

Generosity & Finances

Goal: To encourage Core members towards intentional generosity as a part of our Christian walk. To help Core members see all their resources as God's. For Core members to deepen their practice of giving to the church and the broader mission of God.

Openers:

***Note: this will be more fun if you get ahold of some fake money and pass it out to each Core member before asking the questions. It builds good anticipation.**

- If you were given \$1,000 and had to spend it on yourself today, what would you buy?
- If you were given \$1,000 and had to give it to any missionary, Christian community, or non-profit organization of your choice, who or what would you give it to?
- Which of those scenarios was more exciting for you to dream about? How does that make you feel?

Scriptures:

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

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. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Digging Deeper:

Observations

- These 3 Scriptures give 3 reasons for living a generous life. Summarize those reasons in your own words.

Interpretations

- What do you think it means that the Macedonian churches gave “even beyond their ability”?
- If Timothy did give these commands to the rich people in his community, how do you think they would respond?

Applications

***Note: some people will be tempted to give the “right” answer to some of these questions. Make sure you press people to be really honest and not be ashamed to share what’s really true at this point in their lives.**

- Paul wrote to the Corinthians using the Macedonian churches as a good example. Who has been a model of generosity in your life? What specifically stands out to you about them?
- What do you think would change in your life if you truly saw everything as belonging to God?
- What pattern of giving do you presently practice? (Tithing, giving whatever you happen to have on you, trying to listen to what God wants you to give, other?)
- What is the main question you wrestle with when it comes to the idea of tithing?
- Are there advantages to planning out your giving in advance instead of giving spontaneously? Are there disadvantages?
- Is there something that God is calling you to do through these Scriptures today? Have people write down one thing that God might be asking them to sacrifice for the sake of living a more generous life with the finances he has entrusted to them.

Resources:

Make sure to look at the **1:1 Help** to help your Core members make a budget. Many people have the vision to be generous, but don’t know how to plan ahead!

The Treasure Principle, by Randy Alcorn. Very readable, concise, and inspiring book about living a generous life. An excellent follow up for those who want to explore the idea more