

Values Bible Study: **GIVING IT AWAY**

Start with a time of prayer and worship.

Icebreaker: What is the best present you have ever given (i.e. got the best reaction) and what is the best you have ever received?

Giving it away is how we try to express our call to resource God's kingdom wider than St James.

- Why is this value important for St James?
- Why is this value important for you?

What might this idea of **Giving it away** look like practically? (Suggestions could be: generosity in our own lives, serving in new congregations at St James, offering new ideas for how we can resource churches around us).

Read and reflect on Matthew 19:16-29. Use any of the following questions to help you as a group to get to grips with what this passage means for your group today:

- What are your initial reactions to this passage?
 - Is there anything you don't understand?
 - What verse or verses jump out at you?
- What does this passage tell us about:
 - God?
 - Humanity/us?
- What do you find the hardest thing about the passage?
- 19:16-22 – Why does Jesus talk about the commandments?
 - Are they still important for us?
 - If so, why?
- 19:20-21 – Jesus talks about the man still needing to be more complete (not 'perfect').
 - Was the call to sell his possessions and give to the poor unique to the man or universal?
 - Does it matter that Jesus told him to 'come, follow me' *after* telling him to sell his possessions?
- 19:22 – Why did the man walk away?
- 19:23 – Why is it hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven?
- 19:27-29 – What effect do the promises Jesus makes here have on you?
- How can you live a generous life:
 - At church?
 - At home?
 - With friends/family/colleagues?

What could you practically do to change at work, with friends and family, and in church off the back of this passage?

What one way do you need God to help you change to be more generous?

How can you keep each other accountable for these things when you next meet?
Share prayer requests and pray to finish.