

session 6 study guide

# giving it away

## the gift of giving

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*If it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously.*

ROMANS 12:8

The gift of giving is a special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to generously and cheerfully contribute their time, talent and treasures to the work of the Lord.

1. What is an example of giving your time?

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2. What is an example of giving your talent?

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3. What is an example of giving your treasure?

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**the macedonians' example**

Paul explains the gift this way: “And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly . . . he who gives, with liberality” (Romans 12:6,8 *NASB*). Another translation says, “If God has given you money, be generous” (Romans 12:8, *TLB*). In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul highlights an example of giving by the Macedonian church. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7.

1. Was it easy for the Macedonian church to give? Why or why not?

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2. How much did they give?

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3. According to verse 4, what was the Macedonians' attitude toward giving?

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4. Why do you suppose Paul is telling the church of Corinth about the Macedonians? (See verses 10-12.)

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**becoming better givers**

Although some individuals have specifically received the spiritual gift of giving from the Holy Spirit, we all are called to be cheerful givers. How can we become better givers?

*give without boasting*

Read Matthew 6:1-4. Why do you think we should give in secret?

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*give with a proper perspective*

Read 1 Timothy 6:10. This often-misquoted passage doesn't say "money is the root of all evil" but "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." What is the danger of loving money? How can loving money impact your giving?

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*give sacrificially*

Read Mark 12:41-44. Why was the widow honored more than the rich people? What lesson can we apply from this story to our own giving?

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*give what you have*

Read Luke 12:48. What does Jesus mean when He says, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded"?

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*give without comparison*

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. How much is the “right amount” for a person to give? What is God’s promise to the giver?

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**reflect**

1. Is giving part of your spiritual life? Why or why not?

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2. How can you become a better giver?

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3. Is it easier for you to give of your time, talent or treasure? Which is the hardest? Why?

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4. Why is it foolish to be selfish with our time, money or talent? (Read 2 Timothy 6:7.)

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5. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What does this passage indicate that God requires of a rich person?

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6. Do you think God gives mainly rich people the gift of giving? Why do you think so?

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7. Why might it be easier for those with little to give big?

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8. Who is someone who you could bless through giving in this next week? How specifically can you bless them?

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9. Acts 20:35 includes the familiar saying that “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” What is the meaning of this simple yet profound statement?

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10. Describe a time when you were blessed by giving to someone else. Do you think you were more blessed than the person to whom you gave?

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11. Why do you think God wants us to give?

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**meditation**



But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7