

April 2025



GRANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT LESSON GUIDE

**THEME: EMBRACING CHRIST
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

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Theme: “Embracing Christ in ALL Circumstances”



April 2025



2nd Quarter

Adult Sunday School Lessons

Unit 1 Theme: Sharing with Those in Need

Unit 1 theme for the month of April is Sharing with those in Need. The concept of sharing with those in need is rooted in the Old Testament's emphasis on caring for the vulnerable and the poor, with passages like Leviticus 25:35 and Deuteronomy 15:11 highlighting the responsibility to support those in need.

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Embracing Christ in All Circumstances

Unit 1 Theme: Sharing with those in Need

Today's Topic: Caring for the Weak

Lesson Scriptures: Matthew 25:31-41; I John 3:17-18; Proverbs 14:13; Psalm 41:1; Psalm 72:12-13; Isaiah 58:10

Key Verse: If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? - *1 John 3:17*

Essential Question: Can you help someone as you pass this way, or do you want your living to be in vain?

Lesson Aims

At the end of this lesson participants will understand that:

1. As human beings we are commanded by God to help each other by sharing our blessings with those who are in need.
2. Help does not always come in the form of financial contributions; it also includes sharing your love and the love of God with others.
3. We are our brothers and sisters keeper. We are responsible, not only for our own salvation, but for the salvation of others also.

Introduction

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, we see God's desire for his children to show compassion towards the weak and the needy. Jesus said that the poor will always be with us. His command to us is that we should "love one another as I have loved you. Give it to the one who ask you, and do not turn from the one who wants to borrow from you. In the same way let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven. We have a responsibility to help those who are not able to help themselves. We should always be willing to help out when and where we can. At the end of this life none of the material things that we have accumulated can speak for us. So do the work of the Lord so that it can speak for you while it is day, because when night comes.

Exposition

1. What does the scripture say about sharing with those in need? Matthew 25:31-41

In these verses God is giving us a look at what is going to happen in the end time when He comes back to judge the world. All the people will be gathered before him.

- a. The godly people (sheep) will be placed on the right and the evil people (goats) will be on the left
- b. The king will say to the godly people "my father has great blessing for you, the kingdom he has prepared for you since the world was made is yours.
- c. Then he will explain to them what they did to deserve such blessings.
- d. He said when I was hungry you fed me, when I was thirsty you gave me water, when I was homeless

you welcome me into your home, when I was sick you cared for me, when I was in prison you came to visit me”.

e. Now the godly people were confused, and they said, “Lord when did we do all of these things?”

f. And of course he answered them saying, “whenever you did it for the least of these, my children, you did it also for me

g. The moral of the story is whatever you do for the weak, the downhearted, the poor and the needed will be noticed by God, and you will be rewarded for it.

h. It is important to note that these things are not optional we are commanded to do it.

i. In verse 41 we see where the evil doers received the opposite, “depart from me, you are cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

II. Proverbs 14:13 says “He who oppresses the poor show contempt for their maker.” As we read through Proverbs, we will see that it is filled with verses showing that God loves the poor and is hurt when his children neglects them. The new testament is also clear as to how we are to take care of the poor. One verse that summarizes our expected charity is the Epistle of I John 3:17-18. 17.“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?The writer goes on to say in verse 18 to say “ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with action and in truth.”

III. Psalm 41:1: Blessed is he who has regards for the weak. The Lord delivers him in times of trouble. Therefore, those who show mercy to the helpless will receive mercy from God. Jesus said, Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. David is not just speaking to those who are financially poor, but also of those disadvantaged or made weak. God honors those who are charitable and generous to people in need.

IV. Psalm 72:12-13: 12. For he will deliver the needy that cries out; the poor also, and he who have no helper. 13.He shall spare the poor and the needy, and shall save their souls. Let us keep in mind that God has called all of us to do justly and to work on behalf of those who are in need; on behalf of the poor and others who have no help.

