



CONTENT:

Weekly:

Sunday sermon Bible readings,
Worship song,
Reflection,
Small group questions,
Family time.

Daily:

Memory verse,
Prayer.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

There is good reason to believe that humans are “hardwired” for lives characterised by giving. We live with a strong sense and are even expected to live in the realm of giving. We give ourselves to development and growth. We give ourselves to education and work. We give ourselves to worthy causes. We give ourselves to intimate relationship. We give ourselves to family and friends. This sense and expectation of living “giving lives” is reinforced by society. To live in the realm of giving is society’s explicit message; the marketing and advertising industries willingly tap into this sense and expectation of living “giving lives”. Yet within this embracing of living lives in the realm of giving, economic concepts and

modes of thought begin to creep in and quietly influence and modify the realm of giving. Because of this, we find ourselves talking about giving and receiving; we speak about givers and takers and soon we are not able to think of giving without considering how that giving will benefit us. While this giving for self-gain is widely practiced, it is not openly owned. It is not expressly publicised or explicitly stated. It remains the silent and unspoken agenda behind so much of society’s giving. It begins to poison society. It stands to reason that while society’s unspoken practice is to give to self-benefit, it separates the intimate link between human society and the kingdom of God; between people and God; between the God who gives and the people who are made in the image of God to give. This divorce allows society to define giving in its own way without interference from God and His kingdom. **Over the month of October, we explore giving as God’s gift to humans and to society at large. May we be people who are known for giving the gift of our time, talent and treasure.**

WEEK 1: 2 OCT THE GOD WHO GIVES – Rev Kamogelo

Giving is God’s idea - God the Creator, God the Redeemer and Lord, God the Helper and Counsellor defines giving.

WEEK 2: 9 OCT ADDRESSING MONEY AS A RIVAL GOD – Khanyiso Njwabule

Money makes godly claims but only disappoints is a God rival.

WEEK 3: 16 OCT GIVING AS CHILDREN OF GOD (PART 1): SACRIFICIALLY, REGULARLY/FREELY AND GENEROUSLY – Rev Gavin

As God gives, so too do we – sacrificially, freely and generously.

WEEK 4: 23 OCT GIVING AS CHILDREN OF GOD (PART 2): GRATEFULLY AND OBEDIENTLY – Tony Matthee

Giving as a response of thanksgiving and obedience.

WEEK 5: 30 OCT A CHURCH KNOWN FOR ITS GIVING – Rev Boitumelo

As God is known as a Great Giver, so too should the church be known as such.

WEEK 1: 2 OCTOBER

THE GOD WHO GIVES

Giving is God's idea - God the Creator, God the Redeemer and Lord, God the Helper and Counsellor defines giving

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 1:27-31; 2:4-25
John 3:16-21
Ephesians 1:15-23 (espv17)



WORSHIP SONG:



God Who Gives to Life its Goodness - Voices United 260 <https://youtu.be/GAkV9ucj2AY>

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION WRITTEN BY:

Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi

Genesis 1:27-29

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

The Socio-economic and political context of the book of creation exists to remind the Christian church that God is the creator, the originator of things, the one who brought into existence the universe, the God who created out of nothing (*ex nihilo*). This is a privileged moment in the history of the ancient Near East. The Priestly account of creation differs from modern scientific conceptions, which focuses mainly on the formation of the planet in its solar system and leaves out of its consideration animate life and human culture. Ancient Near East Cosmogonies on the contrary, are mainly interested in the emergence of people; 'nature' is the only environment of human community. Understanding the significance of the doctrine of creation and what constitutes it, is crucial for our own connectedness to the power of our being and the relationship we have with the creator and creation. Pentateuch tradition contains the foundational events of the people of God. It is not simply a theology that emerged in the Mosaic period. It is a crystallization of early and late theological views concerning the Lord and the people of God (Brown SS R 2007:11).

