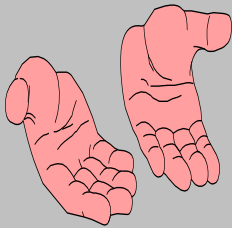


Unit One
The Grace
of
Giving

What is Giving?

Lesson 1



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

By the time the group has finished this lesson, they should:

- know what is special about Christian giving;
- understand what is involved in Christian giving;
- be open to the Lord's guidance about giving.

WHAT DO I NEED?

- Bibles
- devotional notebooks & biros
- prepare the questions for the Application time discussion on separate papers

LISTEN TO THIS!

10 MINUTES

Giving is Caring!

Jagua left home with only 20 naira in his pocket. As he had no bicycle he had to trek three Km. to get to his place of work. Just round the corner he saw a poor blind beggar in real trouble. He was shaking with fever and needed to get to a dispensary. Jagua quickly stopped a passing taxi and gave the driver his 20 naira to take the beggar to a dispensary.

Jagua soon remembered his 20 naira when it was time to eat. Yes, that would have given him a good meal, but when he thought about the beggar, he was glad he had been able to help him get to a dispensary.

Gabriel was a Commissioner in the State Government. He travelled to the village to attend the launching of a fund to dig a new well for the people. He was given a place of honour at the ceremony, and when the time came, he gave his large donation to the sound of loud applause from all the people.

1. Each gift was given to help improve the lives of people. Was the large cheque more important than the 20 naira?
2. What was it that motivated :
 - a) Jagua to give?
 - b) Gabriel to give?

TALK ABOUT IT!

10 MINUTES

Christian Giving

Christian giving is special for three reasons. Can you think what they are?

1. It is an act of worship.

As we give our gifts of money, or other things, we are offering something of ourselves to other people. This act of service to others is also an act of worship to the Lord.

2. It is an expression of gratitude to the Lord for what he has done for us.

We have received the gift of New Life from the Lord. It is a gift that cost Jesus his life so that we could be free from the burden of sin. To give gifts of money or things, or help to others, is one way we can say thank you to Jesus for all that he has done for us.

3. It is a declaration of faith.

To give, because we want to express our loving concern for others, is one way to show that we understand what it means to receive God's gift of salvation. We receive God's gift of love through Jesus so we can share that love with others.

The Best Example!

R

ead **Ephesians 4:32 - 5:2**

1. What reason does Paul give that we should care about others in the same way as God does?
2. Give two examples of what you think it means for you to "live a life of love" (v.2)?
3. In what different ways did Christ give us examples of showing love that we should copy?
4. In what special way did Jesus show his love for us? Is there any way we can copy this?

Read John 3:16 (if you don't know it well!)

5. What is God saying to us in giving us this special gift of his only Son?
To whom is this gift given?

6. How do you respond to this gift?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

7. What is meant by "the grace" that God gave to the people in these Greek churches of Macedonia?
8. How did this "grace" affect the way they thought about the needs of others?
9. What was their attitude to this ministry of giving (v.4)?
10. What do you think these few verses tell about the blessings they received in return for such generous giving?

Free Rain...!!

D

ivide into two groups to discuss for ten minutes.

Each group choose a discussion leader. Also choose a secretary to note down the main points of your discussion. After ten minutes come together and share the main points.

Allow one person from each group to ask a question arising out of the other group's summary of their discussion.

Group 1.

1. Do you think either Jagua or the Commissioner is a Christian?
Give reasons for your answer.
2. What would you have done if you had been in Jagua's situation? Why?

Group 2.

1. Make a list of at least ten free gifts that God gives us?
Why do you think he gives us these things?
2. Apart from saying thank you to God, think of a way you can show your gratitude to God for one of these free gifts.

Worship

Spend the next few minutes in praise and worship, thanking God for all the material blessings you enjoy.

Ask the Lord for the grace to give to those in need.

THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENT:

- Write out John 3:16 from memory;
 - Then write your response to this gift that God has given you;
 - In what practical way can you express your gratitude to God for this very special gift?
 - Before next week ask:
 - a.) three members of the general public and
 - b) three church Members why they give gifts or offerings.
- Note down their answers to share with the group next week.