V. Isaiah 58:10: “And if you draw out of your soul for the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul; then your light will rise in darkness, and your obscurity will be as noonday.” We are called to reach deep down in our hearts and bless the needy in any way that we can. It doesn't always have to be money. It can just be a kind word or a smile that can touch someone who is going through some hard times. This verse is saying that in helping others we are helping ourselves also. Your life will rise just because you help someone else as you were passing through. If I can just help someone as I pass this way (you know the rest).

VI. What did we learn from the good Samaritan? Luke 10:25-37

The Lesson Applied

How can I help?

1. Be devoted to one another
 - a. Honor others above yourself
 - b. Keep your spiritual favor by serving the Lord
 - c. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer
 - d. Share with those in need. Practice hospitality.

2. Live in harmony with one another
 - a. Bless those who persecute you
 - b. Rejoice with those who rejoice
 - c. Morn with those who morn
 - d. Do not be overcome with pride
 - e. Be willing to associate with people of low estate. Do not be conceited.

3. Do not seek revenge
 - a. Leave room for God's wrath. God said, "I will repay".
 - b. Do not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good.
 - c. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth was under the old dispensation of the law.
We now say "do unto others as you would have them do unto you"

Closing thought: To make a difference in someone's life you don't have to be brilliant, rich, or perfect. You just have to care.

Year's Theme: Embracing Christ in All Circumstances
Unit 1 Theme: Sharing with Those in Need
Lesson Topic: The Holiness of Sharing

Lesson Scripture(s): Galatians 6:2; Leviticus 19:9-10

Key Verse(s): "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of the Christ." V2

Essential Question: Have you ever stopped to think about the power of giving and sharing with others?

Lesson Aims:

1. The act of sharing is an important part of the Believer's life.
2. The act of sharing is an expression of love and obedience to God's commands, with both temporal and eternal implications.
3. The act of sharing cultivates a spirit of generosity and selflessness, aligning believers with the character of Christ.

Introduction

Our lesson topic "**Holiness of Sharing**" means that by sharing with others, especially when we do so out of generosity and kindness, we are reflecting in God's own holiness and character. As we show love and compassion towards others, we are in essence becoming more like God through these actions. It's not just an act, but it's a spiritual practice that aligns with the giving and caring nature of God. As our scripture text indicates, we are to share in one another's struggles and be a source of provision, strength and support. So, as we meditate on and reflect upon these Scriptures, let us embrace the heart of sharing in our daily lives and unite in the journey of loving one another. Let us look into other scriptures related to sharing.

Exposition

Leviticus 19:9-10 instructs, "When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You must not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God." This command highlights the importance of leaving portions of one's harvest for those in need, demonstrating God's provision through His people.

Ruth 2:8-16 - The account of Ruth and Boaz further illustrates the act of sharing. Boaz, a man of wealth and influence, shares his resources with Ruth, a foreign widow, by allowing her to glean in his fields and providing her with protection and nourishment. This act of kindness and generosity is a model of godly sharing and hospitality.

Matthew 14:13-21- In the New Testament, Jesus Christ exemplifies and teaches the act of sharing. An example is the feeding of the five thousand, where Jesus takes five loaves and two fish, blesses them, and shares them with the multitude, demonstrating God's miraculous provision and the importance of sharing even when resources seem limited.

Acts 2:44-45 states, "All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods with anyone who was in need." The first-century church set the bar high when they demonstrated biblical sharing. As the church grew rapidly, many new believers from other regions stayed in Jerusalem, eager to be near their new brothers and sisters in Christ. In order to finance this exploding family, those who owned valuables sold them and donated the money for the common good. The early church in Acts is a testament to communal sharing, a commitment to living in community and ensuring that no one among them lacked necessities.

