

GIVE

Intro

God is generous and blesses us abundantly. We know that everything we have belongs to God. Jesus taught us to give with our heart, spirit, and possessions. At baptism, God gives us spiritual gifts and abilities; things that we will need as we participate in God's mission; the healing of the world. As disciples, when we learn to give of ourselves we will experience joy like never before. Often this faith practice is hard to understand, especially in our country where we are taught that fulfillment comes from having more stuff, and living a life centered on our own desires. Yet Jesus taught us to give everything away and follow him. Let's spend a few minutes talking about giving.

Small Group Activities and Discussion

Ask: What was a favorite gift you received for Christmas one year or on a birthday?

Ask: Share a time when you received joy by giving to someone else.

Say: There are over 1200 verses in the Bible that mention give, giving, or gift. So giving must be pretty important to God. Let's read a few places where it is mentioned in the bible.

Will someone read Mark 12:41-44, Acts 20:32-35, Ephesians 2:4-10?

What do these verses have in common?

What is most surprising or striking to you?

Say: God has given us many gifts and we are called to respond as disciples with what we've been given. Turn to a neighbor and share what gifts you might share and how?