

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If everyone were required to wear a hat all the time, what kind of hat would you wear and why that style?

1. Pastor Tom quoted Ron Blue as saying, "A life story could be written from a checking account. It reflects your goals, priorities, convictions, relationships, and even your use of time." What priorities and convictions would your receipts, bank statements and credit card statements reveal?
2. Read [2 Corinthians 8:2-4](#). In this passage, the Apostle Paul describes the Macedonian believers as begging for the "privilege" of giving to help the persecuted church in Jerusalem. When was the last time you saw giving as a privilege to be craved and what motivated you to be so generous?
3. Pastor Tom said, "Grace-empowered giving is always voluntary," rather than out of obligation or coercion. ([2 Corinthians 8:8-9](#)) What changes when you give because you want to, not because you have to? How could it make a difference for you in terms of your joy and generosity?
4. Pastor Tom declared that "Passionate, Spirit-filled, Jesus-followers are not offended, uptight, or uncomfortable when encouraged and challenged to give generously to God's work." ([2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 11-12](#)) So, what might it reveal in us if we are "offended, uptight, or uncomfortable" when challenged to give? Where do you think that knee-jerk reaction is coming from?
5. Read [Matthew 6:21](#). Pastor Tom quoted Strand when he said, "People who give to the Church start to love the Church. People who give to help people come to Christ start to care about people coming to Christ." If, as the scripture says, our heart follows our treasure, what changes might you need to make to ensure that your heart is in line with God's passions?

Day One: [John 19](#); [Psalm 87](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 37](#); [Proverbs 25](#)

Day Three: [Romans 9](#); [2 Samuel 7](#)

Day Four: [Philemon 1](#); [Jeremiah 21](#)

Day Five: [Job 25](#); [Acts 3](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



FOUNDATIONS

"ULTIMATE GENEROSITY"

July 28, 2024 Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



MESSAGE NOTES

“ULTIMATE GENEROSITY”

July 28, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

Note 1 Timothy 1:15

Jesus came to _____ to rescue lost people.

Note Luke 19:10

And Jesus calls every one of His followers to do what He did and still does _____: be outward-focused and reaching lost people.

Being outward-focused as individuals and a church is the most transforming and _____-giving thing we can do.

Note Matthew 6:21

A life story could be written from a checking account. It reflects your goals, _____, convictions, relationships, and even the use of your time. A person who has been a Christian for even a short time can fake prayer, Bible study... and going to church, but he can't fake what his bank account reveals. Maybe that is why so many of us are _____ about our personal finances. (Ron Blue)

The fact is, the mission of Jesus cannot ever be understood fully and embraced completely without generosity at our _____.

Being generous happens:

1. When God's _____ Permeates My Heart

When _____ is evident in my life, generosity is always evident (note 2 Corinthians 8:1).

- A. Grace-empowered giving overcomes _____ (note 2 Corinthians 8:2; Philippians 1:27-29; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 1:4) - grace-empowered giving isn't impacted by Wall Street, culture wars, polls, elections, economic _____, etc.
B. Grace-empowered giving is always _____ (note 2 Corinthians 8:3-4) - to give was a privilege to enjoy, not a burden to _____. They gave _____ (note 2 Corinthians 8:3a) _____ (note 2 Corinthians 8:10-15)... _____-focused. (note 2 Corinthians 8:5) Consecration to God _____ contributions (King).
C. Grace-empowered giving is _____ for Jesus followers (note 2 Corinthians 8:7; 1 Corinthians 1:4-7).

Being generous and happily sacrificial also happens:

2. When Thankfulness _____ My Motivation

Generosity can't be commanded/_____.

It flows out of genuine _____ (note 2 Corinthians 8:8).

And it's the mission of Jesus that provides the motivation to willingly, generously, and cheerfully give...it comes from the _____ of Jesus (note 2 Corinthians 8:9).

Note Philippians 2:7-8

Jesus became what we were (_____) so that we could become what He is (_____).

