**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 3 of 4

# Giving

### MEETING AIM

To discover how we should give, and ways we can do it.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 6:1-4

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

This passage is the part of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus talks about giving in secret. This session looks to take this simple but important passage, understand why it is important and also to have fun while putting it into practice!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Welcome everyone the group and share out your refreshments. Catch up on how the young people’s weeks have been.

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** playing cards

Before the session, take out one king, one queen, two numbered hearts and all the numbered clubs. You should have one card per young person (if you need more cards, use the numbered spades).

Shuffle and deal out cards to everyone in the group, explaining what they mean: the king is the detective, the queen is the doctor, the two numbered hearts are the mafia, the numbered clubs (and spades if using) are villagers. Everyone should keep their card secret.

Narrate a story with these details, embellishing them according to your own style. It’s night and everyone should close their eyes. Ask the mafia to wake up and together (silently) choose a victim. Once they’ve agreed, the mafia go back to sleep. Ask the detective to wake up. They have to guess someone who might be one of the mafia by pointing at them. Confirm if they are right, then ask them to go back to sleep. Finally, ask the doctor to wake up. The doctor now has to choose who they might save from the mafia. If they pick the person that the mafia has chosen to kill off, then that person survives. The doctor can choose to save themselves. Then ask them to go to sleep.

Invite everyone to wake up. Explain to them what happened in the night, who was killed off by the mafia or saved by the doctor. Then the group needs to start a discussion about who might be the mafia. If someone strongly accused someone, and they are seconded by someone else in the group, the accused has to make a defence. After this the group can vote for whether they think they are guilty or not guilty. If they are voted to be guilty, they are eliminated, even if they are innocent.

You then repeat the night-day cycle until either the mafia have killed everyone else off, or if the mafia are caught before everyone is killed off!

Play the game for as many cycles as you think you might have time for. If you are worried about not having enough time at the end, you could always suggest that you play a game if you’ve got through everything else.

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** Bibles

Ask the group to read it quietly in their heads (if anyone needs help, make sure they have a leader or buddy to read out the passage to them). Ask everyone to read it through more than once, taking time to let the message sink in and different things stand out.

Afterwards, ask them about how they find reading the Bible in their heads (or listening to it). And what did they think of the passage? Is it one they know? Ask them to share what they think are the key points that Jesus is making in the passage.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Following on from ‘Bible exploration’, discuss these questions:

* Why do you think Jesus is saying that we should give in secret?
* What do you think he means about being rewarded by the Father?
* What’s the difference between giving publicly, and giving secretly?
* How do you think giving changes us?
* How generous do you think we should be?
* Who are the needy in today’s world?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** pens; paper

Split the group into pairs and ask them to come up with some ways that you can plan to give to needy people in quiet ways. Ask them to think about the people in their community who have needs and to discuss things that you might be able to give them. Ask them to make specific plans with each other, as a pair, and come up with ways that they might do that. Encourage them to think about giving in more ways than just money. You can give time, or do helpful things for people, or make things, as well as donate money or give material gifts.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** chocolate bars; luggage labels; pens; sticky tape

Ask everyone to take a chocolate bar to give someone. Explain that you are doing some guerrilla giving! Get them to think of someone who they would like to encourage and pray for this week. Get them to write an anonymous message to that person on a luggage label and tape it to the chocolate. Get them to think about who that person is and if it’s appropriate to tell them that you’re praying for them. If you’re meeting at the same time as a church service, you could challenge everyone to think of someone in the service.

Once they’ve written their messages, they need to take their chocolate bar away, and stealthily give it to that person: putting it in their pocket, in their bag or on their stuff, on their car windscreen or through their letterbox. You could ask someone else to give it to that person on your behalf to keep it stealthy!

Ask the group to commit to praying for that person for the week, and end the time by praying for them together:

“Jesus, you told us to be people that give, not for show to others, but to be like you. We pray for ourselves, that you would help us to be more giving, and for these people that we’re giving chocolate bars to, that you would be with them. Amen.”

**BECCA DEAN**

is tutor in youth ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge.