



GENEROUS Notes:

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: GENEROUS – Part 2

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: December 3, 2023



Connect (30min)

*For *Connect* and *Prayer*, you may want to break into two groups, or groups of 3-4 people to enhance participation.

1. FESTIVE FAVES

What are your *Festive Faves*? Choose 2 for each category.

*Christmas Carols

*Christmas Decorations

*Christmas Food/Treats

*Christmas Movies

*Nativity Characters

*Family Outing/Traditions

2. BLESS GOD

a.  Read [Isaiah 32:1-8](#).

b. Take 2min to *Bless God* with short prayers of thanksgiving and praise before discussion time.

Message Discussion (45min)

1. GENEROUS

Generosity is not about controlling God's hand. We can't manipulate God's grace. Generosity is for our maturity.

– Rich Villodas

Believers cannot be truly happy or at peace as long as they remain largely focused upon themselves and their own needs, wants, and hurts. Only in becoming outwardly focused on ministering to the needs of others can they experience real satisfaction and sense of purpose. Thus, we pastors do them a great disservice if we allow people to continue to see themselves primarily as recipients of ministry rather than deliverers of ministry. – Robert Morris

a. How have you witnessed, experienced, or engaged in *Generosity* this past week?

b. If *Time, Treasures & Talents* are resources for us to steward and invest generously, what are a few practical ways we can do that?

i. *Time* ii. *Treasures* (Money/Possessions) iii. *Talents* (Gifts & Abilities)

c. What kind of attitude helps the application?

2. GENEROUS JESUS

a.  READ [Matthew 6:19-24](#).

i. Why do you think Jesus included this teaching in His famous Sermon on the Mount?


ii. According to Jesus, how do treasures on Earth contrast with treasures in Heaven?

iii. Considering the contrast between the two, why are we so often distracted by earthly treasures?


b. Jesus says that our hearts follow our treasures. How have you experience this in your own life?

c. Can you describe an example of how your care and concern for something increased because your money went towards it?

3. GENEROSITY VS GREED

- a.  READ [1 Timothy 6:9-19](#).
 - i. Greed is often a sin we see in others, but rarely in ourselves.
Have you ever confessed the sin of greed, or considered yourself to be a greedy person?
 - ii. Why are we easily blinded to the greediness in our own hearts?
- b. **Two Masters:**
 - i. Why is it impossible for us to serve two masters?
 - ii. What kind of master is money? What kind of master is God?
 - iii. How do we know which master we're truly serving?

4. GENEROUS TITHING

- a. Shawn touched on the biblical principle of *Tithing* -- giving 10% of our income to your local church. Why do you think God commanded the tithe in the Old Testament, and how do you think it applies to us now, under the new covenant? (*Tithing teaches us to put God first in our lives*)
- b. What part does tithing play in helping us grow in generosity?
- c. What is the difference between a "tithe" and an "offering?"
(*We give the tithe. We bring the offering*)
- d.  READ [2 Corinthians 8:3-5](#).
 - i. How does the Apostle Paul describe the generosity of the Macedonian churches?
 - ii. Who did they give themselves to first? How do think this influenced their financial generosity?

5. GENEROUS APPLICATION



- a. Shawn closed the message by sharing a story of a couple who lost their son. The point was made that death is cheap. Death costs nothing. Life is what we invest in. Life is what costs.
How does living a life of generosity fuel life in God's Kingdom?

Prayer (15min)

*Break into groups of 3-4 people or men/women for sharing and prayer.

1. In response to the message and our discussion together, what is one way that we can pray for you personally?
Who is one person in your life who needs to experience the generosity and salvation of Jesus this Christmas?
> Pray for one another.
2. Use the **Main Street Church Ministry Brochure** (handed out on Sunday) as a prayer focus for your group.
Choose one or two highlighted areas and pray through the prayer points listed in the brochure.

Generous Resources

-  Book: [The Blessed Life: Unlocking the Rewards of Generous Living](#), Robert Morris
-  Video: [The Bible Project - Generosity](#) (5min)