



Redeeming Why We Give

Reframing Giving in the Context of God's Creative Mission

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Module 2: Recollecting Giving in the Old Testament

1. The Why: In the Old Testament, the people seemed to understand their reliance on God. God was Creator, and they were created.

- Creation literally existed because of God. In it's own order.
 - a. Nature
 - b. Animals
 - c. Humanity
- What set humans apart from nature (grass, flowers, tree) and the animals? Why was this important?
- Why do you think it was important for them to understand their place in creation as “created”?
- What might be the implications of that for us today?

2. The What: Giving was rooted in the reciprocal relationship with God for the mutual benefit of God and creation.

- One definition of “Reciprocity” is “the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit”. Another way to describe reciprocity is the exchange of energy and support between two people or groups.
 - What were some of the key things that God offers humanity? What do you think were the key benefits for humanity?

- What were some of the responses that humanity offered back to God? Why do you think that God appreciated them?

**3. How: A Structure was put into place for humans & God to be together in relationship
God gave the idea of a Tabernacle (a place for God to dwell on Earth) to be with humans.**

- **What story does that remind you of in the bible? Why is it important that God wanted to be with the people?**
- **The structure included leadership. Priests who would manage the day to day of the Tabernacle (eventually the Temple)**
 - **Why was leadership important then?**
 - **Why is it important now?**
- **Rituals were central to the community of Israel. Sacrificial Offerings and Feasts. Covenants kept everyone in alignment with the terms of their relationship with God.**
 - **What ritual resonated the most for you?**
 - **Why do you think rituals helped the people remember what God had done? Why is ritual important for us today?**
- **The Tithe: The Story of the Tithe is important to understand it's purpose and function in the community**
 - **Did you learn anything new?**
 - **Did anything surprise you?**
 - **How might understanding the story of the tithe impact your view on "tithing"?**