



## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

Describe the greatest gift you ever been given. What was it and what made it great?

## **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will make my top relationships my top priority.
- I will ask those closest to me, "Are you getting enough of my time?"
- I will find activities to enjoy together with people I love the most.
- I will have conversations this week about how I'm doing at loving.
- I will become a student of the people around me to grow in love.

## **THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP**

The love language of Gift Giving is the one love language that most deeply reflects the heart of God. John 3:16 says, "for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." God loved; therefore, God gave. You see, love gives. The gift doesn't have to be expensive, it doesn't have to be fancy, it just has to say love. Jesus teaches that for all of us, our life depends not on a human benefactor who gives out of self-interest, but on a Heavenly Father who gives with no strings attached. God is giving all the time, with every beat of your heart, with every breath of air filling your lungs. Because we all rely on God's goodness from one moment to the next, there is no place for the old, fawning, self-centered, self-promoting self anymore. This week, if you love people, out of the abundance of God's generous gifts to you, practice speaking the love language of giving gifts. Giving is the best way to live, so ask God to switch your heart from a reluctant giver to a motivated giver. For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, and this is the greatest gift one can receive.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13 together as a group. Discuss how this chapter is changing your view of love.
2. Read John 3:16. What does this verse tell us about the extent of God's attitude of giving? What is the significance to you of the gift he gave?
3. What does it mean to give with agape love (to will and to act for the good for others)?
4. Have you ever received a gift that you knew strings were attached? How did you respond to it?
5. How are the attitudes of "in self-interest you have received, in self-interest give" with "freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8)?
6. What are you grateful for in your life? Why?

# LOVE WITH GIFTS

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# LOVE

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

7. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Colossians 3:17. What is the connection between gratitude and giving?
8. Read Matthew 25:31-46. How does this passage impact our understanding of who should be enriched by our giving? Discuss ways this could be practically lived out.

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will be grateful for every gift that comes from God.
- Freely I have received; freely I will give.
- I will receive the gift of love, forgiveness, friendship and power through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.
- I will speak the love language of giving gifts this week.
- I will practice being a cheerful giver.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- John 3:16
- Matthew 5:43-45
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Colossians 3:17
- Matthew 6:2
- Luke 22:25-26
- Matthew 23:9
- Luke 14:12-14
- Matthew 25:40
- Matthew 10:8
- James 1:16-17
- James 2:1
- Romans 13:8
- John 13:34-35
- 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Acts 20:35