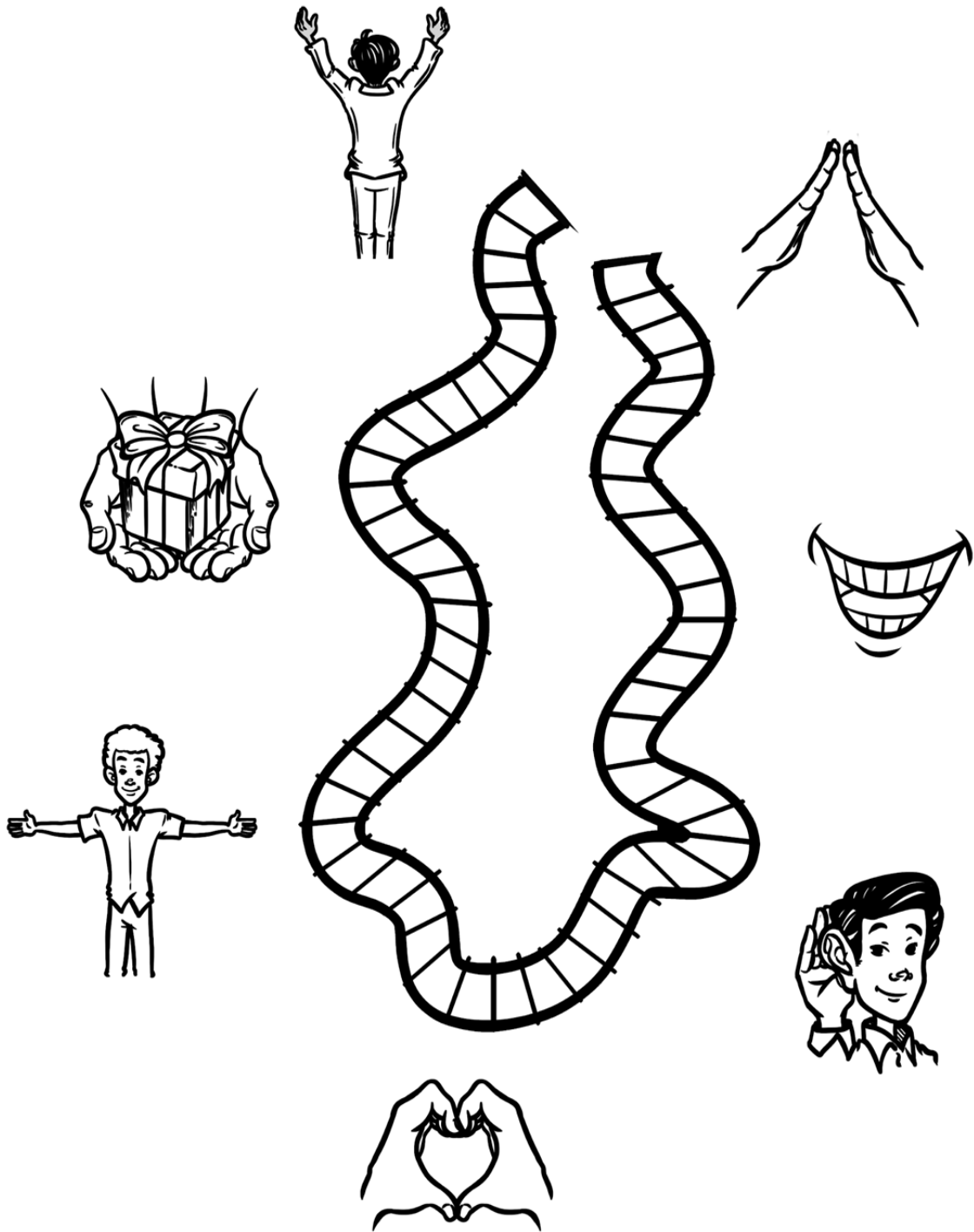


Stations of Generosity



Participant Guide

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible,
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SESSION 1

