

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Small Group Questions

Part 3: The Art of Receiving

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Read

Matthew 22:37–39; Acts 20:35; Romans 5:17; and 2 Corinthians 12:9

Reflect

We know that it is more blessed to give than receive. Yet, we also need to remember that our ability to receive the free gift of grace that Jesus offers us is foundational to our faith. We cannot earn it. We can only receive it. Have you ever been given a gift you had a hard time receiving?

Pastor Josh Walters asks us to take note of our attitudes and views on receiving.

1. What if the rich and satisfying life that you've always wanted has more to do with your willingness to receive than your ability to achieve?
 - a. How hard is it to receive a gift from others?
 - i. Try to capture your thoughts and reasons for turning down someone's offer of help.
 - ii. Do your reasons fall into any of the false-assumption categories listed below?
 - b. Is it easier to accept help in a situation like a natural disaster, where others are in need, too?
 - c. How good are you at asking for help when things are normal?
2. Is it possible that your ability to ask and receive from people reveals your ability to ask and receive from God?
 - a. What areas of your life do you rarely bring to God? Why might you be holding back?

Five False Assumptions About Receiving Help From Others

1. It shows a lack of maturity.
 - a. Are you afraid that people will see you as immature?
2. It reveals my ignorance.
 - a. Although God gives us different gifts, do you feel that you should know everything?
3. It is a sign of weakness.
 - a. Do you worry that people will think you are not as strong or capable as they thought?
4. It requires me to lose control.
 - a. How important is it for you to feel in control? Do you believe you really have control?
5. It is a burden to others.
 - a. Do you worry that you'll just be adding to their plates, or that you'll owe them?

I Can Grow in the Art of Receiving When I...

1. Embrace humility.
 - a. Do your thoughts and behaviors align? Does pride in specific areas prevent you from reaching out?
 - b. Will you allow others to use their gifts to help you and perhaps teach you something?
2. Practice vulnerability.
 - a. Have you ever risked being vulnerable and found that once you've shared, others respond to it?
 - b. Decide ahead of time that the next time someone offers help that you really need, you accept.

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?