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## Open Hands

Sunday, January 3rd, 2016

We all have things we are born with. The gifts, talents, and resources that we begin life with, coupled with the hard work we've done create what we have. Yet, why do we have these things? Why did we have these specific gifts, talents, and resources?

*As much as you feel comfortable, share some of what you feel you were "born with." What are the specific, individual gifts, talents, or resources you feel your were beginning with?*

Ask your group leader to give everyone a quick synopsis of the story of Job, then read **Job 1:20-21** together as a group.

*What is remarkable about this passage? What is Job's response to losing everything?*

*How does Job's emptiness and loss set him up for God to use him in new ways?*

Oftentimes, our greatest source of frustrations comes from unmet expectations. **Living with open hands, means dying to our expectations.** The challenge is in risking the frustrations to let God control our lives.

*Where have unmet expectations in your own life left you the most frustrated?*

*What expectations do you feel God may be asking you to surrender in this new year?*

When we try to run our own lives, we learn that we aren't fully equipped to do it as well as God.

*How is this true in your life and experience? Share some specific examples of when you've realized you weren't equipped to lead with God's help.*

We heard the quote from Augustine, "God is always trying to give us good things, yet our hands are too full to receive them."

*Why is it so easy for us to forget this truth in the everyday parts of our lives?*