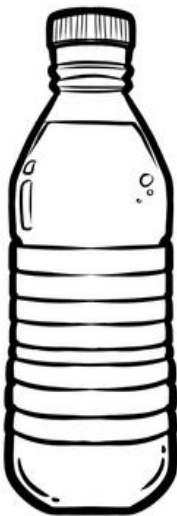


A Global Movement of Biblical Generosity

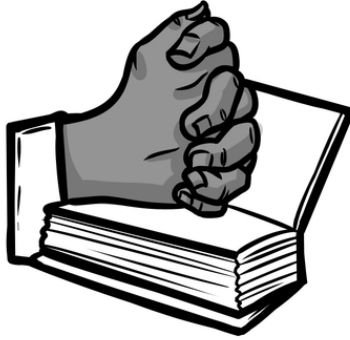
Offering Two Open Hands



Communication Style and Facilitator Role



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR TIME HERE



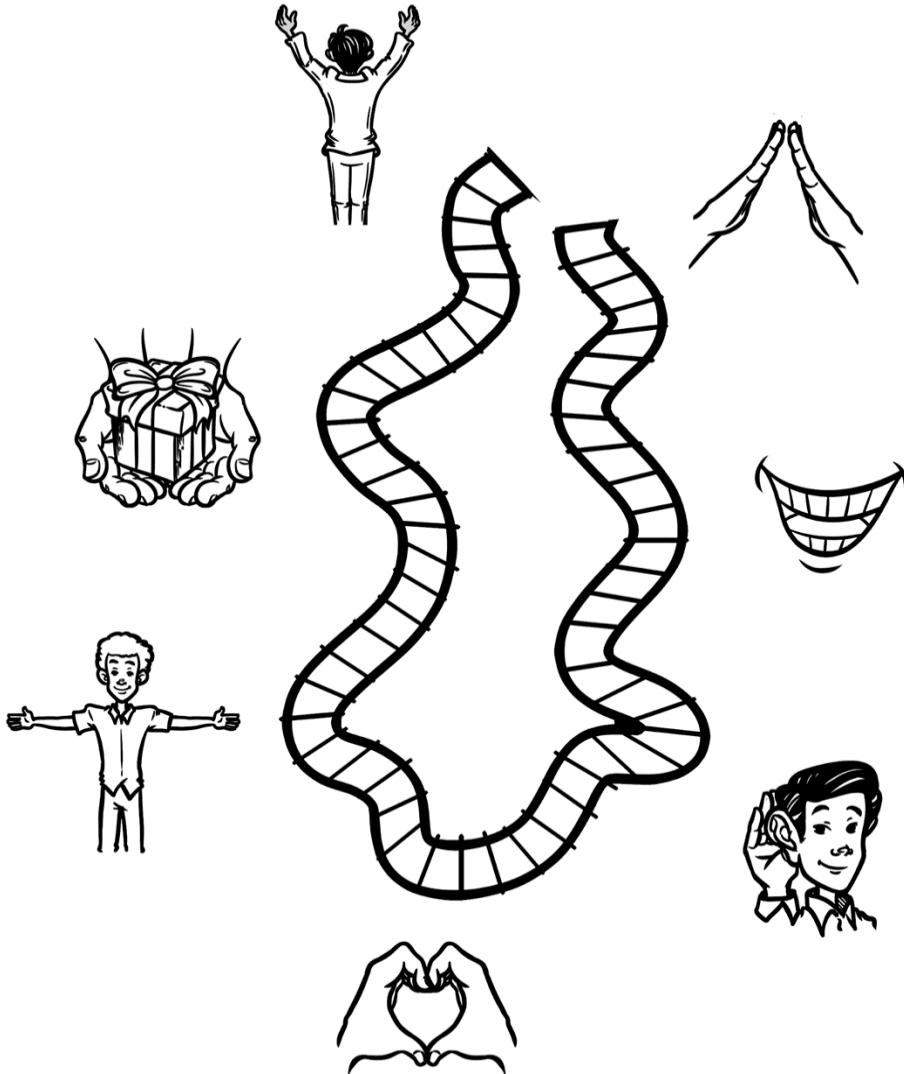
Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And lean not on your own understanding; in all
your ways submit to him, and he will make your
paths straight.

Ask God “Why do you have me here today?”



Stations of Generosity



SESSION 2

Acts 20:32-35

³² “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

³³ I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing.

³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.

³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”



THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.



32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

HANDFUL OF RICE

The story below is true and comes from friends in India. We need four people to play these roles:

Mizo Villager 1

Mizo Villager 2

Old Person

Pastor

Mizo Villager 1: There are many ways of serving the Lord. Some people do great things. Some people are good preachers, some people give lots of money. But we give a "Handful of Rice." It is very humble. I live in a small house with a large family. My kitchen is small and simple. As I cook a meal, I hear chickens in the yard and motorcycles in the distance. Our meals always include rice. I start the coals for our fire. When the water boils, I put in the rice. And then I do something you might not expect. I take one handful of rice and put it in a jar. It is for the Lord. Our part of India is one of the poorest places on Earth. But we want to have the joy of giving to God.

Old Person: Because I am old, I spend my day sitting on a bench here in the market. I watch people buying and selling. I see children playing and laughing. I look up at the hills around our village. People often come and sit next to me here on the street. They ask me to tell stories about the past. I don't know all the answers.

But I know about the Handful of Rice. For more than 100 years, women in our part of India, the state of Mizoram, have been giving a "handful of rice" to God.

Mizo Villager 2: I've helped my mother make meals since I was young. She did it, and she learned it from her parents. At the end of the week, we go to church. We take the jar of rice for God. As we walk to church carrying our jar, we see all the other families carrying theirs. We smile and greet each other.

Pastor: Each family brings the rice they have set aside. They give it to the church. Our women started this. We may not have much money, but we want the joy of giving to God. It's a way to thank him for giving to us. Our church sells the rice. We use that money to send out missionaries.

Old Person: Some people think that I'm so old that I must have been here when "Handful of Rice" started. I'm old, but not *that* old! My parents told me it started around 1910. The Christians wanted "Bible women" to spread the Gospel here in Mizoram. But those Bible women needed money. The church's "Handful of Rice" started paying for them. We are proud of the Bible women. They are our missionaries. We are not rich, but we can still send out missionaries. Just like the people did in the early church.

Mizo Villager 1: Sometimes I have thought, "I would have more rice if I didn't do that." Then I think about what Jesus did for me. That changes my heart. He gave everything, not just a little bit. I want other people to know him too. So at least I can give a little bit of rice. Anyone can do this. Not just rich people or business people.

Pastor: Now more than 90 percent of people here are Christians. The missionaries were faithful and the people were generous. We are so blessed. Our government makes it hard for foreign missionaries to come into India, so we send Mizo missionaries all across India. They do a great job.

Mizo Villager 2: I've given other things to the church. Not just rice. Like vegetables or firewood. Generosity means giving what God has given you. Of course, we tithe to God on our income, and then we give this "Handful of Rice."

Old Person: Our churches provide for themselves now. We don't need anything from people from other places. We are proud of that. I'll tell you some numbers so that you can see what God has done. The first year, the church raised less than two dollars US in *all* of Mizoram. Not much! Now, the average family in Mizoram gives almost 16 dollars US. It adds up to enough money that we can send hundreds of missionaries. This change in giving reflects a change in our hearts. We trust God to keep providing. We may be poor, but we are rich toward God.

