

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

:: The **GENEROUS Life** – Part 1 – Why I Give :: **November 1, 2015**



Welcome & Prayer

Father God, YOU are the ultimate source & standard of Generosity. None of us would be here today, or even alive, if it wasn't for you. Thank you. We invite you Holy Spirit to teach us, convict us, and change us through our time together. Amen.

Connect

1. Have 1-2 people share their story/testimony (5-10min each) &/or
2. Questions for the Group
 - a. What is 1 thing we don't know about you?
 - b. What is 1 way you've experienced the Generosity of God this year?

Check In

- :: Each time we meet as a Group we'll take a few minutes to share a bit about how we're learning & growing in our personal journey with GOD. This is for accountability & encouragement.
- :: What has God been showing you or speaking to you about in your personal time with Him this past week? (eg. through Bible reading, Prayer, Journaling, Devotions, Worship, time in Creation...)
- :: How can we as a group encourage one another to spend intentional time with Jesus?

Sunday Message Feedback

What jumped out at you from Sunday's message?

- : Which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?
- : What did Jesus say to you this past week through the message?

1. What is something in your life that you were scared to do at first, but once you did it you would never go back? (Got Married, Quit Smoking, Went to University, Travelled by Plane, Started a Job...) Discuss.
2. **What does it mean to be Generous?**
 - : Why is GENEROSITY an important characteristic for Christ-Followers to have?
 - : How does GENEROSITY require courage & faith?
 - : Would you or others describe yourself as generous? Why/why not?
 - : How does it make you feel when you give and are generous?
3. Do you tend to think of the money you earn as yours or as God's? Discuss.
4. Pastor Shawn explained that the word "**tithe**" means 10%.
 - : The practice of tithing is giving 10 percent of my income back to God.
 - : Did the word "tithe" mean something different to you before hearing this week's message?
5. **READ: Leviticus 27:30, 2 Chronicles 31:5b-6, Malachi 3:7-12**
 - i. What is God's expectation regarding the tithe?
 - ii. What is the significance of the tithe being "brought" verses "given"?

6. Why I Give

Shawn explained some reasons on why he gives and seeks to live a generous life. Do you identify with any of his? Do you have any of your own? Discuss.

7. READ: Proverbs 3:9-10, Exodus 23:19, Exodus 34:19

- a. What is a **first fruit**?
- b. Money is never about money. Money is always about trust. It takes no trust to give God our leftovers. What is the spiritual significance of giving God our first fruits?

8. READ: Ezekiel 36:26

When we give our hearts and lives to Jesus should our relationship with Him impact our finances? How has your willingness to invite Jesus into your life impacted how you view and manage your finances? Discuss.

9. Read: Malachi 3:10

How does living a generous life and honoring God with the tithe bring blessing and protection into your life?

***Does anyone have a story they can share that demonstrates this truth?**

Application & Prayer

(Split into groups of 3-4 people or divide the men and women and have them share and pray for each other)

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:7-15

APPLICATION:

Consider for a moment what you do with your "first fruits." What adjustments do you need to make?

If you are not yet tithing what would it take you to be obedient to God in this area of your life?

Would you be willing to "test" God regarding your finances?

(NOTE: this is the only area in Scripture where God invites us to test him).

Take the 90 day challenge: If you want to begin to tithe and test God we challenge you to do it for 90 days. If at the end of 90 days you have not experienced the blessing and protection of God and learned to trust Him more the church will refund your money.

NOTE: In order to take the 90 day challenge you must use a church offering envelope and fill out the date and your name and address when you give in order for us to have a record that you actually gave 😊.

PRAYER - Give thanks to GOD for the ways He has been GENEROUS to you and Pray for a greater level of generosity to be released in the lives of those in your group.

Next Life Group

:: **Date/Location:** _____. :: **Snack/Refreshments?** _____.

Coming Up at Main Street

:: **ENCOUNTER GOD RETREAT** Info & Registration >> www.mainstreetchurch.ca/encounter-god

November 13-14 :: Main Street Church. Registration Ends Sunday, November 8th.