

APPLICATION

- Truly some of God's greatest gifts are the people He has placed in our lives to pour into us. They have helped to make us who and what we are today.
- We need to honor them for their sacrifices and gifts given to us. Praise God for them. Thank them too!
- We need to see and honor the gift that each person is to another. Each person is a gift to pour something into the life of another.
- Your life is the same. You are a gift to another person.
- Look for the people around you that God has put you in their life to pour into them.
- What can you give into their life? How about:
 1. Acceptance
 2. Encouragement
 3. Hope
 4. Wisdom
 5. Help
 6. Time
 7. Gifts
 8. And maybe even monetary help.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to recognize and honor the people who have poured into our lives. Truly they are gifts to us. Help us to recognize the people that you would have us be a gift in their lives and to know what to pour into them. In Your Name. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. Yet there are many setbacks, heartaches and road blocks along the way. Trying to overcome the issues we face in life by ourselves just does not work. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to freedom. Everyone is invited on this freedom journey. Join in!



Gifts From Jesus

NOTES

WARM-UP

- It absolutely melts my heart when one of my children looks at me and tells me that I am the best dad in the world.
- If you had to choose one person who has been the biggest blessing to you in your life who would it be? Why?

WORD

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.
Ephesians 4:11 & 12

A famous country song says that one of God's greatest gifts is unanswered prayer. I suppose this could be true, but what I know definitely is true is that some of God's greatest gifts to each of us are the people that He puts in our lives.

Often when we think of gifts we think of items given to us or talents that we have. Sometimes these can even be valuable and precious gifts like diamond rings, cars, computers or land. Or they can be talents that allow us to work and obtain good jobs, a home, a car, clothes, food and the necessities of life. All of these are wonderful and good gifts and we should be thankful for them.

Most of these gifts would never have been given to us, made possible or developed in our lives if it were not for the other people in our lives! It is the people in our lives that unlock the potential within us and make our future possible. They are the ones who teach us, train us, protect us, bless us, promote us and give us gifts. Truly we would not be who we are, where we are or what we are without all the people who have poured into our lives. So often we can see and celebrate the gift and overlook the value of the giver of the gift. Which is greater, the gift or the one who gives it? It's time we celebrate the givers around us!

1 - Jesus Gives

So Christ Himself gave ... Ephesians 4:11a

The one who gives a gift has to be in a position to be able to give the gift and so bless another person. Jesus was in a position to give gifts and bless all of us. In fact, giving gifts to us may be the primary reason Jesus came. For those of you who have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord, Savior and King what are some of the gifts or blessings that He has given you?

2 - The First Gifts He Gave

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, Ephesians 4:11

There are many gifts that Jesus gave to people while He was here on earth. He gave care, healing, life, His time, His tears, and many more gifts. In His death He gave salvation to all who would believe and receive it. He gave the forgiveness of sins, healing, provisions and victory over the grave. He did not stop there though. He gave even more gifts once He ascended back into heaven. A key gift He gave us was each other! That's right. Some of the first gifts He gave were others to teach us, lead us, comfort us, train us, equip us and be with us. What does it say to you that some of the first gifts Jesus gave to us upon His departure was others to pour into our lives? Who are some of the ones who have poured into your lives?

3 - Gifts Given to Build Up

¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11 & 12

The gifts of other people who pour into our lives truly are some of the greatest gifts God has given to us. They have helped to build us up and make us who we are today. We need to see each person as a gift that was given into someone's life to help build them up.

This also means that you were given as a gift into someone's life to build them up. You don't have to be an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher to pour into another life. You simply need to share what you have with them as a gift. Who are some people that God is calling you to be a gift to and pour into their life?