Miso Villager 1: People say Mizoram is "backwards." It's true that we are poor. But if being generous to God is backwards, maybe more people should be backwards!

Pastor: We now send out missionaries. You know, people sometimes think, "What is God going to do for me?" But we all must understand what God has **ALREADY** done for us. Then we all ask a better question: "What can I do to thank God?"

Miso Villager 2: We have a saying in my village, "As long as we have something to eat every day, we have something to give to God every day."

SESSION 3

THE WOMAN WHO GAVE HER BEST

Luke 7:36-50

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.



41 “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

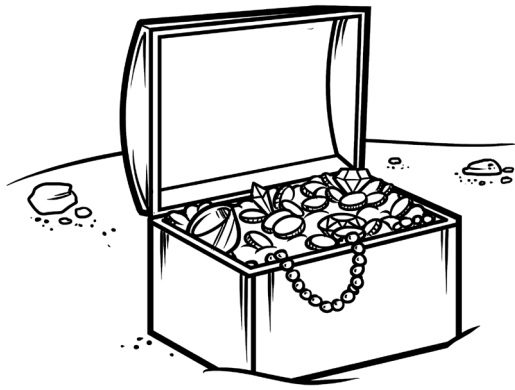
47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

50 Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

TREASURE AND HEART



Matthew 6:19-21

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Questions to Discuss in Pairs

Where does Jesus say we should NOT lay up treasures?

What can happen if we lay up treasures in the wrong place?

What happens to our treasures if they're laid up in heaven?

What connection does Jesus make between our treasure and our heart?

Why do you think people lay up treasure on earth instead of heaven?

Why is Jesus inviting his followers to handle treasure differently?

What do you think Jesus's followers did differently to respond to this teaching?

SESSION 4

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

In Luke 3, people have repented and received John’s baptism. They ask what to do next.



Luke 3:10-14

10 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

11 John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”



12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

13 “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.



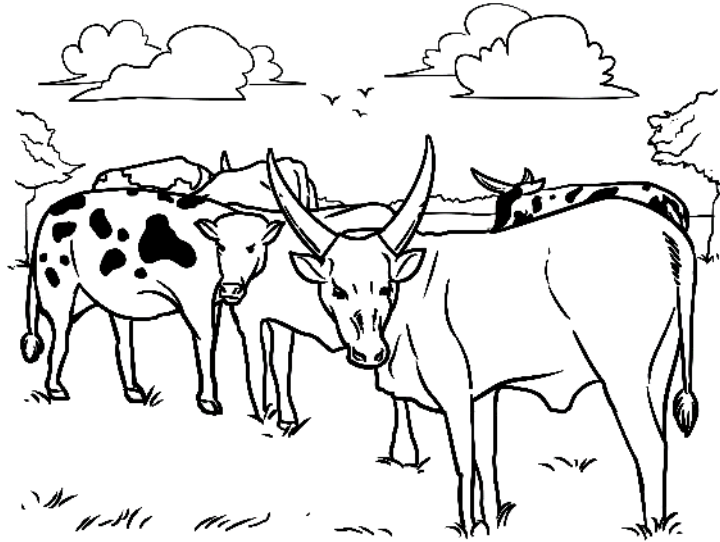
14 Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

REFLECTION: Ask God: “What should I do?”

SESSION 5

WHAT ARE YOU CHEWING ON?



SOWING AND REAPING

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

9 As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Group Discussion:

What are some words that you see repeated often?

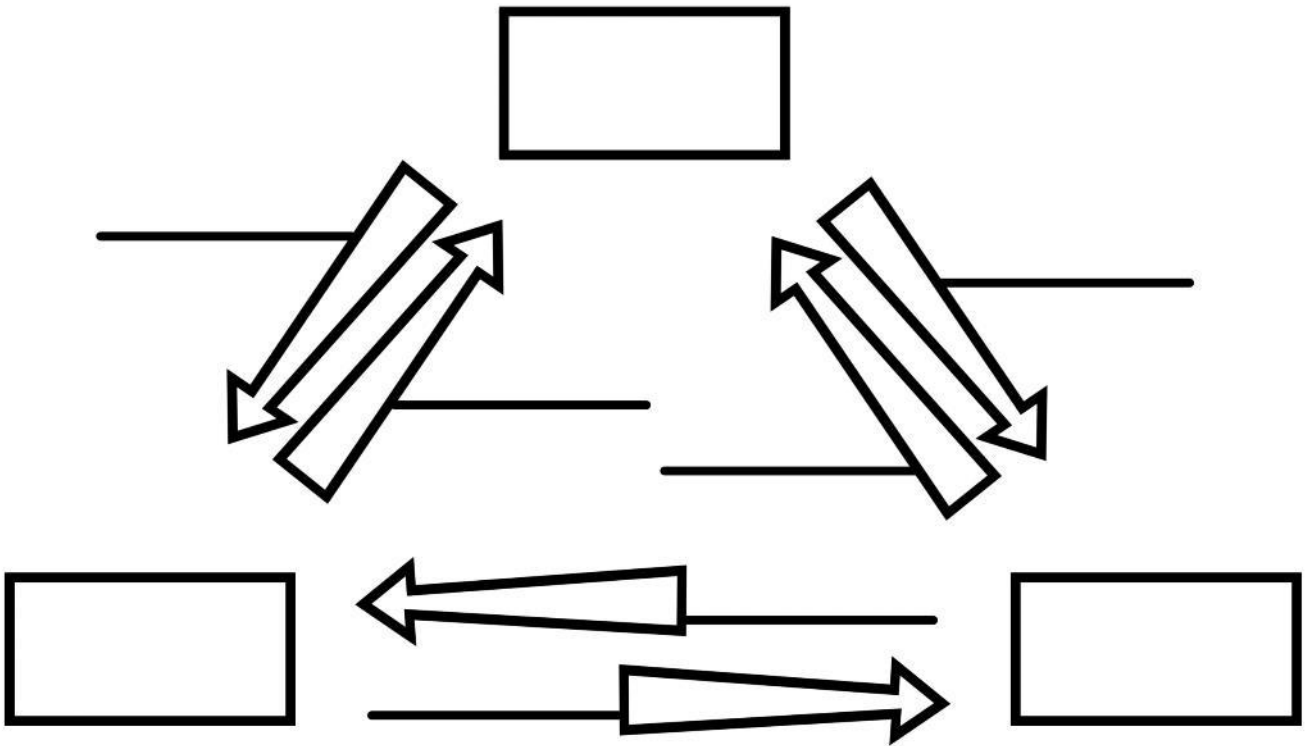
Are there things that God promises you in this passage?

