

15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
"The Power of Generosity"
Sermon Small Group Questions
Speaker: Pastor Gini Smith

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group:
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

What is it going to take to impact our world? It is going to happen through the Holy Spirit operating in a Body of Believers who respond in radical generosity and sacrifice. It is not an effort solely from us or for us, but it is literally working within the spirit of Christ Jesus.

MESSAGE

You are embarking on a new season. Take hold of the new thing that God wants to do.

[Proverbs 11.25, HCSB]

A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.

[Proverbs 22.9, HCSB]

A generous person will be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

Steep yourself in God's reality, God's heart, God's provision, and God's generosity!

[1 Timothy 6.17-19, HCSB]

Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. [Instruct them] to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good reserve for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real.

[1 Timothy 6.17-19, MSG]

Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage - to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

This treasury is in heaven; you are investing in heavenly things, not earthly things that will pass away.

[2 Corinthians 9.6-13, HCSB]

Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should do as he has decided in his heart-not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. As it is written: He scattered; He gave to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. Now the One who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God. They will glorify God for your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with others through the proof provided by this service.

If it's true, it's going to carry me through. Trust is the potency of giving.

[2 Corinthians 8.1-4]

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God granted to the churches of Macedonia: During a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity. I testify that, on their own, according to their ability and beyond their ability, they begged us insistently for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints.

Principles of Generosity:

- **Righteous gives and gives.**
- **Generous gets it all in the end;** Stingy is cut off at the pass.
- Stalwart walks in step with God; his path blazed by God, he's happy. **If he stumbles, he's not down for long; God has a grip on his hand.**
- I once was young, now I'm a graybeard-not once have I seen an abandoned believer, or his kids out roaming the streets. **Every day he's out giving and lending,** his children making him proud.
- Turn your back on evil, work for the good and don't quit. God loves this kind of thing, never turning away from his friends. Live this way and you've got it made, but bad eggs will be tossed out.
- The good get planted on good land and put down healthy roots.
- Righteous chews on wisdom like a dog on a bone, rolls virtue around on his tongue. His heart pumps God's Word like blood through his veins; his feet are as sure as a cat's.
- Wait passionately for God, don't leave the path. He'll give you your place in the sun while you watch the wicked lose it.
- Keep your eye on the healthy soul, scrutinize the straight life; There's a future in strenuous wholeness.
- The spacious, free life is from God, it's also protected and safe.
- God-strengthened, we're delivered from evil-when we run to him, he saves us.
(Psalm 37:21-31, 34, 37, 39, 40 MSG)

God gave His best gift first; He gave His one and only Son. In our lives, people are the great reward.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is something old that you need to take off? What is something new that you need to put on for this upcoming season?**
- 2. What does biblical generosity look like, and how do we grow in it?**
- 3. How is it possible to be "unbelieving believers?" How can we practically and tangibly operate in great faith in this season? In extravagant giving?**
- 4. How has your life been enriched, as a result of generosity from others? [Proverbs 11.25]**
- 5. What is one area where you are trusting that God will bring the fulfillment of His promise to you?**