175. WHAT WE HAVE TO GIVE - FRIDAY - OCTOBER 30, 2026

Good morning, Grace Harbor – it's Dan. Happy Friday!

Yesterday afternoon, we ran errands around town, and it included dropping off our family's contribution of logs and canned food for the big Harvest Bonfire this weekend.

Mr. Rutherford happened to be out there, rearranging things and making sure the growing pile was staying dry from the rain under the temporary cover.

When he saw my daughter, he said, "Thanks for all your help this week!"

"You're welcome," she replied cheerily.

It took a second to register, but then I got really confused. How did my daughter help Mr. Rutherford? We haven't seen him all week.

I guess he could read the look on my face because Mr. Rutherford spoke up. "I've been out at the school all week. You see, we need quite a few sticks for the s'mores this weekend. Unlike the logs, you want s'mores sticks to be freshly cut wood that won't catch fire easily. And as much as I like to whittle, 100 or so is a lot to do in a week. So, I reached out to the school, and the principal gave me special permission to set up at one of the picnic tables during recess for the week and teach the third graders and up how to whittle safely. And of course, it's

a win–win. They learn something valuable, and we get our s'mores sticks."

"And you helped with a few?" I asked my daughter.

"A few," she said.

"A few?!" Mr. Rutherford said with a big smile. "I reckon she did a good chunk of that pile! You see, kids get excited about getting to use a pocket knife, but after one or two, they get bored and go back to playing. A small handful might help for a day. But your daughter's given up her recess this *whole* week!"

I looked at her with a big smile, and she shrugged and said, "Well, I wanted to give something that was *from* me."

I was so proud! She really wanted to make a contribution to the event, and she found something on her own! And I know it cost her something. I'm sure the whittling was fun, but she really looks forward to her time spent playing and seeing some of her friends from other classes, so giving up recess for a whole week can't have been easy.

There will be times when God asks us to be generous in big ways – ways that might stretch us. But I think generosity is also something God wants to be a part of our everyday lives. We're made in the image of God, which means we reflect what God is like, and one of God's main character traits is generosity.

God gives out of love, and God invites us to do the same. Sometimes we give out of what we have, but we can also give out of who we are. We can give our time, like my daughter did. We can give our attention, like when you have a friend who's a really good listener. We can give encouragement, offering up kind words to someone who needs a boost.

That's what John Wesley's third rule, "give all you can," looks like in practice. It's not about the size of our generosity but whether it's something we give out of love.

As we wind down this week, I wonder if you can identify any moments when you were generous. Maybe it's something that's easy to identify, like sharing a treat with a friend. Or, maybe it's something you didn't realize was generous in the moment, but looking back, you can see it now – like giving your time to help a classmate or co-worker with an assignment.

When you think of something, go ahead and share it with each other. If you need more time, feel free to pause the podcast, and I'll be right here when you get back.

[PAUSE]

Ok, let's close in prayer. If you want to, you can close your eyes and fold your hands.

Dear God, we thank you that you are a generous God. We thank you too that, because you give us so many good things, we get to be generous too! Help us keep our eyes

open for opportunities to be generous, knowing that no matter how big or small it may be, it makes a difference. Amen.

Alright, Grace Harbor! I know we’re going to have a blast at the Harvest Bonfire, and I hope you have a great Halloween weekend. Have fun, get some good candy, maybe share a piece or two, and I’ll see you on Monday.

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