What does the giver give in this passage? What does the giver receive?

What does God give? What does God receive?

What does the receiver receive? What does the receiver give?

THE GIVING TRIANGLE



SESSION 6

Bishop Hannington

My name is Hannington but most people call me Pastor Hannington. I lead a church
This true story comes from Pastor Hannington in Uganda. in our village

in Uganda. Our village is far from any town. Our homes are made from sticks and have thatched roofs.

As a pastor, I need sometimes to raise money for God's work. It can be easy to use guilt or to make people feel bad. That makes them give out of duty. But I wanted my church to give from their hearts and not out of duty. But then something happened that made it seem like they might never be able to give again.

A rebel army invaded our village. They pointed guns at us and made us leave. We were not rich before, but at least we had our homes and our land. Now we had nothing. Many people died. About 80,000 people from villages like ours were herded like cattle into refugee camps.

Life in the camps was very bad. Families crowded in shack houses, children had no food for one, two, or three days. There was no water. Some of our people died.

The war continued. More people got sick or starved. Many children became orphans. We hoped it would end so we could leave the camps. We just wanted to return to our village! I asked God, “Lord, how can I help them out of this situation?”

The Lord heard my prayers. He spoke to my heart. He reminded me that everything we have belongs to Him. Even in this refugee camp, God put abundant resources. I was not sure, but wanted to obey God. I called upon the believers to share whatever they *did* have with those who did not have anything.

I would say “Share what you have with the children in need.” People thought I was crazy. They replied, “But I don’t have very much for me and my family.” But I was sure God wanted us to be generous. We needed to be grateful and generous and trust God to take care of us.

In the refugee camps, we asked people to give blankets to the orphans. We saw the generosity principle start to work! All of us were poor, but the orphans were the most poor. Helping those with more needs made us all more joyful. One orphan girl said, “When you gave me a blanket, it felt like God remembered me.”

Can you imagine? God was using us to remind an orphan that He loves them!

After two bad years in the terrible camps, they let us return to our village.

But it was not our village. It was destroyed. The houses were torn down. The farms were burned. Churches and schools were ruined. What can you do? We started rebuilding and doing our best.

The people complained and blamed others. They asked, “How can people from other countries help us?” But I think there’s a better question. I said, “Don’t ask, ‘Who will help us?’ Instead ask ‘How can God meet our needs, using what He’s given us?’”

I believe God gave us everything we needed to rebuild our village. With other pastors, we told this message to all the people.

We said, “We need to give what gifts we have and trust that God will use us.” Not money, but skills. Mechanics and business people and builders. They used their skills to build our community. We all have something to give. Even if we think we are poor.

The pastors and I encouraged generosity. It was slow at first. Then, one by one, person by person, the people caught the idea. They tried generosity. Then they found joy in giving. Then other people wanted to help too. The village was being changed.

We started to rebuild our churches. We built homes for the orphans. We built schools. Through us, God met the people’s needs. Using their gifts that God had given, and the resources God had given, we saw generosity and sustainability start to work.

There is a woman in our church who is lame. One day we were asking people to bring their gifts to build a church. She saw others giving with joy. And she wanted to join. She gave her only chicken to the church. We sold the chicken to buy bricks for the church. Today, the church where she worships is made of bricks. That is a beautiful picture of gracious giving. The lady became an important person in our church. We put her in charge of all the chickens in our village. Boys from our church come to her house every day. They pick her up and take her to work.

God's message of generosity has changed all of us. This message of gracious giving can work at every time, in every place. Generosity changes people. We experienced joy by giving. We gave money and food and our talents. If we can give when we think we have nothing, then anyone can be generous!

LIVING BY FAITH RATHER THAN FEAR

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is _____'s shepherd. _____ shall not want. 2 He makes _____ lie down in green pastures. He leads _____ beside still waters. 3 He restores _____'s soul. He leads _____ in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though _____ walks through the valley of the shadow of death, _____ will fear no evil, for you are with _____; your rod and your staff, they comfort _____. 5 You prepare a table before _____ in the presence of _____'s enemies; you anoint _____'s head with oil; _____'s cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow _____ all the days of _____'s life, and _____ shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

What God, our Shepherd, does...



He
shepherds...

He makes...



He restores...

He leads...



He walks
with us...

He comforts...



He prepares
a table...

He invites us
to dwell in His
house...



The promise for us...

FEAR IN GIVING

Pray and reflect on fears that keep you from giving.



Following Me Home



SESSION 7

Matthew 6:24-33

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



BIGGER BARNS

Luke 12:15-21

15 Then he said to them,
“Watch out! Be on your guard
against all kinds of greed; life
does not consist in an
abundance of possessions.”

16 And he told them this
parable: “The ground of a
certain rich man yielded an
abundant harvest. 17 He thought
to himself, ‘What shall I do? I
have no place to store my
crops.’

