

Spread the Word Student Devos
Week Three



Day 1

While you were stranded on that deserted island with Gilligan and Ginger, you decided that *if* you were ever rescued you would change a few things. First, all your windsurfing and sailing were going to be much closer to shore from now on. Second, you would get a real Swiss army knife. Third, you would share everything you have with your family and friends, because they are much more important than anything else. You realized while you were alone that people are much more important to you than your board, your car, or your MP3 player. You got pretty lonely and decided that you would make up for it when you got rescued by making sure the people in your life knew how important they are to you. So you decided to devote all your time, energy, and money to making them feel important. This thought lasted about a week.

Last week we talked about giving money away to people or groups that need it. But, giving is not only about money; it's about an attitude, a lifestyle. This week you'll be learning about a *lifestyle* of giving.

Philippians 2:3–4 says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Put this verse somewhere you can see it and memorize it. What is God saying to you through this verse?

Day 2

Estimate, in hours, how much time you spend each week doing the following things:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ___ in class at school | ___ music (band, choir, piano) |
| ___ doing chores at home | ___ music (listening) |
| ___ doing nothing | ___ job |
| ___ doing homework | ___ shopping |
| ___ sleeping | ___ hanging with friends |
| ___ eating | ___ hobbies |
| ___ church | ___ computer (non-school related) |
| ___ working out | ___ television/movies |
| ___ sports | ___ other |

If you had fourteen more hours each week, how would you spend them? Would you rather have two extra hours each day or fourteen extra hours all at one time? Why?

From what you know of Jesus' life, how did he spend his time helping others rather than helping himself? What is the difference between spending your time on eternal things versus temporary things? What are some examples of each?

The following are typically defined as “secular” careers. Describe how they could be used for ministry—not necessarily preaching or being a pastor, but for sharing the love of God and blessing others. We’ve helped you with the first one:

- Lawyer—*Provide legal advice and service to poor people who can't afford it.*_____
- Journalist—_____
- Computer specialist—_____
- Mechanic—_____
- Nurse—_____
- Graphic artist—_____
- Firefighter—_____

Not everyone is called to a “full-time” ministry career such as a pastor or missionary, but God has asked *all* of us to dedicate everything about our lives to him—including our careers. No matter what your career turns out to be, God wants you to give it away by using it for him.

Spend time with God now to focus on your future. Don’t ask him to show you what your job will be or what kind of career you will have; instead, talk with him about how to use whatever job you have for his Kingdom.

Day 4

During the previous two days, you considered the meaning of giving away your time and your career. Today we want to look at what it takes to get there—*attitude*.

Read Philippians 2:1–8. Paul asked the Philippians to have the same attitude as who? Describe that attitude here:

What should our attitude toward other people be?

Review Luke 10:25–37. How would you summarize Jesus’ words about love? How do the words of Jesus and Paul fit together?

Pray about your attitude toward other people; ask God to show you any specific attitudes or feelings toward a specific person that you need to change.

Day 5

A lifestyle of giving starts with the attitude that other people are very important, even more important than you. Because they are important to God, they should be important to you as well. Because they are important to God—and you—you should love them very much. Because you love them, you should hate it when they hurt, rejoice when they are happy, celebrate with them when good things happen, and sacrifice part of yourself for them. Therefore, you should spend time doing things for people, dedicate your life to helping others, give money to help others, and on and on and on. That’s the attitude Jesus had: He loved people so much that he gave up his position, his comfort, his money, even his life so that they would be better off than before.

There are things other than time, money, and career that God may help you give up as you develop a lifestyle of giving. Explain briefly how each of the following could be given away to help others:

- Comfort Living in a poor area or on the street to minister to people
- Reputation _____
- Health _____
- Hobby _____
- Rights _____

Read the following verses that talk about Jesus’ lifestyle of giving. Identify what you believe he was “giving up” in each passage:

- Matthew 8:1–4 Comfort, health
- Matthew 9:10–11 _____
- Mark 1:35–37 _____
- Mark 11:15–18 _____
- John 8:3–11 _____
- John 19:1–3, 10–11 _____

Take a few minutes to think about all the ways Jesus gave. Now, evaluate where *you* are in terms of being a giver. Rate yourself from 1 to 10 on your willingness to give in the following areas (*1* is “bad news” and *10* means you are just like Jesus):

Time 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Money 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Career 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Comfort 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Rights 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Reputation 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Make a commitment to God to live a lifestyle of giving in every part of your life. Ask him to show you and teach you how to get there.

Challenge

Pick one of the people you thought of on Day 2 (family member, someone you know at school or a neighbor, or someone you don't know) and actually give away your time to actually show this person that you love him or her as much as you love yourself.

Have you thought about how much you want to pledge to STW?