God bestowed upon us the responsibility of being 'Good' stewards of her creation, we are the custodians of what God created, in no certain way can we think that we are the owners. Our lives were given to us as a gift from God, in living our lives we acknowledge that God is the ultimate source of creation. This work further acknowledges that God is in the business of continuing and completing creation. Because God is involved as the giver - source of life, it is possible to speak of something new coming into being through time and space. God works creatively with already existing realities to bring about newness. With this understanding in mind, we come to the realisation that nothing we have is ours. Maybe we need to help clarify this controversial statement. The breath we breath is a gift from God (Gen 2:7), our physique or body is a gift from God, the food we eat, water we drink, cars we drive, houses we live in, jobs and families we have. All these are gifts from God. We are non-existent without the source of Creation. Thus, it is important to acknowledge that everything we have belongs to God. It is only when we recognize that God is the giver of life in all its spheres, that we can find it easy to re-dedicate and devote our resources to God, be grateful for what we have, to share what we have with others, to ensure equal access to resources and to give back to God what belongs to her.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

During this season of giving, let us be introspective and assess our motives to give to God. We give because God gave first, we give to God as an expression of gratitude to what we have already received even before we ask. Our giving is a natural response to God's giving.

Life Application

In today's culture and world people are no longer expressing their gratitude for what they have. There is a pervasive spirit of entitlement and ownership of resources at our disposal. How many of us pray for food before we eat at restaurants? Do you teach your children to say grace for restaurant food? Do you still pray before you sleep and give thanks to God for the gift of life? Do you dedicate your new car, house, job, birth of children to God? These are ancient practices that are facing out in our society today. The season of giving teaches us basic reasons why we should give back to God through our skills, time, efforts, and participation in the community and church.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What characterises your relationship with God who is a giver, and your giving attitude?
2. The God who gives. How does this subject influence your understanding and relationship with God?
3. How are you practically responding to God who is a giver?
4. How does it influence your spirituality?



DAILY MEMORY VERSE AND PRAYER

DAY	VERSE	PRAYER
MONDAY	<i>"Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.'" (Genesis 1:29)</i>	God of creation thank you for the gift of stewardship. Endue your spirit upon me as I seek to be a good steward of your creation. Amen
TUESDAY	<i>"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." (John 3:16)</i>	Giver of life thank you for the gift of salvation through your Son Jesus Christ. Help us Lord to live in the promises of eternal life and embrace this gift here on earth. Amen.
WEDNESDAY	<i>"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." (Eph 1:17)</i>	God of wisdom and strength, redeemer of humankind fill us with your holy Spirit to constantly reveal to us the hidden treasures of your kingdom. Amen.
THURSDAY	<i>"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal 5:22)</i>	Holy Spirit, source of life and well-being, grow in us your character. We desire to be people of love, forgiveness, kindness and goodness. Amen
FRIDAY	<i>"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)</i>	Forgiving Lord and merciful creator, thank you for the life Jesus your son who teaches us not to judge others, and ourselves but to believe in Christ who can to save us. Amen
SATURDAY	<i>"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" (Gen 2:18)</i>	God our creator, thank you for the gift of relationships, marriages, families and social environments where we demonstrate our full humanity. Amen.



BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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SCRIPTURE: John 3:16. Have a family member read the verse out loud

PRAYER: Pray before and after your family devotion.

Have you ever tried to clean your room all by yourself? Sometimes it can be very difficult because there is so much stuff! You might think I need to get rid of some stuff because there is just too much!

Sometimes being a Christian can feel like that. Like there is just too much and it is too overwhelming. Our minds get filled with extra details, facts, information, misinformation, doubts, and questions. The Bible can seem confusing, the Church can seem confusing, and how to follow Jesus can seem confusing. All that the world adds to these things can dirty something that really is simple: the gospel. So clean under your bed, get rid of anything we do not need anymore, and let us simplify Jesus this week.

What is the gospel? The word "gospel" means "good news."
This good news is the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

It is God's rescue plan for His creation from sin so that we can spend eternity, or forever, with Him.

It really is simple. God loves us so much that He sent His son, so that whoever believes in Him can have life forever. It can be summed up in one Bible verse that many people have memorized: John 3:16. If you want to simplify the gospel into one verse that you can know, spend this week memorizing John 3:16.

John 3:16 ICB

*"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.
God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life."*