1 John 3:17-18 John emphasizes the necessity of sharing: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth"

Hebrews 13:16 "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." We sometimes forget that there are two types of sharing: one that is forced and the other that occurs as a prompting of the heart. How many of us have said to our children, "Here's a treat—now go share that with your brother or sister." It's good to teach them the idea of sharing, but for this act to be pleasing to God, it must be more than them doing so because mom or dad told me to. Sharing reflects our heart, our willingness to please God and to love others.

It's also serves as a gentle reminder that our actions of kindness and generosity are not only beneficial to those receiving them, but also pleasing to God. It challenges us to reflect on how we can incorporate these values into our daily lives and how we can make a difference in the world around us through simple acts of goodness.

The next time you have the opportunity to help someone in need or share what you have with others, remember Hebrews 13:16. Let it guide you in spreading love, compassion, and positivity to those around you. You are not only making a tangible impact on others but also pleasing God with your sacrifices of kindness and generosity by doing so.

Our sharing can take on many forms, but it is the heart attitude that matters to God (Matthew 6:2-4). We who have been bought and set apart by the blood of Jesus must be eager to share what He has entrusted to us, whether it's time, energy, or resources. Sharing reminds us that we are not to set our affections on things of this earth, nor store up treasures that have no eternal value (Colossians 3:2; Matthew 6:20). Sharing also keeps us humble, frees us from the love of money, and teaches us to die to ourselves (Romans 6:6; 1 Timothy 6:10). We are most like Jesus when we freely share ourselves with those He brings into our lives. For we were created to become like Him, His image, His Likeness!

Lesson Applied

Sharing is a reflection of the heart, our willingness to please God and to love others. God wants us to share with others and be happy about it. God knows the difference between when you share because you have to and when you share because you want to.

One of the most beautiful aspects of being a part of God's family is sharing our lives with each other. As followers of Christ, we are not meant to walk our journeys alone. The verses shared in our lesson reminds us that by sharing with each other, we strengthen our bonds and uplift one another in faith. When we stand together, we show a powerful testimony of God's love in action, and we create a safe space for growth and encouragement among ourselves.

Resource(s):

New International Version (NIV); New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Embracing Christ in All Circumstances

Unit Theme: Sharing With Those in Need

Today's Topic: The Blessedness of Giving

Lesson Scriptures: Proverbs 11:23-31; John 3:16-20; Luke 6:38

Key Verse: Give and it will be given unto you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it shall be measured to you. *-Luke 6:38*

Essential Question: Is it really better to give than to receive? Explain your answer.

Lesson Aims

At the end of this lesson the participant will understand that:

1. We cannot be both selfish and saved. (Choose one).
2. Jesus has demonstrated how we should love and care for our fellowman here on earth.
3. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to someone else.

Introduction

In both the old and the New Testament, we see God's desire for his children to show compassion to the poor and needy. Jesus said that the poor will always be with us so he gave us a command when it comes to helping others. He said "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who always wants to borrow from you. In the same way, let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven. Now let's review. Who gets the glory?"

Exposition

I. The generosity of God when it comes to blessing us (Proverbs 11:23-31)

Verse 23 – The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath. The bible tells us that only the righteous shall see God. It also tells us that we will reap what we sow. If we go through life thinking only of ourselves we will not see God's Kingdom. The hope of the wicked will result in them experiencing the wrath of God at the end of this life, while the righteous will receive everlasting life. The choice is yours, but be sure to count up the cost when making your decision.

Verse 24 – One person gives freely and, yet gains even more; another withholds and comes to poverty; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. If you want to be blessed try blessing someone else and see what happens. It's called the new math – addition by subtraction. If you keep your hands closed all the time, not only can nothing come out, but God can't put anything in it either. Verse 25 – 26 People will curse those who tries to store up everything and keep it for

themselves, but they will pray God's blessings on the ones who are willing to help others. It is always good to have others praying for you even though you are praying for yourself. I believe that God gives out extra blessing to those who don't just pray for themselves, but for other also. There are many passages of scripture that encourages us to pray for one another. We don't do it to be blessed ourselves but God blesses us for being obedient to the word.