18 “Then he said, ‘This is what
I’ll do. I will tear down my
barns and build bigger ones, and
there I will store my surplus
grain. 19 And I’ll say to myself,
“You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and
be merry.”’

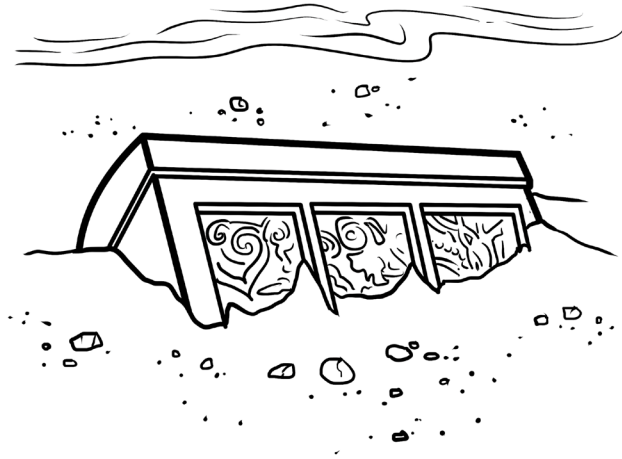
20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded
from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

21 “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is
not rich toward God.”



ETERNAL TREASURE

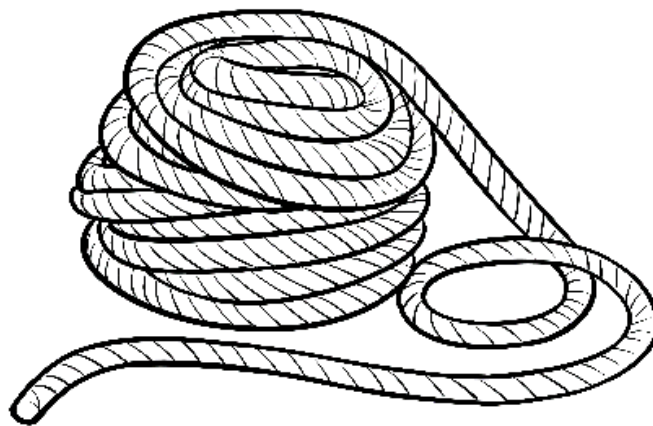
Matthew 13:44-46



44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The Rope



SESSION 8



ASK the Holy Spirit to speak to you.



LISTEN to His voice. Write down what He tells you.



OBEY. What steps will you take to obey what He tells you?

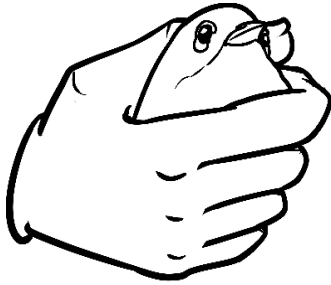
GIVING BIBLICALLY

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

1 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.



THE BIRD



Romans 11:36

For from him and through him and to him
are all things.

To him be glory forever. Amen.

NEXT STEPS

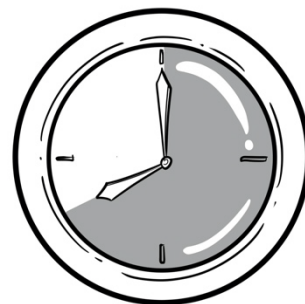
Lead Discovery Bible
Studies for your church or
home group



Lead your own
Stations of Generosity
Experience



OR



MORE SCRIPTURE ON GENEROSITY

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 – “You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

Proverbs 11:24-25 – “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Matthew 7:9-11 – “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Matthew 10:8 – “Freely you have received; freely give.”

Mark 8:19 – “When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” ‘Twelve,’ they replied.”

Luke 12:32-33 – “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”

Romans 8:32 – “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

2 Corinthians 8:7 – “Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 – “You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

2 Corinthians 9:10 – “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

Ephesians 1:3 – “Praise be to the God...who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19 – “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

James 1:17 – “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

1 John 4:19 – “We love because He first loved us.”

THE STATIONS OF GENEROSITY

[Arms outstretched]

1 God Owns Everything

Psalms 24:1 -- "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

[Hands offering gift]

2 God Provides Enough

Luke 12:32 -- "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

[Arms on cross]

3 God Gives Generously

John 3:16 -- "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son."

[Hands in shape of heart]

4 We Respond Lovingly

1 John 3:16 -- "Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

[Ear with a hand cupping to hear]

5 We Hear God

John 10:27 -- "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

[Smiling face]

