

Discipleship: Giving

Objectives:

To help people to deepen their understanding of God as the source of everything that we have and are and that we are caretakers of God's abundance, called to share that good news with all people.

To help people gain an understanding of giving as a response to God's gifts, not a way to earn God's gifts.

Opening Prayer

Opening Questions:

1. How does our American culture view giving and/or sharing? What are some common phrases or expressions that might sum up this cultural view?

- "me first"
- "you get what you deserve"; "you get what's coming to you"
- "whoever dies with the most toys, wins"
- "bigger is better"
- guard what is yours
- not "having" means you have failed
- we give out of our leftovers
- caring is often left to the "experts"

2. How do you define giving? How did you learn about giving? Or service to others?

3. How do these ideas run counter to what our culture teaches?

4. Read the following three Bible passages.

John 2:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

John 6:1-14

5. What does each passage tell us about the nature of Jesus and of how God gives?

6. If you had to sum up all these passages with one word, what word would you choose?

7. Read Acts 4:32-35. What does this passage say to you about living in community?

8. Read Acts 17:24-28. What does this passage say to you about the nature of God?

9. How do you understand "giving" as an act of discipleship? As an act of worship? As an act of faith?

10. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. How does this passage shed light on giving and service?

11. In one sentence, write down your main thought on giving right now.

12. Ask volunteers to share their sentences with the group.

13. Take Home Thought: How is your discipleship strengthened by the faith practice of "giving." What food for thought are you taking home with you?

Close with Prayer