



Week 1: Generous Living - Series Introduction

FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

Regarding COVID: While stress from the COVID-19 pandemic is still high, be sure to check in with group members with what has come to be known as **CPR** (Care, Prayer, Remember):

- **Care** refers to loving and supporting each other, from helping one another with tangible needs, rejoicing in celebrations together, and supporting personal struggles with encouragement and empathy
- **Prayer** refers to bringing our worries and needs before God and depending on him for the answers as we pray for each other, our community, and the world
- **Remember** refers to reflecting on God for who He is, what He has done in our lives, and what He is capable of doing

For more resources on care and prayer, check out the Slack channels.

Using the Discussion Questions:

- ✓ **Start your group discussion with the "Check-in" question** to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week's application challenge.
- ✓ **Review the "Big Idea"** to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week's message.
- ✓ **Then read this week's scripture passages together and guide your group through at least one of the "Discuss" questions** to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week's message.
- ✓ **Always move your group discussion to a deeper level by moving to "Apply"**. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.
- ✓ **Connect with God together as a group through this week's "prayer practice"**, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise provided. Also pray for one another in relation to the application of today's message.

CHECK-IN	Share a moment where someone's generosity impacted you.
BIG IDEA	In our new sermon series on Generous Living, we begin with Jesus. Diving deep into who he is, we'll understand that Jesus sets the example and tone for our lives through his generosity and sacrifice. Similarly, we should strive to be selfless rather than selfish, humbling ourselves for the glory of God and the good of others. Becoming more like Christ's example with the guidance of and power of the Holy Spirit awakening us to do so.
DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What in the sermon spoke to you, challenged you, or was a new thought to you? <p>Read Philippians 2:1-9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What does Philippians 2:5-9 tell us about Jesus? 3. What are some day to day examples in your life where selfish ambition

	<p>or conceit prevented you from caring for others?</p> <p>4. What is evidence in one's life that there is sacrificial living? How does a Christian come to the place where they can sacrifice freely?</p>
<p>APPLY How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?</p>	<p>1. What would it mean, in your present circumstances, to empty or pour yourself out?</p> <p>2. As a life group, what are practical ways we can serve one another or outside our group, just as Christ did?</p>
<p>PRAYER PRACTICE (15 minutes)</p>	<p>Words of encouragement can be a very effective form of blessing.</p> <p>Take a few minutes in silence to reflect on a moment where you experienced gratitude for a word, deed, or service given to you.</p> <p>Now take another few minutes to identify any feelings that came as a result of this gratitude (accepted, respected, loved, inspired, appreciated, valued...etc.)</p> <p>When you've identified this feeling, confidently share the following blessing to all the members in your group (verbally or through chat):</p> <p><i>"May God bring feelings of I __ insert your feeling here __ I this week. May you all be blessed."</i></p> <p>Allow each group member the opportunity to generously share their blessing now, and throughout the week.</p>