

## 慷慨给予

你们要给人，就必有给你们，并且用十足的升斗，连摇带按、上尖下流地倒在你们怀里；因为你们用什么量器量给人，也必用什么量器量给你们。（路加福音 6:38）

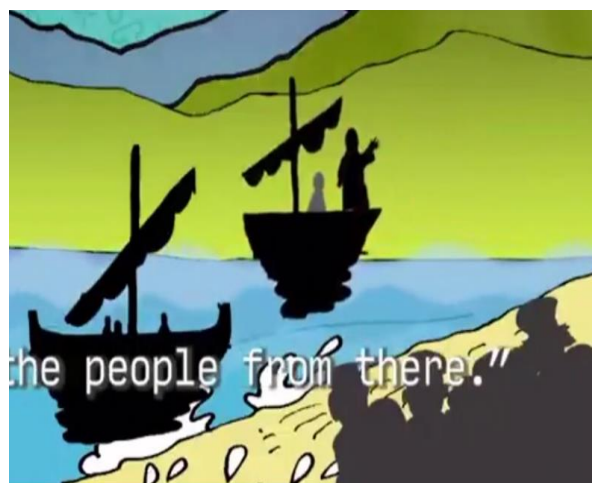
孩子们，今天，让我们从一些和手有关的英语表达开始吧。你肯定知道 green 代表什么——绿色，你也知道 thumb 代表什么——大拇指。但 “green thumb 绿色大拇指” 指的是什么呢？——它指的是擅长种植植物的人。例如，你可以说：“玛丽的花园真漂亮。她一定是 green thumb!” 那么 “butter-finger 黄油手指” 这个又表示什么意思呢？——“butter-finger 黄油手指” 的意思是指你的手指是用黄油做的吗？其实不是的，“butter-finger 黄油手指” 的意思是指一个人笨手笨脚的，手里拿的东西总会滑下来。例如，“不要把鸡蛋给哈利！他总是 butter-fingers”。



下一个是“tight-fisted 手指往里拗”——意思是小气吝啬。吝啬的人不喜欢分享。无论拥有什么，他们都紧紧抓住不放，要想从他们那里得到任何东西，就像撬开这只拳头一样困难。例如，“别问他了。他是 tight-fisted，他一分钱也不会借给你。”如果“tight-fisted 手指往里拗”是 stingy 吝啬的意思，那么“openhanded 手掌张开”又是什么意思呢？我想你猜对了！它的意思是 **generous** 慷慨大方的。不像那些吝啬的人把一切都抓得很紧，大方的人就像这双张开的手，不自私且乐于分享。Openhanded “手掌张开”的人是 generous 慷慨的。

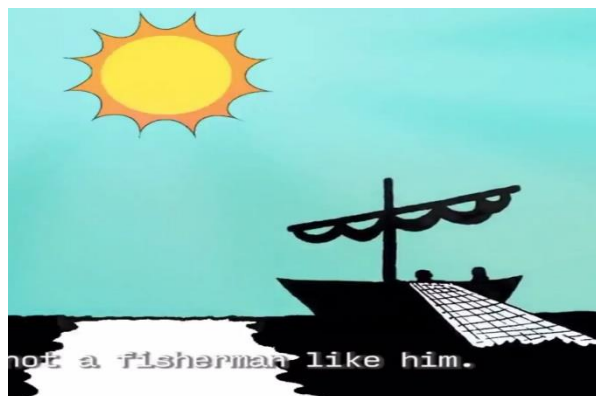


今天的圣经故事是关于慷慨给予！故事发生在加利利湖畔，那时彼得还在捕鱼。在这个时候，彼得仍叫他原来的名字“西门”，所以我们也这么称呼他。一天，西门像往常一样洗网，这时发生了一件不寻常的事——一群人来到海滩上！他们跟着耶稣。人群挤了过去，尽可能地靠近耶稣。很快，耶稣就被很多人包围了。有两只渔船在水边、耶稣就上了其中的一只。“我能借用一下你的船吗？”耶稣问在旁边洗网的西门，“把船往水里推一下，我就可以在那儿传道了。”



