



Giving At Creekside

2023-03-26

Participant Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome to our study, "Giving at Creekside"! God is a giver. John 3:16 says, "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." NIV. When we grasp what God has done for us, we'll want to give ourselves to him with all of who we are - our worship, our time, our resources. Today's topic is about giving at Creekside. When we give to our church, God is honoured and we do our part to support the amazing work he is doing here. For today's study, we'll explore 3 ways we can grow our generosity in giving. What next step is God calling you to take in your giving? Let's dive in and explore that question together!

ICEBREAKER: I Got It!

When I was in grade nine, I signed up to be baptized. I had grown up in a Christian home where my parents taught me about Jesus, but now I was stepping out and telling the world, "I get it". I understood that God had given me his Son and I declared my faith in him. At what point in your life did you "get it" about how much God loves you? Share your story with the group!

STUDY:

“When you get it, you want to give it.
When you don’t get it, you don’t want to give it.”

For the first part of our study, we’ll look at a classic verse in the Bible about giving (John 3:16). Then we’ll explore the exciting example of “grace giving” from the churches in Macedonia.

1. **READ:** 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.” NIV

- God is a giver. God shows his love for us by giving.
Why is this such an important truth for us when we think about giving?

- God showed his love to you by giving you his Son. How does this truth touch down in your heart?

GRACE GIVING: The Example of the Macedonian Churches

During his third missionary journey, the Apostle Paul had collected money for the impoverished believers in Jerusalem. The churches in Macedonia – Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea – had given money even though they were poor. Paul tells us their generosity came from the grace God had poured into their lives. Let’s read about their generosity to learn how we can grow in the grace of giving!

2. **READ:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.” NIV

- What do you notice about how the Macedonian church was motivated to give?

- In verse 2, Paul talks about 3 situations that results in their rich generosity. What are these situations? What surprises you about this?

3. **READ:** 2 Corinthians 8:3-5

“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.” NIV

- What do you notice here about the generosity of the Macedonian churches?

4. **READ:** 2 Corinthians 8:7

“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you[a]—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” NIV

- How did Paul encourage the Corinthian church to be generous givers?

It’s not about what God wants *from* you.
It’s about what He wants *for* you.
-Andy Stanley

THREE P’s of GIVING

Here are 3 practical ways we can grow our generosity in giving.

- i. **PRIORITY** Giving: Generosity will not happen unless we make it a priority.

- 5. What are some practical ways you can make giving a priority?

- ii. **PERCENTAGE** Giving: The percentage matters more than the sum.

6. **READ:** Mark 12:41-43 The Widow’s Offering

- What does Jesus teach here about how the percentage matters more than the sum?

- How might you apply this percentage principle to your giving?

- iii. **PROGRESSIVE** Giving: Over time raise the percentage.

7. **READ:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-8: Growing Generosity

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” NIV

- What principles do you notice here at growing our generosity in giving?
 - What might progressive giving look like for you?
8. What next step is God calling you to take in your giving?

PRAY:

Father, thank You for your amazing love for me.

Thank You for loving me so much, that You have given me your Son, Jesus, to forgive my sin and lead my life.

Thank You for your grace that you have poured into my life.

By your grace, help me to love You and to love other people as You call me to love.

Father, help me to grow as a giver.

I want to give to You and to others from a generous heart, a heart of love.

Help me to be like the Macedonian churches, to give myself first to you and then to others.

Grow a heart in me like the heart of the widow, to give all I have to You.

Father, you are worthy of my greatest love and my deepest devotion.

Thank You for teaching me to be a giver like You are a giver.

I pray all of this in the Name of your Son, Jesus. AMEN.