



## Be-4-Giving

**Focus** Giving is about relationships and resources. Jesus commands us to live with giving hearts—not just in our finances but also in our relationships.

**Open** What made you decide to live where you do?

**Read** Giving is the key to relationships and resources. Like a door key—if one part of the key is missing, the key doesn't work.

Many people give financially, but are not giving towards others in their hearts and attitudes. Read Luke 6:37–38. Jesus gives us four commands related to our relationships with others that we are to follow if we want to experience the full blessing of God.

- Talk**
1. In Luke 6:37–38, what four instructions does Jesus give, and what promises are associated with following His instructions?
  2. To “judge” means *“to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong, or pass judgment on the deeds or words of another.”* To “condemn” means not just to pass judgment on others, but *“to sentence them to punishment.”*
    - a. What warnings are given in Romans 2:1 and James 5:9 about judging others?
    - b. What are some things we may do or say (even in passing) that reveal a judgmental or condemning attitude towards others?

3. To “forgive” means “*to release.*” What does Matthew 6:14–15 say about the importance of forgiveness? Why does God take such a firm position on the requirement to forgive? What is He willing to do for those who DO choose to forgive?
4. How does passing judgment, condemning others and refusing to forgive others impact our receiving of resources from God, even if we are giving financially? What do these things reveal about the state of our hearts?

### Live

1. Have you caught yourself harboring unforgiveness, judgment or condemnation in your heart at some point? What impact did it have on your relationship with others? With God?
2. Are you currently holding on to unforgiveness, judgment or condemnation towards someone? On a piece of paper or in a notebook, write down the name(s) that come to mind.

### Pray

Quietly confess to the Lord any unforgiveness, judgment or condemnation you have been harboring in your heart towards another person. Repent for your pridefulness in thinking that you deserve to be forgiven by God for the wrong things you’ve done, but that person does not deserve your forgiveness. Ask the Lord to cleanse your heart of any bitterness and to allow His blessing to be restored in your life and your relationships.