6 We Find Joy

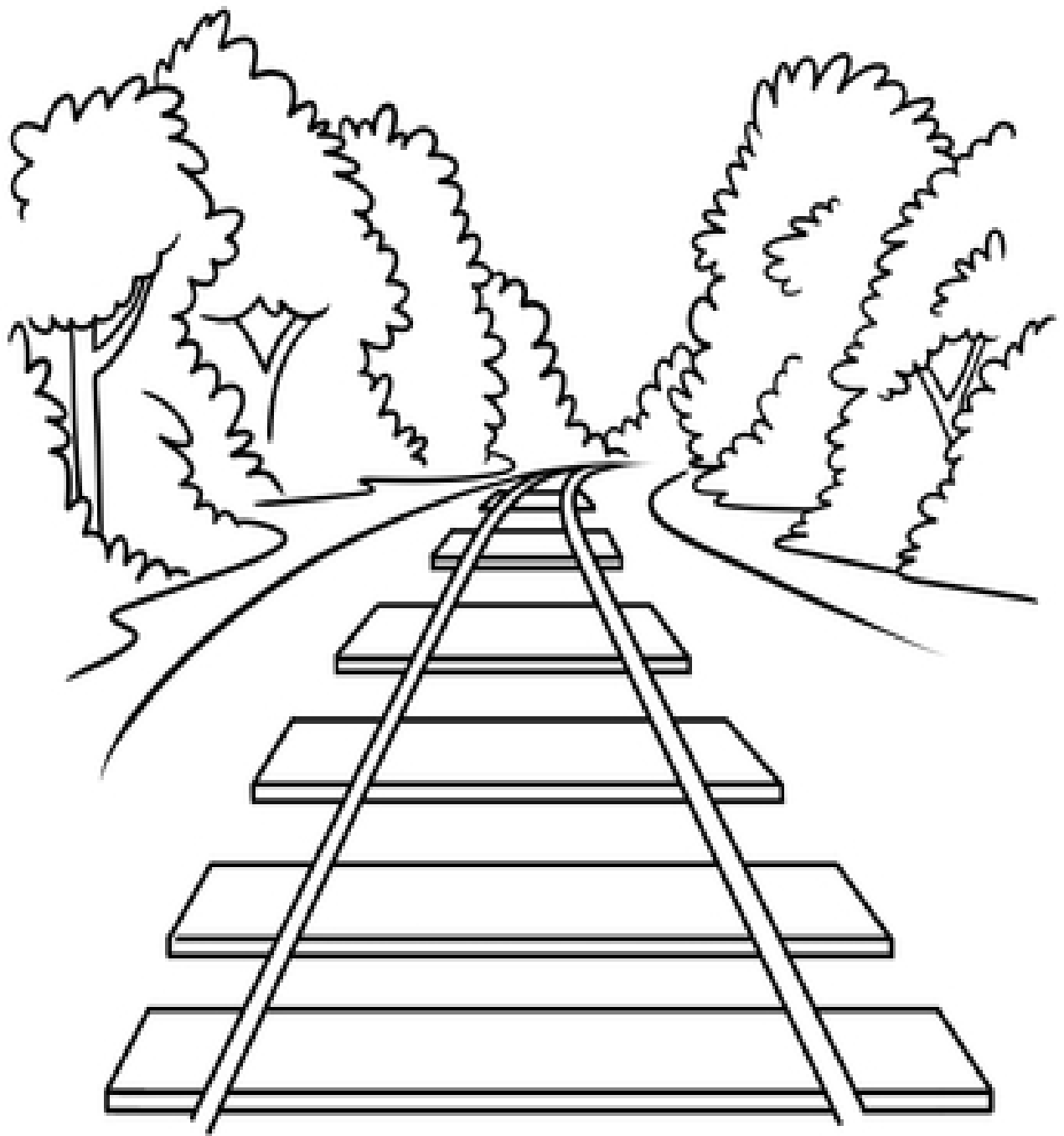
Acts 20:35 -- "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

[House in heaven]

7 We Store Treasure

2 Timothy 1:12 -- "He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."

Discovering Generosity



GUIDE FOR DISCOVERING GENEROSITY

Table of Contents

1. Job 41:11, 42:10-17	God Owns It All (God Restores Job)
2. John 1:1-12	God Gave First (Jesus Came to Us)
3. Luke 7:36-50	Giving Comes Out of Love for Him (The Woman's Sacrifice)
4. Luke 3:7-14	Listen and Discern God's Will for You (Responses to John the Baptist)
5. 2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Giving Brings Joy (Sowing and Reaping)
6. Matthew 6:25-33	God Loves to Provide for Our Needs (Seek First the Kingdom)
7. Luke 12:12-21	Heaven Is My Home (The Rich Fool)
8. Luke 19:11-27	Steward God's Resources for God's Purposes (The Ten Talents)

FACILITATOR GUIDELINES

- Before the study, read the passages and understand the context for each passage.
- In the study:
 - Give everyone a chance to share.
 - Don't allow anyone to preach or teach.
 - Don't only read the passages; put them into practice.
 - Encourage people to share with others what they are learning.
 - Encourage the group to practical needs, both in the group and in the community.

1. Discovering Generosity: **God Owns It All.**



Objective: God made everything and everything belongs to him.

Introduction: Open with a song and prayer (in either order)



Review Questions:

- [No Review Questions this time because it is the first lesson.]
- [No Story Reminder from last week because it is the first lesson.]



Opening Questions:

- **[First Time Only]** Who are you and tell us about your family?
- What are you thankful for this week?
- What problems do you have this week?
- Is there any way this group can help you?



Discovery Passage: Job 41:11, Job 42:10-17

Discover Truth from Scripture: God has all the resources. Everything belongs to Him. He took away from Job and He gave back to Job. It's all God's decision
(This is time to discover the passage.)

- What happens in this passage? [Walk through the passage step by step.]
- Have someone recite it in their own words.
- Who owns everything under heaven?
- Before God provided this to Job, how do you think he felt?
- Why might Job doubt that God was going to provide for him?

Memorize a Key Passage: Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it; the world and all who dwell in it.”



Obedience: I will change my daily life to reflect the reality that there is a God and He owns everything. (This is time to help group members understand how this truth changes their lives.)

- Why do you think people fear that God won't provide for them?
- If everything belongs to God, how does this change the way people should manage their resources?
- What in these passages is an “aha” for you?
- What in these passages invites you to change?
- Who can you share this story with?

Conclusion: Ask someone to close in prayer.



Digging Deeper: An additional passage for reflection: Psalm 50:11-13

2. Discovering Generosity: **God Gave First.**



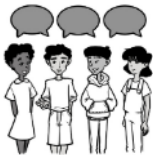
Objective: God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for us as the ultimate gift.

Introduction: Open with a song and prayer (in either order)



Review Questions:

- Who did you share last week's passage with?
- Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
- Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?
- Who can share with us, in their own words, the story from last time?
- Who can share the verse that we memorized?



