



Dgroup Discussion Guide for November 5, 2017 Radical L.O.V.E. : Volunteer Radically

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

If we are to be radical Christians as God called us to be, then we ought to follow the Lord Jesus Christ Who “came not to be served, but to serve.” Obedience to God’s will and volunteered service go hand-in-hand and are an expression of our love for God. To love radically, we must also volunteer radically.

What Does God Want Us To Volunteer?

While there are many ways and things to volunteer, there are three primary possessions (or should we say stewardships) that God graciously gave us: our **treasure, talent, and time**. Although we won’t find a verbatim enumeration of these three, we can find the principles behind them scattered throughout Scripture—especially when it comes to giving.

Volunteer Your Treasure

Does God really care about our giving? Indeed He does. In fact, mention of “giving” or like terms in the Bible occurs more than 2,000 times! The Lord Jesus exhorts us in Acts 20:35: **“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”** Likewise He commands us in Luke 6:38: **“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”**

When giving is mentioned in the Bible, the context is usually in the context of money, because what we treasure and how we give or withhold reveals the true condition of our hearts. The Lord Jesus gave His life for us—who are we not to give so generously? If the Lord Jesus owns everything—who are we to withhold our treasure, which is His stewardship to us?

What we give, that is, the amount or monetary value of our gift, is not so much important to the Lord as how we give. Do we give with the right motives or because we expect the Lord to return the favor? Do we give cheerfully or grudgingly? Do we offer our treasure madly to avoid God’s wrath or joyfully out of humility and respect for God? God loves cheerful givers.

So how do we give? . . .

G- generously (not stingily)

I - individually (out of our own personal pocket and desire)

V - voluntarily (not forced)

E – expectantly

All the time trusting that **“...God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”** (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Volunteer Your Talent

Some of us might think: “Well I think I’m exempted from this because I don’t have a talent!” The idea of talent is better defined as a spiritual gift, which is given to believers by the Holy Spirit for ministry within the church. The Bible clearly states that every believer has been given at least one gift to be employed for the common good of the church (1 Peter 4:7).

Gifts differ from the common understanding of talents or abilities, so how do we know the difference? When we employ our gifts, the effect should always be twofold: *God is glorified and the church is sanctified* (blessed, encouraged, exhorted, helped, convicted). All volunteer activity should have these outcomes, otherwise they are no different from mere good works that even non-believers can do.

Volunteer Your Time

Time is a gift that we are jealous of because by nature it is limited, standard, and unpredictable. Every one has the same number of hours in a day and no one knows how much time he or she has left. Thus the Bible exhorts us to do good to all while we have the opportunity (Galatians 6:10). This verse implies that there will come a time when we wouldn't have any opportunity to do good—that is, when we die.

Opportunities always knock, we just have to open the doors. Is there someone at our school or workplace who needs to hear the Gospel? We should share while we have opportunity. A relative who is in dire need of financial support? We should give while we have opportunity. Opportunities are not a question of when, but while; they don't last long, so we should seize them as they come.

Giving Starts With The Giver

After hearing this we may be inclined to get our planners and see how we spend our time, or our calculators to assess how much money we can give. These are well and good, but may we evaluate our hearts before we volunteer.

Ultimately, a generous heart is a trusting heart: a soul that trusts that the Giver of the seed and the skill will provide for all his needs in Christ Jesus. A generous heart says: "Lord, I love you so much that I want to give as You have given to me!"

Giving becomes an overflow of the heart, not forced entry. Before we volunteer our treasure, talent, and time, let us humble ourselves before the Lord to give us a trusting heart and the right motives.

May we give generously, individually, voluntarily, and expectantly. As we volunteer radically, we will soon realize that we cannot out-volunteer and outgive God—our radical Giver and Volunteer!

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. What is the condition of your heart when you volunteer?
2. How are you in the area of giving your time, talent and treasure to your family and dgroup? Do you prioritize them over your self?
3. How can you show humility in these 3 areas in your life and the lives of your family an dgroup members?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.