

Giving Back Matters - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 1 Cor 3:18 why is Jesus—His life, death, resurrection (see also Rom 1:3-4)—the answer to man’s dilemma?	
5. From John 1:12 how do the “facts” about Jesus become real in our lives and what is the result? What does it mean to be saved by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9)?	
6. Based on Matt 25:14-30 what has God given to each of us (v14-15) and how are we to view this (see 1 Pet 4:10)? What are we to do with God’s resources and opportunities (v20-23)?	
7. In relation to all we have what must we remember (1 Tim 6:6-9)? List some ways to steward our money (Mal 3:10; 1 Cor 16:1-3; Phil 4:15-18; 1 Tim 6:17-18; 1 John 3:16-17).	
8. What can we expect when we give back to God what He has first given to us (Prov 3:9-10; Lu 6:38; 2 Cor 9:6-12; Phil 4:19; 1 Tim 6:19)?	
9. Using Eph 5:15-16 how are we to treat our time? How do Jesus’ words in Matt 6:34 and John 9:4, 11:9-10 further explain this? Think of the ways you spend your time—how can you invest them more wisely for Jesus?	
10. Looking at John 13:5, 12-17 what example did Jesus (v5) and Paul set (1 Cor 9:19; 2 Tim 2:10)? How should these guide us (Mk 10:43-45; Jn 13:14-15; Gal 5:13)?	
11. According to Eph 4:7, 11-16 what is the purpose of spiritual gifts (v12), and how are we to relate to each other (v16)? From 1 Pet 4:10-11 what are the 2 categories of gifts (v11)?	
12. Based on Rom 12:6-8 and 1 Cor 12:28-30 what are some spiritual gifts available? With what attitude should we use them (Rom 12:3-6; 1 Cor 12:14-26; 14:26)	

Scripture to Remember

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 Peter 4:10 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

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Life Group Questions—Spiritual Pediatrics (Acts 2:42-47)

(Using questions from Sunday’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group about the early days of your Christian walk—the advice you were given, the pattern you followed, and how it went.
2. Read Acts 2:42-47. What 4 things did the early believers devote themselves to? What do you think it means to “be devoted” to something?
3. Talk about what it looks like to make “downloading” the Word actively a priority. Be specific.
4. Discuss the importance of knowing the “whole counsel of God” and how the prosperous gospel distorts this. Why should this matter to us?
5. How is “fellowship” different from “the fellowship”? Why does pursuing fellowship alone fall short of actually producing fellowship? What must we do instead?
6. Identify some ways your Life Group can specifically carry out the twofold purpose of ministry to each other and mission to the world outside.
7. Talk about the role of the “breaking of bread” and prayer in the growth of believers. Plan to share the Lord’s Supper with one another at a Life Group soon.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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Giving Back Matters



Jesus' one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

In the popular reality show, *American Idol*, one week is always billed as "Idol Gives Back". This segment pulls together many celebrities and sponsors, along with the contestants, to raise money for a worthy cause. The idea that it is right to "give back" when we have been given so much makes sense even to those who don't profess Christ. It is not surprising, then, to find that the Bible instructs believers to freely give back to God and others since we have been so generously blessed. At Celebration Fellowship we believe that giving back matters, and that there are three primary areas in which we are to do this. First, we are to share with others how to receive the gift of eternal life that we have been given. This good news starts with God—He is loving, but also holy and

just. It is important, then, to share that man is sinful and that the result of this sin is death, both physical and spiritual. We are separated from God and must have a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus is the answer; He is the just One who died for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. He lived a perfect life, allowing Him to be a perfect sacrifice, which was accepted by God when He raised Him from the dead. Knowing these facts, we must accept His free forgiveness and place our faith in Him, giving Him control over our lives. We are then born again and with this new nature are responsible to steward the resources God has entrusted to us—our wealth, time, and abilities. We give financially to God starting with ten percent, but, as the need arises, even beyond this

because we have been given such abundant grace. We are also to invest our time in every area of our lives to further God's kingdom, because the days are evil. Finally, we are to serve one another in love, following the example set by Jesus and the apostles. We do this in general by caring for one another and meeting each others' need where possible. We also do this by utilizing the spiritual gifts with which God has blessed each of us, so that we can build each other up to do works of service. In doing all these things we show that giving back matters.

Study Questions for Giving Back Matters

<p>1. Read 2 Cor 5:17-20. What has God done for us (v17, 18) and what does this mean? What should that lead to in our lives (v18-20)? Using Matt 28:19-20 why else are we to share Christ (v19)?</p>	
<p>2. Based on Matt 5:16 what is one way to share Christ and how does John 4:39-42 add to this? What is a third (and most definitive) way that we help people come to know Christ (Rom 10:14-17)?</p>	
<p>3. What do we have to believe about God (1 Jn 4:16; 1 Pet 1:15-16; Deut 32:3-4) and about man (Rom 3:23, 6:23; Gen 2:16-17) to realize our need for salvation?</p>	

(Continued on Next Page)