



Giving

Focus We become like God when we become givers at heart. The theme of the Bible is giving—because God loved us, He **gave** us His Son.

Open Have you ever received a gift that was particularly meaningful? Why did it mean so much to you?

Read Selfishness is a crippling disease that affects our families, relationships, marriages, finances and health. Unfortunately, attitudes of greed and selfishness are increasingly common in American culture, and it is crippling our society!

Zechariah 10:1 talks about the Lord sending the “latter rain.” We hold a key that opens or shuts the heavens for the Lord’s rain (His blessing). The key is giving—with an open heart, an open hand and an open heaven.

- Talk**
1. Read 1 John 3:17 and Proverbs 28:14. What does it mean to “shut your heart” towards someone or something?
 2. Have you ever been tempted to shut your heart towards another person? Towards God? Why?
 3. In Deuteronomy 15:7–8, we are directed to “*open our hand[s] wide*” to the needy. Practically speaking, what does it mean to “open” or “shut” our hands towards someone? How does this differ from opening/shutting our hearts?

4. Have you ever known someone who was a giver even though they were tight financially? Describe how they demonstrated a giving spirit in spite of their own need.
5. If you had a child who was wrestling with greed or selfishness, would you see that as a problem? Why or why not? What would you do to teach them to become a giver?
6. Read Malachi 3:8–10. Why would God invite us to test Him with our tithes and offerings? Is He being greedy and legalistic? What does giving tithes and offerings do for us in our hearts and minds?

Live

What is one thing you will commit to do this week to become more open-hearted, open-handed or to open the heavens? Write it down and then tell someone else what it is.

Pray

Pray for one another and ask the Lord to help each of you to have a more generous attitude of giving. Ask Him to show you how to become more of a giver and what specific step to take this week. Ask Him to provide for your needs and to give you creative ideas of how to help others.