

THE CHURCH
in here

THE CHURCH
out there

Week #4: Give

Today's Big Idea: In giving, we _____. In grasping, we _____.

*One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

Three Paradoxes of Generosity:

1. We give to _____ who first gives to _____.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NLT)

2. We serve _____ to serve _____.

"Give, and you will receive. You will be given much. Pressed down, shaken together, and running over, it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you."

Luke 6:38 (NCV)

3. We bless those in _____ to bless _____.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

Matthew 25:34-40 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Can you recall a time when you served someone else and it had a positive impact on you? What was the experience like and what were the ways that it impacted you?
2. In what ways has God blessed you in your life? Are there ways that you can bless others as a way of thanking God?
3. Is there someone in your life that you can bless with your time, talent, or treasure this week? How will you go about doing that?

Recommended Resources

- *The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose*, by Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson
- *Redeeming Money: How God Reveals and Reorients Our Hearts*, by Paul David Tripp
- *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secrets of Joyful Giving*, by Randy Alcorn

(NIV) New International Version

(NLT) New Living Translation

(NCV) New Century Version

Week #4: Give - FILL

Today's Big Idea: In giving, we gain. In grasping, we lose.

*One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

Three Paradoxes of Generosity:

1. We give to God who first gives to us.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NLT)

2. We serve others to serve ourselves.

"Give, and you will receive. You will be given much. Pressed down, shaken together, and running over, it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you."

Luke 6:38 (NCV)

3. We bless those in need to bless Jesus.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"

Matthew 25:34-40 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Can you recall a time when you served someone else and it had a positive impact on you? What was the experience like and what were the ways that it impacted you?
2. In what ways has God blessed you in your life? Are there ways that you can bless others as a way of thanking God?
3. Is there someone in your life that you can bless with your time, talent, or treasure this week? How will you go about doing that?

Recommended Resources

- *The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose*, by Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson
- *Redeeming Money: How God Reveals and Reorients Our Hearts*, by Paul David Tripp
- *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secrets of Joyful Giving*, by Randy Alcorn

(NIV) New International Version

(NLT) New Living Translation

(NCV) New Century Version