

Better to Give

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 12****Focus:**

God calls us to share with those in need.

Lesson 12**Bible Basis:**

Amos 2:6-8; 5:11, 14-15; 8:4-8a

Lesson 12**Memory Verse:**

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”—Matthew 25:40

Students will watch a short video about unconscious bias and discuss the differences of how we treat others who may not be as blessed as we are, and how we can give out of our own blessings to those in need.

Materials:

- Internet

Our world is made up of those who have more than enough, those who have enough to meet all their needs, those who barely make it from one paycheck to the next, and those who have nothing. The first three of these groups have their medical, housing, food, and transportation needs met by an inheritance, employment, or government welfare. The fourth group, those who have nothing, are homeless and our poorest members of society. They normally live on the streets, in cardboard boxes or makeshift huts, or whatever they can find for shelter. The only way they get their needs met is by picking through trash, begging, or from handouts. They are often snubbed by the others and judged by their lack.

We don't always get to choose what type of life or values we have. Some are born into fame and wealth, while others are born into a comfortable lifestyle for which they have to work to maintain. Then there are those who are born into and live their entire lives in poverty with little or no resources to change their predicament.

Invite your students to watch the following video [1:00]:

I am child hunger in America

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXvllhXB5u4>

➤ **What information most surprised you from this video?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)

According to the information shared in this video, one in seven U.S. children don't have enough to eat every day. This is a very real and serious issue that affects many people in America.

Although poverty and hunger happen in America, we don't always recognize it because it looks different than what we might expect. Because we may think of images of people living in extreme poverty with a dozen people crammed into a makeshift shack, or people with extended bellies due to malnutrition, we sometimes miss the very real needs in our communities.

It's very easy to overlook the needs of others when we aren't interacting with them on a daily basis—or when we don't know how to recognize them. It can even be easy to discount other people's needs or just not think about them since they don't affect us directly.

Today, we're going to talk about a group of people who had exactly this type of attitude. They were blessed by God and lived a wealthy lifestyle. Let's take a look at how God felt about the whole situation and what He had to say about it.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 12 / November 20, 2022

Better to Give

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STEP 4 

Lesson 12**Focus:**

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Lesson 12**Memory Verse:**

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”—Matthew 25:40

Materials:

- Internet access
- Pens/pencils
- Whiteboard and marker (or screenshared document)
- Optional: printouts of charitable organizations (1 per student; There are 2 lists per page.)

Note: This step is designed to challenge students to come up with their own way of contributing to a charitable project over the next month. If you opt to organize your own project together as a class, adjust instructions in this step accordingly. (If your class is meeting online and you decide to use the optional printout of charitable organizations, send it to teens so they can print it ahead of time. Invite them to bring printouts and pens/pencils to class.)

Before class, contact your congregation’s benevolence ministry to see if there are any church-wide charitable drives or organized projects that are on-going or seasonal. If there are, be prepared to share that information with your students. Or, if you like, you can print out and cut apart the list of charitable organizations for each student (See the last page of this PDF; two per page.)

We all would like to think we would do whatever is necessary to help someone in need. Sadly, that’s not always the case.

➤ **If we were to be perfectly honest, was there ever a situation or time when you chose to look the other way rather than give of your time, talent, or money to someone in need? Why?** (You may want to share an experience of your own to encourage your students to share honestly.)

Let’s brainstorm ways that could help us become aware of and gain more empathy for the poor; write down at least three. Hand out paper and pens. Give students time to think and write. Then let volunteers read what they wrote down.

It's so easy to forget about those who consistently live with great needs in their lives when we tend to live around those who have all our needs met. But God has blessed us so that we can bless others.

This month, let's answer God's call to share with those in need. Present the information that you obtained from your congregation's benevolence ministry about any church-wide charitable drives or organized projects that are on-going or seasonal. If you like, you can hand out the lists of charitable organizations. Challenge your students to get their family or a group of friends to plan and pitch in on a project contributing money, time, and/or talent to help the poor. (If your class is meeting online, invite students to have supplies ready at home.)

Ask each to contribute what they feel they can. **You might organize a non-traditional Christmas party where the guests assemble Christmas "goody" boxes of hats, gloves, toiletries, snacks, and other items for homeless children. Or you may offer to serve at a local soup kitchen, sponsor a child living in poverty through a reputable organization, or have a clothing drive for the homeless. You may decide to collect money to give to the benevolence ministry to use during the holidays. This list is by no means exhaustive—there are other fine organizations nationally and locally you might prefer to plug into.** If your congregation has an ongoing church-wide project already taking place, talk with your students about that opportunity and write that information on the whiteboard (or screenshared document).

Whatever you choose, keep a journal of thoughts, attitudes, expectations, and results of your project. As a family or group, discuss the experience and talk about how each person's life on both sides was or could be affected. Remember to check in with your students weekly over the next month to share how their projects are going.

It is important to keep in mind that God wants us to give out of the blessings He has given us. In Acts 20:35, Paul reiterates Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than receive." He demonstrated this for us while on earth and has asked each of us to live a lifestyle of giving. This isn't always easy, but if we ask God to help us recognize the needs of others, and are willing to sacrifice because Jesus sacrificed for us, then we will be obedient to the Word of God and have the opportunity to show His love, mercy, and grace to others.

Close in prayer.

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