



**FINE ARTS**

# deployed july week 2

## discipleship dimension: generosity

### DIMENSION OBJECTIVE:

Disciples give freely of possessions because they understand that they are ultimately giving to God. They share God's love with all cultures and ethnicities.



# Giving Freely to Others

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### scripture

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?”

#### 1 John 3:16–17

But if there are any poor Israelites in your towns when you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them. Instead, be generous and lend them whatever they need. Do not be mean-spirited and refuse someone a loan because the year for canceling debts is close at hand. If you refuse to make the loan and the needy person cries out to the LORD, you will be considered guilty of sin. Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do. There will always be some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need.”

#### Deuteronomy 15:7–11

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### discover

When I was a kid, there was a man who went to our church named Mike. Mike had been part of a motorcycle gang for many years before Jesus met him. He was a big guy who could look very intimidating, but the love of God had changed him into one of the kindest men you would ever meet. In fact, every person in our church was better because of Mike and how he loved Jesus.

Mike rode his motorcycle to church every service. Even in the rain and the cold. One day, my dad, the pastor of the church, asked Mike about riding in the winter weather and whether it was dangerous. Mike shared that it was his only vehicle. He couldn't afford another and had tried to sell it with no success, but he said that nothing would stop him from being with his church family. I remember sitting down a few days later as my parents explained to us that God had asked them to give Mike their car. I wasn't sure how that would work since we weren't rich and didn't have an excess of vehicles.

My mom told us that we would do what God asked of us because it's all His anyway. His to bless us with, His to ask us to give—and sometimes He allows us to be a part of meeting the needs of other people. I wasn't sure I fully understood until I saw Mike's face when they gave him the car. It meant more to him than I could have guessed. He drove it proudly every single Sunday, safe from the rain and the cold.

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**develop**

In these two passages of Scripture, there is a clear call to action for all believers. In 1 John 3:16–17, we read that we cannot have the love of God abiding in us if we are unwilling to help those in need when we have something to give—just as Jesus modeled in laying down His life for us. Then in Deuteronomy 15:7–11, we read that we should not just be quick to give to those in need, but to give freely and without holding a grudge. Discuss with your group where you see these two calls to action play out in my story. How did the gift of the car satisfy the commission to care for others? How did my parents answer the call to be an answer for Mike?

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**deploy**

From the story above, it is evident that we are not just asked to give financially. Often, God asks us to simply give what we have, even an older model maroon car. So, what do you have that God wants to make an answer to someone's need? Talk with your team about ways that God has asked you to give or do something unconventional to help someone else. How can you make yourself ready to listen and respond to the call to give? Discuss ways that you and your teammates can deploy this message, both together and individually.

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**prayer**

**Take time now to pray for the Holy Spirit to give you His eyes to see the needs of those around you. Ask Him to develop your ability to give quickly and purposefully when He shows you a need. Pray together for hearts that give cheerfully and expectantly, asking Him to make you an answer to the needs of others.**