If this love of Christ, so magnanimous in its motive and self-sacrificing in its execution, is an _____ force in the believer's heart, how unnecessary, the apostle implies, any command to practice "giving" ought to be. What, without love, might seem a cold moral _____ has been transformed by it into a joyous privilege. (Tasker)

Everything we do for Jesus, including giving, will be all the more positive and meaningful when our motivation isn't some sort of _____ obligation or burdensome duty to perform...(note 2 Corinthians 9:11-12).

FOUNDATIONS MATTER:

- You and I are encouraged and challenged to _____ in the grace of giving (note 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
Is giving a _____ privilege...
...or a burden we try to _____?
Passionate, Spirit-filled Jesus followers are not offended, _____, or uncomfortable when encouraged and challenged to give generously to God's work.
Note Matthew 6:21
People who give to help the Church start to love the Church. People who give to help people come to Christ start to _____ about people coming to Christ. People who give to God find their hearts and thoughts on God and godly things. (Strand)
Note 2 Corinthians 8:9

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy).*MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text riverside to 94000



SMALL GROUP guide on the back



MESSAGE NOTES

“ULTIMATE GENEROSITY”

July 28, 2024

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Note **1 Timothy 1:15**

Jesus came to Earth to rescue lost people.

Note **Luke 19:10**

And Jesus calls every one of His followers to do what He did and still does constantly: be outward-focused and reaching lost people.

Being outward-focused as individuals and a church is the most transforming and life-giving thing we can do.

Note **Matthew 6:21**

A life story could be written from a checking account. It reflects your goals, priorities, convictions, relationships, and even the use of your time. A person who has been a Christian for even a short time can fake prayer, Bible study...and going to church, but he can't fake what his bank account reveals. Maybe that is why so many of us are secretive about our personal finances. (Ron Blue)

The fact is, the mission of Jesus cannot ever be understood fully and embraced completely without generosity at our core.

Being generous happens:

1. When God's Grace Permeates My Heart

When grace is evident in my life, generosity is always evident (note **2 Corinthians 8:1**).

- A. Grace-empowered giving overcomes barriers (note **2 Corinthians 8:2; Philippians 1:27-29; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 1:4**) - grace-empowered giving isn't impacted by Wall Street, culture wars, polls, elections, economic indicators, etc.
- B. Grace-empowered giving is always voluntary (note **2 Corinthians 8:3-4**) - to give was a privilege to enjoy, not a burden to endure. They gave proportionately (note **2 Corinthians 8:3a**)...systematically (note **2 Corinthians 8:10-15**)...sacrificially...God-focused. (note **2 Corinthians 8:5**) Consecration to God precedes contributions (King).
- C. Grace-empowered giving is normal for Jesus followers (note **2 Corinthians 8:7; 1 Corinthians 1:4-7**).

Being generous and happily sacrificial also happens:

2. When Thankfulness Fuels My Motivation

Generosity can't be commanded/forced.

It flows out of genuine love (note **2 Corinthians 8:8**).

And it's the mission of Jesus that provides the motivation to willingly, generously, and cheerfully give...it comes from the example of Jesus (note **2 Corinthians 8:9**).

Note **Philippians 2:7-8**

Jesus became what we were (poor) so that we could become what He is (rich).

If this love of Christ, so magnanimous in its motive and self-sacrificing in its execution, is an active force in the believer's heart, how unnecessary, the apostle implies, any command to practice "giving" ought to be. What, without love, might seem a cold moral duty has been transformed by it into a joyous privilege. (Tasker)

Everything we do for Jesus, including giving, will be all the more positive and meaningful when our motivation isn't some sort of legalistic obligation or burdensome duty to perform...(note **2 Corinthians 9:11-12**).

FOUNDATIONS MATTER:

- You and I are encouraged and challenged to excel in the grace of giving (note **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**).
- Is giving a joyful privilege...
- ...or a burden we try to avoid?
- Passionate, Spirit-filled Jesus followers are not offended, uptight, or uncomfortable when encouraged and challenged to give generously to God's work.
- Note **Matthew 6:21**
- *People who give to help the Church start to love the Church. People who give to help people come to Christ start to care about people coming to Christ. People who give to God find their hearts and thoughts on God and godly things. (Strand)*
- Note **2 Corinthians 8:9**

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy).***MYRC.LINK/CONNECT** or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back