



STUDY GUIDE

September 25, 2022

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

Give and Take
Dedication
Bryan Pope

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10-15 min)

What was your very first job? What line of work are you in currently?

Pray:

Dear Lord, while we're here together studying Your Word we ask that You'd help us to be open to whatever it is that You desire to teach us. Help us to see things through Your eyes and not the lens of our own understanding. We've learned that You want a legacy for us and that You have offered us an eternal home in heaven, but now we need to internalize what it means that You want some things from us too. Shape our minds, hearts, and actions according to Your word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

- If you feel comfortable doing so - share a time when you prayed and God answered as you wanted. In contrast - tell about a time when God didn't answer the way you wanted. How did you feel in each instance? How did it affect your relationship with God?

"Giving over every part of our lives to God, our time, our resources, our devotion to him above everything else, that is our true and proper worship." -Pastor Bryan Pope

Deuteronomy 8:10-19.

- What reaction did you have to these verses? What is going on in your life that could cause you to forget God?

Read Romans 12:1-2.

- In the Old Testament, people would come to the temple and make a sacrifice to God by killing an animal and putting it on the altar before God. In the New Testament, **Romans 12:1** says to offer your body as a "living sacrifice" holy and pleasing to the Lord. What does it mean to be a "living sacrifice?" How does v. 2 expand on how you live that out?

Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 8:25 min./20 min. discussion)

"Absolute dedication to God means he gets to call the shots in every aspect of your life including whatever wealth and resources you have. But he does not demand it. It is up to you, it is up to all of us to make the decision to turn this important piece of our life over to him." -Pastor Bryan Pope

- One of the things we all have, is the same amount of time every day. Consider how much time you spend doing things for others, how much doing for yourself, and how much you spend with God. Is time a hard thing for you to give to God?

Read 1 Samuel 1:24–28 OR if time allows, read the whole chapter

- God answers Hannah's prayer and gives her a son. God notices her dedication to Him. Would your view of God change if God had not given her a son? (Did anything else stand out to you, if you read the whole chapter?)

Reflect and Commit: (15 min.)

"God has trusted you with the resources he has given you. And when we take a position that it already belongs to him anyway it opens our hearts to find ways to serve him and his purpose for our lives with them." -Pastor Bryan Pope

Read Acts 17:24-28.

- What does it mean in v. 28 when it says, "for in Him we live and move and have our being?" If we truly believe this, how should it shape how we live?
- Take 1-2 minutes to reflect on the following question: What is a way you want to dedicate more of your time, resources, and/or devotion to God starting this week? Share with your group if time allows.

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5- 10 min.)

What does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear (live in holy reverence) the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 10:12

Pray:

Dear Lord, we praise You for being a God who desires a personal relationship with us. Just like with all of our relationships, we know it is a "give and take" experience with You as well. Help us to grasp the fullness of life through our encounters with You. And with each one, help us to step more fully into absolute dedication to You, loving and serving you with all our heart and soul. In doing so, our lives become living sacrifices and all that we do is for Your glory. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.