

**Giving to the Community**  
**Deuteronomy 15:4 – 11; Matthew 25:42 - 45**  
**Devotional Reading: Exodus 20:12 - 17**  
**Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:1-11;**  
**Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-37; James 1:27; 2:14-17**

**LESSON AIMS:** the students will:

- **List** the categories of generosity from Deuteronomy 15:4 – 11 and Matthew 25:42 – 45
- **Explain** why believers should demonstrate generosity without exception
- **Implement a plan** to grow in a personal capacity to express generosity

**INTRODUCTION:** As Israel stood on the edge of the Promised Land, Moses reminded them of their past failures that must not be repeated. Moses emphasized God’s concern for the vulnerable and insisted that compassion be central to their national identity in Canaan. The Book of Deuteronomy teaches that God’s laws were given for the people’s benefit - - to guide their hearts and behavior in covenant faithfulness.

**KEY VERSE:** *<sup>11</sup> For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. Deuteronomy 15:11*

**LESSON OUTLINE:**

Giving to Neighbors

Deuteronomy 15:4 – 11

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Giving to the Lord

Matthew 25:42 – 45

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**SUMMARY:** In the Book of Matthew, Jesus reminds us that God expects that we will use the resources He has given us - - time, talents, resources - - not for selfish gain. He has given us these gifts to serve others and in doing so, advance His kingdom. It is sad that often Christians limit acts of generosity to monetary gifts. As followers of Christ, we must consider giving in terms of more than money. We have talents, our very presence, to help and serve others.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. *Have you ever experienced a “hardening” of your heart toward a poor or needy person? Did it cause you to “shut your hand”? Explain*
2. *Have you ever encountered Jesus through an interaction with someone?*
3. *How is it possible that the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and imprisoned represent Jesus?*

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<i><b>DAY / DATE</b></i>	<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	
<i>Mon., Mar. 9<sup>th</sup></i>	God Will Defend the Needy	Psalm 12
<i>Tue., Mar. 10<sup>th</sup></i>	Do Not Be Afraid to Give	Luke 12:13 – 21, 33 – 34
<i>Wed., Mar. 11<sup>th</sup></i>	Treat the Neighbor with Justice	Leviticus 19:11 – 18
<i>Thur., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup></i>	The Royal Law of Love	James 2:8 – 13
<i>Fri., Mar. 13<sup>th</sup></i>	Everyone is Our Neighbor	Luke 10:25 – 37
<i>Sat., Mar. 14<sup>th</sup></i>	Compassion for Those in Need	Deuteronomy 15:4 – 11
<i>Sun., Mar. 15<sup>th</sup></i>	Seeing Christ in Those Around Us	Matthew 25:41 - 45