



FOR GROUPS MEETING: Feb 9-15

SERIES: Generosity

TO COMPLETE THIS WEEK'S STUDY

- You will need:
 - A Bible
 - A quiet place for prayer, reading, and reflection
 - A pencil or a pen
- Read the **Introduction to Study**.
- Move through the daily studies consecutively.
- Open and close each day in prayer.
- Meditate on each question as you feel led.
- Record your answers in the space to the right of each day's questions.
- If you miss a day, don't worry. Simply pick up where you left off.
- If you are in a small group, strive to have all

Dig Deeper

Some people would like to go deeper in their study. If you would like to do so and have the time, please take advantage of the Dig Deeper sections of this Group Life lesson.

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

July 8, 2010... A day that would go down in infamy for the people of Cleveland, Ohio. On this day and the days following there would be banners torn down all throughout the city. There would be jersey burning parties where people in their anger and angst would rush to burn away their feeling of betrayal. One of the most ridiculous displays of public trashing and burning of property since the Boston Tea Party was over a basketball player. LeBron James stated that He was "taking his talents to South Beach". He left his hometown Cleveland Cavaliers for the Miami Heat and in so doing he became one of the most hated players in the NBA.

If this sounded a bit ridiculous to you... Good! It was ridiculous but it happened. All of this over a player taking his "talents" somewhere else. As we think about generosity, this week we want to ask and investigate if we are being generous with our talents in our home communities or are we like James betraying our homes by investing our talents elsewhere.



(day 1)

Prayer: Please help me to identify what

Read: Matthew 25:14-30

Question 1

We will be analyzing this passage a great deal this week but before we do any further study on it, what do you believe to be some of your greatest talents to be?

Question 2

How do you typically use these gifts? Knowing this week that we will be speaking about generosity of our talents, what are you primarily using them for? (advancement in career, garnering popularity and approval, the Lord, etc.)

DIGGING DEEPER:

A good book on the subject of generosity with our talents is:

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Generosity-Factor-Discover-Treasure/dp/0310324998>



(day 2)

Prayer: Lord help me to see that generosity goes beyond finances, and give me the courage to respond accordingly.

Intro: *One of the bigger issues that we have as Christians is that we only think of finances when it comes to the topic of generosity and tithing. The truth is that we are called to be generous in every aspect of life because as we saw last week God has been generous in every way to us.*

Read: Matthew 25:14-30

- 1.) Who are the main characters in the story? What does Jesus say about them?
- 2.) Often times Parables were told to teach the listeners a lesson through story form. A common way that He did this is through having characters in the story be representative of God and the listeners. In this story who could be symbolic of God and us? What about these characters are similar?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Luke 15

How does Jesus use parables to teach the crowd in this passage?



(day 3)

Prayer: God help me to see that I'm exactly who you made me to be and that I can use my uniqueness for you.

Read: Matthew 25:14-19 & 24-26

Intro: *One of the biggest excuses people give for not being generous with their talents or time is that they believe they are not talented enough. They simply are not good enough for God. This passage shows us that this could not be further from the truth.*

1.) In the passage is there a reason given for why the master gave different portions to the different servants? When reading this passage what is an assumption that we are in danger of making with regards to this question? Why?

2.) Does the master get angry at the servant because he didn't start with as much as the others? What should this speak to the excuse that we commonly use (See intro)?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Psalm 139

What does this say about the way we are created?

What should this due to any insecurity about who we are?



(day 4)

Prayer: Lord help me to see that more than you are concerned with how talented I am, you are concerned with what I do with it.

Intro: *One of the key concepts in this parable that Jesus is driving home is the idea of stewardship. To put it simply stewardship is what you do with what you have been entrusted with. Let's see what this passage teaches about this concept.*

Read: Matthew 25:14-30

1.) What did the Master praise and scold his servants for? How does this apply to the idea of stewardship?

2.) If you had to honestly look at yourself which servant would you most easily identify with?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Luke 12:48

What does this add to the discussion of stewardship?



(day 5)

Prayer: Lord help me to be generous where I am at.

Intro: *How can we best be stewards of God's gifts to us whether they be financial, our time, or our talents? It starts by using them where you are at rather than assume you have to go somewhere else to do it.*

Read: Matthew 28:19

1.) One of the worst mistakes we make in Christianity is this idea that if we want to get involved in the mission of God we have to go on a "mission trip". This passage is best translated "As you go, make disciples..." How does this help us see where our starting point for using our talents, time, finances etc. should be?

2.) Practically how can you be a better steward of what God has given you?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Romans 14:12

What does this verse teach? Why should this inspire us to be better stewards?

