



FOR GROUPS MEETING: Feb 16- 22

SERIES: Generosity

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

In the early 2000's there was a country music song that took the nation by storm. Tim McGraw's "Live Like You Were Dying" stirred hearts and tickled ears as people were moved by its' simple message. What would you do if you knew that you were dying soon? Would you live differently? Would you leave work to spend more time with your family? Would you visit the Grand Canyon or perhaps take a trip to the land of your ancestors.

Regardless of the answer we can all agree that at some level we would live differently if we were to live like we were dying. The question that we want to ask this week is what would it look like if we were to live generously?

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: Lord help me to see how I can live generously because of how generous you have been to me!

Read: Philippians 4:10-20

Question 1

What do you think of when you hear the word generosity?

Question 2

Before we do further study of this passage this week, where do you see generosity in this passage?

DIGGING DEEPER:

A good book on what it could look like to live generously is:

http://www.amazon.com/Legacy-Journey-Radical-Biblical-Generosity/dp/1937077713/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1423500552&sr=8-1&keywords=biblical+generosity



(day 2)

Prayer: Lord today remind me of how good you have been to me!

Intro: Paul in the passage we just read the day earlier is speaking about how the Philippians were generous to him as well as how he has found contentment. One of the things that makes this powerful is understanding the background to this story.

Read: Philippians 1:12-14

- 1.) According to the passage where is Paul?

- 2.) Why might this demonstrate why Paul was so thankful for their generosity?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Acts 16:11-40

This is where the church of Phillippi is started. How might this explain why they were generous to Paul in jail?



(day 3)

Prayer: God help me to see how a lack of contentment can rob me of the joy of living generously, and allow me to make changes accordingly.

Read: Philippians 4:10-20

Intro: *One of the biggest threats to our ability to experience the joy of generous living is a lack of contentment with what we have. I once heard a pastor state that one of the biggest dangers in the church is the grass will be greener mentality. We always want more or the next thing.*

1.) With what is going on in Paul's life why is it powerful for him to be speaking about contentment.

2.) What did Paul say was the secret to his contentment? (v.13) How might this verse in context help us to be more content?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

How does this instruct us how to be content with what we have?



(day 4)

Prayer: Lord continue to open my eyes to what it means to be generous

Intro: *Paul is writing to the church of Corinth about the generosity that was displayed among the churches of Macedonia. After telling them of this story he charges them to do the same. In so doing he tackles some of the greatest excuses we often give to not be generous as well.*

Read: 2 Corinthians 8: 1-7

1.) Does this Passage state that the church gave because they had some extra money laying around? What reason was given for why they did?

2.) What was their attitude in giving? Is this often our attitude? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Acts 20:33-35

How does Paul's last statement here challenge our reluctance to be generous?



(day 5)

Prayer: Lord help me to see and experience the joy available in giving.

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:5-11

1.) What does this passage teach about the heart of the giver? Is our giving supposed to be reluctant or joyful?

2.) What does this passage say will be God's response to us? What might this imply if we don't give?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:12

According to this passage what also could be a result of our giving?

