



Biblical Stewardship



Bible Study Series

Using What God Gives Me for His Glory - Youth Biblical Background -

EXODUS 36:1-7

So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded. Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. 3 They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done. Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: "No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work. Exodus 36:1-7 NIV

During the Christmas holiday season, we begin to think about what presents we want to give to family and friends. We may even save up some money to buy these gifts. We want to make our family and friends happy by giving them gifts. It has been said about giving gifts that it is "the thought that counts" in giving gifts, not the cost. Seeing someone get excited when they open our gift brings us happiness and attention. Giving a gift, in a small way, brings glory to us.

In this lesson, you will discover how you can use what God has given you for God's glory. It is giving gifts to God that will please Him and give you personal joy.

Gifts freely offered

1. Giving freely and willingly. Exodus 25:1-2

The LORD spoke to Moses: "Tell the Israelites to take an offering for Me. You are to take My offering from everyone whose heart stirs him [to give]." HCSB)

Moses had just received the Ten Commandments and had come down from Mount Sinai to proclaim God's gift to the Israelites. Now God was asking the Moses and the Israelites to take an offering. It was called a "heave offering" because it was lifted up toward God meaning it was an offering given up to God.

Take a moment to think of when you gave thanks to God. Write down what you gave thanks to God for. Use the space below.

Have you ever given something to someone because you really wanted to make them happy? There is a short story by O’Henry titled, “The Gift of the Magi.” In the story a young man, Jim, and his young wife, Della, have very little money, but they want to do something very special for the other person. Della had long beautiful hair and Jim had a very special pocket watch. Della had wanted some tortoise-shell combs and Jim wanted a gold chain for his pocket watch. Each had almost no money, but there was such a love between them that each had to find a way to give a special Christmas gift. In the end, Jim sells his pocket watch to buy Della the combs, not knowing that Della has cut off her long hair to sell it so she could buy Jim his gold pocket watch chain. In the end, the combs were not needed now since Della has sold her hair and the chain was not needed since Jim had sold his pocket watch. The author says, like the Wise Men who came and gave gifts to Jesus, these two were the wisest gift givers of all. Why? Because they gave out of what little they had willingly and freely! This is what God ask of us as well.

Have you ever given a gift that you sacrificed much for? Write down what that gift was and who it was for.

God does not want you to give out a “have to” attitude. He wants you to give because you “want to” give to God. God has given us life, a place to live, food on our tables and many material things. We should want to give something back to God for this.

Write down some ways you can give something back to God. Include both material things and non-material things (your time and talent).

Gifts that are physical.

2. Beyond time and talents. (Exodus 25:3-7)

This is the offering you are to receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; fine linen and goat hair; ram skins dyed red and manatee skins; acacia wood; oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx along with [other]

gemstones for mounting on the ephod and breast piece. (HCSB)

Action: Look around your bedroom and notice things you have that are important to you. Write below the five most important things that belong to you.

In Exodus 25, God asks for some very specific things. In the scripture above, underline some of the things that God asks the Israelites to give that you think were very valuable or expensive. Looking at the items you underlined, answer the following question:

Do you think the people thought these things were special to them?
___ Yes ___ No

Do you have some very expensive or valuable things that you would not want to give up? ___ Yes ___ No

List the three things that would be the most difficult for you to give up.

Gifts given to glorify God.

3. Glory to God. Exodus 25:8

“They are to make a sanctuary for Me so that I may dwell among them.”

God asks us to give things back to Him so that He may use it for his glory.

There was a teenager, who attended church, but being almost sixteen, he looked forward to driving and he had been saving up to buy a car to drive when he turned sixteen. Just before he turned sixteen, his youth group committed to going on a mission trip in the summer. He wanted to go and so he got enough money for the mission trip and his car. In a few weeks, he turned sixteen and he bought his first car. It wasn't brand new, but it was his and it was special to him. About one month before they were to go on the mission trip, the youth minister announced in church there were several youth who did not have enough money to go on the mission trip. The total needed was about \$500.00. Two days later, the young man showed up in the youth minister's office. He gave him \$500.00 and said God had told him to do this. The Youth Minister asked him where he had gotten the \$500.00, and the young man replied, "I sold my car." Now everyone could go on the mission trip. Who got the glory for this sacrifice? It was God because this young man used what God had given him to glorify God.

Take a moment and think about yourself. Could you have sold your car so others could go on a mission trip?

Action: Take a moment and list ways you use what God has given you to give God glory like the Israelites did.

There are many ways you can use what God gave you to glorify God and not yourself. Too often we see our gifts and abilities as something we can use for our own purposes. But, God did not make us and place us on this world to use these gifts and abilities for our own self importance. God knows that when we use what He has given us for ourselves that we do not live fulfilled lives. God meant for us to use what He has given us to show others what a wonderful and meaningful God we worship. It is important that we give God the glory for what He has already done. We must find ways to use our gifts and abilities to give God glory and in that way, we become happier and more at peace with ourselves and others.

Conclusion

Think about all of the missionaries that serve both here in the United States and around the world. Because they are using their gifts for God's glory, people are coming to know Christ as Savior in every corner of our world. I heard a story recently about missionaries that worked across the street from where a Muslim work crew was working on a house. The Muslims watched these Christian missionaries at work for several weeks. Then they left and went back to their homes. About a year later one of the Muslims who was on the work crew came back to the Christian missionaries to tell them he had become a Christian after just watching what the Christians had been doing. When you give God the glory, He uses it to influence others.

Begin today to use what God has given you for His glory.