这个时候，当有人想向你借东西时，你可以做一个选择：你可以说“可以”，并分享你所拥有的；你也可以说“不可以”，并保留你所拥有的。那天，西门也面临这个选择。他可能会想：什么？把我的船推出去？但我刚把它拉上来了！“对不起，先生，你去试试另一条船吧。”他本可以这样回答，但他没有。那一天，西门把他所有的，分享给耶稣，让耶稣借他的船。

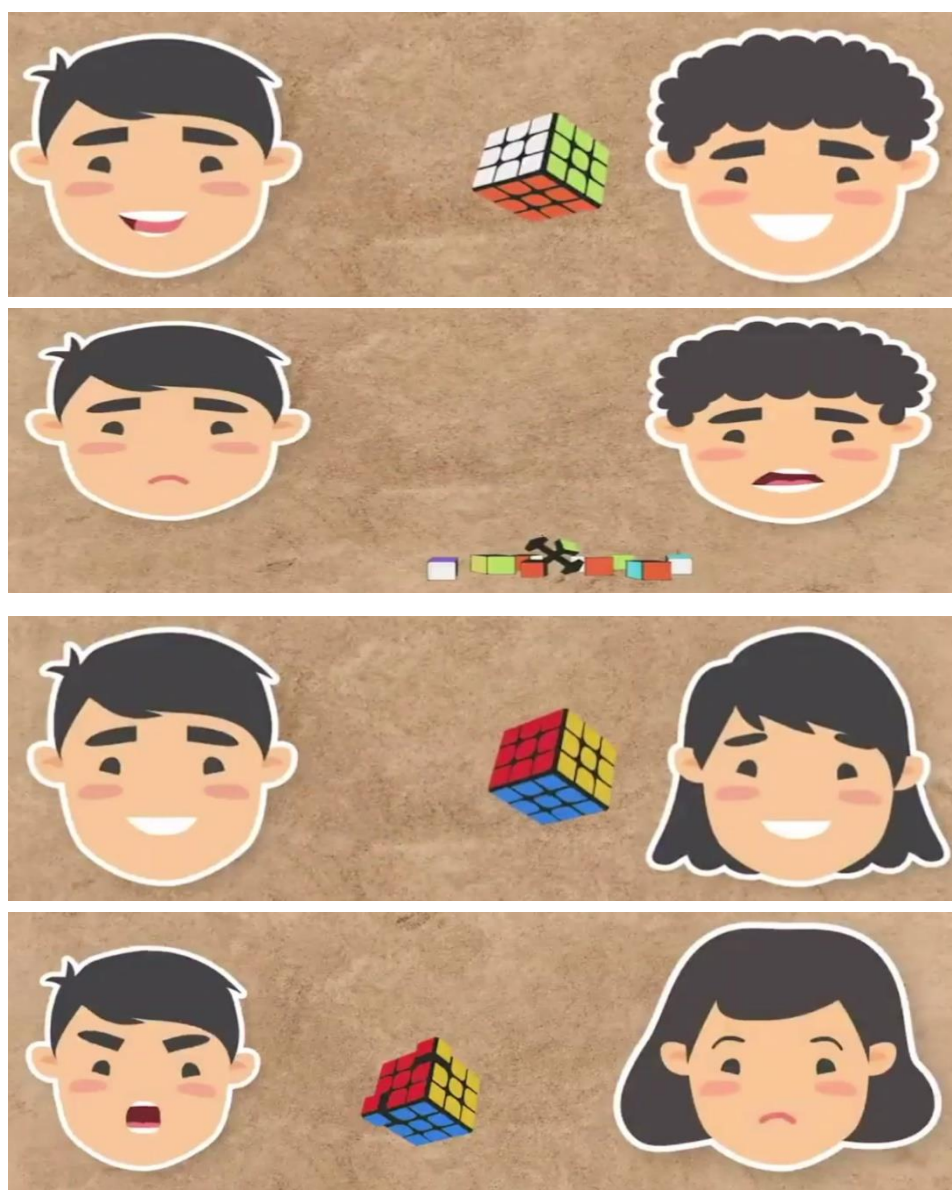
耶稣向人们讲道完毕，就对西门说：“把船划到深水那里，把你的网放进水里，你就会捕到一些鱼的。”想象一下西门听到这些话时的惊讶，作为渔夫，谁都知道什么时候是捕鱼的最佳时刻——是黑夜，上午肯定不是最佳时刻！西门还知道的另一件事是：耶稣并不是渔夫。他本可以轻而易举地说：“嗯，抱歉，我不这么认为。”他本可以的，但他没有这样说。西门反而这样回答说：“夫子，我们整夜努力打鱼，却都没有打着。但既然你这样说了，我就撒网吧。”尽管西门认为这对他说没什么意义，但是他还是按照耶稣说的去做了。他们一到水深处，西门就把网放下去。看看接下来发生了什么！把你的圣经转到路加福音第5章：这样行了，他们就捕了许多鱼，网也破了。于是，他们向另一条船上的同伴发出信号，让他们过来帮助他们。他们把鱼装满了两只船，船就快要沉了。**鱼太多了，两艘船都要沉了！**哇！当西门把他的船交给耶稣的时候，他一条鱼都捞不道；现在，所捕到的鱼多到撑破网，连船都装满了且重到几乎要下沉了。



