



Biblical Stewardship



Bible Study Series

Using What God Gives Me to Help Others - Youth Biblical Background -

ROMANS 12:3-8, 10

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:4-8, 10 NIV

When we see things like natural disasters, we wonder how we can help. In the last week of December 2004, an earthquake and tsunami killed hundreds of thousands of people. I remember sitting in my family room watching the reports and seeing amateur video of this massive disaster. I asked myself what I could do. Since I could not go over there and help, I found ways to give money and pray for those who were left alive. God has given me a heart of compassion and I must use it to help others.

In this lesson, you will discover how you can use what God has given you to help others. It is using your gifts for helping others that will please God and teach you the joy of service.

It makes sense.

1. Sensibly using your gifts. Romans 12:3

For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. (HCSB)

We all get upset when someone brags about their abilities or accomplishments. There is an old episode of "The Twilight Zone" about a man named Frisby. It is titled "Hocus Pocus and Frisby." Frisby is a teller of tall tales, a liar actually. He tells so many "whoppers" that no one takes him seriously. He thinks very highly of himself because everyone listens to him. One day some aliens come and take him to their

ship. They had been listening to Frisby and have decided that he is the smartest man on earth. Mr. Frisby tries to explain that his statements are lies. The aliens do not understand what it means to lie. Eventually Frisby finds a way to escape the aliens, but when he tries to tell his friends he has been with aliens, they laugh and tell him that is the best whopper he's ever told. Mr. Frisby got everyone's attention with his lies, but it cost him ever being believed!

Can you think of a time when you stretched the truth" a little to get some attention? Was it worth it in the end?

Have you ever met a humble person? I knew a man who was very humble. His name was Curt Carlin. Curt was always doing some little thing at church. He never let you know he was there. He just did it and never said a word. If you called attention to his work, he would blush and say he really didn't do much, but we all knew better. When he passed away suddenly, his funeral overflowed in attendance. Everyone knew Curt never thought more highly of himself. It was his humbleness that has never been forgotten.

Do you know of someone who seems humble and never brags or boasts about themselves? Write their name below.

What do you admire the most about this person? Write your answer below

It makes sense to use your gifts to help others, and it make sense to not boast about the gifts we have.

God made us all unique.

2. Different functions. Romans 12:4-8

Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the standard of faith; if service, in service; if teaching, in teaching; if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.
(HCSB)

Action: Take a moment to write down some of the gifts and abilities you have that can be used to help others:

How often do you use your gifts to help others? Check the one that applies the most to you:

never sometimes
 often all the time

Why do you think you are here on earth? According to the Bible, you are here to grow closer to God and to help others.

Do you realize that you have a set of gifts that is unlike anyone else in the world?

Yes No

When you go to church, you are not just to listen to your teacher and sit through a boring sermon; you are there to find out what gifts God has given you and other teenagers and then discover how you can combine those different gifts to help others.

Pleasing God by Using Your Gifts

3. Using Gifts by Showing Others – Romans 12:10

Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor. (HCSB)

Why was David called a “man after God’s own heart?” It was because he often pleased God by using his gifts to help others. He used his musical ability to soothe Saul’s tortured mind. He was a great warrior, but he did not use it to kill Saul, though he had several chances. He was a man of honor, most of the time, but even David forgot to use his gifts to please God. There was a time when David used his gifts for his own selfish purposes and it cost him for the rest of his life.

Take a moment and think about yourself. How often have you used your gifts in a way that pleased God?

Action: Take a moment and list ways you can use the gifts God has given you to help others.

What would happen if all Christians spent all of their time trying to “outdo” each other using their gifts to help others? Write your response below.

What would happen if YOU used the gifts God gave you to help others? It would completely change your life! You would

have an unspeakable joy that others would notice. It would show others that serving God is a joyful and rewarding experience. They would also want to follow in your footsteps.

Conclusion

The world spends all of its time trying to get ahead, make a buck and find ways to break the rules or get around them. They waste so much time on themselves that they can’t help other people. It’s all about them. No wonder people and even Christians who live by the world’s standards are unhappy. God designed us to use our gifts to help others and in the process, we help ourselves as well!

Be a good steward of your gifts by using them for God and to help others. This is where you will find happiness, joy and a full and abundant life. Who wouldn’t want that?

* all Scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible



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Bible Study Series

Using What God Gives Me to Help Others - Youth Teaching Plan -

ROMANS 12:3-8, 10

Materials

- poster board (1 for each group of four chairs)
- markers
- masking tape
- copies of the words to the song, "Asleep in the Light" by Keith Green

Preparation

- Read: Romans 12:3-8, 10
- Make sure the chairs in the room are arranged in groups of four.
- Copy of the lyrics "Asleep in the Light" (Note: you can buy this as a music download for \$0.99 at Lifeway online**)

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, "How Can We Help Others Using What God Has Given Us?" Use music from Contemporary Christian artists. If you can get a copy of "Asleep in the Light" by Keith Green, play it just before the session begins. Give the room an upbeat atmosphere. Greet students as they arrive.

Introduction (7-10 minutes)

As each student arrives, put them in one of the groups of four chairs. When all have arrived, give them poster board and markers and direct them to the question on the board. **Say**, "Make a list of ways we can help others using what God has given us in the way of gifts and talents." Allow the youth time to make a list on their poster board

Say to the students; "Today we will be looking at 'Using What God Gives Me to Help Others'." Allow each group to share what they have written on their poster board and display them on a focal wall.

Options (15 minutes)

Play the One Body Game. After going through the lesson questions, have someone read Romans 12:3-8, 10. **Say**, "In order to use what God has given you to help others, you must first learn to use your gifts and talents wisely with other Christians for God's purpose. Have you been missing using your gifts to help others?"

