

Giving Study Sheet

Aim: A series of sheets to prompt group discussion around giving. This discussion may primarily lead to individual action. It should not lead necessarily to action within the group. The discussion may lead to different ways of doing things in the life of the church.

Text: Luke 6:38a

Give, and it shall be given unto you. (The British and Foreign Bible Society, 1889)

If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. (Contemporary English Version)

Reflection

The entire verse in the Contemporary English Bible reads, "If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap. The way you treat others is the way you will be treated."

A good friend testifies that it was not until he started following "Give and it will be given to you," that he truly became happy with his life and found that all he needs comes along.

A Mission Weekend was organized in St Luke's church. It included a dinner on Saturday evening with a guest missionary speaker. To be followed by a celebration service on Sunday. At the dinner a card was set at each place inviting a Faith Promise. "Please pledge an amount that you do not now have and are not expecting but, if you receive it, you will donate it."

The pledges were made, having faith that God would provide, amounted to £5,000 and during the following year there was a further £6,000 received in additional gifts for mission.

The same church made the first cheque out each month to the Parish Share. And fulfilled its budget.

If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return.

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Discussion Points

These are suggestions – address as many or as few as your group wishes to do. There are no right or wrong answers.

- What is your reaction to the true story above?
- Does the story reflect: giving joyfully? unconditionally? generously?
- What do you understand by joyful giving? Do you find it easier or more difficult to give joyfully?
- Can you recall a time when a gift, not necessarily of money and not necessarily to the church, was returned “packed down, shaken together and spilling into your lap?”
- What can be done to help understand how financial contributions are used in the church? How often do you feel we need to hear about money needs?

Concluding thought

The results of the Faith Promise were miraculous, especially when repeated a second year. And sufficient income to fulfill the church budget and honour the Parish Share! This was accomplished because the church members gave with joyful, faithful hearts. Could it have been accomplished any other way?

Prayer

Dear Lord, Fill my heart with faith and joy so that I can give back to you generously.

Music

I give myself away (William McDowell)
See ye first the Kingdom of God

Giving and Funding Team
Diocese of Bath & Wells