



9/13/26

Pastor Mike Berry

LESSON #1 (STUDENT NOTES)

WELCOME! Thank you for making our Equipping School part of your Sunday morning. As a reminder...

- Our 3 years to 1st Grade class and our 2nd to 5th Grade class will be moving through the **Old Testament from the Divided Kingdom through the Exile**, using the *Generations of Grace* Curriculum.
- Junior High will be traveling through the second half of the book of **Acts**.
- The High Schoolers will be covering “**Jesus’ Farewell Discourse**” (John 13-17), then “**God’s Word and Our Emotions**” (various Psalms), and finally “**Romans**.”

For those who homeschool, these classes may be used as your Bible course. Let us know if you need a course outline for your grade reports.

This year in Adult Equipping School, our theme is “**GIVEN: Receiving Everything in Christ and Giving It Away.**”

The Christian life begins not with what we give to God, but with what God has first given to us in Christ. Peter tells us that God’s “divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). Paul asks, “And what do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Cor. 4:7). And most wonderfully, God has not merely given us things; He has given us **His Son**. “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32).

That is the simple movement we want to keep coming back to throughout this year:

God gives. We receive. We give away.

The Christian life is not an attempt to earn God’s favor or pay Him back for His grace. In Christ, we are already recipients of grace, righteousness, forgiveness, the Spirit, the Word, the church, spiritual gifts, and everything necessary for life and godliness. God gives first. We receive by faith. And then our obedience, service, discipleship, hospitality, parenting, counseling, evangelism, and ministry flow out of what we have already received.

And what God gives us is not intended to stop with us. Peter writes, “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10). We receive grace so that we can extend grace. We receive truth so that we can speak truth to others. We receive comfort so that we can comfort. We are forgiven so that we can forgive. We are loved so that we can love. We receive the Gospel so that we can give the Gospel away.

So throughout this year, whatever we are studying, we want to keep asking two basic questions:

What has God given us in Christ? And how should what we have received shape what we give to others?

GOD GIVES  WE RECEIVE  WE GIVE AWAY

2 PETER 1:3 | JOHN 15:5

We begin the year with the entire church together for three Sundays as we lay the foundation for our theme:

September 13 — God Gives

September 20 — We Receive

September 27 — Giving Away What We Receive

Then, beginning **Sunday, October 4**, we will divide into **FOUR tracks**. These are very different classes, but each one approaches our theme from a different direction.

1. BODY LIFE — “We Never Graduate from Grace” (Wade Sorola, Brad Peters & others)

One of the dangers of the Christian life is thinking that grace is something we needed at the beginning but eventually graduate from as we become more mature. This track will remind us that we never move beyond our need for Christ and His grace.

We will begin with Charles Spurgeon’s **All of Grace**, reminding ourselves that salvation from beginning to end is God’s gracious gift. We do not begin with our works, our worthiness, or what we can offer to God. We begin by receiving what God freely provides for sinners in Christ.

The track will then move into Sinclair Ferguson’s **The Whole Christ**, helping us think carefully about grace, obedience, legalism, and antinomianism, and especially the wonderful truth that the Gospel gives us not merely benefits from Christ, but **Christ Himself**.

Later we will work through Dane Ortlund’s **Deeper**, considering what it means to grow in Christ without ever moving beyond our dependence upon Him. Christian maturity is not graduating from grace. It is going deeper into the grace we have already received.

2. THEOLOGY — “Given Every Spiritual Blessing” (Pastor Mike Berry)

Our Theology track will spend the year learning from some of the great pastors and theologians of church history. Rather than studying theology merely to accumulate information, we want to receive and enjoy the biblical truth God has preserved for His church and allow it to deepen our knowledge, worship, assurance, and love for Christ.

We will begin with **Luther, Calvin, Bunyan, and Goodwin**, considering some of the great truths recovered and emphasized through their ministries—the Gospel, justification, grace, assurance, and the riches believers possess in Christ.

We will then spend time with **Thomas Boston, John Owen, and Jonathan Edwards**, continuing to explore the spiritual blessings God has given us in Christ and what those truths mean for our life with God.