Verse 27 – 28 - Whoever seeks good finds favor, but evil comes to the one who searches for it. Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf (V 28). So, the question becomes, what are you looking for? What are you expecting to get out of life. These verses plainly tell us that whatever you are seeking after you will find. It doesn't make sense to say that I want the righteousness of God and then go chasing after the things of this world. The bible specifically tells us that we are in the world but not of the world. If we are seeking after righteousness we will not find it in worldly things. In order to thrive like the green leaf mentioned in verse 28, we have to seek after the one and only living God.

Verses 30-31 – The fruit of the righteous is the tree of life. If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner. In these verses we come back to the principle of reaping what you sow. This not only applies to you while you are on this earth, but also when you leave this world. You will receive consequences for your actions here on earth also. Some of us may be doing good things in life but we seem to be having a harder time than those who are living ungodly lives, but just remember things are not always as they seem to be. You may be able to go to bed and sleep well at night and that person that is doing wrong is tossing and turning all night worrying about somebody who he has done wrong coming to get him or her. So don't become weary in doing good because the blessedness of God is waiting for you in this world and also in the world to come.

What did Jesus teach us about giving?

While Jesus was on this earth he went around during good and blessing all those he came in contact with. He taught us through his disciples that we should always be concerned with the needs of others. Jesus taught the importance of helping those in need by modeling compassion, actively serving the needy, and emphasizing acts of kindness and generosity, urging his followers to prioritize the well-being of others. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind and caused the lame to walk. He also did some spiritual healing like helping those who were down- hearted, those who were possessed by demons, those who were mistreated and cast aside, and many others. In other words he helped all of those who needed help.

Jesus also taught us that:

- We should love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves
- Show compassion even towards our enemies, advocating for forgiveness
- We should be willing to share our possessions with those in need. True wealth lies in service, not in power or position, and serving others is serving God
- That even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life for many
- God helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kind of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.
- Helping one another helps us find meaning in our lives by allowing us to connect with others and seeing our actions make a positive difference in their life. A meaningful life isn't found but created through our actions; and it starts with looking for ways to help.

III. The Blessings of the Cross

We would not dare leave this discussion on **Easter Sunday** without mentioning the blessing we received from the cross. When Man needed someone to redeem them from the yolk of sin Jesus told his father to prepare a body for him and he would come down to earth and offer himself as payment for man's sin. There was no other way for man to be saved because God himself said that "the wages of sin is death." Jesus loved us so much that he was willing to die for us. God loved us so much that he gave his son to die as payment for our sins (John 3:16 - 20). What did we do to deserve this? Absolutely nothing, it was all done out of love. So when you look at the scriptures included in today's discussion don't think about how hard it is to do good to those who don't like you, or even to those who you think are trying to scam you. Just do what you can for those in need and let God handle the rest.

The Lesson Applied

Today's lesson lets us know that we have a responsibility to care for and look out for those who are in need. It does not matter who the person is, we have a responsibility to help when help is needed. We also have to be careful about why we give. First, it is required of the saints to give whenever the opportunity presents itself. Sometimes it may be monetary gifts, or it could just be lending a helping hand. It may be running errands or some other form of service. It doesn't matter what the need is, the important thing is that we should be willing and ready to help. Jesus says in Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given unto you. They will pour into your lap a good measure – pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." God's people cannot be indifferent toward those in need because His expectation for us in regard to taking care of the poor are stated in many passages throughout the entirety of the bible.

Unit Theme: Sharing with Those in Need
Lesson Topic: Imitating God's Helpfulness

Lesson Scriptures: Matthew 5:16, 1 John 3:17, 1 John 4:19-20

Key Verse: Matthew 5:16 (KJV) "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Essential Question(s): How can I imitate God's helpfulness in my daily walk?

