



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

**A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Giving to God Series, Lesson 29**

Lesson Title: Give Gifts That Fit the Person

Take Home Point: Give gifts that fit the person.

Warm-Up:

Imagine a young man who has expressed his love to a young woman. He tells her she is his special friend and that he really enjoys being with her, talking to her and listening to what she has to say. But like many young people, he is very busy with activities that he wants to do. Many of these activities are good and beneficial, such as exercising to maintain good health, going to church, performing acts of service, and keeping in touch with family and friends. He really wants to spend time with his special friend but seems to have a hard time squeezing time into his schedule. How do you think she feels about that? How serious do you think he is about his pledge of love and desire to know all about her? How is she going to know that he loves her if he never gives anything to her, such as time or other special gifts?

Read: 1 John 3:16-18, 4:7-13

Observation (What happened?):

What are we to feel when we observe others in need?

How did God show his love to us?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that we are to lay down our lives for others?

What does it mean that God lives in us?

Insight:

When I think about what John wrote, I realize how easily my sinful self gets in the way of extending God's love to the world, whether in words or tongue or action or truth. I have material possessions; I see people in need. Do I have pity? Do I act? I speak lots of words each day. Are they words of love? God's love? When I do speak, how well do I know, remember, and speak God's truth to the people around me who seek truth? Do I judge before I choose to have pity and act? How generous, how sacrificial, is my giving? When I choose to act, do I respond only out of emotion or do I consider what would be the best gift to give? The fact is that human love is so imperfect no matter how hard I try to have the best of motives, and my idea of love can get in the way. That is why I need to pray for discernment and wisdom in demonstrating God's love. I need to read and memorize his word so I am ready to speak the truth when that is the best gift to give. I need to remember that anything I have is first a gift from God, given to me to bring honor to him. I have a lot to work on!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of one time you showed love to someone this past week. Thank Jesus for the opportunity.

Think of one person you know who may be feeling unloved. Find a way to show God's love in action to them this week.

Kingdom Quest year 2

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