
Event: Life Group

Audience: (Insert life group(s) name)

Ministry Date: (Insert date of life group)

Purpose: Material facilitation for Life Group

Prepared & Released: Pastor David Yong, Jan 2021

Material briefing: None required

LESSON TITLE : *Receiving to Release*

INTRODUCTION:

Purpose of lesson:

Restoring the grace of giving

Application:

1. Getting it Right
2. Giving it Right

Take home:

Giving as Jesus did!

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

“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.”

ELABORATION FROM SCRIPTURE:

1) Jesus was teaching this (Luke 6:20-49) to his disciples and all those who were following him on what it means to have a life of “blessing.” The emphasis here (Luke 6:38) on giving was to educate the Jewish believers that - a blessed life is not just from getting and doing, but in being! Being like Jesus, being with Jesus.

2) Jesus does affirm that to those who are generous, they will be abundantly repaid for their kindness. *“...A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap...”* this may seem to be an earthly incentive to us, but it points towards a greater ‘rejoicing and joy for the great reward in heaven.’ (Luke 6:23)

3) More than that, giving comes from an inner attitude change. Which relates to *“...For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* that no amount of ‘blessings’ can make us happy, aside from the relationship we have with Jesus. Jesus came for the poor in spirit, so that they can be rich in Him! That’s the inner change that happens

and it was the very first thing Jesus said in this teaching/sermon *“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”* Luke 6:20

4) This change in us leads to Christlikeness. Outliving any material or physical blessing we receive in our temporary lives here on earth. Money, property, possessions, clothes, food, fame, influence and other earthly blessings, although good and is given by God - will one day vanish/fade away/end. But not our lives in Christ!

5) Jesus instructs to give, because it shifts the focus from us - to others. So often all we think about is us. The grace of Jesus, enabled us to receive what we do not deserve.

When we give to others with such grace as well, our act of generosity leads to 2 outcomes. Showing who Jesus is through our actions and Sharing what Jesus can do by their acceptance. The acceptance of the greatest ‘gift’ – Jesus Christ himself.

6) It all begins with us, because we have ‘tasted and seen that God is good’ and we are ‘blessed because we have taken refuge in him.’ Psalms 34:8.

Jesus concludes this entire teaching from Luke 6:20-49 with the illustration of the wise and foolish builder. Though like a house tested by the storms of life, but because the foundation of our lives is in Jesus, when others may fall we remain standing by the power of the Holy Spirit. We can then testify with confidence that Christ is our solid rock!

DISCUSSION:

REQUIRED STARTING QUESTIONS:

1) What’s the best gift you’ve received from anyone?

**Birthday, Christmas, Special Occasion – from parents, friends, loved ones.

2) What’s been the most expensive or meaningful gift you’ve ever given to someone?

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS: Pick according to age group/suitability of hearers

1) What’s been one misconception you had as a Christian about ‘blessing’ ?

2) How would you differentiate happiness and joy?

3) The Bible says in Psalms 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Are you able to identify with that OR have you experienced it yourself?

4) Has it been hard for you to bless someone whom you don’t like or has wronged you?

5) Have you experienced sharing Christ to someone and they accepted. What was their reaction like and what did it mean to you?

REQUIRED ENDING QUESTIONS & APPLICATION: (More reflective and responsive - leading to prayer)

Getting it Right

1) Our desire is to be like Jesus in the way he served and gave.

In seeking God's blessings - What's an area in your life to repent and ask God's forgiveness for having unbiblical values and pursuits in life?

**unbiblical: incorrect, wrong, self seeking or sinful.

Giving it Right

2) From our take home statement 'Giving as Jesus did!'

What would you need the Holy Spirit to empower you with to share Christ to others?
And who are the first few to come to mind and would you pray for them right now?

CONCLUSION:

RECAP - Purpose of lesson: Receiving to Release

Restoring the grace of giving

RECAP – Key verse

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

"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."

RECAP - Application:

1. Getting it Right
2. Giving it Right

RECAP - Take home:

Giving as Jesus did!

ENDING:

Conclude in prayer : lesson's emphasis, needs of LG members, church, community and country.

Prepared by,
Ps David Yong