

Small Group Study Spring Semester Week Three

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- 1) Can you remember the most important/significant handwritten letter that you have ever received in the mail? Do you prefer physical mail over e-mail/text message?
- 2) This week, our province will slowly begin lifting restrictions. Which of these places are you going to first: retail stores, restaurant patio, or hair salon/barbershop?

Passage and Discussion

Read Philippians 4:14-23

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) In this passage, Paul highlights the generosity that he received from the church in Philippi. Can you think of a time in your life where you were the recipient of generosity (from the church or otherwise)? How were you blessed by this act of generosity?
- c) On Sunday, Cam taught that generosity and contentment are connected - as we learn how to be content in our relationship with Christ, we are increasingly able to be generous with our resources (money, time, skills, etc.). Why do you think that "the content are more generous"?
- d) How have you seen this connection between generosity and contentment in your own life? Alternatively, if you are comfortable sharing, have you ever seen a connection between discontentment and selfishness in your own life?
- e) If it's true that "God has blessed you with others in mind", who are the "others in mind" that are present in your everyday life? Who are family/friends/neighbours that you can bless through generosity? What are practical ways that you can bless them (money, time, skills, etc.)?
- f) Read **Matthew 6:19-21**. Here, Jesus suggests that "your heart follows your treasure"? What can we do (spiritual practices, etc.) to make sure that we are "investing in what is good", and leading our hearts to where they ought to be?
- g) One of the concerns regarding generosity is that we worry we will not have enough for ourselves if we are generous. Is this a fear that you have experienced? How have you overcome this fear in your life?

- h) Read **Acts 2:42-47**. In this passage, we read about how the early church served/supported each other and their communities. What do you think we can learn from the early church about generosity?
- i) As a church, we are called to be generous towards each other (as well as our neighbours). How can we continue to be generous in blessing each other as a church? Can you think of any practical ways that your Small Group can bless someone in our church?
- j) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) With your family, choose one missionary from our church's list of endorsed missionaries (found on the church website), and write them a personal letter to encourage them in their work!
- b) This week, pray about practical ways that you can continue serving your neighbours, especially people from our church, during this season. As Cam said, "in what ways are you inviting me to be generous in the circumstance I find myself in?"

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) Spend time praying for the church leadership by name (directors, elders, deacons, etc.). A list of these people can be found on our church website.