**Thanksgivin’: Week 3 Givin’ It All**

Now that we’ve cover what it means to be thankful. I’m exicted to hop in to what is means to be a givin’ person. We are going to say a givin’ person is also known as a generous person. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear that someone is a generous person? You probably think of someone with a lot of money who gives a lot of their money away, which is a great example of being generous. BUT I hope today we can learn together that being generous has to do with so much more than money. The most generous Person gave His life for us so that should shape the way we view what it means to give.

**THP: We give because He first gave to us.**

Do you guys know somebody who has given you so much that it just seems impossible to pay them back? Someone where it feels like no amount of money, thank you’s, or hugs could express your gratitude for all that someone has given you.

**Leaders note: Tell a story of someone who has given of their time, love, and effort to invest in your life.**

I hope the person you are thinking of is a reminder of what it means to be on the receiving end of a generous heart. It is awesome to realize that someone loved you enough to set aside time, love, effort, and money etc. to show their love and appreciation for you. The many people who have invested in my life encourage me to be that same influence to you guys.

Now, let’s take this one step further to understand someone who gave His life for each and every person in this room. I know some very generous people but I can promise you that they don’t have the ability to give the love, time, and effort to every single student in this room.

In John 3:16-17 we learn this, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son in to the world to condemn the world, but in order that world might be saved through him.”

So God gave Jesus to us not because we deserved it or earned but just because that’s who He is. He gave us the chance to be saved from our sins. The chance to spend eternity with Him and enjoy Him forever all because of Jesus. As we understand and mature in understanding the gift of Jesus, we will then see why it’s important that we give to others. The bible doesn’t say Jesus gave money to save us from our sins. The Bible says in Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Did you catch that?! He gave his life. Jesus’s life is so much more than any amount of money you could ever dream of. His life was sinless. His life was focused on others. His life was lived so we could have an example to follow in this life. His life was a gift that will keep on giving until He returns one day.

**Gospel Presentation:**

**I want every head bowed and every eye closed. I’m going to close us in prayer and if you are ready to take the first step in becoming a Christian today…then I want you to repeat this prayer after me (to God) silently to yourself. *Dear Jesus, thank you for saving me. I know that I have done things that are wrong in my life. I can’t live this life on my own. I need You. Please forgive me of my sins. I commit to follow You for the rest of my life. Thank you for loving me no matter what. I place my faith and trust in You and You alone. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.***

I think Jesus sets the greatest example on what it means to be generous. You can see in his life how he was constantly pouring out his life for the sake of other people. Jesus had twelve disciples that followed him during his time on earth. Jesus was constantly pouring wisdom, knowledge, and correction into their hearts. The disciples would ask Jesus questions and learn from him. He taught them how to love, how to be fearless, how to love those not like them. Jesus taught them how to walk on this earth in a way that will bring Him glory.

Because Jesus gave His life for us we can now be freed to give to others. He teaches us that giving is more than money. Giving our time, talents, and effort was His mission while He was on earth. He was giving his life to show people who God is. For those of you who gave your life to Christ today, you can now start giving your life in love for others. People will see Jesus in you.

**How can you give your life away like Jesus did? Maybe for you that looks like inviting a kid in the neighborhood to play when he doesn’t have many friends. Maybe, it means you should encourage a teammate who doesn’t get as much credit as the rest of the team. Maybe it means your siblings your attention so they are reminded that they have a brother/sister that loves them. Maybe it does mean you give your money to someone in need. Whatever it may be in your life, remember that God gave us salvation in Jesus long before we ever knew we needed it.**

**The way you give your time, love, and attention could be the very thing that helps someone understand that God loves them and gave His Son to save them. When we give away our lives it helps the world see God’s love with arms and legs.**