



FOR GROUPS MEETING: Feb.2-7

SERIES: Generosity

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

As you may have remembered the last two weeks we have talked about what it means to have a vision from God for our life, and also for our church. As the Pastoral Staff and Elders were praying through that series one aspect of God's Vision for Salem Church that kept coming up was Generosity. We felt as though God was calling Salem to continued growth in being a generous church.

These next two week we will be walking through and looking at this topic of generosity. The first week we will be examining and answering the question of why we should be generous. The answer to this question is found in the character of God who was so profoundly generous with us. Our prayer and hope is that this week we would all come to realize just how generous God has been with us and just how gracious we should be as a result.

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.

TO COMPLETE THIS WEEK'S STUDY

- You will need:
 - o A Bible
 - o A quiet place for prayer, reading, and reflection
 - o 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



(day 1)

Prayer: Please help me to come to understand Generosity within the context of your Character!

Read: Romans 8:31-32

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 the general message of this passage?

Question 2

How do you think this applies to the subject of generosity?

DIGGING DEEPER:

This is a great website to read through as we begin our discussion

<http://www.generousgiving.org/>



(day 2)

Prayer: **Lord help me to see the areas that I am not being cognizant of you.**

Intro: One of the biggest lessons we need to learn and be reminded of as Christians is just how generous our God has been with us. This passage speaks to this reality.

Read: Romans 8:31-32

1.) According to this passage what is the greatest example of God's generosity towards us?

2.) If in His generosity he took care of our greatest need by giving us heaven's best, why do we stress so much about so many other, lesser things?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Galatians 1:6

How could this help us gain some clues to the second question? (Hint Paul is scolding them for how quickly they forgot the gospel)



(day 3)

Prayer: God remind me of just how Good you really are.

Read: Romans 8:18-25

Intro: *Right now we are still groaning, living and struggling in this sin-infested world and sometimes this causes us to lose our focus and begin to worry, stress and to stray.*

1.) Why might Paul have included this passage about the struggles and groans of life right before reminding us of God's generosity?

2.) What are the areas in your life that are causing your grumbles, worries and stress? What could remembering God's generosity do to that?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Philippians 4:6-7

What does God tell us to do when worries come?

Praying with thanksgiving requires remembering the blessings God has already given you, how does that agree with what Paul is teaching in Romans 8?



(day 4)

Prayer: Lord help me to see that today I have now reason to worry in light of your generous character.

Intro: *In the Bible time and time again you find that people of God are called not to worry in light of His generous character. This next passage adds another wrinkle to this common teaching*

Read: Matthew 6:25-34

1.) Why did Jesus say that we shouldn't worry?

2.) The argument made here is that we needn't worry because He clothes the flowers of the field and He cares for you so much more. How might your life look different if you remembered everyday that God graciously loves you and will provide for you?

DIGGING DEEPER:

"The Reason we can be confident God will be faithful in the future is His past faithfulness"

How has God been generous and faithful to you in the past? Why should this change how you face obstacles and struggles in the future?



(day 5)

Prayer: Lord help me to see the need for me to be generous in light of your generosity.

Intro: *What should our response to God's great generosity be? We should certainly trust Him more but we should also be generous ourselves.*

Read: 1 John 3:17

1.) What does John say here is the motivation for our generosity as believers?

2.) Think back to the first passages we read this week, how do these help us understand why John would say that?

DIGGING DEEPER:

As we get ready to discuss this topic more next week, what are some areas that you know you can be more generous in??

