

Mystic



✓ Prepare in Advance

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Provide enough blindfolds for half the number in your group

✓ Giving and Receiving are Both Gifts

Begin by reading today's text, Matthew 10:40-42, then view the *Bible Background Video*.

Lead the following activity (provide enough blindfolds for half the number in your group):

1. Divide the group into pairs where partners will take turns experiencing the roles of Giver and Receiver. Explain that **NO TALKING** is allowed
2. Blindfold one person (the Receiver) in each pair. This person will be the Receiver
3. Instruct the second person (the Giver) in each pair to lead his/her partner around the meeting place. Vary the "route" by going around furniture, up/down stairs, etc. (this activity can be expanded by adding elements like feeding the Receiver a simple snack, helping the Receiver to do a simple task like folding a dish towel).
4. Switch roles and repeat the exercise.

✓ Discussion

Use the following questions to debrief the activity:

- What was the experience like for you as the Giver? As the Receiver? Which role was more comfortable for you and why?
- What was difficult about the activity?
- What was easy about the activity?
- How is this exercise similar to extending hospitality as a church?
- What are the blessings of giving to others who come our way?
- What are the blessings of receiving from others who come our way?
- We are used to the sayings, "Never be beholden to anyone" and "I put him in my back pocket." Do you live by the principle of reciprocity, or generosity with no strings attached? Why?

Consider the idea that giving and receiving are both gifts. Share experiences in your life where you have known this to be true.

- What does God give us?
- What do we give to God?

✓ Silent Reflection

Explain: To welcome someone is to give and receive gifts. Then lead the group in a time of silent reflection, using prompts such as these (leaving a time of silence after each prompt):

- What is it like for you to be welcoming to God and others?
- Do you sense any invitation from God to grow in your willingness and ability to be welcoming to others? Is there any particular person or group that comes to mind?
- What is your response to God?
- What does God seem to say to you?

Close with a prayer.

by Joy Yee

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