life, as a more fortunate, more well-off believer through your giving.**

Jesus was the ultimate giver:
(Isaiah 53:4-5 NKJV) Surely, He has borne our griefs; and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

  • He took our griefs and sorrows
  • He was wounded for our transgression
  • He was bruised for our iniquities
  • He was chastised for our Peace

And **He gave us** Healing: Jesus saved us and made us whole.

Giving – providing food or clothing to others.
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**Week #2 – God Will Give When You Give**

**Group Discussion Questions:** Are you willing to step out in faith and experience the Blessing of giving to others?

Favor and resources come to your aid when you give

- *II Corinthians 9:1-10*
  - A readiness of mind, eager to help
  - God loves a cheerful giver
  - You may abound to every good work
  - God will increase the fruits of your righteousness
  - God will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.
  - God will enrich you in every way so that you can always be generous
  - Others will glorify God because of you
  - When you plant good seeds of righteousness, you will harvest a crop of love – Hos 1:12

- The Lord rewards good works
  - Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free – Eph 6:8

**Giving:** phone calls, letters, text messages

**Week #3 – God’s Purpose for Giving to Bless You and Others**

**Group Discussion Questions:** What is the primary purpose for giving?

1. Giving to God shows honor and obedience – Prov 3:9-10
2. A generous man will prosper – Prov 11:25 (NIV)
3. Meets the needs of others – Deut 15:10, Phil 4:17

**MONEY**

**Giving:** Trusts in God’s provision

The biggest fear is that if I give away too much, I will not have enough for me and my family. When we give above and beyond what is comfortable and easy, we do it by faith and trust in God to provide for us and our family.

- Giving by faith, is not in vain
  - Eccl 11:1 - A future harvest will result from sowing
- God is pleased with faith – Hebrews 11:6

Discuss strategic ways and plans to **give as a life group.** Your giving can be fulfilled by working with others.

**Unity in Giving (as a life group)**
• Psalm 133:1-3 (KJV) Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Remember: God confirms his word with signs following....

Week #4 – The Blessing in Giving
Group Discussion Questions: Discuss ways you have discovered the blessing of Giving?

Sowing & Reaping:

1. The Scripture says you reap what you sow. If you desire to be a receiver, you must be a giver. (Galatians 6:7)
2. How much do you want to be blessed?
   a. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

Obedience:

1. Walking in truth — living in obedience to what God says is right. The blessings of God manifest as a result of obedience.
   a. "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee..." Deut 28:1-14

As you give, it is important for us to remember not to limit God’s ability to do exceedingly abundantly all that YOU can ask or speak. – Eph 3:20

What the Bible says about giving

THE WORD WORKS!

Luke 6:38
Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." NIV
Proverbs 11:24 (NLT)
Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything.

Proverbs 22:9
Whoever is generous will be blessed because he has shared his food with the poor.

Malachi 3:10"
Bring one-tenth of your income into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way," says the LORD. "See if I won't open the windows of heaven for you and flood you with blessings.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7
Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Deuteronomy 15:10
Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.

Mathew 6:2
When then you give money to the poor, do not make a noise about it, as the false-hearted men do
So that your giving may be in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will give you your reward.

Jeremiah 17:10
"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

John 3:16
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."