

CONNECTION GROUP LESSON

date

5/2/10

topic

GIVING TO PEOPLE IN
NEED

bible text

MATTHEW
6:1-4

Bringing glory to God and love to others through our charity.

OPENING UP

1. Is there a cause (outside of Westwind) that you especially enjoy donating to?
2. Describe a time when you were in a financial need and someone came to your aid. What was their motivation and how did they treat you through the process?
6. Discuss the notion of God giving or withholding “reward” because of the way in which giving is done. What do you think such a reward might be like? (A few verses you might read are: Ephesians 6:7-8; Luke 6:35; Proverbs 11:18; Proverbs 19:17).

DIGGING IN

1. Read the Matthew 6:1-14 passage together. Jesus opens by telling us to “be careful” not to do our acts of righteousness to be seen by others. Why might this be a temptation for some?
2. Biblical Jews felt that the best methods of giving to people in need protected the identity and dignity of the recipient. How important are the feelings of the receiver of your gifts? In what ways does that affect how you give?
3. What modern-day equivalents of announcing gifts to those in need “with trumpets” have you witnessed?
4. Jesus tells us that our giving to those in need is to be done “in secret” if we’re to have a reward from God the Father. What are ways you can do this?
5. It may not always be possible to literally give “secretly”. How can you still give but keep the focus off yourself in such a circumstance?
7. Are you personally motivated to give to people in need? Why or why not?
8. Who are the people in need that you or your connection group know of? How can you help them?