

# Study Guide for the Week of November 6, 2005

*Imagine...*

## Monday

Read **John 3:16** and **Galatians 2:20** in the New Testament. These passages speak of the gift given to us in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for us. Aaron talked about how when we truly receive the gift that God has given to us in Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection, then we are able and willing to give back. Do you see what Jesus did as a gift given to you? If not, why not? If so, how does receiving his gift of life make you want to give back? What are ways that you can give?

## Tuesday

Read **Exodus 25:1** and **Exodus 36:3-7** in the Old Testament. These passages talk about how the Hebrew people prepared to construct the tent of worship for God as they traveled in the wilderness. Notice that the offering taken for its construction was to be done as each person's heart led them. When the people began to give they gave too much! What was going on in their lives to bring about such generosity? What did Moses have to do?

## Wednesday

Read **2 Corinthians 9:6-8** in the New Testament. This is teaching us that what we invest in God's work will be returned to us. If we invest little, then we will "harvest" little. Paul was specifically talking about a collection taken up for hurting and hungry Christ-followers in Jerusalem. He wanted other Christians in other places to know that what they joyfully gave to help would bring results that were far greater than they could ever expect in the lives of the hurting and in their own lives. Have you ever experienced a time when you gave and received blessings in return? What keeps most people from being this generous?

## Thursday

Read **1 Corinthians 16:1-3** in the New Testament. Here also Paul is talking about a collection he is gathering for the destitute Christians in Jerusalem. Notice how he lays out a disciplined way of giving. What is his guidance on this? How does this apply to us today? Why is intentional, structured giving important for us in our individually spiritual lives and for God's mission in the church?

## Friday

Read **Luke 6:38** in the New Testament. Notice the imagery in this. Notice the promise that God will provide if we are willing to give what we have. Where are you in your willingness to let go and let God? On a scale of 1-10 where are you in your trust of God? Read **Romans 8:31-32**. This passage is reminding us that if God was willing to send his son Jesus to give his life for us, then God is willing to give us all things. This passage is pointing to the fact that if we can trust God to do what he did through Jesus, we can trust God to provide for us in all our needs. How much do you trust God? Does your giving reflect your level of trust?