



Message: *Lifestyle of Generosity (2-06-22)*

Use the message and the message notes and message help guide your answers and discussion for group.

Helpful Hints:

The primary goal of Small Groups has always been to help Christ Followers grow stronger in their walk by having fellowship with one another. We want each member to hear the word of God, retain it, internalize it, and most importantly apply it. One of the ways we grow as Christ Followers is to make sure we strive each day to align ourselves with the word of God. Here are some tips to help us all make sure we are continuing to strive to align ourselves with the word of God, and His instructions for His followers.

(Exodus 24:7, John 14:23, Deuteronomy 5:33)

- Before you meet watch the message again on our YouTube page (Now Word Covenant Church)
 - It is important to watch it again because there are things you miss the first time that you can get when you watch again.
- Use scripture to back up your answers during discussion. Try not to give your opinion as it pertains to the word of God. If everyone in the group gives a different answer, then it is probably opinion and not Bible.
- Try not to start your answer with "I think...". Instead ask "What does God's word say about this?" Always refer to the word of God, which is the answer to every question.
- If no one knows the answer, it is okay to say, "I don't know". Do some studying before the next meeting and be ready to share your answers.

Pre-Discussion Questions:

1. What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you in this week's message?
2. Share a time where you experienced someone's generosity towards you? How did it make you feel?

Generosity Overview:

After Peter's sermon, over 3,000 souls were saved. The church began and those new believers who came to Jerusalem from other places wanted to stay and be part of the great move of God and the church. So, the church took up offerings to support those who wanted to stay and continue in the movement of God and the church in Jerusalem – Acts 4:32:

The church in Jerusalem's fellowship consisted of charity that produced generosity:

Acts 4:32. All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

- United in heart and mind (unity)
- What they owned was not their own (community)
- They shared everything (mutual benefit)

"The first practice of giving in the church was generosity."

Discussion Questions:

1. **Generosity:** is openhanded giving that is unlimited. You give freely, benevolently, and cheerfully to be a blessing to others. What does "openhanded" giving mean?
2. At the beginning of time, who was the giver, and who was the manager? What is the role of the giver and what is the role of the manager? (Genesis 2:16) Discuss the principle of the first portion.
3. Giving principle is not only about money, but a life style. "Giving is mandatory because it's a characteristic of God's nature and its Christ first command to all His followers." Read Luke 9:23 and discuss the giving Christ is talking about in this verse. What are the rewards, and what are the struggles of this type of giving?

4. "Freewill giving is an expression of our heart." (2 Corinthians 9:7) What is the difference between freewill giving and giving a tithe? What are the rewards and benefits of each?
5. "God owns it all" (Psalms 24:1) Does knowing this make an attitude of openhanded giving easier? If so why?
6. What does the phrase "*blessed to be a blessing*" mean? (Acts 20:35) Share a time you blessed someone, what was your reward?
7. What is a sower? How do you become a sower? (2 Corinthians 9:10-11) Are you currently sowing into something specific? If so, please share.
8. Read and discuss Mark 10:28-29. What is Jesus telling them, and what is the reward? What does it look like to live a life totally given to God?
9. Do you feel your life is completely given to God? If not, what areas do you need to work on?
10. What will you apply to your life immediately from Sunday's message?