

Celebrate Recovery Lesson 23: Give

As you've seen, Celebrate Recovery can help anyone through any hurt and struggle. It's not just for those with unhealthy addictions!

We often take in so much goodness that we forget to give it back. Have you ever experienced this? Maybe you have forgotten how to share your gifts with others, or perhaps you do not yet know how you can bless the lives of others. We all have gifts!

In Celebrate Recovery lesson 23, we will move on to Principle 8, which states that we will yield ourselves to God to be used to bring the Good News (the Gospel) to others – both by our examples and by our words.

This lesson will walk us to Step 12 – the spiritual experience we have, carrying it out to others, and practicing it in all of our affairs.

This step (**Step 12**) follows both the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Celebrate Recovery programs. Step 12 will sustain you as you walk the path that God has laid out for you and learn how you can help others.

Celebrate Recovery Principle 8 states: *Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.*

*Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires.
Matthew 5:10*

Step 12 says, *Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we try to carry out this message to other people and practice these principles in everything we do.*

*Brothers and sisters,
If someone is caught in a sin,
You who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.
But watch yourselves,
Or you also may be tempted.
Galatians 6:1*

If you struggle to see how you can make a difference, buckle your seatbelt!

In **Lesson 23**, we'll discover how you can be less selfish and more selfless, understand why sharing your victories is so critical, and how you can be a shining example, lighting up the pathways of those around you.

CR is referred to as a 12-step recovery program created by Pastors John Baker and Rick Warren. CR is Biblically based and also is Christ-centered.

It was made for those people who are struggling with bad habits or hang-ups.

The main difference between AA and the CR program is that the curriculum for Celebrate Recovery is **Biblically-based**. Because of this, the Celebrate Recovery 8 principles are based on the Beatitudes found in the book of Matthew out of the Bible.

Celebrate Recovery Lesson 23 is the fifth lesson in the Growing in Christ While Helping Others Participant's Guide 4.

Remember This scripture:
Freely you have received; Freely give.
Matthew 10:8

*I think that if God had to choose his favorite,
He would choose Principle 8:
Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others,
both by my example and by my words.*

*Why do I think Principle 8 is God's favorite?
Because it is putting our faith into action.
God's Word tells us in James 2:17:
Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

Here are the **main talking points mentioned in Celebrate Recovery Lesson 23 – Give.**

According to the Celebrate Recovery study guide,

We can break down the word **GIVE** into four parts.

- #1. In terms of priority, we want to put God first.**
- #2. We need to walk together with others (We are not on a solo mission).**
- #3. Our victories should be shared.**
- #4. We need to be an example to others by the way we live our lives.**

#1. In terms of priority, we want to put God first.

When you put God first, you soon realize that every single good thing in your life is a gift from God. The success of recovery does not depend on anything that is material in nature. Rather, it's built on your willingness to follow Christ's direction and grow in your faith.

Since we are unable to serve two masters, as it says in **Matthew 6:24**, we must decide if we are going to follow the Will of God or our fleshly desires, which are rooted in what the world says we need. Blessing upon blessing is found when you think of eternal thoughts over worldly ones!

Romans 8:32 NLT

***Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all,
won't He also give us everything else?***

#2. I, becomes We

We need to walk together with others (We are not on a solo mission).

The 12-step program was not meant for individuals to work through by themselves. You should not try to do it all on your own, especially when there are plenty of other people out there that need to hear your encouraging words and teach you their strategies for success!

The Bible teaches in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes that two are better than one. We can thrive in the spiritual callings we were meant to pursue when we work together. You have traits, skills, desires, passions, and thoughts that others do not. We are all created to be unique!

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it:
Love your neighbor as yourself.
Matthew 22:37-39***

#3. Our Victories should be shared.

When you work through the last principle of the Celebrate Recovery 8 Principles (Principle 8), you see the encouragement to share your victories and experiences with others. By explaining where you came from or how you began this walk, you strengthen others.

Other people who are struggling need to know what you've overcome in the event that they are in the same boat or will be experiencing a similar struggle in the future. What gave you strength? How can you show others that there is hope in the Lord?

***“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.
He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.
When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort
God has given us.”
2 Corinthians 1:3 (NLT)***

#4. We need to be an Example to others by the way we live our lives.

James 1:22 encourages us to be doers of the word, not just receivers. That means that we cannot just take information from others and educate ourselves fully. Rather, to be a help to others, we need to give back. We need to share and put ourselves out there.

**James 1:22 NLT
But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says.
Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.**

We should strive to be more than “Sunday Christians” or “Celebrate Recovery Buffs.” Instead, we need to carry out the message that Jesus is our Lord and Savior in all of our affairs. That includes activities and events that happen outside of the church. It says, ALL!

This can get rather uncomfortable if you do not like to alienate people who do not believe in God. We are called to deliver the Gospel message to others, though. The way that we live in complete obedience to God and the Celebrate Recovery program is a testimony, too!

***1 John 3:18 NLT
Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other;
let us show the truth by our actions.***

Here are the key takeaways from this lesson:

- 1. Treat others the way you wish for them to treat you.**
- 2. It's not always about you or what others think of you.**
- 3. Recognize the areas where you are blessed and thank God for them!**
- 4. Tough times are easier to get through with others.**
- 5. Find people who encourage you, listen, and hold you accountable.**
- 6. My victories revolve around my faith and where I am with God today!**
- 7. Learn and obey God's commandments to love others.**
- 8. Always be respectful, showing others you are kind, loving, and gentle nature.**
- 9. Be sure to reach out to others through acts of kindness or volunteer work.**

Give Thanks

Here are the study guide's discussion questions for Celebrate Recovery lesson 23.

Matthew 10:18 NLT

“You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me.”

- What does **Matthew 10:8** mean to you?
- In what ways has your view of giving changed because you now put God first?
- In what specific situations have you seen **Ecclesiastes 4:9** in your recovery?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NLT

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.”

- What victories have you had recently that you could share with a newcomer?
- As **James 1:22** stated, how can you be a doer of the Word – with your friends and family, in your recovery group, in your church, at your job, and in your community?

We will leave everyone with this Verse:

James 1:22 NLT

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”