



IGNITE
FAITH | FAMILY | FUTURE

Small Group Study

Plastic Donuts
By Jeff Anderson

Session 1 - Not all Gifts are the Same

Before the lesson, read Chapters 1-2

Opening Discussion

Take a moment to share how you became part of the Trinity family.

Have you ever received a gift from a child that touched your heart? Share the experience.

Group Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Bless us with your truth and understanding. Give us the grace to see how God looks upon us.

Reflections on Reading

What struck you about the story of Jeff and his daughter?

Did the story change the way you thought of generosity? If so, how?

How can it change the way we view giving gifts to God?

Are all Gifts acceptable to God? Explain.

Read Genesis 4:3-5 - [3] *In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, [4] and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, [5] but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.*

What was it about Cain's offering that was unacceptable?

Read Hebrews 11:4 - [4] *By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.*

Why was Abel's offering better?

We love to see the delight of a loved one who we give a gift! Have you ever thought about how God looks upon our giving?

Read Malachi 1:6-10 - [6] *"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' [7] By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the LORD's table may be despised. [8] When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. [9] And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. [10] Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.*

Looking at their offerings, how did the people view their giving to God?

What would a modern day equivalent be?

Read Phil. 4:18 - *[18] I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus (ee-paf-ro-DAI-tuhs) the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*

How does the generosity of Malachi 1 compare with Phillipians 4?

Closing Discussion

We discussed how some gifts are acceptable and some are unacceptable.

How has this challenged your concept of giving to God?

What would an acceptable gift to God look like today?

What comes to mind when you think about pleasing God?

Recap