



Generosity

The Paradox of Generosity

Leader's Notes:

Question 1 - addresses our new sermon series on generosity. It restates our definition of generosity and asks a few questions to bring this topic into focus for your group.

Question 2 - deals with our attitude or heart when we give. The Bible often addresses the state of our hearts when it addresses giving and generosity. This question allows your group to briefly focus on why that might be important.

Question 3 - illustrates how we can be more generous. We learn that as we focus on God's generosity to us, we - in return, live and give more generously. The question then asks your group to discuss three scriptures about God's generosity. Take your time as you discuss the scripture. Make sure each member of your group is engaged. You might do this by calling on them by name. You also might subdivide this question, asking three separate people to read and discuss the three scriptures. This question ends with an opportunity for storytelling.

Question 4 - highlights what I call the, "paradox of generosity." It is the idea that, by giving, we should have less, however, the Bible consistently teaches the opposite. We learn that the more we give, the more we actually receive. A number of scientific studies also back up this fact. Discuss this paradox.

Question 5 - wraps up the study. It attempts to take all the thoughts about generosity and transfer them into concrete action steps.