难怪圣经在路加福音 6:38 告诉我们：**你们要给人，就必有给你们，并且用十足的升斗，连摇带按、上尖下流地倒在你们怀里；因为你们用什么量器量给人，也必用什么量器量给你们。**这告诉我们，当我们给予时，会发生一些事情。当我们付出的时候，我们良善的神应许要给我们！再看看上帝那良善慷慨的风度！当彼得把他的船交给耶稣时，耶稣也以鱼多到几乎撑破网来回报他。**给人，就必有给你的，并且用十足的升斗，连摇带按、上尖下流地倒在你怀里！**我们的神给我们的不仅仅是够用，他总是赐给我们更丰盛，超过我们所求所想。我们属于一个慷慨的上帝。他喜欢给予。所以

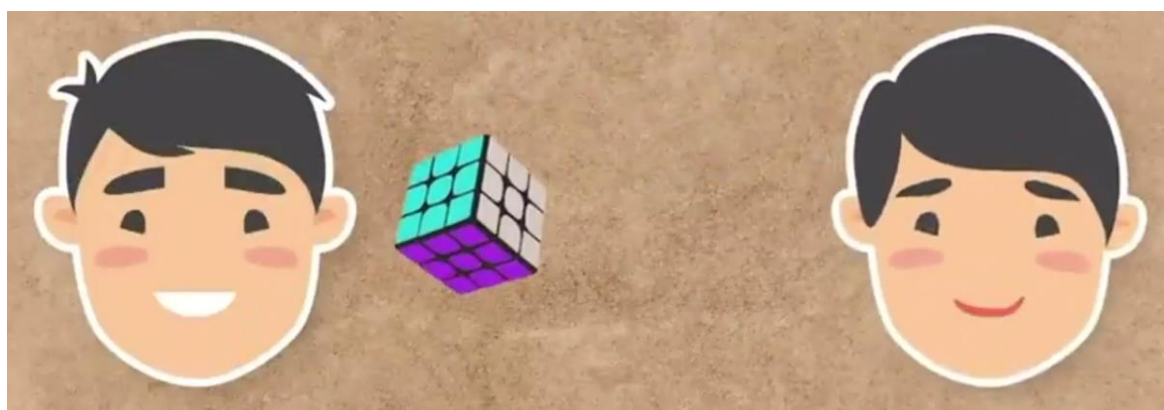
当我们给予的时候，当我们像我们的神一样慷慨的时候——我们的神很乐意慷慨的回报给我们。

让我来告诉你一个生活例子，是关于一位主日学的孩子选择慷慨地拿出他的宝贝魔方时发生的事。这个魔方很珍贵，因为他花了很长时间才积攒得来的。他非常高兴，他把它带到学校给他的同学们看。其中一位同学要求看一下，但他就开始玩这个魔方，想不到的是这个魔方被这位同学弄坏了。男孩很伤心，但他又攒钱买了另一个新的。这次他没有把它带到学校，只是在家里玩。他的妹妹想试试，而尽管他不想让任何人碰他的魔方，他还是把它借给妹妹玩。妹妹不小心把它掉到地上。他检查魔方后发现，小方块都松散了，摇摇晃晃的，又被破坏了！男孩很不高兴，他对他妈妈说：“妈妈，你看！你告诉我要乐于分享。可现在，你看看，都发生了什么！？”



