

GIVING

02-16-25

## WORSHIP (15 MINS)

Venue: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or Via Online,

Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?" Opening Prayer: Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to us how to know Christ in a deeper way.

### WELCOME (15 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

**Memory Verse:Matt. 6:21**Wherever your treasure is... your heart will also be. **Ice-breaker:** How do we feel when the topic of giving is brought up in church—excited, uncomfortable, or uninterested? Why is it so?

Quote: "God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with." Billy Graham

### WORD(30-45 MINS) Text:Selected Scriptures

Intro: Giving is not all about money. It's about stewardship. God calls us to be generous with our time, resources, skills, and talents. Giving also includes helping the vulnerable, whether that's fighting for the unborn, rescuing victims of human trafficking, or defending the rights of the oppressed. Giving is not an obligation, but an opportunity to reflect God's love and advance His kingdom. But WHY (SHOULD WE) GIVE? Here are principles we can apply in our ordinary, everyday life that anyone, regardless of background or financial status can practice God's heart for giving.

- 1. God cares for the poor and the needy- Read Psalm 146:7-9, Matthew 25:31-46) Jesus Himself identified with the poor. He was born in a manger, lived among the outcasts, and served the broken.
- **Q:** Do you have opportunities to help the needy— instead of ignoring the homeless, the pan handlers ask, "How can we reach out, care or help?
- **2.** Generosity reflects the character of God- Read John 3:16
  God is the Ultimate Giver. He gave His only Son out of love for us.
  Because we are God's children, we should reflect His generosity in our actions.
- **Q:** What is one simple way you can be more generous this week—whether it's giving your money, time, or skills to help someone in need?
- 3. It is God's command for us to give (Deuteronomy 15:10-11, Proverbs 3:27, Hebrews 13:16) In the O.T., God established laws to ensure the poor be provided for. God desires that we become channels of His blessings to people thru the money, resources, talents, skills and opportunities He provides us, we can help the people around us.
- **Q:** Can you think of someone at work, school, community who might be struggling? How can you be a blessing to them?
- **4.** We are merely managers or caretakers of the wealth God has given us. Everything belongs to God. We are only stewards of what He has entrusted to us. God blesses us so we can bless others. It is important for us to understand that our money is <u>not</u> ours!

**Q:** Since we are stewards of God's blessings (money, time, and abilities, etc.), how will we use them properly for His glory?

#### **Leader's Tips:**

- S Sensitivity. No one should feel left out.
- P Participation is encouraged.
- A Acknowledge. Make guests feel welcomed.
- C Confidentiality. What is shared stays in the group.
- E Encouragement. Be a blessing to one another.

# 5. True and living faith should be accompanied by loving action and good works – Read James 2:14-17

**Q:** James says that faith without good works is dead. What are some ways we can show our faith at work, at school, etc. through action and not just words?

# 6. Radical Generosity-a testimony to unbelievers – Acts 2:44-47 NIV

When the disciples encountered God and the Holy Spirit descended upon them, it led to radical sharing with the needy and generosity to the poor. This then resulted to more people becoming open to the message of salvation.

**Q:** In what practical ways can we be a blessing to others that reflects Christ in our lives?

## 7. Generosity is the appropriate response to the grace of God – Luke 19

When Zaccheus encountered Jesus, his heart was transformed. Jesus did not condemn him but instead loved him forgave him, gave him eternal life. Jesus became the centre of his life and not his money.

**Q:** What has been the biggest change in your life when you surrendered your life to Jesus?

**Conclusion:** Jesus spoke many times about money because it reflects our hearts and spiritual priorities. The Word of God warns us against selfishness and placing our confidence in wealth instead of God. Jesus, encourages all of us about generosity, trusting God for provision, and investing in eternal treasures.

### Challenge:

Which of these principles challenges you the most?

How can we start applying Jesus' teachings on money and generosity today?

What is your take-away from this lesson?

### WORK: The Challenge (15 mins.)

- P- Pray for one another. Ask "what can I pray for you?"
- **R- Remin**d to invite a friend on the next gathering.
- A- Apply the message during the week.
- **Y- Yearn** to share your faith with someone during the week.