

## (1) An Opening THOUGHT

“God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them.”

Augustine

“In all of my years of service to my Lord, I have discovered a truth that has never failed and has never been compromised. That truth is that it is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave.”

Charles Spurgeon

## (3) Key POINTS

- God has been incredibly generous to us.
- God invites us to respond generously.
- We give to worship God, not to impress...
- We give to support the ministry of the church (Kingdom) and help those in need.
- We give regularly, proportionally and sacrificially according to our means.
- We ask the Lord how to give, and then give cheerfully.
- There is great blessing and reward when we give.
- ... a matter of the heart.

## (2) Read the TEXT Together

**2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

**Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

**Matthew 6:19-21** “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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Do you have questions or comments about this resource?  
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# GROUPS RESOURCE

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HELP GROUPS FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER

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## (4) Looking to the WORD

Read the following passages:

- Matthew 6:19-21 (printed above)
- 2 Corinthians 8:7-12; 9:6-8
- Luke 6:38
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19

What themes do you see emerging from the passages? What do these passages indicate about generosity?

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## (5) Looking at our WORLD

Jeremy mentioned 5 pitfalls we need to avoid when entering this next season.

- Leadership putting on too much pressure.
- Bad attitudes. Bickering. Divisive conversations.
- Discounting the project without understanding it (caring too little about buildings).
- Letting the facility become THE point (caring too much about buildings).
- To build it but not have the vision to use it.

Which pitfall is most dangerous for you? How can we help each other avoid these?

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## (6) Looking at our LIVES

Which of these 6 Opportunities are you most excited about?

- To dig in and pray and spend time with Jesus and listen to his directives.
- To have significant conversations with other people.
- To improve our facilities for worship, friendship, ministry, outreach.
- To be generous to those we'll never meet.
- To see Jesus use our gifts to change people's lives.
- To do something significant and lasting together and have the opportunity to celebrate.

What has God taught you or reminded you about generosity, this week?

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## (7) Looking AHEAD and PRAYING Together

Here are this week's On-Ramps: (Pick one you want to go after, first)

- Start each day by thanking God for his generosity in your life.
- Open God's word each day and ask Jesus to truly lead you in your real life.
- Step into this season with a great attitude and an attentive heart to Jesus' voice.
- Pray that God would do something good in our hearts and our lives that lasts far beyond this season.

In what ways might you take action on these? Include this in your prayer time.