男孩伤心地擦着眼泪。“这是个意外，意外总是会发生的。”他的妈妈回答，“我也替你感到难过，你的魔方又被毁了，但你做得对。你会分享。这一次，事情并不如意。但是你仍然可以相信神会一直对你好的。”

两天后，他得到了一个大惊喜！一个朋友走过来对他说：“我有了一个新魔方。你想要我旧的那个吗？它还是完好无损的。”当他看到朋友的魔方时，他非常高兴！这个魔方不仅外形很好，而且比他自己买的那个款式更好，而且还配有配件。他妈妈听说后说：“哇！神是如此的好！”男孩只是笑着说：“是的！我们总是可以相信祂会对我们好的！”哇！这个男孩非常慷慨地与别人分享他的魔方，即使他不愿意。但看看在故事的结尾他所得的，就知道神对我们是多么的好！



让我们回顾今天的经文，“**你们要给人，就必有给你们。**”但谁给我们呢？——**上帝赐给我们！**我们不需要依赖别人来给予我们。我们不必对不公平的事情皱眉或大惊小怪。我们不需要去说“哼！我总是和他分享我的零食，但他一次也没给我！”我们不必这样，因为我们相信我们的上帝会给我们。当上帝给予的时候，他给予的大得多！“**因为你们用什么量器量给人，也必用什么量器量给你们。**”——最后这一行是什么意思呢？让我解释给你听。还记得这些手吗？“tight-fisted 手指往里拗”的人不喜欢给予，但“tight-fisted 手指往里拗”的人也不准备着接收。Openhanded 手掌张开的人慷慨大方，乐于分享。但是看看你张开的手，也是时刻准备着接收的！路加福音 6:38 教导我们，神要我们慷慨。为什么？因为这样他才能更慷慨地回报我们！握紧的双手给不了什么，也接收不到什么。张开的手会给予很多，但张开的手是时刻准备着接受神所要给的一切！



圣经说：“因为你们用什么方式待人，你们也必被用同样的方式对待。”让我们成为喜乐的给予者和分享者吧！如同良善的上帝一样，让我们也做乐于施予的人。我们可以给予的远远不只是见得到摸得着的东西，还可以给予其它人我们的时间、我们的关怀和我们的帮助。我们做乐于施予的人，是因为无论我们如何慷慨地施予，**也永远比不上天父上帝对我们的慷慨施予！阿门！**

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孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你珍贵的血洗去了我所有的罪，使我永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！

## Be generous

**Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measure to you.**

**Luke 6:38, NIV**

Hey Rock Kidz! Today, let's start with some English expressions that have to do with our hands! You know what green is and you know what a thumb is. But what is a 'green thumb'? That's right-someone with a 'green thumb' is someone who is good with plants.

For example, you can say, "Mary's garden is so beautiful. She must have a green thumb!" What about this expression – 'butterfingers'? Does having 'butterfingers' mean your fingers are made of butter? No, having 'butterfingers' simply means you are clumsy with your hands and you keep dropping what you're carrying. For example, "don't give Harry the eggs! He's got butterfingers!"

Here's the next one- 'tight-fisted'. To be tight-fisted means to be stingy. A tight-fisted or stingy person does not like to share. They hang on to whatever they have so tightly that to get anything from them, it is as difficult as having to pry open this fist. For example, "Don't bother asking him. He is so tight-fisted he won't even give you a cent." Now, here's the last one! If 'tight-fisted' means stingy, what do you think 'openhanded' means?

That's right! It means to be generous. Unlike the tight-fisted person who keeps everything to himself, the openhanded person is not selfish, but happy to share. The openhanded person is generous.

Today's Bible story is about generosity and it takes place by the Lake of Galilee, during the time when Peter was still a fishman. During this time Peter was still called by his old name- "Simon" So that's what we will call him too. So that's what we will call him too.

One day, Simon was washing his nets as usual, when something unusual happened-a crowd came to the beach! They were following Jesus. The crowd pressed in to get as close to Jesus as they could. And soon, Jesus was surrounded by lots of people! There were two fishing boats by the water so Jesus got into one of them. "Can I please borrow your boat?"

Jesus asked Simon, who was washing his nets nearby. "Push the boat a little way into the water so I can teach from there."

Now, when someone wants to borrow something from you, you have a choice.