* all Scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible



Biblical Stewardship

Bible Study Series



Using What God Gives Me for His Glory

- Youth Teaching Plan -

EXODUS 36:1-7

Materials

- poster board
- card (Item #1)
- pencils

Preparation

- Read: Exodus 25:1-8, 28:3, 36:1-7
- Make sure the chairs in the room are arranged in a semi-circle.

Display the session title and scripture reference on a chalkboard, poster board or some way in which the students will see it. Write this question on the board, **Define the word 'Give.'** Use music from Contemporary Christian artists; Jars of Clay by "Little Drummer Boy"; "I'll Give" by Smalltown Poets; "This Christmas" by Toby Mac; "This "Love Song" by Third Day. Give the room an upbeat atmosphere. Greet students as they arrive.

Introduction (5-7 minutes)

As each student arrives, give them a 3x5 index card (Item #1). **Ask** them to

write down three things they find as most valuable to them and put them in order; one being the most important of the three. They will be asked to use this card later in the session. Allow them time to think and write down their answers.

Say to the students; "Today we will be looking at 'Stewardship: Using What God Gives Me for His Glory.' We will look today at how we can use our gifts to praise God and glorify Him."

Options (15 minutes)

Ask youth to sit in the chairs with their cards. Write on poster board the word "Give." **Say**, "Everyone is given gifts and talents by God. The Bible says that we are to be cheerful givers. **Ask**: "What does the word "give" mean to you?" Allow time for responses and write the responses of the youth on the board/poster board. **Say**, "Here is the definition of the word 'give,' to deliver freely, hand over, to offer willingly. Can you think of a time in which you gave something to someone or gave of your

time to help someone?" Give the youth time to respond to this and pay attention to any giving that involve "willingness," or "freely giving."

Say, "Look at your index card and look at your number one item/thing. Would you say your number one item/thing is valuable, very valuable or even priceless? While we look at the following passage, I want you to think about how priceless each of your three items/things are to you."

Lesson (25 minutes)

Invite the youth to turn in their Bibles to Exodus 25:1-8. Read the passage by either having a one youth read it, or by having a number of youth read one verse each.

- Gifts freely offered. Exodus 25:1-2
- Gifts that are physical. Exodus 25:3-7
- Gifts given to glorify God. Exodus 25:8

1. Gifts freely offered. Exodus 25:1-2

Read Exodus 24:12 to the youth. *"The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and stay there so that I may give you the stone tablets with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." Ex. 24:12 (HCSB)*

Remind youth that God had just given Moses the Ten Commandments. While Moses was on Mount Sinai, God freely offered them to Moses and Moses accepted them. **Ask**: "Have you accepted a gift that was freely offered to you?" Give them time to respond.

Have someone reread Exodus 25:1-2. **Explain**, "Now God is asking if Moses and the Israelites will freely offer something to God. Notice in Ex. 25:2 it says, *"You are to take My offering from everyone whose heart stirs him [to give]"* Ex 25:2. God is asking that each person give a gift freely. God asks us to give Him gifts freely. Can you name some gifts you can give God freely?" Give time for the youth to respond.

Say, "Look at your three items/things you have written on your card. Which one of the three would you freely give to God?" Let youth respond. If they are willing to give their #2 or #3 item only, ask them if they would give their number one item. Let them respond. **Say**, "There are many types of gifts we can give to God. Let's look at some gifts that the Israelites gave to God."

2. Gifts that are physical. Exodus 25:3-7

Have a youth read Exodus 25:3-7. List on the chalkboard/poster board the items listed in this passage. They are: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; fine linen and goat hair; ram skins dyed red and manatee [dolphin] skins; acacia wood; oil; spices, onyx and other gemstones. **Say**, "Why did God want these specific physical items?" **Answer**: To build the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. **Ask**, "Could God ask for these things from us today?" Wait for responses. **Say**, "Look again at the number one thing/item on your card. Would you give it to God if He asked for it?" Listen to responses. **Ask**, "Why did

the Israelites give these things to God?”

2. Gifts given to glorify God. Exodus 25:8

Explain that God had done many things for the Israelites from the time they had left Egypt until now. There had been the parting of the Red Sea, food (manna) had miraculously appeared each day for them, and they had gotten water from a tree and a rock, and a pillar of clouds by day and pillar of fire by night. Now God was asking for something from the Israelites. The Israelites responded by giving the requested things for the building of the Tabernacle. **Ask**, “Why were the people so eager to give these expensive things to God?” Wait for responses. The answer was to give glory to God by willingly giving something for God’s use alone. **Say**, “If you would give your number one item/thing on your list to God to glorify God, God would be pleased with your offering. Everything that you and I have belongs to God. He is the one who gave it to us and if He asks for part of it back, should we not give it freely and willingly? When we give a tenth or more back to God willingly and freely, it is called tithing. Tithing is our way to give thanks to God; this is what it means to give glory to God.”

Conclusion (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions:

- Do you give a money offering to God at church?

- Do you give things to the church freely or because it’s just the thing to do?
- How can you glorify God with the things you have?

Explain: We don’t realize that all the material and physical things we have belong to God and are given to us by God to use for His glory. It is our way of thanking God for all that He does for us. God does things for us in ways we don’t think about or know about. God loves us so much He does things for us and to give back something to God not only pleases Him, but it tells God that we love Him. If we want to grow as Christians, we must learn how to use what God has given us for His glory.

Close in prayer. Ask God to reveal new ways youth can use what God has given them for His glory.

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Item #1

Write down three things you find as the most valuable to you and put them in order; one being the most important of the three.

1.

2.

3.

Write down three things you find as the most valuable to you and put them in order; one being the most important of the three.

1.

2.

3.

Write down three things you find as the most valuable to you and put them in order; one being the most important of the three.

1.

2.

3.