

**Spread the Word Student Devos**  
**Week Two**



**Day 1**

Remember your deserted island from a week ago? Thankfully, you were quickly rescued from the island. You are excited about being back home with all your friends and family. You missed them all more than you thought you would. You really don't want to let them out of your sight again. The rescue chopper allowed you to bring back a few pieces of the treasure you found, but not enough to make you filthy rich. (The filthy part is true, just not the rich part.) Since you are so pumped about being back home with everyone, you start giving out all these little jewels and gold pieces. You want everyone you know to share your excitement about being rescued. Just the idea of being back on solid ground is so awesome that you want everybody else to understand it too. You give away to each of them part of what you brought back—not because you have to, but because you want to.

This week you will look at the joys of giving and find out how to move from an “I-have-to-give-away-my-money” attitude to a “How-can-I-use-all-this-money-for-God?” attitude.

Second Corinthians 9:7 says, “Each (one) should give what he (or she) has decided in his (or her) heart to give, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Put this verse somewhere you can see it and memorize it. What is God saying to you through this verse?

**Day 2**

Think back over all the different gifts you have received for Christmas, birthdays, graduations, or any other special occasions. Select one that you remember as very special simply because the gift itself was awesome. Next, pick one that was very special because of the person who gave it to you. Why do these two different gifts mean so much to you? Now think back over all the different gifts or presents you have given to others, and pick one that stands out as a gift you were really excited about giving. Why did you enjoy giving that particular gift to that person?

Read Matthew 2:1–12 (the story of the wise men coming to visit Jesus when he was born). It has been suggested that the gifts brought to Jesus had specific symbolism: gold for his royalty, incense for his high priesthood (the priests burned incense before God), and myrrh for his death and burial (myrrh was used to anoint dead bodies). Spend a few minutes thinking about these gifts and what they must have meant to Jesus and his family. Consider: If Jesus had been born today and you were one of the wise men (or women), what three gifts would you bring to Jesus? (Stretch your imagination; there are no certain correct answers for this.)

### **Day 3**

In the Old Testament times there were certain rules for giving. Read the following Scripture passages and use them to answer the questions that follow:

- Genesis 14:17–20
- Exodus 22:29–30
- Exodus 35:4–9
- Leviticus 27:30–33
- Numbers 18:8–10, 25–29
- Deuteronomy 14:22–23
- Deuteronomy 26:12

According to these passages, how much was to be set aside as a tithe? What things were to be given as an offering? What were the requirements for things to be acceptable as offerings? What were the purposes for the tithes and offerings the Lord asked the people to give?

Do you think it's possible to please God by giving the right kind and amount of "stuff"? What is God saying to your heart about this?

### **Day 4**

The New Testament took the concept of giving in some new directions. Read the following Scripture passages and use them to answer the questions below:

- Matthew 6:3
- Mark 12:41–44
- Acts 5:1–11
- 1 Corinthians 16:2
- 2 Corinthians 8:1–7
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

According to these passages, what are some "rules" for proper giving? How much are we supposed to give? How is the concept of giving in the New Testament different from what was taught in the Old Testament? What does this difference teach you? What is the main reason we are to give away what we have?

Think back to your experience on the deserted island. Remember the treasure chest you discovered there? Imagine you were able to bring the whole thing home. You now have more money than you've ever seen in your life—millions and millions of dollars. Now you get to decide how to spend that money. The catch is, you can keep none of it—you have to give it all away! How would you distribute it? What people or organizations would receive your gifts? How much would you give to each?

Spend a few minutes praying for each person or organization you thought of. Ask the Father to provide everything they need. While you're at it, ask God to use you to help make it happen.

## Day 5

How often do you give your money away? Mark each line below using the first letter of these words that describe the frequency: **F**requently, **O**ccasionally, **R**arely, **N**ever.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Your church
- \_\_\_\_\_ Missions (Spread the Word, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Youth with a Mission, and so forth)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Charities (The United Way, American Red Cross, American Heart Association, and so forth)
- \_\_\_\_\_ People begging (street corners, subway stations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraisers (sports team, band, choir, and so forth)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friends who need money
- \_\_\_\_\_ Causes (Cancer Society, AIDS research, environmental groups, and so forth)

What kind of person or group is the easiest for you to give to? the hardest? Why? In general, how difficult or easy is it for you to give away your money? Put a dollar sign (\$) on the line to indicate how you feel:

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*Difficult*

*Easy*

How do you feel when you see someone on the street corner with a sign saying, “Hungry and Homeless, Please Help”? How do you respond when a good friend says, “I need five dollars for lunch today”?

Read Matthew 19:16–24, the story of the rich young man. What laws had the rich young man kept? What two things did Jesus ask him to do before following Jesus? Why did the guy decide not to follow Jesus? The secret to discovering the joy of giving is really understanding that people are more important than possessions. When we give to others, it can really help them.

Make a list of things that *could* happen when you give money away. (A couple of suggestions are given.)

1. *Someone might become a Christian through Spread the Word (STW).* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Someone might get to eat today instead of going hungry.* \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

Spend the rest of your time with God reflecting on what might happen with your money, even if it’s just a few bucks. Ask God to help you understand how important people are—much more important than stuff.

***Challenge***

Take a portion of your income for a particular week (allowance, job salary, birthday present money) and give a minimum of a tithe to your local church. Give another portion away to Spread the Word. Don't just give a token—give a significant amount.