



Group Guide: "What Can I Give?"  
Based on the sermon by Wayne Newland

Opening Prayer: Begin your session with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His message of giving and to guide your discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. Our mindset should shift from "What can I get?" to "What can I give God today?"
2. God is the ultimate giver, as exemplified in John 3:16.
3. Worship and time are the most valuable gifts we can offer to God.
4. Living a life that reflects God's giving spirit involves humility and grace.

Discussion Questions:

1. Reflection on Expectations:
  - What were your expectations when you came to church last Sunday?
  - How often do you find yourself focusing on what you can receive rather than what you can give in your spiritual life?
2. God as the Ultimate Giver:
  - Read John 3:16 together. How does this verse demonstrate God's giving nature?
  - Which of God's gifts mentioned in the sermon (e.g., rest, power over evil, living water) resonates most with you right now? Why?
3. Worship as an Offering:
  - How do you define worship? Is it limited to singing on Sundays, or does it extend beyond that?
  - In what ways can we ensure our worship aligns with our words and actions in daily life?

4. The Gift of Time:

- What challenges do you face in making time for God daily?
- How can we create more "margin" in our lives to respond to God's call?

5. Living a Giving Life:

- Reflect on the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14). Which character do you relate to more, and why?
- How can we cultivate humility and a giving spirit in a culture that often promotes self-centeredness?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Giving Challenge: For the next week, start each day by asking, "What can I give to God today?" Journal your thoughts and actions.
2. Time Audit: Track how you spend your time for a few days. Identify areas where you can create more space for God and giving to others.
3. Worship Beyond Sunday: Choose one way to incorporate worship into your daily routine this week (e.g., morning prayer, lunchtime devotional, evening gratitude practice).
4. Acts of Giving: Identify one tangible way you can give of yourself (not necessarily money) to someone in need or to your community this week.
5. Humility Check: At the end of each day this week, reflect on moments where you displayed humility or where you struggled with pride. Pray for growth in this area.

Closing Prayer: End your session by thanking God for His generous gifts and asking for His help in cultivating a giving spirit in your lives.

Scripture for Meditation: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Encourage group members to share their experiences with these applications at the next meeting.



**Don't let the message end when the service does. Take these questions into your week—ask them at dinner, in the car, on a walk, or online. Let them open doors for faith to grow and for hearts to be stirred toward Jesus.**

- How might our expectations when entering church reflect our spiritual maturity, and what steps can we take to shift from a 'receiving' to a 'giving' mindset?
- In what ways does John 3:16 challenge our understanding of God's nature, and how can we embody this 'giving' characteristic in our daily lives?
- How do the gifts God gives us (like knowing Him, rest, power over evil, living water, and peace) equip us to face modern challenges and live out our faith authentically?
- What role does worship play in shaping our mindset and actions, and how can we ensure our worship aligns with our words and deeds?
- How can we practically prioritize giving time to God in our busy lives, and what might be the spiritual benefits of creating 'margin' in our schedules?

- Reflecting on the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, how can we cultivate genuine humility in our spiritual lives and avoid self-righteousness?
- In what ways might our current culture's focus on self-promotion and social media validation conflict with a biblical 'giving' mindset, and how can we navigate this tension?
- How does understanding God as the 'Ultimate Giver' change our perspective on our own generosity and service to others?
- What are some practical ways we can shift our focus from 'What can I get?' to 'What can I give?' in our relationships with God and others?
- How might adopting a 'giving spirit' transform our approach to challenges, relationships, and personal growth in our faith journey?

**Day 1: The Heart of Giving**

Reading: John 3:16-21

Devotional: As we begin this journey, let's reflect on God's ultimate act of giving – His Son. John 3:16 encapsulates the essence of God's love and generosity. Today, ponder the depth of this gift. How does knowing that God gave His very best for you impact your perspective on giving? Consider areas in your life where you might be holding back from God or others. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate a heart of generosity within you, mirroring God's own giving nature. Remember, true giving stems from love, not obligation. How might you express God's love through giving today – not just materially, but in time, attention, or kindness?

**Day 2: Receiving to Give**

Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Devotional: Jesus invites us to come to Him and receive rest. This rest isn't just physical relaxation, but a deep spiritual renewal. As you read today's passage, visualize yourself laying your burdens at Jesus' feet. What weights are you carrying that you need to surrender? Now, consider how receiving God's rest equips you to give to others. When we're refreshed by Christ, we're better able to serve and love those around us. Reflect on how God's gifts to you – peace, strength, love – can flow through you to bless others. Today, practice being both a grateful receiver of God's grace and a cheerful giver of that same grace to those you encounter.

### **Day 3: Living Water for a Thirsty World**

Reading: John 4:7-15

Devotional: Jesus offers living water that quenches our deepest spiritual thirst. As you read about His encounter with the Samaritan woman, consider the areas in your life where you feel spiritually dry or unfulfilled. Invite Jesus to fill those spaces with His living water. Now, think about how you can be a channel of this living water to others. In a world parched for hope and meaning, how can you share the refreshment you've found in Christ? Look for opportunities today to offer words of encouragement, acts of kindness, or simply a listening ear to someone who might be spiritually thirsty.

### **Day 4: Worship as a Gift**

Reading: Psalms 95:1-7

Devotional: Today's passage calls us to joyful, heartfelt worship. Reflect on what it means to give God the gift of your worship. This isn't about perfect singing or eloquent prayers, but about offering your whole self in adoration and surrender. How can you make your daily activities an act of worship? Consider how you might "bow down" before God in your thoughts, words, and actions today. Remember, true worship aligns our hearts with God's, shaping our priorities and influencing our choices. As you go through your day, consciously offer each task, conversation, and decision as an act of worship to God.

### **Day 5: Time: Our Precious Offering**

Reading: Psalms 90:12; Ephesians 5:15-17

Devotional: Our time is one of the most valuable gifts we can offer to God. Today's readings remind us of the brevity of life and the importance of using our time wisely. Reflect on how you currently spend your time. Are there areas where you could make more room for God? Consider creating intentional "margin" in your schedule to be available for God's promptings. This might mean setting aside time for prayer, studying Scripture, or serving others. Remember, giving God our time isn't about rigid schedules, but about a heart that's always open to His leading. Today, practice being fully present in each moment, seeing it as an opportunity to connect with God and fulfill His purposes.

