

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

If money could talk, money would say, "You are your truest self when you give me away."

SCRIPTURE

Acts 4:32-35, Matthew 22:37-38, 1 John 4:7-8

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. As you facilitate the group discussion, have a few examples of generosity in mind that you can be prepared to share with the group. Help the group think broadly about the subject of generosity.
2. Generosity can be the giving of time, attention, resources, and energy given to another person. Some specific examples might be taking a meal to another person, giving money to a cause or a person, giving blood, or helping with someone's yard work.
3. The new Testament paints the compelling picture of a giving God. God gives because it's God's nature to give, and God loves to do it. Why? Because that's the nature of love – to move toward another person. One definition of love may be helpful here: self-giving care for another.
4. Help the group process how it feels to express and receive love. What are some examples that are inspiring to you or the group? When we talk about generosity in the abstract, it doesn't always seem attractive, but when we see it or experience it, that's what can help us move toward becoming more generous people.
5. What hold you back from being generous? That's a vulnerable question. Be prepared to go first with how you struggle to do this. One area that might be helpful for people to consider is their level of busyness. When our lives are so crammed full of hurry, we may not have time to consider how we can help people. When we slow down and spend time in silence and reflection, it helps us become more self-aware, aware of our environment and how we might connect or serve others.
6. Conversely, we may spend so much time being generous and helping people that we don't have time for ourselves, which might lead to feelings of resentment when presented with a chance to help someone. Self-care is a vital dimension to living a generous life. We will always live and give out of the overflow of our inner life, and if we are not caring for ourselves, or acts of service for others may not lead to a fulfilling life of generosity.

MOTIVATIONS FOR GIVING

If time allows, it might be helpful for your group to discuss how each of them is motivated for generosity. Have the group share the profile they identify with most: Cause Mover, Budget Keeper, Faith Stretchers, Discipline Doer, Community Grower, Legacy Builder. Help people connect their motivation to be generous as something that fuels generosity and results in showing love to the world.

- **Cause movers:** Motivated to make a difference; first to step up, relational & responsive. Luke 10:25-37
- **Budget Keepers:** Motivated to be wise; Manage money wisely, enjoy budgeting & planning, comfortable talking about money. Proverbs 31
- **Faith Stretchers:** Motivated by spiritual growth; believe God will reward their faithfulness, don't expect a monetary reward. Luke 21:1-4
- **Disciplined Doers:** Motivated by joyful obedience; commands in scripture are life-giving, give because God commands it. Luke 19:1-10
- **Community Growers:** Motivated by being a part of a community; believe the mission requires everyone, time and talents is just as important as financial giving. Exodus 36:1-7
- **Legacy Builders:** Motivated by leaving a legacy; want their lives to count for something both now and after they are gone, want to leave a mark on the world. Ruth 1-4

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. When it comes to generosity, why is it helpful to understand what motivates you to be generous?
2. If generosity is the impulse, the expression of love, why do you think there are different motivators?
3. Who have you been able to BLESS this week?