



GeneroUS Notes:

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: GeneroUS – Part 1

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: November 26, 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. CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

- a. When and how do you and your family begin to engage in the Christmas season?
Do you have a determined starting point? When do begin to play Christmas music, and when do light go up?
- b. Using the *Grinch to Elf* scale (1 *Grinch* to 10 *Elf*) -- How are you feeling so far this Christmas season?
- c. How does *The Biblical Christmas Story* display themes *Generosity*? Share a few examples.
- d. Do you have a plan for this *Advent Season* to help focus and engage your heart in the gospel of Christ? Describe.

2. BLESS GOD

- a. Read [Psalm 112](#). [Optional] Watch [The Bible Project - Generosity](#) (5min)
- b. Take 2min to *Bless God* with short prayers of thanksgiving and praise. “*Lord, I Bless You...*”

Message Discussion (45min)

1. GENEROUS



Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. – John Wesley

- a. **When you hear the words “Generous,” and “Generosity...”**
 - i. What comes to mind? How would you describe or define “Generous,” and “Generosity?”
 - ii. Who comes to mind, and one reason why?
- b. What are some of the ways that Generosity can be engaged and expressed?
- c. If money could talk, what do you think it would say?
- d. Are you comfortable talking about money? What kind of emotions does this topic spark in you?
On a scale of *Worry to Joy* (1-10), how are you feeling about money (or even this conversation)?

2. GENEROUS JESUS

- a. READ [Luke 12:22-34](#).
 - i. What jumps out at you from Jesus’ teaching?
 - ii. Why does Jesus connect money (& material possessions) to worry and anxiety?
 - iii. Jesus closes off his teaching with this statement, “*Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be*” (v.34). Do you agree with Him? How is this statement true in your own life?
- b. Why do you think God incorporated giving and generosity into the story of Creation and life?
What does this reveal about Him? What does this reveal about our identity and purpose?

3. GENEROUS EXAMPLES


- a.  **READ** [John 12:1-8](#). *Mary & Judas.*
 - i. What stands out to you, and what do you learn from this story?
 - ii. Shawn highlighted the “two hearts” expressed through Mary and Judas. Mary had a generous heart and Judas had a selfish heart. How have you experienced these contrasting and competing hearts in your life?
 - iii. Shawn said that “*enemy of generosity is selfishness.*” What are your thoughts on this statement?
 - iv. Read 12:4-5 again. Have you ever found your heart or mouth responding to someone’s generosity like Judas did? Perhaps we all have, in some way. Why might we respond this way?
- b.  **READ** [Mark 12:41-44](#). *The Poor Widow.*
 - i. What does this story teach us about giving and generosity?
 - ii. Shawn pointed out that “*extravagance is the fruit of generosity.*” How do the examples of the Widow and Mary teach us about how God views extravagant giving? Why do you think they were so generous?
 - iii. Shawn said that “*Thankfulness is the motivation for Generosity.*” How is this true regarding our own financial stewardship and giving in God’s Kingdom? What motivates you to give to your local church and other Christian organizations?
- c. **Live It Out This Week**
 - i. How has God been generous to you? *This year, and throughout your life.*
 - ii. What is one step you can take to become more generous?
 - iii. What is one step you can take to trust God more with your money?

Prayer (15min)

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

1. In response to this message and discussion, how can we give thanks to God, and pray for you?
2. Who is one other person in your life that needs to experience the generous gospel of Jesus?
3. Pray for one another and the people you’ve shared.

Advent Resources

-  Devotional: *Hello, My Name Is* - www.mainstreetchurch.ca/devotionals
-  YouVersion Advent Plans: www.bible.com/reading-plans-collection/4326-advent
-  Book: [Come, Let Us Adore Him: A Daily Advent Devotional](#), Paul David Tripp
-  The Bible Project: www.bibleproject.com/guides/advent
-  The Chosen – [The Shepherd](#) / [The Messengers](#)