



Small Group Study Guide



September 27, 2020
"A Lifestyle of
Generosity"

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, knowing you is the key to generosity. The more we know you and experience your extravagant love for us, the more we want to bless others by generously giving of ourselves and our resources. And as we do, we not only change the lives of others; our own lives are transformed. Show us how we can improve our generosity more and more, so that eventually it becomes as easy and natural as breathing. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

1 Timothy 6:17-18 (NIV)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Acts 20:35 (NIV)

³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

INTRODUCTION

Most people get uncomfortable when a pastor talks about money and finances. Some people even believe that all a church wants is your money. So why does a church have to talk about money at all? Shouldn't the church talk about the Bible? If that's how you feel then it may surprise you to know that Jesus talked more about money and wealth than he did about heaven. But Jesus didn't talk about money because he wants your money; Jesus talked about money because he wants something for you. So, what does Jesus want for us when it comes to money?

The central theological foundation for generosity is that life is a gift, and everything belongs to God. Beginning in the Old Testament, God's people observed the practice of giving some portion of what they had to God. And scripture makes it clear that we are to share a portion of our blessings with those in need. As Jesus followers, we are called to a lifestyle of generosity. And when we are generous it pleases God and changes our heart. When we give, it changes the lives of others and it transforms our lives.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Are How would you define who is "rich?" Do you think you are rich?
- 2) Do you tend to think of Christians and the church as being generous? Why or why not?
- 3) Is there a charity or particular group of people in need that is near and dear to your heart?
- 4) Statistics tell us that the more a person makes the less they give as a percentage of their income to charity. Why do you think some people hesitate to give to others even though they have more than they need?
- 5) Read Acts 20:35 on page 1. Is it difficult for you to believe that happiness is ordered around giving rather than receiving? Why or why not?

FINAL APPLICATION

Pray about your giving plan to the local church and charities. Ask God for wisdom regarding your participation in the 90-day tithing challenge.