

GOD – THE GREAT GIVER

**PART ONE - DO WE LOVE THE GIFTS
MORE THAN THE GIVER?**

**PART TWO - HELD IN THE HANDS OF
THE GIVER**

GOD – THE GREAT GIVER

This is another two part session.

We covered Part One via zoom last week but I have included the slides and links for any who missed it.

So if you have already done Part One you can start at slide/page 10.

I've actually gone in a slightly different direction with Part Two than I had originally planned. After listening to you share last week and praying for you this week, I wanted to encourage you in this session.

The Holy Spirit put a song and verse on my heart for you, for us all. I hope it blesses you.

You all remain in our thoughts and prayers – let us know how you are doing and how we can help.

Take care all.

Helen

THE GIFT OF GIVING...

- John Lewis 2011 “For gifts you can’t wait to give”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5RhP3H3G7w>
- John Lewis 2012 “Give a little more love this Christmas”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nrty4kt2KKA>
- John Lewis 2014 “Give someone the Christmas they have been dreaming of” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ResTqd7LN8g>
- John Lewis 2016 “Gifts that everyone will love”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REfRboocnYI>

PART ONE

DO WE LOVE THE GIFTS MORE THAN THE GIVER?

- Reflections on Revelation
- What do you know about the book of revelation?



WHAT DO WE KNOW SO FAR?

- Early church grew within the Roman Empire
- Stretched out beyond Jerusalem Judea
- Paul and the other apostles established churches all over



REFLECTIONS ON REVELATION

- Looking at the first few chapters of revelation
- The letters from Jesus to 7 early churches (any sound familiar??)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nvVVcYD-0w&vl=fr> (up to 3m44s)



REFLECTIONS ON REVELATION

- What can we **learn** from Jesus's letters?
- Lets look at his letter to the church in **Laodicea**
- Consider: How does the church in Laodicea **compare** with the church in the UK today?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaFWY2iaSZ0> (up to 12m20s)

GROUP DISCUSSION

- How does the church in Laodicea **compare** with the church in the UK today?
- What does it mean to be a **lukewarm** Christian?
- What “**crowds out**” Jesus in our lives?
- Are we too **comfortable** to give God any space?



ASK YOURSELF

- Who is God to you?
- Is he a just giver of gifts?
- How does he differ from Father Christmas?
- What if you were not so comfortable?

Look at **Habakkuk 3:17-18**

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food...

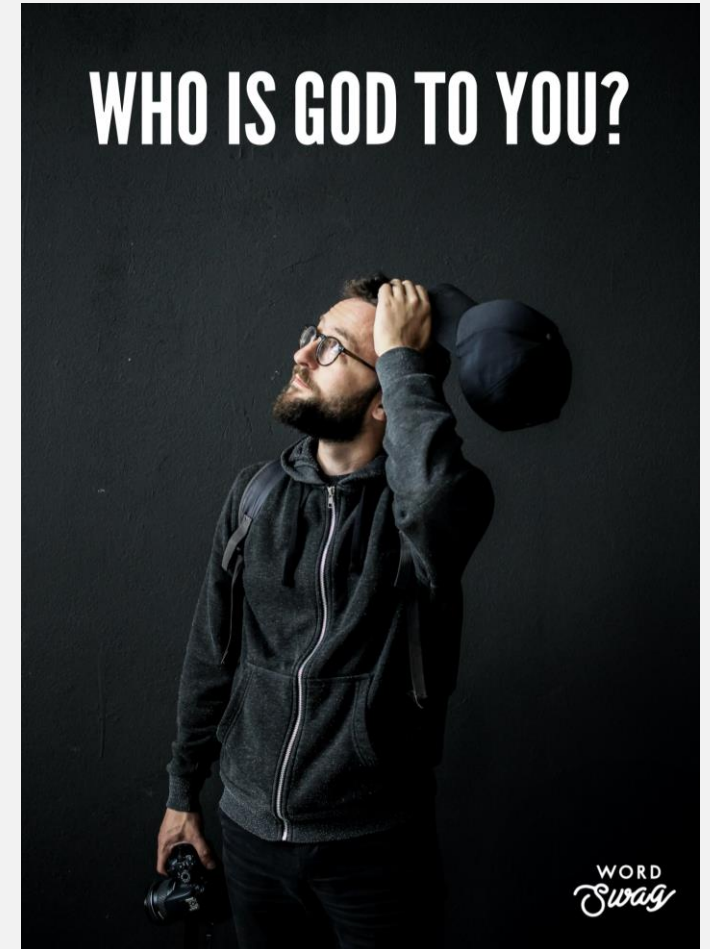
... yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.”

