SMALL GROUPS

This week's sermon explored the connection between love and generosity, challenging us to move from a scarcity-driven "bag mindset" to a faith-filled "barn mindset." Using 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 as a foundation, we examined how the Macedonian churches modeled radical generosity despite extreme poverty, and how God calls each of us to give our time, talent, and treasure as an act of worship and love.

Key Takeaways

- Love gives. Because God is love and God gave, giving is the natural overflow of a loving heart.
- Generosity is not limited to money. It includes your time, your talent, and your treasure.
- The bag mindset says "I do not have enough." The barn mindset says "I have more than enough to give."
- Many of us do not have a money problem. We have a mindset problem.
- Tithing is returning the first and best back to God as an act of worship, trusting Him to bless the rest.
- Money promises what only God can provide — peace, security, and significance.
- More money will not make you more generous. It will make you more of what you already are.
- God honors faithfulness. When we give first, He proves Himself faithful in return.
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Discussion Questions

Starting the Conversation

1. The sermon opened by acknowledging that we all enjoy receiving. Be honest with your group: in what areas of life do you find it most natural to receive rather than give? Why do you think that is?
2. Have you ever experienced a moment when giving something away — whether time, money, or effort — left you feeling more fulfilled than you expected? What happened?

Digging into the Sermon

3. The Macedonian churches in 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 were described as living in extreme poverty yet overflowing with generosity and joy. What do you think made that possible? What does their example challenge in your own thinking?
4. The sermon described two mindsets:
    - The bag mindset: "I do not have enough."
    - The barn mindset: "I have more than enough."
5. Which mindset do you most identify with right now, and what life experiences have shaped that mindset?
6. Pastor Mack said, "Many of us do not have a money problem. We have a mindset problem." Do you agree or disagree? What does a mindset shift actually look like in everyday life?
7. Proverbs 3:9-10 teaches that honoring God with the first of what we have leads to abundance. The sermon applied this principle not just to money but to time and talent as well. What would it look like practically for you to give God the "first" of your day, your week, or your skills?
8. The sermon made the statement: "Money promises what only God can provide." In what ways have you seen money make promises it could not keep — in your own life or in the lives of people around you?
9. Pastor Mack said: "More money will not make you more generous. It will make you more of what you already are." How does that statement challenge the common excuse of "I will give more when I have more"?

Going Deeper

9. In 2 Corinthians 8:5, Paul notes that the Macedonians "gave themselves first to the Lord" before giving anything else. What does it mean to give yourself to God first? How does that act of surrender change the way you approach generosity?
10. The sermon referenced Malachi 3:10, where God invites us to test Him in the area of giving. Have you ever taken that step of faith in any area of giving — time, money, or talent? What happened?
11. Pastor Mack shared personal stories of financial struggle and unexpected provision. How do testimonies like these affect your faith? Do they encourage you, or do they raise questions? Talk honestly with your group.
12. The sermon closed with the idea of rearranging your whole life around God's purposes — not just giving money, but potentially giving your life direction toward serving, planting churches, or going on mission. What would it mean for you personally to rearrange your life around God's priorities?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice this week:

- START SMALL WITH YOUR TIME. Commit to giving God the first five to ten minutes of each morning this week before reaching for your phone. Pray, reflect, or simply acknowledge Him. Track how it affects your day.
- AUDIT YOUR MINDSET. Write down three areas in your life where you tend to think "I do not have enough." For each one, write a statement of faith based on what God's Word says about His provision. Return to those statements daily.
- TAKE A STEP TOWARD TITHING. If you are not currently tithing, prayerfully consider what a first step would look like. It does not have to be the full amount immediately. Talk with your group leader or pastor about how to begin.
- IDENTIFY YOUR TALENT. Ask yourself honestly: what skill, ability, or gift do I have that I have been withholding from God and others? Make one concrete move this week to offer that gift in service.

- SHARE A STORY. Think of one time God provided for you unexpectedly. Write it down and share it with someone this week as an act of encouragement and testimony.

Closing Reflection

Return to the question you answered at the beginning of the session: In which area of your life do you most struggle to give generously right now?

Share your answer with the group if you are comfortable. Close your time together by praying specifically over each area mentioned, asking God to replace the bag mindset with the barn mindset in each person's life.