



Michael Jr.

Focus Sometimes what we think we need is simply something we want. God knows what we really need and graciously gives it to us when we let go and are ready to receive.

Fun In 30 seconds, have everyone pick two things they have with them (something they're wearing or carrying). One item must be something you need and the other is something you want. Then have each person share their items and explain why it's a want or a need.

Review Key Scripture: Genesis 22:1–18

1. Communerosity = Community + Generosity.

Michael Jr. operates his event table with *communerosity*, promoting a community based on generosity. People give a book or receive a book according to the Lord's leading. He asks people to simply be obedient. *How you do anything is how you do everything*. If you have a hard time receiving at the table, you'll have a hard time receiving in general and the same with giving.

2. Let go of what you want.

We need to let go of what we want to receive what we really need. Sometimes our desires, no matter how good, are not God's desires for us. When He directs us to let go of something, whether it be an action or an object, it is our job to obey and let go.

3. God knows what you need.

When soldiers came to arrest Jesus, the disciples wanted to fight and defend Him, but Jesus wouldn't allow it. The disciples had to give up what they wanted, so we could all receive what we needed from the cross. There may be something we personally need to let go of to receive what God knows we really need.

Group Dynamics Idea Give your group an opportunity to demonstrate *communerosity* by helping victims of Hurricane Harvey in south Texas. Refer to the Crisis Relief Hurricane

Harvey article on relief.gatewaypeople.com, and select an option for your group to help, whether in prayer or donations.

Discuss

1. Read Genesis 22:1–18. What action did Abraham take and why? What was the Lord's plan in the end?
2. Has the Lord asked you to give up something in the past that seemed good, important, or harmless? What happened as a result?
3. Letting go at the Lord's request requires trust. How would you encourage a friend or loved one to trust the Lord in this way?
4. Do you know someone who has difficulty receiving? How does it make you feel to have your gift or kind act rejected by that person? How does it affect your relationship?
5. Michael Jr. used the analogy of Jesus coming into our homes to describe how He desires to come into our lives. Why do we often think we need to get our house or life cleaned up before we allow Jesus to enter? Why do we keep Him from certain rooms or certain parts of our life?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Giving and receiving is God's plan for community within the Church.
- He is faithful and trustworthy and desires our trust.
- God knows what we need more than we do.
- Ask Him this week if there is anything in your life He wants you to give to Him.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for Your love and kindness. Help us to lean on You and not our own understanding, for all Your ways are good and holy. If there is something we need to let go, we ask You to reveal it to us now. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Food is a great ice-breaker. Snacks and drinks help people relax and converse. With the new semester starting, consider including a time of refreshments at the beginning or end of your gatherings and ask members of your group to sign up to take turns bringing refreshments each week.