

STW LESSONS

Lesson 3

How to Give: One Way to Love and a Good Place to Start



LESSON

3

STW LESSONS

Lesson 3

How to Give: One Way to Love and a Good Place to Start

Objectives

- To realize our wealth in comparison to people around the world
- To understand why and how we give
- To discover the opportunities Spread the Word offers
- To accept the challenge and set a giving goal as a group

Materials

- White board or poster board and writing utensils
- Bibles
- Spread the Word promotional materials—brochures, pictures, PowerPoint (and the equipment to show it)

■ Starting the Journey [15 min.]

Say: *Imagine you are going on a three-day camping trip. (You can decide where.) What will you need to pack? Create a list as a group, or if you have a large group, divide into smaller groups.*

Once they have created a list and the group is satisfied, go back over each item and determine whether this is really a need or whether it'd just be nice to have (a sort of luxury). Could they get along for the three days without it? Mark off any items on this list that the group decides they don't really need.



Say: *Sometimes we label things as needs that are really just wants. For example, “I really need to get a new cell phone.” Name some things in your own life that are needs and some things that are merely wants.*

Say: *How do you determine the difference between a need and a want?*

Say: *Most of us aren’t really in need of much. We may have several wants, but our needs are pretty well taken care of.*

■ **Gaining Speed [10 min.]**

Ask: *How many of you would call yourselves rich?*

Ask: *What would you do with one million dollars?*

Say: *In some places in the world, people think of you as millionaires, and for good reason. Consider the following statistics:*

- *Almost half the world lives on less than \$2.50 per day.*
- *About 80 percent of the world lives on less than \$10 per day.¹*
- *The United States is home to less than 5 percent of the world’s population but consumes around 25 percent of its energy. On the average, each American uses more than 150 gallons of water daily, while more than half the world lives on 25 gallons per day. Americans also eat enough food in a day (more than enough) that the amount of extra food consumed by Americans could feed eighty million people.²*

Say: *Maybe you’re thinking, “These statistics are pretty bad, but I’m just a teenager. I’m not really rich.” But consider this: According to a 20/20 report in December of 2009, U.S. teens spent almost \$170 billion, an amount that had doubled in the past decade and continues to rise. Teens with a part-time job earn about \$100 per week, and the average teenager has between \$2000 and \$4000 to spend each year.³*

Ask: *How much money do you make in a week (or month)? Where do you spend most of your money? What does most of it go toward?*

¹ <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>

² <http://www.mindfully.org/Sustainability/Americans-Consume-24percent.htm>

³ <http://www.marketingvox.com>



■ **Down the Straightaway [15 minutes]**

Say: *Knowing what Christ has done for us, we want to give God all, and a good place to start is with our money and possessions. It is also one of the most difficult places to release. Remember, we discussed last week the need to hold earthly things loosely.*

Ask: *Why do you think the Bible instructs us to give?* Allow them to answer before referring to the following scriptures.

- Malachi 3:10–12 (So God can bless you and others)
- Matthew 6:19–24 (cannot serve two masters, keep our focus on God and not things)
- 2 Corinthians 8:11–15 (to provide for others in need, equality among believers)

Ask: *How are we taught to give?*

Read: Luke 21:1–4 and answer the following questions:

- *Who does Jesus hold up as an example of giving? (the poor widow)*
- *Why? How did she differ from the others who were making their offerings in the temple? (She gave out of all she had, not just the excess, and she gave humbly.)*

Read: these verses and answer, *What other instructions does Jesus give in the following scriptures?*

- Matthew 6:1–4 (in secret, not for praise from others)
- Matthew 23:23 (without neglecting our responsibilities to others, not as a way to earn salvation or praise)
- 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (with love, otherwise meaningless)
- 2 Corinthians 9:6–7 (generously, with a cheerful heart, and not under compulsion)

Ensure the students understand what it means to give out of compulsion.

Say: *The Bible makes it clear that it is the attitude and heart behind the gift that matters over the amount. However, we must acknowledge that giving often requires sacrifice, but we do not need to fear. We can trust God.*

Ask: *What assurances does God give us in the following verses?*

- Matthew 6:25–39 (do not worry, God will provide)
- Matthew 7:7–12 (ask for what you need and it will be given to you)
- Philippians 4:19 (supply all needs according to his riches)



Say: *Giving requires sacrifice, but God has promised to supply whatever we need when we are obedient.*

■ **Heading for the Checkered Flag [10 minutes]**

Say: *As with all spiritual disciplines, giving requires time and work to establish it as a habit.*

To begin to cultivate a giving heart, follow these steps:

1. *Begin to pray for those who do not know Christ in your life and around the world. Pray also that God would work in your heart to help you become a willing and cheerful giver. Your heart changes when you pray, and Christ instructs us to ask for whatever we need. Read Matthew 7:7–12 again.*
2. *Start small, remembering that God can multiply. Discuss possible ways you can start to give. For example, set a manageable weekly goal that can be increased as God leads.*
3. *Find an accountability partner. Take a few moments to allow each student to find another student in the class to hold them accountable and keep them on track.*
4. *Continue to pray and keep your eyes open for how God is using your gift. Keeping an individual or group prayer journal could be helpful.*
5. *Choose how and where to give and begin giving. Introduce STW. If you have the Spread the Word PowerPoint, share it now.*

Say: *Spread the Word was created to enable teens to spread the kingdom around the globe through giving financially to provide specific tools for worldwide evangelism.*

Considering that most of the world lives on less than \$10 a day, sharing the gospel message can be difficult without certain tools. Imagine how you would share about Jesus in a remote village in Africa or South America. Make a list of the different tools you may need.

Here is a list of some of the tools the money given to STW has purchased for ministry all around the world:

Bicycles
Trucks
Boats
Trailers
Mules
Cars
Buses
Projectors

Motorcycles
Vans
Boat Motors
Tractors
Camels
Planes
Oxen and Carts
Handheld Sound Systems

Audiocassette Duplicators
Tape Editing Equipment
Videocassette Duplicators
Portable PA Systems
Microphones
Photocopiers
Printed, Audio,
and Video Evangelistic Materials

Ask: *Are you willing to be a part of changing the world for Christ through STW?*



■ **Crossing the Finish Line** [10 minutes]

Set a goal for the group that each person can contribute to with their weekly giving over a three- to six-month period. (For example, maybe an individual is giving up one pop a week, which may mean \$.50 a week, but as a group you want to raise \$200.) Together, create some sort of picture that you can use as a gauge to indicate how close you are to your goal. For example, you could draw a thermometer that has hash marks at \$0, \$25, \$50...all the way up to \$200, at which point the whole picture would be colored in. As students turn in money, you color more of the picture.

Ask each student to consider what he or she can sacrifice this week in order to be able to give financially. If anyone is struggling, brainstorm ideas together, such as giving up a snack during the day, drinking water instead of pop, emptying all the change in your pocket each night, car pooling, and so on.

Challenge the students to set a personal giving goal for the week and decide what they can give up in order to reach it. After giving them a few minutes to decide, ask the students to share their goal with the accountability partner they chose earlier. Instruct them to pray together and then close in prayer as a group, asking for wisdom and willing hearts.

You can find stories and pictures of what God is doing through STW at www.chogy.org. Click on the STW logo.

