

Lesson 10 / May 4, 2008

# Grandiose Giving

for use as

## STEP 1

Lesson 10

### Focus:

Give with all your heart.

Lesson 10

### Bible Basis:

Acts 4:32—5:11

Students will play a money game and look at some statistics related to their generation's giving habits.

#### Materials:

- Play money (or use money from a board game)
- 2 dice or a number spinner (1-6)
- whiteboard, markers

**H**ave students form a large circle and sit. (If your group is large, say 30 or more, play using two circles.) Take all of the play paper money and have them pass it around (going clockwise). Instruct each person to take two bills from the stack then pass it on. Go around the circle until all of the money is gone. (Some students will have more money than others; that's okay.)

Have all of the students divide their money randomly into two piles they put in front of them. Have the person at the top of the circle go first. (If the circle is a clock; this person will be 12:00.) Have him roll the dice. Whatever number is rolled will be how many people he needs to pass on the outside of the circle (going clockwise). For example, if he rolled an "8" he would pass by eight people. (If there are less people in the circle than the number rolled, have the student go until he gets to that number spot, even if it means making two loops.) Once he gets to the number spot, have him take that person's place and add his money to that person's two money piles. The person whose spot he took will be out of the game. Start with the new person at the top of the circle and continue.

Play until there is just one person left or until enough time has passed. Regroup and have all of the students help the winner count up pile #1 and pile #2. (If time runs out, combine all winners' money into two piles.) Be careful to keep the piles separate. Write the money amount of pile #1 on a whiteboard and give it the title: Spending. Next write the money amount of pile #2 and give it the title: Giving. Have the group brainstorm how they would spend that much money. Call on various students to share. Next have students come up with a cause or charity they could give the second money amount to. Have as many students as possible answer. Share:

**Money.** The more we have of it, the more we seem to need. Some good questions to ask are: Is it worth saving up for something big? Should I just blow it all? How about when I'm older, will I wish I'd saved for a car? Will I have enough money for college? And what about giving?

## Lesson 10

# Memory Verse

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
—2 Corinthians 9:7

Let's look at some money habits of young people for a moment. Charles Schwab Teens and Money Survey Findings from 2007 had these statistics based on interviewing 1,000 boys and girls ages 13-18:

Teens are active consumers. (That means they spend a lot of money!)

Teens report spending an average of \$19 in a typical week.

Only seven percent of teens report not spending any money in a particular week.

Teens 16-18 spend significantly more money in a typical week than 13-15 year olds (\$26 vs. \$13).

On average, older teens have significantly more money saved than their younger counterparts (16-18, \$1,285 vs. 13-15, \$833).

One in four (24%) agree that, "I am young, so saving money isn't that important." Younger teens are more likely than older teens to agree with this statement (31% vs. 16%).

Have a showing of hands if your students think they spend more or less than the average person ages 13-15 (about \$13 a week). How about savings? Have they saved more or less than the average (\$833)? Ask:

- **What kinds of things are you buying with your money?** (*Answers will vary but may include food, snacks, clothes, shoes, gaming equipment, iPod or mp3 player accessories.*)
- **If you give money away each week or month, what do you give to?** (*Answers may include church, a favorite charity, adopting a child from a foreign country, etc.*)
- **How do you feel when you spend your money?** (*Good, I earned it or it's my allowance; bad, I wish I had saved it, and everything in between.*)

Today's lesson is about money management and giving. God asks us to give, but He's more concerned about our hearts' attitudes toward it than He is about the monetary amount.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*; your Step 4 appears below.)

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Sources:

<http://www.aboutschwab.com/teensurvey2007.pdf>

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STEP 4

Lesson 10

Focus:

Give with all your heart.

Lesson 10

Bible Basis:

Acts 4:32—5:11

**T**oday's Bible story is a difficult one.

**Could God have punished Ananias and Sapphira in a different way?** (Invite students to share their opinions.)

Although drastic, God was making a point about how He felt about those who would lie to Him (Acts 5:4b). The fact that Ananias and Sapphira hid the money and tried to cover things up was what caused God to take action. Peter reminded Ananias that the money and land was his to do with as he pleased (Acts 5:3-4). The sin wasn't in the fact that they chose to keep some of the money but rather their lies. In Acts 5:4 Peter says, "You have not lied to men but to God."

God wanted the early church to know that lying to Him was in no way acceptable. Keep in mind that if you don't give your money to the church for one week, God isn't going to strike you dead. He does, however, want each Christian to know that everything we have belongs to Him. When we give to God, it shouldn't be done grudgingly or fearfully but from a cheerful heart, because we want to further His kingdom. In other words, money matters do matter to God because money is easily tied in with our heart's condition. We don't sin when we have money or spend money, but we can sin in how we view our money and if it consumes us and keeps us from being thankful to God.

You can honor God by giving a portion of your money to Him but He is most pleased when you have a cheerful and giving heart. As 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Many of you may not have a great deal of money to give. What you can do—and what pleases God—is have a servant's heart. Volunteering your time is a great way to give back to God. First and foremost take a look at your own congregation and see what needs to be done there. Could you help in the nursery, help teach during Vacation Bible School or during Bible school, weed the grounds and pick up litter, stack chairs or help put together your church's bulletin? There are many needs right before your eyes.

A popular book called *The Teenager's Guide to the Real World* has a free website full of additional resources for young people who want to make a difference in their world. On it is listed 20 ways for teenagers to help other people by volunteering. Check it out in further detail to access links or get more information.

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The list includes:

- Homeless shelters
- Food banks
- The Guideposts sweater project (sponsored by Guideposts magazine). A way for people to knit sweaters and send them to needy children all around the world.
- The Ronald McDonald House, a community home found in most cities that provides families of a severely ill child needing ongoing medical care a place to live and be nurtured.
- The Special Olympics. Olympic games and sports opportunities for those with physical challenges.
- Habitat for Humanity, Intl. A charity where volunteers build houses in their communities for those who cannot afford homes.
- State parks
- City programs
- Helping others to read.
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Senior citizen centers
- Animal Shelters
- The United Way
- The Red Cross
- The Salvation Army
- Environmental organizations
- Political campaigns
- 1-800 number volunteers (answering phones or helping in offices of those who do)
- Website creation. Helping small charities and organizations that do not yet have websites.

Ask your students:

- **What volunteer projects interest you the most?** *Encourage students to find practical ways to follow through on their volunteer interests.*
- **What is something you could do even this week to give cheerfully to God either by providing your money or time?** *(Have each student come up with one thing.)*

In conclusion, share: **When God looks at you, He sees unlimited potential. Isn't it time for you to see yourself in the same light?**

Close in prayer.

Sources:

<http://www.bygpublish.com/books/tg2rw/volunteer.htm>

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