Lesson Aim(s)

At the end of the lesson, the participants will understand:

1. We must follow Jesus Christ example by showing compassion and kindness to all people.
2. We must live so others want to know about the Good News of God.
3. We should share our God-given blessings with those in need.

Introduction

We volunteer at homeless shelters or donate money and/or time to local charities. We lend a listening ear and offer words of encouragement to a family member or close friend during a tough time. All these examples are acts of kindness. Our family members or close friends are done out of second nature. What about the homeless shelter or donating to a local charity? Are you donating because you know them? Or are you given out of kindness because you are imitating sacrificing like Christ?

Exposition

How do we imitate God's helpfulness in our daily walk? Let's analyze these scriptures and determine how to imitate Christ.

Matthew 5:16 (KJV): "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Of course, it is not technically *our* light that should shine before others. It is the light of Christ, entrusted to believers as light-bearers. We do not produce the light within us. God does. And through our good works, people may glorify the One who gives that light. One of the ways to let our light shine before others is to show compassion to others. Jesus expressed deep compassion for all people, regardless of their ethnic background, social status, gender, or personal beliefs. Another way to let our light shine before others is to practice humility. Christians are called to be humble in all things, knowing that it is only through the grace of God that we "live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Humility also means the willingness to confess our sins before God and others. In doing so, we

demonstrate our receptiveness to correction and guidance. Generosity is another means of letting our light shine before others. Christians are called to be generous with their money, time, resources, and love. Everything that we have belongs to God (Deuteronomy 10:14). So, we should share our God-given blessings with those in need and give without expecting anything in return.

1 John 3:17 (ASB): “But whoever has worldly goods and sees his brother *or sister* in need, and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God remain in him?”

To have material possessions is to own a certain amount of wealth, property, and resources. In this context, the Christian with material possession is not lacking but has enough to give to another in need. A stingy Christian is not living out the gospel. Material possessions are to be a means of honoring God and serving others. We love “in word” or “in talk” when we only offer empty phrases and well wishes. We may say to someone in need, “I will pray for you,” when what he needs to hear is, “How can I help you?” Real love involves taking steps to meet the needs of others. Christian love demands more than words—it calls for action. Loving indeed and in truth will often cost us something and may even hurt us. God didn’t just say that He loves us; He demonstrated it by sending Jesus to live a life of service and die as a sacrifice for our salvation. Following Jesus means pursuing a life of self-sacrifice and servanthood.

1 John 4:19-20 (NIV): “We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.”

John reminds us that our love should be a sincere love—like the love the Father has for us. We should not love with words only, but with sincerity in our deeds. God’s love is perfected in us, in that we have confidence in the day of judgment. His love has kept us; by His grace through faith in Jesus Christ from condemnation. That kind of life-saving love is what Jesus has showed us and is what we are expected to show each other. John goes further, reminding his readers of Jesus’ commandment that we love our brother. If we aren’t loving our brother, we aren’t loving God.

The Lesson Applied

The ultimate purpose of letting our light shine before others is not to draw attention to ourselves or to promote our own interests; rather, it is about living in such a way that others will glorify our God in heaven. Of course, this is not an easy task. It can be difficult to maintain a spirit of compassion, humility, generosity, and forgiveness in a world that is often characterized by hatred, anger, and division.

Perhaps the best way to let our light shine before others is to share the gospel, the “Good News,” with others. The good news is that God redeems sinners through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. If we believe in the person and work of Christ, who He is and what He did, then we are saved from eternal condemnation. We should not keep this message to ourselves; good news is meant to be shared, and we should make it visible for everyone to see.

References

The lessons are based on the Grant Hill Missionary Baptist Church Sunday School Ministry writers understanding of the topics being discussed, and sited references listed, and given credit as written.



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Source: Christian Author & bible teacher, Kay Arthur thebiblesays.com ;
New International Version (NIV); New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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