

JUMP START



Lesson 4: Give God wants you to give generously.

*Always work enthusiastically
for the Lord, for you know
that nothing you do for the
Lord is ever useless.
1 Corinthians 15:58b*



REARVIEW MIRROR

Think about Lesson 3. What was one thing that really spoke to you? Was there something that you changed, did differently or added into your life as a result?



EYES ON THE ROAD: Watch the video.

START YOUR ENGINE

What's the best gift you have ever given someone? What made it so great?



CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

Scripture references may be found at the end of each lesson.

1. List some things that God has given you.
2. In the video, Susan asked God to show up every day. In the Israelites case, God met their basic needs by giving them food (Manna).
What do you need from God today?
How are you looking to Him to meet your need?
3. Susan was about to reject the very gift God had given her in her friend, Cindy.
Can you ever think of a time when you rejected a gift from God?
Describe the circumstance.

What keeps you from receiving the gifts God has for you?

Perhaps you want to be a better “giver” for God, but just don’t where to begin. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and then reflect about giving by answering/pondering questions 4-6 below. This passage is often used in regards to tithing, but for today’s purposes, giving can mean your time, talents or treasures, not just monetary giving. (You may use your own Bible version, but we have included The Message version in the Scriptures section for this passage.)

4. Recognizing that God is a giver is the first step. Your response might be, “How can I ever repay God for all He has given to me?” Jesus suggests the greatest gift you could give God is the gift of YOU. What is the difference in giving out of duty and giving out of gratitude?

Re-read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. What do these verses say about how you give?

What do they say about how God feels when you give?

5. Anticipating that God wants to do something through our lives is the second step. When we ask, God is willing to provide us everything we need to be “givers.”

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8 again and see what God is willing to do if we are willing to give.

Write out a prayer asking God to open your eyes to His astonishing blessings in your life today.

6. The final step in becoming the “giver” is to activate what is laid on your heart. Re-read 2 Corinthians 9:12-13.

Verses 12-13 state how we “give”. Complete these phrases:

- A. Live at your very _____
- B. Show your _____
- C. Be openly _____

7. Perhaps you want to take a moment to thank God for giving you the best gift of all—His Son Jesus. Out of thanksgiving and gratitude, how will you respond?

In this lesson, you have been faithful to learn God's Word. Now it's time to *Hit the Road*. By doing the *Hit the Road* portion of *Jumpstart*, you will take what you have learned and put it into action. Don't miss the most exciting part of the ride.



HIT THE ROAD

1. List some of your everyday duties.

Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."

How will you be a representative of Jesus in the everyday duties of your life?

Recognizing that God isn't always looking for the BIG things from you, how could you be someone's MANNA this afternoon? At the end of the day record how you were God's provision for someone else.

2. Drive around in your car. Notice all the ways that God has been a provision in your world. Turn off your radio and thank Him for all He has done.

The next time you go to the grocery store, get an oil change, attend your child's activities, visit Starbucks or participate in any daily activity, compliment or thank someone who has provided a service to you. Look in unexpected places (It could be the produce man at the grocery store).

3. Invite someone this week to participate in this Bible study with you. (Ideas: the nursing home, your small group, your Sunday School class, with your kids at home, with your husband, with your girlfriend at your kitchen table, at the coffee shop, in the breakroom with a co-worker, your book club.)

You may have to surrender your time to them and love them with God's *agape* love. Trust that you will receive all you need from Jesus, so that you will be able to give someone else a jumpstart to their heart.

Our prayer for you today is that you will choose to surrender fully, love deeply, receive richly and give generously.

So roll down the windows, turn up the radio, and let your hair blow. Life is not waiting for you, but God is.

SCRIPTURE (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)



CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 — (The Message)

6-7 Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

8 God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.

9-11 As one psalmist puts it,
He throws caution to the winds,
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.
His right-living, right-giving ways
never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

12-13 Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to **live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ.** You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone...

15 Thank God for this gift, His gift. No language can praise it enough!

“Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds and learn to find Him there.”

—A.W. Tozer



HIT THE ROAD

Colossians 3:17 —

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father