Opening Questions:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What problems do you have this week?
- Is there any way this group can help you?



Discovery Passage: John 1:1-12

Discover Truth from Scripture: God gave us His precious gift—Jesus, His only Son—and even gives us the gift of adopting us into His family. (This is time to discover the passage.)

- What happens in this passage? [Walk through step by step.]
- In the passage, who is the Maker of all things?
- What right does God give in verse 12?
- If God gave freely to adopt people as His children, how could they respond to that gift?
- How does that change the way that they give to others?

Memorize a Key Passage: 2 Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”



Obedience: I will change my daily life to reflect the reality that God has generously shared His most precious gift with me. (This is time to help group members understand how this truth changes their lives.)

- What did Jesus give up for our sake?
- Why did He do that?
- What kinds of riches do you think this passage talks about?
- How else does this passage change what we do?
- Who can you share this story with?

Conclusion: Ask someone to close in prayer.



Digging Deeper: An additional passage for reflection: Philippians 2:5-8

3. Discovering Generosity: Giving Flows from Our Love for God.



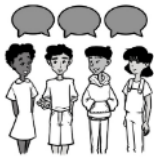
Objective: Our giving is a response to God's amazing generosity.

Introduction: Open with a song and prayer (in either order)



Review Questions:

- Who did you share last week's passage with?
- Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
- Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?
- Who can share with us, in their own words, the story from last time?
- Who can share the verse that we memorized?



Opening Questions:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What problems do you have this week?
- Is there any way this group can help you?



Discovery Passage: Luke 7:36-50

Discover Truth from Scripture: In response to the forgiveness God gives us, we pour out our most precious gifts to Him. (This is time to discover the passage.)

- What happens in this passage? [Walk through step by step.]
- Why does Jesus say that the woman did this?
- How do you think the woman felt about her sin before she knew Jesus?
- What do you think the alabaster meant to this woman?
- Why do you think she gave Jesus something so precious?

Memorize a Key Passage: 1 John 3:16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."



Obedience: I will change my daily life to reflect the reality that giving my best to Him is a response to Him giving Himself to us. (This is time to help group members understand how this truth changes their lives.)

- What did Jesus do for us? What does He invite us to do for others?
- What are some ways that people can lay down their lives for each other?
- How else does this passage change what we do?
- Who can you share this story with?

Conclusion: Ask someone to close in prayer.



Digging Deeper: An additional passage for reflection: Matthew 25:31-40

4. Discovering Generosity: Listen and Discern God's Will for You.



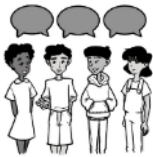
Objective: Generosity is about listening to the Spirit and following, not about rules.

Introduction: Open with a song and prayer (in either order)



Review Questions:

- Who did you share last week's passage with?
- Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
- Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?
- Who can share with us, in their own words, the story from last time?
- Who can share the verse that we memorized?



Opening Questions:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What problems do you have this week?
- Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passage: Luke 3:7-14



Discover Truth from Scripture: Changing our lives requires a response, but this response will be different for different people. Each of us should ask God "What should I do?". (This is time to discover the passage.)

- What happens in this passage? [Walk through step by step.]
- What advice does John the Baptist give to each of the three groups?
- Why do you think all three relate to money?
- What connection does John the Baptist see between repentance and how his followers handle money?
- Which of the three pieces of advice do you think was hardest for John the Baptist's followers?

Memorize a Key Passage: Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."



Obedience: I will change my daily life to reflect the reality that I get to listen to my Father's voice, telling me what to give, when to give and how to give. We can give out of love, not out of duty. (This is time to help group members understand how this truth changes their lives.)

- Why do you think Paul (who wrote Romans) wants us to avoid conforming to the world's pattern?
- How does he say people are transformed?
- What are some ways that people can listen to God's direction?
- How else does this passage change what we do?
- Who can you share this story with?

Conclusion: Ask someone to close in prayer.



Digging Deeper: An additional passage for reflection: Acts 11:27-30

5. Discovering Generosity: **Giving Brings Joy.**



Objective: Generosity allows us to meet needs and we are blessed as we bless others.

Introduction: Open with a song and prayer (in either order)



Review Questions:

- Who did you share last week's passage with?
- Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
- Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?
- Who can share with us, in their own words, the story from last time?
- Who can share the verse that we memorized?



Opening Questions:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What problems do you have this week?
- Is there any way this group can help you?



Discovery Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Discover Truth from Scripture: Giving is an opportunity, not an obligation. Giving fills us with joy and blessing as God uses our generosity to bless others.
(This is time to discover the passage.)

- What happens in this passage? [Walk through step by step.]
- What promises from God do you see in this passage?
- What does the giver give in this passage? What does the giver receive?
- What does God give? What does God receive?
- What does the receiver receive? What does the receiver give?
- What does this passage tell us about how people should be generous?

Memorize a Key Passage: Acts 20:35 "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



Obedience: I will change my daily life to reflect the reality that generosity fills my life with God's joy. (This is time to help group members understand how this truth changes their lives.)

- What are some ways that giving could be more blessed than receiving?
- When have you experienced the blessing of giving?
- If it's more blessed to give than to receive, why don't people give?
- How else does this passage change what we do?
- Who can you share this story with?

Conclusion: Ask someone to close in prayer.



Digging Deeper: An additional passage for reflection: Acts 20:17-35

6. Discovering Generosity: **God Loves to Provide for Our Needs.**



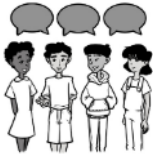
Objective: Our Father delights in providing for every need that we have.

Introduction: Open with a song and prayer (in either order)



Review Questions:

- Who did you share last week's passage with?
- Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
- Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?
- Who can share with us, in their own words, the story from last time?
- Who can share the verse that we memorized?



