

TALK IT OVER

IT'S ABOUT TIME

Generosity Time - Episode 4

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Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of this document.

Icebreaker: What's the most generous thing someone has ever done for you? How did it make you feel?

Big Idea: *Time is our most valuable resource.*

Generosity Time: God is radically generous to us and we respond by giving like Him. It...

- ✓ Makes us healthier
- ✓ Makes us happier
- ✓ Lowers our stress
- ✓ Improves our relationships
- ✓ Extends our lives

Acts 2:44-46 (NLT) And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.

Living Generously

1. Generosity starts with God

Talk It Over: *John 3:16 (NLT) "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."*

John 15:13 (NLT) There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Questions: What's something you've loved so much that you invested a lot of money in? Do you believe that generosity is a natural response to loving something or someone?

2. Generosity is a learned behavior

Talk it Over: *1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT) Teach those who are rich in this world (us) not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.*

Questions: How have you learned to be more generous in your lifetime? What were some contributing factors? What areas of generosity do you need to grow in?

3. Generosity takes time and planning

Talk it Over: *1 Corinthians 16:2 (NLT) On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.*

Generosity is the premeditated, calculated, designated, emancipation of personal financial assets.

Matthew 6:24 (NLT) "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

Questions: How do you approach generosity – planned, spontaneous or a combination? What's the value of investing time in planning how generosity is going to be part of your life?

4. Generosity is contagious

Talk it Over: *2 Corinthians 9:11-13 (NLT) Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.*

Questions: Have you experienced contagious generosity first hand, either on the giving or receiving end? Why do you think generosity is so contagious? What are some practical ways you could be the catalyst for contagious generosity?

Action Steps

- ✓ Evaluate my current generosity status
- ✓ Invest time into created a generosity plan
- ✓ Follow through on that plan