You can say, "Yes" and share what you have, or you can say, "No" and keep what you have for yourself. That day, Simon had a choice. He could think to himself, "What! Push my boat out? But I just pulled it in! Sorry, Sir. Try the other boat." He could have, but he didn't.

That day, Simon shared what he had and let Jesus borrow his boat. When Jesus finished teaching the people, He said to Simon, "Take the boat into the deep water. Put your nets into water and you will catch some fish." Imagine Simon's surprise when he heard this. You see, fishmen all know that what the best time to catch fish not in the middle of the morning!

And the other thing that Simon knew was that Jesus was not a fishman like him. He could have easily said, "Umm, sorry, but I don't think so." He could have but he didn't. Instead, Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish and we caught nothing. But because you say so, I will let down my net." And even though it didn't make much sense to him, that was just what Simon did. And once they were out in the deep, Simon let down his net.

And look what happened next! Turn your Bibles to Luke 5, "And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So, they signalled to their partners in other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that began to sink." There was so much fish that the two boat started to sink! Wow! When Simon gave Jesus his boat, he went from getting no fish at all, to having a net-breaking, boat-sinking load of fish.

No wonder the Bible tells us in Luke 6:38, and you might want to highlight this as well, **"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measure to you."** This tells us that something happens when we give. When we give, our good, good God promises to give to us! And look at the style of good and generous God! When Peter gave Jesus his boat, Jesus gave him net-breaking, give and it will be given to you. Good measure, measure, pressed down shaken together and running over! Our God never gives us just enough. He always gives us the exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or think. We belong to a generous God. He loves to give. So, when we give, when we are generous like our God- our God is happy to give generously back when to us.

Let me tell you what happened when a boy from rock Kidz chose to be generous with his precious cube. The cube was precious because it took him a long time to save up for it. He was so pleased with it, he took it to school to show to his friends. One of his classmates asked to have a look, but he played with it, the cube broke. The boy was sad about his broken cube, but he saved up his money again and bought another cube. This time he did not take it to school, but only play with it at home. His younger sister wanted to try, and even though he didn't really want anyone to touch his cube, he let her borrow it. Then, she dropped it! He checked his cube. The pieces were loose and wobbly. The cube was spoiled! He was upset! And the boy told his mum, "Look, Mum! You told me to always share and now, look what happened!"

He wiped. "It was an accident. Accidents happen," His mum answer, "I'm sorry your cube got ruined again, but you did the right thing. You share. Things didn't work out good this time, but you can still trust God to be good to you all the time."

Two day later, he had a big surprise! A friend came up to him and said, "Hey I have a cube. Want my old one? It still in good shape." When he saw what his friend gave him, he was very happy! Not only was the cube in good shape, but also was better model than the one he bought himself, and it came with accessories as well. When his mum heard about it, she

said, "Wow! God is so good!" The boy just grinned and said, "Yup! We can always trust him to be good to us!" Wow! This boy was so generous to share his cube with others, even when he didn't feel like it. And look at what he received at the end of the story.

Let's look at our verse again: **Give, and it will be given to you.** But who gives to us? **God gives to us.** We don't have to depend on other people to give to us. We don't have to frown or fuss about how unfair things are. We don't have to go, "Hmph! I always share my snacks with him, but he never even offered his once!" No, we don't have to be like this because we trust our God to give to us. And when He gives, He gives big!

But what does the last line mean? **For with the measure you use, it will be measure to you."** **This tells us that something happens when we give.** Let me help you to understand. Remember these hands? The tight-fisted person does not like to give, but the tight fist is also not ready to receive. The openhanded person is generous, and quick to share. But see how ready the open hand is to receive! Luke 6:38 teaches us that God wants us to be generous. Why? So that he can be even more generous back to us! A tight fist gives little, but a tight fist receives little. An open hand gives much, but an open hand is ready to receive all that God wants to give!

For with the measure that you use, it will be measured to you. Let's be happy to givers and sharers. Let's enjoy giving, just like our good, good God. Our giving can be so much more than just giving things that we can touch or hold. We can also give our time, our attention, or our help. We can enjoy giving to others because no matter how generous we are, we cannot ever match how generous our daddy God is to us. Amen!

Hey rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus' name," and everyone say, "Amen."