Is this true for you?

PART TWO

HELD IN THE HANDS OF THE GIVER

- I asked you last week
“*Who is God to you?*”
- I would like to look at **who God is** and explore what it means to be *held in the hands of God*.
- First lets read the words of a man who understood what it meant to be held in the hands of God.



PSALM 27

- **Read** Psalm 27 – its not long so let's read it all!
- Look on www.biblegateway.com – why not read it in again in a different translation?
- Who wrote this Psalm?
- What do we know about the author?
- What stories do we know about him?
(hint - I Samuel 17)



DAVID – IN THE HANDS OF GOD

- Take a look at this clip from “The Bible”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtCm-8qfIfU>

David vs Goliath
“The battle is the Lord’s”
1 Samuel 17:47

- Then go back and look at Psalm 27 again
- Are there any verses which stick out for you?
- This Psalm was written by a man who knew and loved God and understood what it meant to be in his hands.

DAVID – IN THE HANDS OF GOD

- **Look at Psalm 27 and write down what David says about God?**
For example look at verse 5 – God keeps us safe and cares for us.
- **Have a look yourself at:**
Verse 1; Verse 4; Verse 10; Verse 11
- Look hard and think about what David is saying about God, what does he mean?
- “Read between the lines” and write down what his descriptions tell us about what God is like.
- Remember you can use other translations to help you understand the meaning of the words. If you want, do the same for the rest of the Psalm.

PSALM 27 –WHO IS OUR GOD?

- Hopefully you should have written down some of these.
- Lets explore these a bit further

Light (v1)
Salvation (v1)
Beautiful(v4)
Safe Place (v5)
Father God (v10)
Teacher (v11)
Promise Keeper (v14)



PSALM 27 –WHO IS OUR GOD

Light (v1)	The light in the darkness – showing us the way even when we can't see it for ourselves.
Salvation (v1)	He saves us – Jesus saved us from sin and death. He has forgiven us.
Beautiful (v4)	He is wonderful to be with – he brings us joy, fun and laughter.
Safe Place (v5)	He comforts us – He never leaves us on our own, he is always there for us.
Father God (v10)	We are part of his family – He calls us his children.
Teacher (v11)	He shows us the right way to live – we just need to follow him.
Promise Keeper (v14)	He knows what he is doing – we just need to wait and trust him.

YOU ARE IN THE HANDS OF GOD

- Have a listen to the song “Goliath” by Lucy Grimble

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImVkF_bG0nE

- Are there any lyrics that speak to you?



YOU ARE IN THE HANDS OF GOD

- It is **because** we are in the hands of God that **we can** be brave and overcome our “Goliath”
- And being in his hands is to love and trust him for who he is.
- **To love the giver more than the gifts.**
- Do you love the giver?
- What is your “Goliath” today?



YOU ARE IN THE HANDS OF GOD

If you want to, pray this prayer with me adding your own words...

Father God, I thank you for loving me and holding me in your hands.

I declare that you are my light, my salvation and my

Thank you that with you I can overcome all things including

I choose to trust in your unfailing love and I know that you will help me to be brave.

I am a child of God. I have been chosen, accepted, forgiven and I am loved by a faithful God who will never leave me and who works all things together for my good.

..... Amen



I WILL SING AND MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

- I attended an online worship conference last week. I was really uplifted and blessed by the opening worship.
- Why not spend some time worshipping God this week.
- This is the worship set that blessed me – I hope it blesses you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuVfYDCA57c>

