

News Story Summary

James Harrison of Australia is known as “the man with the Golden Arm.” On the surface, Harrison seems to be just an ordinary 78-year-old man. However in 1951, he had a lung removed at the age of 14. During the surgery he received 13 units of blood from unknown donors. This motivated him to become a donor himself as soon as he reached the required age of 18.

Harrison was discovered to have an unusual antibody in his blood. He worked with doctors to use the antibodies to develop an injection that prevents women from developing rhesus disease during pregnancy (this occurs when a woman has RhD negative blood and her baby has RhD positive). Australia was one of the first countries to discover a blood donor with this antibody, so it was quite revolutionary at the time (1960s).

Harrison has donated blood plasma well over 1,000 times and continues to do so as often as he is permitted. He is a national hero and has won awards for his service.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Australia man James Harrison saves over 2 million babies”.)

Focus Attention

Share the news story with the group. Lead the group to discuss how being a recipient impacted Mr. Harrison. Point out that Mr. Harrison’s actions demonstrate that he places the value upon human life and has gratitude for others who did the same.

Our Scripture today teaches us that God would have us as Christians to value all human life as well. Jesus teaches us to love and show kindness, even to those who are less than lovable. Ask: *What are some ways that we can demonstrate God’s love and show that we value all the people God has created?*

Challenge

Remind the group of the story about Mr. Harrison. Challenge the group to evaluate the level to which they are personally loving others and protecting human life. Suggest that maybe there is someone they find hard to love, and they need to pray for God’s strength to do that. Or maybe God would have them minister in some way to someone whose life needs to be valued: a senior adult, a disabled person, an unborn baby, or a child who needs a family.

Close in prayer that God would place the desire to respond in the hearts of your group, and the strength to make a difference for Him.