



## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

What is one item that you could not live without and why?

## **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I will surrender to God and His plan for my life.
- I will trust God even when I don't understand His plan for me.
- I will align my wants with what God wants for me.
- I will pray for God's wisdom.
- I will be open and seek wise counsel.

## **MESSAGE SUMMARY**

There are two different ways of getting rich - what might be called the way of conventional wisdom and the way of unconventional wisdom. Conventional wisdom says, "Make as much as you can and keep as much as you make, because the more you give, the less you have, and the less you give, the more you have."

But there's another way. It's the way of unconventional wisdom. It's talked about down through history from a lot of people, and never more clearly than from Jesus. Paul says, "I want you to think of generosity not in terms of having or losing, but sowing and reaping." This puts it in another category altogether. It turns out that in every dimension studied - in your happiness, in your physical health, in having a purpose for living, in the avoidance of depression, in personal growth - generous people are enriched in every way and ungenerous people are diminished in every way.

It turns out that ungenerosity actually costs more than generosity in every regard. Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me." He said, "When you see one of these people, you're looking at me." Generous hearts begin to build bridges. Ungenerous hearts build walls. People who keep clutching and holding on to their money get a little poorer every year in every regard. There are moments when the heart is generous, and then it knows. This is your moment, and this is your heart.

## KEY STATEMENT FOR THE WEEK

- I believe a Christian should live a sacrificial life that is not driven by pursuit of material things.

## KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Scripture memorization is a valuable spiritual practice in a Christ-centered life. Spend a few minutes each day committing this verse to memory.

- “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you heard stewardship and generosity taught in the church previously? Why has it become so identified with money?
2. Read Luke 6:38 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. In what ways does God respond to a generous heart in these passages?
3. Generosity is paradoxical; those who give receive back in turn, or stated in a negative way, those who hold on to what they have lose out on what they might have gained. How have you experienced either to be true in your life?
4. Where do you see examples of generous and ungenerous hearts in the world around you? Where do you see opportunities to display a generous heart?
5. Have you ever considered that Jesus was homeless? Shane Claiborne said, "You can't worship a homeless man on Sunday and ignore one on Monday." How should this impact our understanding and practice of stewardship and generosity?
6. The practice of tithing and Sabbath are closely related in the Biblical narrative. Which has one been more difficult for you to be generous steward of? Why so?
7. 2 Corinthians 9:11 says, "you will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion." What is the understanding we should have of God's generosity to us?

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will take the 3 Month Tithe Challenge.
- I will text Tithe to 925-275-5520.
- I will take Financial Peace University and get out of debt.
- I will move from giving nothing to giving something.
- I will move from occasional giving to consistently giving each month.
- I will begin tithing.
- I will give generously of my time and money.

## PRAYER

Prayer as a spiritual practice is our conversational life with God, where He hears from us and we hear from Him, with the intent of learning and leaning into His will for our lives. Let this prayer guide you over the next week.

Heavenly Father,

You know the truth about us, about me. God, I pray for our church, that you will help us to die to the fear and the anxiety and the self-obsession that kills us. God, I want to live in that world where little birds are fed by a Heavenly Father. I want to live in that reality and security and ease and freedom that Jesus knew. I want to have a heart that aches and eyes that look with great love and hands that are wide open to people who have nothing, who are poor, who suffer. Thank You for the gift of life which I surrender to You. Help me to use my time, talents and resources for Your glory. I pray in the name of Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Luke 6:38
- John 12:24-25
- Proverbs 11:24-25
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- Exodus 1:8-11
- Exodus 5:1
- Exodus 5:6-9
- Exodus 5:17-18

## SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

The following are suggested resources if you would like to continue your study of this topic.

- [Kingdom Stewardship](#)
- [Reimagine Stewardship](#)
- [Kingdom Stewardship](#)
- [Money and Possessions](#)