

Blandford and Langton Home Groups
Meeting for Week Beginning 28 October 2007
Focus At Home "The Bible - The Big Picture"

"How Can I Say Thank You (1)"

For the next three weeks, we are going to focus on the issue of Giving, in preparation for the Gift Day for the Parish Centre on 18th November. The aim is not to make people give out of guilt or any other motivation, except that they want to say "Thank You" to God for what he has given us by giving towards building his Kingdom in Blandford Forum.

The Overall Aim of these Studies:

- ❖ To try and grasp how much we have received - and how it is sometimes just as hard to receive as it is to give.
 - ❖ To understand deeper what it means to receive - and how to respond.
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These studies involve an amount of jumping around the Bible! The suggestion is that the leader allocates each person a few verses to find at the start of the Study - helpfully typed out on the attached sheet in strips which can be cut up!

- Welcome

In pairs grin at each other until one of you laughs. Do it as a knockout competition if it helps!

- Worship

Read Psalm 104 and thank God for his goodness to us.

- Word

This is a study based on "Giving and Receiving" By Judy Knebel

God's Model of Giving

Giving both natural and supernatural gifts, God is our model, the perfect Giver. List as many gifts God gives as you can. Some examples ... Luke 22:19, John 10:28, 2 Corinthians 5:5, James 1:25, 4:6

- What does Romans 8:32 tell you about God's giving?

There are several Greek words translated to "give." One word, *epichoregeo*, captures the heart of giving as God gives: to supply fully, abundantly, lavishly, and refers to the work of the Holy Spirit to individuals and His church. *Epichoregeo* is the word used in Galatians 3:5.

- What does it say to you about God's giving? Upon what is His giving based?
- Why is following God's example especially difficult when you deem the recipient as undeserving?
- What does Romans 5:8 say that can help you overcome that difficulty?
- Following God's Example, What is basic to your giving? See 2 Corinthians 9:7,8 and 2 Peter 1:3,4

Discuss the principles of giving found in Matthew 10:8b, 5:43-47; and Luke 6:38.

- What can you give to God?

Read Psalm 63:4, Psalm 119:57, Romans 12:1, 2 Corinthians 9:11-13

- What can you give to people?

Read Romans 13:8, Philippians 2:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- Time is one thing God gives us that we jealously guard.
- How can time to God and to others be an invaluable gift?

- **Works**

- ❖ Why do some Christians find it hard to give?
- ❖ What are the reasons or excuses that people offer as to why they don't need to give to God
- ❖ Or to the Church?
- ❖ To what degree are these acceptable?
- ❖ Do you find it difficult? Why?

Share with each other.

Conclude by praying for one another - and thanking God for his goodness.
"To each one of us, grace has been given" (Ephesians 4:7)

- **Next Meeting**

Focus at Home next Week

Wednesday 7th November - "How Can I Say Thank You (2)"

Members of the Group should have received packs containing information about progress on the Parish Hall Project and the events surrounding the Gift Day on 18th November. There will be a Prayer Evening (in Home Groups) on Wednesday 14th November - please encourage the group not to be tempted to see this as a night off"!!

Please ensure everyone knows about the plans for the Gift Day, especially the Party (to which absolutely everyone is invited!) and the encouragement to take your Gift or Pledge to the Church on Saturday 17th November between 10am and 1pm.