

HE GAVE

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Focus All of the Bible can be summarized in one complete sentence: “He Gave.” The Bible is both about God and about how God gave us His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. We are the objects of God’s great love. In order for us to be more like our Creator, we must give willingly, just like God.

Fun Do you have any fun traditions that you enjoy doing during Spring Break? If not, what’s one of your favorite Spring Break memories? Share with the group.

Review Key Scripture: John 3:16

When we received God as our Lord, we received His giving nature into our hearts. Giving is the active expression of God’s love. We’re here because God gave His Son for us. We’re also here because Jesus gave His life for us, and now we can give our lives back to Him.

- **God Gives:** *Exodus 31:18; Romans 7:7; Galatians 3:24*
God gave us the law before He gave us His Son so that we would be able to know how to live morally. The law is a guide to know how to live. God also gave us the law in order to draw us to Christ. There are 613 laws in the Bible. Christ fulfilled the law for us so that we could be justified by faith. God is the greatest giver of all because He gave us Jesus so that we could be saved. We’re the most like God when we give.
- **We Give:** *Matthew 10:8; 1 Chronicles 29:3; Exodus 35:21; Luke 6:38*
The word “freewill” is in the Bible 18 times and it’s always followed by the word “offering.” When we allow God to stir our hearts regarding giving, then we’re able to give willingly and cheerfully. God rewards us for giving. We don’t give to get; we give because God first gave to us. Lives are changed when we give. We are changed when we give.

Group Dynamics Idea Giving as an individual is great, but giving as a group is exponentially better. Take time to plan one way your group can give this semester. Some ideas include: helping a single mom in your neighborhood; doing yard work for a widow; or serving together at a community outreach. Think of a way your group can come together and give!

- Discuss**
1. God's nature is to give. What are some ways He gives to us? What's one way God has given to you this past year?
 2. We often associate giving with money; however, God gives to us in innumerable other ways. What are some various ways we can give and show God's love?
 3. Why do you think giving changes us? What are some of the ways it does?
 4. Can you think of a time God prompted you to give and the results really encouraged you?
 5. What do you think a giving lifestyle looks like? What's one thing you can do to have a more giving lifestyle?

- Take Home**
- As we conclude, remember the following:
- God Gives. God gave us Jesus. Everything in Scripture reflects God's giving nature.
 - When we give, we're reflecting God. Not only does it change us, but it changes others when we give.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your amazing, giving nature. Thank You for giving us salvation through Jesus. Please help us to be more like You and live lifestyles of giving. Show us specific things we can do to give and bless others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Praying together is one of the best ways to build community within your small group. At the end of each group, take time out to stop and pray over at least one person or couple. If they don't have a specific prayer need, then pray a blessing over them.