Lesson (25 minutes)

Say, “I want you listen to a song [or “read the lyrics to this song’] that talks about Christians helping others.” After reading or listening to the song, ask the following questions:

- Do you assume someone else is using their gifts to help others?
- Do you expect God to do things for you, but you don’t have time to do things for God?
- What would you do if Jesus came to your door and asked for help, but you didn’t realize it was Jesus; would you help anyway?
- Should we speak about our faith in public?
- What does it mean when the lyrics say, “The world is sleeping in the dark that the church just can’t fight, ‘cause it’s asleep in the light.”

Invite the youth to turn open their Bibles to Romans 12:3-8, 10. **Say**, “Let’s see how we can use our gifts to help others.”

1. Sensibly using your gifts. Romans 12:3

Read Romans 12:3 to the youth. *For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.* (HCSB)

Ask, “What does it mean to ‘think of himself more highly than he should think’?” Give youth time to respond. **Say**, “If we are to use our gifts to help others, then we should use them, not to make us feel more important, but to build others up.

Can you think of a time when you did something that made someone else feel better about themselves?”

2. Different functions. Romans 12:4-8

Read Romans 12:4-8 to the youth. On the board/poster board list the six different gifts (prophecy, service, teaching, exhorting, giving, and leading). **Say**, “Notice that all these gifts have to do with helping others. Can you share how each gift helps others?” Allow youth to respond. Below are some responses you can share, if youth do not.

- Prophecy: Helping others understand the Bible.
- Service: Helping others just because you want to serve God.
- Teaching: Helping others gain more godly knowledge and wisdom.
- Exhorting: Helping others by encouraging them.
- Giving: Using finances or material things to God for His purposes.
- Leading: Helping others become leaders.

Each person has different gifts. Explain to the youth that the Bible never puts one gift as more important than another. People should not be jealous of other people’s gifts, nor should they be disappointed in their own gifts because all gifts given by God are necessary to help others. We **all** were made by God to use our different functions to help others.

3. Using Gifts by Showing Others. Romans 12:10

James 2:18 says, “*show me your faith without works, and from my works I will show you my faith.*” Explain to the youth that no one will know what gifts we have unless we show those gifts to others by using them. **Ask**, “What are some ways

we can show our gifts to others?” Give youth time to respond. Have the youth look at Romans 12:10, *Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor.* (HCSB)

Ask, “How can we ‘out-do one another’ without competing or being jealous of each other?” Let youth respond, then tell the youth the answer is at the end of that verse, “showing honor”. Explain that we honor each other, as we show our gifts to others, not in a bragging way, but in a humble way.

Conclusion (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions:

- Are you using what God has given you to help others?
- Are you now more willing to work with others so that together your differing gifts can help other people?
- How can you glorify God with the things you have?

Explain: God has designed us to help others. We should work very hard to use our gifts to help others. This is called being a good steward. Good stewardship means using our time, talents, and our tithes to help others and this glorifies God. We often think of stewardship in terms of the preacher preaching about needing more money for the church, but stewardship is so much more. The goal of stewardship is to help us, the church, others and God!

Close in prayer. Ask God to reveal ways youth can use what God has given them to help others.

* all Scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible

ONE BODY GAME

Materials

- string
- juice
- milk
- donuts or fruit
- paper plates and cups

Preparation

1. Set up a table with the juice, milk, donuts or fruit, paper plates and cups. Make sure that there is room around the whole table.
2. Each group of four (or one large group) is to be tied to each other by the wrist by about 18-24" of string. Get the group in a circle facing in and tie the left wrist of one to the right wrist of the person next to them. They will have to work together to accomplish a single task.
3. After each group is tied together, tell them they will be having some refreshments.

Playing the Game

1. Direct each tied group to get up and go to the refreshment table and get the food and drink for each member in the group. Do not offer any advice as to how they should accomplish the task.
2. You may keep time for each group and award a small prize to the winner.

Lesson

1. Ask the following questions:
 - Was the simple task easy to accomplish?
 - What was the most difficult part of the task?
 - What would have happened if all of you tried to do the same thing?
 - What did your group do in order to accomplish the task?
 - Can working together help accomplish a task more quickly?

ASLEEP IN THE LIGHT¹

by Keith Green

Do you see, do you see all the people sinking down?
Don't you care, don't you care? Are you gonna let them drown?
How can you be so numb not to care if they come?
You close your eyes and pretend the job's done.

"Oh bless me, Lord, bless me Lord." You know it's all I ever hear.
No one aches, no one hurts. No one even sheds one tear.
But He cries, He weeps, He bleeds, and He cares for your needs.
And you just lay back and keep soaking it in.
Oh, can't you see its such sin.

'Cause He brings people to your door,
and you turn them away as you smile and say,
"God bless you, be at peace," and all heaven just weeps,
'cause Jesus came to your door, and you've left Him out on the streets.

Open up, open up, and give yourself away.
You see the need, you hear the cry, so how can you delay?
God's calling, and you're the one, but like Jonah you run.
He's told you to speak, but you keep holding it in.
Oh, can't you see its such sin.

The world is sleeping in the dark that the church just can't fight,
'cause it's asleep in the light.
How can you be so dead, when you've been so well fed?
Jesus rose from the grave, and you can't even get out of bed.

How can you be so numb not to care if they come?
You close your eyes and pretend the job's done.
Don't close your eyes and pretend the job's done.
Come away, come away. Come away with me, my love.

¹From the Album "No Compromise" Produced by Bill Maxwell and Keith Green Released November 9, 1978