

Family Fellowship Week beginning 21st September - Giving

Monday 21/09/20

Read Philippians 4 v11-13

Robin reminded us yesterday that Paul had learnt to be content in every circumstance in life – whether he had plenty or very little. It really didn't matter, because he knew that he had everything he needed when he was satisfied in Christ and with Christ.

Can you make a list of things that make the people discontent with their circumstances? Maybe it is different for different age groups!

Young people -

Middle age –

Older people –

There are times when it is OK that we are sad. God encourages us to bring our needs and concerns to Him in prayer and He reminds us many times in the bible that He cares and will provide for His children. This however doesn't mean that we will always be happy and healthy and wealthy here and now.

What could you remind the people you love about, the next time they seem discontent?

Pray:

As well as praying that God will provide for the material and health needs of our friends, can we also pray that he would be teaching us all what it means to know that Jesus is enough? Pray for the people you know who don't yet trust Jesus as their saviour.

Tuesday 22/09/20

Chat: Why should we give?

Trevor reminded us in the children's story of the right and wrong reasons to give. He reminded us that if we pay over a £10 note we expect to get £10 worth of something back. But this is not why we give to God. We certainly don't give to earn our salvation or a right relationship with God. He has already given these wonderful gifts to us for free.

Read Ephesians 2v8

Why then should we be people who love to give?

We should give to show that we are so grateful to God for his gift of salvation and constant provision for our needs. Also, by giving away of what we possess, we are showing that we depend and trust in God rather than thinking we can store up things and manage for ourselves.

Maybe you don't have much money to give to show that you are grateful to God. What other things and talents and resources have you that you could share with others as a response to God's generous love and gifts to you?

Pray:

Think about examples of people you know in your family or in church who have been really generous in their giving. Thank God for how He has transformed these people by His gospel to reflect His generous character.

Wednesday 23/09/20

We don't all have loads of money but we do all have lots to give. We will try to think through a few over the next couple of days

Read Luke 10 v38 -42

Chat: In these verses what do you think Mary is giving to Jesus?

Was Jesus pleased with her gift?

The story of Mary and Martha shows us that giving of our love and heart and time to listen to Jesus is really important and pleases God.

Martha rushed around trying to make everything perfect for Jesus' arrival but Mary knew that the best gift she could give was to love Jesus by being near Him, listening to what He had to say and showing her love for Him.

I know that there are many within our church who prioritise spending time with Jesus. If you are taking the time to do this family fellowship you as an individual or family have made this choice to stop and listen to Jesus. Now we need to allow what he teaches us to have an impact on every area of our lives.

Q. How should we be different in our actions this week as a result of spending time with Jesus?

Pray:

Ask God that this week we will be more gracious, generous, self-controlled and kind as we respond to His great love for us.

Thursday 24/09/20

God has given us many gifts and the purpose of giving us these talents is for the encouragement of other believers.

1 Peter 4 v 10-11

Can you list some of the gifts/talents that God has given you?

This week we are thinking about what we can give – How can you use these abilities as a sacrificial gift of love to help others and bring Glory to God?

I have enjoyed thinking about how God's goodness has been highlighted through the generosity of His people in church. Here are a few examples that came to mind.

- People writing letters and bringing baked goodies during lockdown.
- Church members providing meals for families at busy or difficult times
- People who have given of their time and money so that really fun events could happen
- Families giving to the food bank to support others in need
- Members joyfully giving sacrificially to the building project, the work of our missionaries and ongoing church work.
- Members using their musical and tech skills to make online services.

Can you think of any other examples of people reflecting God's generous heart?

Pray:

For the work supported by the United appeal. Can you remember any of the areas that have been highlighted in the short videos over the last 3 weeks (inner city outreach, overseas missionaries, counselling services). Pray that we would enjoy partnering in these projects and that they would be effective in pointing people to Jesus.

Friday 25/09/20

Sharing of our money

Read Philippians Ch4 v18 -19

This gift to Paul and his work was both costly and pleasing to God.

As children you might not have much money yourselves but, as a family, do we think together about how we spend our money? And do you as children know what missionaries, church projects, people in need you support, as a family and as a local church? We probably don't need to know exactly how much is given to different places, but it is really helpful to know what work we are encouraging and advancing. We can add action to our prayers by giving to people and projects that the Lord loves.

One lovely example of family giving happened in our own church recently as a family worked together, giving of their time, energy, money and holidays to produce a sunflower field that brought joy to many. The money raised will have an impact on the opportunities for people to hear the good news about Jesus and grow in their love for Him for many years to come.

How as families can we live for, love and serve Jesus as we think about giving? Think through a few ideas together.

Pray:

Please pray for our building project. For safety for the workers, finance for the project and that the buildings at the end will be used well for God's glory.

Saturday/ Sunday 26-27/09/20

Read 2 Peter 1 v1-3

Chat:

As Christians we have been given everything we need for a godly life.

If we really understand this, then we might be willing to give away other things that we hold on to far too tightly!

Some of the children I know that are really good at being willing to share what they have, are those who know that they will be provided for again, if they give away what they have. Do we really believe that the LORD will provide for our needs again if we give away what already belongs to Him?

Things to remember :

- Our heavenly father knows even better how to give good gifts than earthly fathers!
- We love and serve the same God that refilled the widow's jar of oil over and over again when she was willing to give away what would have made her very last meal.
- We are made in the image of the most generous giver the world has ever known.

What do we have as members of God's family?

How does this change how we behave, particularly with our giving?

Pray:

For many of us, old and young, our deepest wants are to get more things. Pray that we will all know that everything we need is found in knowing Jesus.