Opening Questions:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What problems do you have this week?
- Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passage: Matthew 6:25-33



Discover Truth from Scripture: God will meet all of our needs as we seek His Kingdom first. (This is time to discover the passage.)

- What happens in this passage? [Walk through step by step.]
- What does Jesus ask his followers to seek instead?
- How do you think God feels when He provides for the birds or the lilies? Or for your needs?
- Why do you think Jesus told his followers this story?
- Where else in the Bible do you find stories of God providing for His people?

Memorize a Key Passage: Luke 12:32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."



Obedience: I will change my daily life to reflect the reality that my Father in Heaven is filled with joy as He sees my faith and meets my needs. (This is time to help group members understand how this truth changes their lives.)

- What three pictures does Jesus give us in this verse to describe God?
- Why do you think Jesus wants his followers not to be afraid?
- How else does this passage change what we do?
- Who can you share this story with?

Conclusion: Ask someone to close in prayer.



Digging Deeper: Additional passages for reflection: 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Matthew 7:7-12

7. Discovering Generosity: **Heaven Is My Home.**



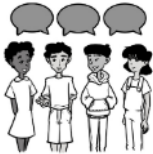
Objective: Giving stores up eternal treasure in Heaven, our true home.

Introduction: Open with a song and prayer (in either order)



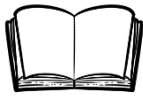
Review Questions:

- Who did you share last week's passage with?
- Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
- Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?
- Who can share with us, in their own words, the story from last time?
- Who can share the verse that we memorized?



Opening Questions:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What problems do you have this week?
- Is there any way this group can help you?



Discovery Passage: Luke 12:15-21

Discover Truth from Scripture: Treasure on earth flies away, but treasure that we store up in heaven cannot be taken away. (This is time to discover the passage.)

- What happens in this passage? [Walk through step by step.]
- How do you think the rich man felt when his harvest came?
- What was the rich man's plan?
- Why do you think God is not in his thoughts?
- What else could the rich man have done with his abundance?
- How could the man have chosen to be "rich toward God"?

Memorize a Key Passage: Matthew 6:20-21 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."



Obedience: I will change my daily life to reflect the reality that my faith-filled generosity is storing up treasure in Heaven. (This is time to help group members understand how this truth changes their lives.)

- What happens to our treasures if they're laid up in heaven?
- What connection does Jesus make between our treasure and our heart?
- Why is Jesus inviting his followers to handle treasure differently?
- What do you think Jesus's followers did differently to respond to this teaching?
- How else does this passage change what we do?
- Who can you share this story with?

Conclusion: Ask someone to close in prayer.



Digging Deeper: Additional passages for reflection: Matthew 13:44-45

8. Discovering Generosity: Steward God's Resources for God's Purposes.



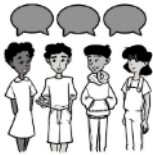
Objective: God trusts us to care for money, and asks that we use it to do His work.

Introduction: Open with a song and prayer (in either order)



Review Questions:

- Who did you share last week's passage with?
- Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
- Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?
- Who can share with us, in their own words, the story from last time?
- Who can share the verse that we memorized?



Opening Questions:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What problems do you have this week?
- Is there any way this group can help you?



Discovery Passage: Matthew 25:14-30

Discover Truth from Scripture: God trusts us with His resources, but then asks us to take risks and to put those resources to work to expand His Kingdom. (This is time to discover the passage.)

- What happens in this passage? [Walk through step by step.]
- What does this passage tell us about God's trust in the workers?
- What did he expect them to do with the talents?
- Why do you think some took risks and some didn't?
- What risks do you think people could take with the resources God has given them?
- What does this passage tell us about how people could be generous?
- Matthew 25 addresses how Jesus' followers should wait for His return. How does knowing that Jesus will return impact the way we manage resources?

Memorize a Key Passage: Matthew 25:23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"



Obedience: I will change my daily life to use what God has entrusted to me to give Him a return. (This is time to help group members understand how this truth changes their lives.)

- What kinds of things does God trust people with?
- Why do you think God trusts people with resources?
- How does this passage change how we steward resources God has given us?
- How else does this passage change what we do?
- Who can you share this story with?

Conclusion: Ask someone to close in prayer.



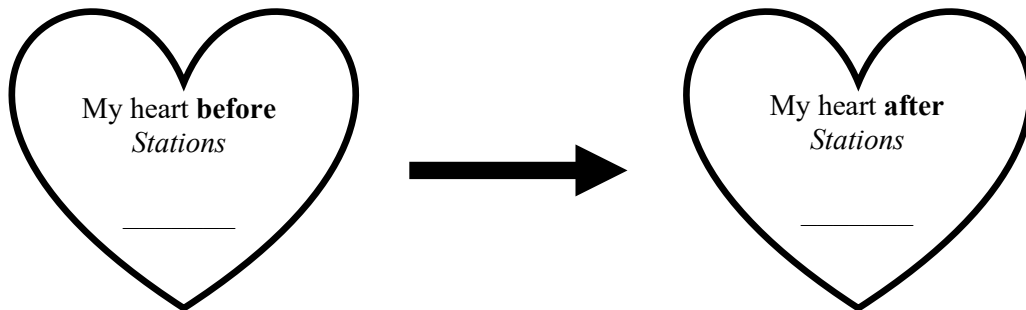
Digging Deeper: Additional passages for reflection: 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Participant Survey

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. We hope *Stations of Generosity* helped your heart change. On a scale of **1** (not eager to give) to **10** (eager to give), describe your heart toward generosity before and after *Stations*.



2. What have you decided to do differently as a result of this experience?

3. What comments or questions do you have?