Later in the year we will spend additional time with **John Owen** and review some of the great themes we have encountered throughout the year.

The goal is not merely to know what these men taught. We want to become better receivers and stewards of the truth God has graciously handed down to His church.

3. BIBLE — “The Gifts of the Kingdom” (A Study of 1 Kings) (Dan Whiteker)

Our Bible track will spend the year studying **1 Kings**, a book filled with the gifts and faithfulness of God and with the sobering reality of what happens when God’s people forget the Giver.

God gives His people a king and a kingdom. He gives Solomon wisdom. He gives peace and prosperity. He gives the temple and His presence among His people. Again and again, God provides for His people and demonstrates His faithfulness to His promises.

But 1 Kings also shows us how easily the human heart can enjoy God’s gifts while drifting from God Himself. Solomon’s kingdom eventually divides, kings turn to idolatry, and God sends His prophets—including Elijah—to call His people back to Himself.

Throughout this study, we will see both the generosity and faithfulness of God and the failure of human kings, ultimately pointing us beyond Solomon and the kings of Israel to the greater King whom God would give: **Jesus Christ**.

4. COUNSELING & DISCIPLESHIP — “Giving Away What We Have Received” (Pastor Karlos Limtiaco)

Our Counseling and Discipleship track will focus very practically on what it means to take the grace and truth we have received from Christ and **give it away in our relationships with others**.

Throughout the year, Pastor Karlos will address areas such as **marriage, singleness, parenting, discipleship, relationships, and more**. The goal is not simply to accumulate biblical information about these subjects, but to learn how God’s Word and God’s grace shape the way we love, counsel, encourage, correct, disciple, and walk alongside one another.

This class gets right to the heart of our theme. God has not given us His Word, wisdom, comfort, and grace merely for ourselves. What we have received becomes something we can lovingly steward for the good of others.

Whether we are learning how to love a spouse, raise children, disciple another believer, counsel someone who is struggling, or simply be a faithful friend, we are continually drawing upon resources that God has first given to us.

As Jesus said, **“Freely you have received, freely give”** (Matthew 10:8).

LESSON 1 — GOD GIVES

What God Has Given Us in Christ

Key Text

2 Peter 1:3 — “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

Big Idea

The Christian life begins not with what we _____ to God, but with what God has already _____ to us in Christ.

1. God Has Given Us _____ Himself

Romans 8:32 — “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

God’s greatest gift is not merely help, instruction, or blessing.
God has given us His Son.

Ephesians 1:3 — God has blessed us “with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

Every other Gospel blessing comes to us in Christ.

2. God Has Given Us Everything Necessary for _____ and _____

2 Peter 1:3 — “His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...”
Peter does not say God has given us everything we want.
He says God has given us everything necessary for spiritual life and godliness.

God has given us:

- His Word
- faith
- righteousness
- grace and peace
- His promises
- new life
- the Holy Spirit
- the church
- spiritual gifts
- hope of future glory

We are not spiritually _____ in Christ.

3. *God's _____ Comes Before Our Obedience*

Read 2 Peter 1:3–5.

Verses 3-4: God has given.

Verse 5: Therefore, “giving all diligence...”

Grace does not make diligence unnecessary.

Grace gives diligence its proper _____.

Key Principle

We do not obey in order to become accepted.

We obey because in Christ we already are accepted.

For Reflection

Where am I most tempted to think that God has left me without what I need?

Do I tend to hear Christianity primarily as what God demands from me—or what God has first provided for me?

This Week

Begin each day by identifying one thing God has already given you in Christ and thanking Him for it.

Rehearse your own Christian testimony and pray about sharing it with someone.

Read back through this entire packet (don't skip pp. 1-3) so you can get a good idea of the overall theme for this year's Adult Equipping School.

SCHEDULE			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Interviews</i>
Sept 13	God Gives	Mike	Kumi
Sept 20	We Receive	Mike	Ayme
Sept 27	Giving Away What We Receive	Mike	Nobu