



# IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

**ACTS 20:17-38**

*"... remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is MORE BLESSED TO GIVE than to receive.'" ACTS 20:35b*

## 1. Giving connects us to others in \_\_\_\_\_ relationships.

*Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews..." vv. 18b-19*

**GIVE \_\_\_\_\_ ANSWERS THAT ALLOW PEOPLE TO REALLY CONNECT WITH YOU.**

## 2. Giving increases our \_\_\_\_\_ on God, which grows our faith.

*"I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me." vv. 33-34*

**GIVE \_\_\_\_\_ SO YOU CAN WATCH GOD SHOW UP.**

## 3. Giving is \_\_\_\_\_ and can inspire others to give.

*"And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem..." v. 22a*

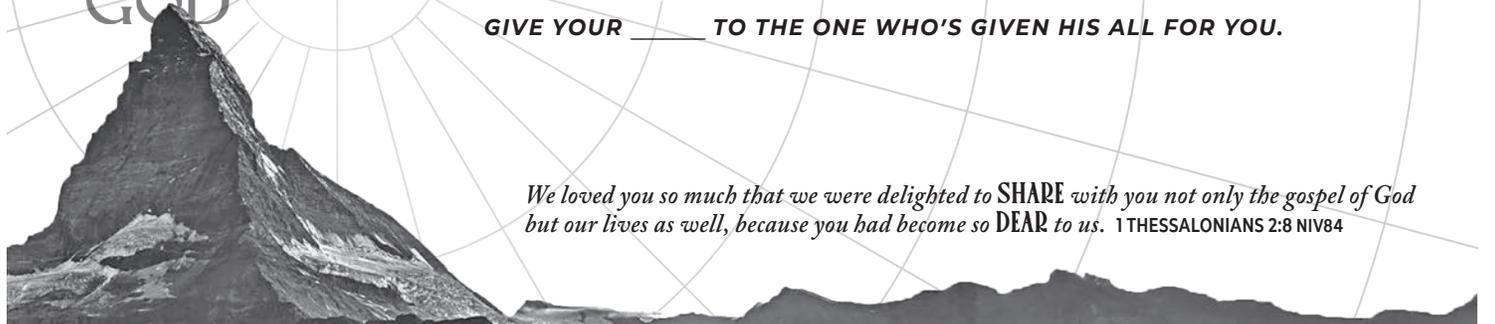
**GIVE \_\_\_\_\_ SO OTHERS PAY IT FORWARD RATHER THAN PAY IT BACK.**

## 4. Giving reveals the unknown \_\_\_\_\_ God.

*"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." v. 24*

**GIVE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE ONE WHO'S GIVEN HIS ALL FOR YOU.**

**REVEALING  
THE UNKNOWN  
GOD**



*We loved you so much that we were delighted to SHARE with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so DEAR to us. 1 THESSALONIANS 2:8 NIV84*

# REVEALING THE UNKNOWN GOD

## DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 20:17-38. Paul warns the Ephesian leaders of the dangers around, among and within them. Which of these dangers do you face in your own spiritual life and ministry?

*“We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction.”*

HARRY IRONSIDE

*“If our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot because our charitable expenditure excludes them.”*

C. S. LEWIS

*“God has a way of giving by the cartloads to those who give away by shovelfuls.”*

CHARLES SPURGEON

2. Name the key points of Paul's farewell message. What did it seem he was trying to accomplish as he spoke to them?

3. In talking with someone who doesn't know God, how would you describe Him as *giving*? How have you experienced that aspect of His character for yourself?

4. In what unique ways has God “shown up” when you've given sacrificially? Why do you think He does that?

5. Would you say that giving has ever increased your dependence on God? Why or why not? How does depending on Him cause faith to grow?

6. How will you use this passage and sermon as you navigate the Thanksgiving holiday with loved ones who don't know God? How can your group pray for you in this regard?

### A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)  
“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:  
“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps).

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events).

**2023 CHRISTMAS CANTATA** Begin the Christmas season with the beautiful sounds of our Christmas Cantata, Joy to the World! From a full choir and orchestra to the youth musical and bell choirs, our Traditional Music Ministry hosts an unforgettable experience that you won't want to miss! We'll be hosting two services on Saturday, Dec. 2 and two more on Sunday, Dec. 3 right here at the Fort Worth Campus! Reservations have gone live today, so reserve a seat for you, family and friends at [www.ccbcfamily.org/cantata](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/cantata).

**WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH** Ladies, we can't wait to begin celebrating the Christmas season with you at our Women's Christmas Brunch right here at the Fort Worth Campus! As one of our favorite traditions, it's the perfect way to start the season with friends, beautiful tables, great food and an encouraging Christmas message. We can't wait to see you there and would love to see new faces join us! Reach out to those around you that need to hear the hope of Jesus and invite them to come, too! Purchase tickets today at [www.ccbcfamily.org/brunch](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/brunch).

**LAST DAY FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** Fort Worth Campus, we're blown away by how many of you participated in bringing a shoebox for OCC — thank you! If you haven't had a chance to be a part, there's still time! Grab a shoebox on your way out, fill it up this afternoon and come drop your gift off by 7 p.m. Find more details at [www.ccbcfamily.org/occ](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/occ).

**HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS** It's natural to experience both the joy and difficulty that comes with the season, and we want to be a help to you! For anyone who has lost a loved one or has been walking through divorce, we'd love to talk with you more about upcoming seminars Soul Care will be hosting. Hear practical ways you can navigate the ups and downs and how to find hope in the middle of the holidays. Visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/soulcare](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/soulcare) to learn more.



### PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

God continues to make a way for His church, but there are still believers all over the world facing persecution. Together, we can pray for their safety, endurance and peace as they bring the gospel to all corners of the world. Will you join us in praying for them? Scan the QR code to find ways to pray, stories of God's grace and keep track of what is happening in the top 50 countries where Christians face persecution.



### LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?

Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE.** The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.