

## **Community Part 6: Generosity**

### **How to Use**

The goal with these discussion guides during the next few weeks, is that with your group or a few others, to have honest and authentic discussions around this idea of living life together as a “new family in Christ.” The hope is that this resource is not simply a study guide to further discuss the previous weekend’s message or a certain text in Scripture, but instead an application guide of how to further flesh out and live out God’s vision for biblical community. Each week will have a brief overview to read together, 2-3 discussion questions and a suggested practice to implement with your group.

The discussion questions have been crafted in a way to help get past the surface level response we can default to and to dig into honest and perhaps challenging conversations. You might not get through them all each week and that’s okay. Allow for some space for the Spirit to work and to give time for the conversation to reach a more intimate level. We would encourage you to invite the people you’re walking through these guides with to perhaps be a little more vulnerable than they might normally be. If your group size is large, consider breaking up into a few smaller groups to better facilitate honest conversations.

Our goal for the suggested practice each week is to help establish some new rhythms and ways to live out this idea of biblical community. Our challenge to you is to try these practices through the entire 9 weeks of this series. Perhaps at the end discuss with your group about how these practices went and what they might want to continue doing.

We would also encourage you to start each discussion with a time of prayer, inviting the Spirit to work in you and your group’s heart and minds around this topic of community.

### **Overview (Read this aloud together)**

*Leader: Acts 4:32-37*

One of the core practices of the early church was to live a life of radical generosity. It was the result of, and a response to, the grace of God in their life. Likewise, in a culture of consumerism, we are called to be a community of contentment through the practice of generosity.

The only way that we can sustainably become the community of generosity God intended, is to first allow God to be generous with us. It’s to let God do his work in us, so that we can start to see the people and resources in our life differently. It’s only after we experience and rightly acknowledge God’s radical generosity to us, that we will have the proper motivation and freedom to share our resources and be generous with others.

Sustained generosity will never come from guilt, or self-righteousness, or a set of rules. The only way we can truly become people of generosity is when the love of Christ compels us to show that same love and generosity to those around us.

## Discussion Questions

Why is generosity important to your discipleship to Jesus? How do our attachments to the resources and things that we have or don't have affect us? Thinking about the past week, what would our spending say about our priorities and what we value most?

What are some challenges or hangups we have towards becoming more generous people?

Why is practicing generosity as a community important? How can we spur one another on towards becoming a more generous people?

*Leader: Take some time towards the end of your discussion time to discuss as a group a way you all can practice generosity to someone in the upcoming weeks.*

## Practice for This Week

For this week's practice, look at some suggestions below on ways we can become a people of generosity and pick one to implement into your regular rhythm of life. If you're already practicing some of these, build upon your rhythm by adding in another way to practice generosity. If you are unsure where to start or need resources around stewarding your finances well, consider taking the Equipping Division's financial course called [Money, Wealth, and Eternity: Following Jesus Into Financial Peace](#).

Daily

1. Look for an opportunity to bless someone
2. Wait 24 hours before a purchase

Weekly/Monthly

1. Budget a weekly or monthly gift to the church or those in need
2. Simplify your possessions in order to give things away
3. Prayerfully review the week's/month's spending
4. Give to a ministry, charity or cause
5. Set aside money for a "blessing fund" (money set aside to bless others in need)

Seasonally

1. Review your finances (i.e., your budget and spending, bank statements, investments, etc.)