



CONNECT - HOW DOES THIS TOPIC RELATE TO US?

Choose 1 or 2 questions to get your discussion started.

1. Tell the group about an act of service (big or small!) that you did this past week.
2. Describe a time when you received more than you gave.
3. Share a time when you were blessed by someone giving their time, talent, or treasure for you.
4. What are your unique gifts and talents? (If the group knows each other well, ask group members to name the gifts and talents of other group members.)

ENGAGE - WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US?

Read the following two passages considering the idea of giving back.

[The Lord said to Abram] "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." - Genesis 12:2-3

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. - Galatians 3:14

1. Restate the terms of God's blessing of Abraham in your own words.
2. How have "all peoples on earth" been blessed through Abraham?
3. How have you personally experienced the blessing that God first extended to Abraham?

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." - Luke 6:38

1. According to Jesus, what are the implications for giving?
2. How have you seen this reciprocity from your giving or others' giving?
3. How do you feel when you give and there is no apparent return?
4. What "measure" are you using to give? Why?

APPLY - HOW CAN THIS CHANGE OUR LIVES?

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being extravagant and 1 being stingy, what part of the scale best describes your giving habits?
2. Giving can take different forms – time, talent, and treasure. What do you have to give?
3. What criteria do you use for giving and how did you arrive at those guidelines?
4. What need comes to mind that you could give to this week?

ACTION STEP

Develop a plan for generosity with your time, talent, and treasure.

PRAYER

Take a few minutes to have everyone in the group identify one place in their life where they need help in being more generous. Ask for 2 to 3 volunteers to pray for the group.

GOING DEEPER - FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
- 1 Peter 4:10

- What spiritual gift have you received? How can you use your gift(s) to extend God's grace to others?

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Ephesians 2:10

- What is our purpose and how long has this been the case?
- What is the encouragement/assurance that is built-in to this verse?

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. - Hebrews 13:16

- Why might you forget to do good and to share with others? How can you keep "doing good and sharing" front-and-center?

Recommended Resources A. Read *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* by Adam Hamilton. B. Read *Seven* by Jen Hatmaker.