



#### **Week 4- “Generous”**

**In this series, we have been asking what a Christian should look like because there are so many versions of what Christianity looks like in our world. But the Christianity that Jesus portrayed was consistent, He was someone who loved, served, and gave. In this week’s message, we discover that a Christian is generous because they understand who God is, and that a rich life goes beyond money, comfort, and success.**

1. Think of the most generous person you know. What makes them generous in your eyes?
2. How would you define generosity? Has generosity within the church felt like a rule to follow in order to look like a good Christian? Why or why not?

**1 Timothy 6:17-18 says, “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 deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”**

3. Discuss the idea that generosity should naturally be a part of the Christian life because there is an understanding that this present world is not all that there is. What does this look like in your everyday life?
4. Is it easy to lose sight of how temporary our world really is? Do you often think about the hope of eternity? Do you find yourself thinking about it in your everyday life or only when a crisis hits (someone dies, a health diagnosis, etc.)?

5. According to Paul, Christians know that they cannot put their trust in anything in this world because it does not last and it is uncertain. How have you experienced the uncertainty of this world recently?

**Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

6. The people in the Macedonian church gave out of extreme poverty. What did this say about their faith in God?

7. Have you been on the receiving end of someone's generosity? Have you been able to extend generosity to someone recently? How did either of those make you feel?

**Read Matthew 6:19-24, 31-33**

8. Discuss the truth that you will either prioritize God and His kingdom or you will prioritize money, comfort, and success, but that you can't do both.

9. Has fear over the unknown prevented you from being generous in the past? What rises up in you when you think about giving?

10. If you are not consistently investing in God's kingdom would you be willing to ask yourself why? And would you be willing to ask yourself (privately if you do not want to share in the group) if you really trust God and if you prioritize His kingdom over this present life?

**Generosity is not a rule Christians must follow in order to receive God's blessing. True Christianity teaches that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us; He blessed us before we could do anything. When we trust God with our lives and our future, our hearts become generous because we understand that what we see right now is temporary. Can you imagine the impact we would have for those who do not know Christ if we generously give out of what He has given us?**