

APPLICATION

- Truly each of us are blessed. Often our focus quickly and easily goes to what we may be lacking or do not have. This is what creates the sense of need or want within us.
- It is also true that none of us has it all. We all still have some unmet needs and other things in our lives that we really want.
- In Genesis 12, God promised to bless Abram, who would later be called Abraham, and make him great so that Abram could be a blessing to others.
- In saying this to Abram, God gave us a key to wise, successful living. Focusing on the blessings we have and then being a blessing others with the blessings we have is the key to greatness. This is what Peter did.
- The reality is we will all always have some unmet needs and wants in our lives. We need to try and take care of these so that they do not negatively affect us.
- Continually focusing on what we want or need is a bottomless pit however. There is always something.
- Seeing what we have and sharing it with others helps us realize we are blessed and makes us a blessing too!

Prayer

Jesus, help us to see the blessings You have put in our lives. Help us to see that relationships are key to living a blessed life. Help us to see the ways that we can be a blessing to others. 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. We all want to find effective ways of living and be successful. Trying to overcome the challenges 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 effective living. Everyone is invited on this freedom journey. Join in!



Relationships. The Key To Blessing.

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Can you share a time when you really wanted something and someone ended up giving it to you as a gift?
- What was it?
- Who gave it to you?
- How did you feel about them when they gave it to you?
- What is your favorite part of that experience?
- Have you ever given a gift to someone and it meant a tremendous amount to them?

I remember as a kid that I wanted a bunch of different toys for Christmas. One year Stompers were the toys I wanted most. Stompers were little, battery powered, 4 wheel drive toy trucks. Stompers made all kinds of accessories too. The main accessory I wanted was the competition weight pulling sled so that my friends and I could compete against each other to see who's Stomper toy truck was the best. Whoever's toy truck would pull the most weight the furthest won. We would make all kinds of modifications to the trucks to get them to pull the sled farther. We would change tires and add varying amounts of weights to different parts of the trucks. The real breakthrough came when we learned that warm batteries had much more "juice" and made the trucks pull farther than cold batteries. Of course, being boys, we eventually started warming the batteries up on our mother's stoves to get them even more "juice." The heated up batteries did the best! We had tremendous fun competing until one day when the batteries started smoking and eventually melted on the stove! Competition over! It was never quite as fun after that.

Today when people ask me what I want for Christmas all of the items would be different except one. I would still want Stomper toy trucks with the competition pulling sled. That's right. I'm 45 years old and would absolutely love to have those toys again. Some might say, "Aren't you too old for toy trucks?" Yes, but I don't really want them for myself! I want to share them with my boys.
(P.S. To my wife ... I promise I will not let them get near the stove.)

1 - Relationship vs. Material Things

This year when I was asked what I want for Christmas I started sounding like my parents used to sound to me when I was a kid. My parents, and all the other older people in my life, would say, "I just want to spend time with family and friends. That is all I really want." That always sounded so "lame" to me as a kid, but now I find myself saying the same thing. It is said that with age comes wisdom. So hopefully I am getting more wise. Why is it wise to want relationships with other people more than material things?

2 - We All Have Wants and Needs

We all want material things, sometimes even a lot of them. We all have needs too. Needs are those things that we cannot live without, or at the very least are very hard to live without. Wants are very different than needs. In America we are very blessed. Most all of our basic physical needs are always met. What more often goes unmet are the needs that are not so obvious. Many time the mental, emotional and spiritual needs are those that go unmet. What are some of these less obvious needs that we all have?

3 - Relationships are the Key.

Notice that the answer to almost all of the less obvious needs we have in our lives come from other people. It is others that make you feel loved, wanted, needed, valued, and more. Just as others are the ones that will help us have these needs met, you are the one who will help meet these needs in others. Do you often see yourself as the key to truly helping others or do you more often feel that your are not truly able to help or have nothing significant to offer?

WORD

The Bible records an account for us where the Apostle Peter was asked for money from a crippled beggar. Acts 3:6 says, "Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.'" Just like us, Peter did not feel he had exactly what the beggar was asking for. Peter did not disqualify himself from helping though. Instead he gave him what he had received from Jesus. This is such a good lesson for each of us. We each have been given blessings, gifts, talents, abilities, love, compassion, and more that we can easily share.