

Small Group Study

ICE BREAKER:

- ⇒ **How would you describe a generous person?**

- ⇒ **Who is the most generous person you know? Give examples of his/her generosity.**

- ⇒ **Have you ever been on the receiving end of outrageous generosity? How did it make you feel?**

****Leaders, make sure to leave time for BRINGING IT HOME.****

If running out of time focus on the questions in pink.

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE... Through Generosity!

Discuss the following quote.

- ⇒ "What the world considers wisdom - God considers foolishness. What God considers wisdom - the world considers foolishness."

- ⇒ What are some things the world considers wisdom that God considers foolish?

- ⇒ What are some things God considers wisdom that the world considers foolishness?

- ⇒ In what ways were you raised to follow the wisdom of the world?

- ⇒ In what ways were you raised to follow the wisdom of God?

- ⇒ When was the first time (what issue) you realized that you were following the wisdom of the world rather than God? How did you respond?

Dave Ramsey calls the world's way of handling money "the GREAT MISUNDERSTANDING - the mistaken belief that if you give to others you will have less for yourself."

- ⇒ In what situations (or issues) do you tend to believe that you have to keep enough back for yourself?

- ⇒ How do you usually make sure this happens?

READ PSALM 24:1

- ⇒ How does this verse differ from the world's view of money and ownership?
 - ⇒ The bible says that God owns it all and we are his stewards. What is a steward?
 - ⇒ Rick compared this to a rich philanthropist looking to hire a trustworthy assistant.
 - What was the purpose of the assistant?
 - Give a brief description of the job.
 - How much would the assistant be paid?
 - ⇒ If you were hired, would you think - "This is my money. I shouldn't have to share it."
 - ⇒ Would a person be a generous person if they were told to pay 6 months rent, but paid 3 and kept the rest for himself/herself?
- Why is it easy to see what is right in this situation, but hard to see the same truth applied to our lives?

As God's steward, God says to us: "You are very important to me. I will take care of you."
Here's what I want you to do with my money:

- ◇ First, give 10% to my church.
 - ◇ Then pay the govt. their share in taxes.
 - ◇ Use the rest to take care of yourself and generously help others.
- ⇒ How does this differ from your view?
 - ⇒ Which view would cause less stress? Why?
 - ⇒ Why is this perspective so hard to live out?

GOD'S PART IN GENEROSITY!

GOD SHOWS HIS KINDNESS THROUGH CHURCHES. 2 Corinthians 8:1

- ⇒ Why do you think God's primary way to show kindness is through the church?

GOD PROVIDES ALL WE NEED AND ENOUGH TO SHARE! 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

- ⇒ How much does God promise to provide?
- ⇒ Does God promise to provide all of our wants? How does waiting and making choices affect getting our wants?
- ⇒ If God provides enough to share... and we are not sharing... what might that indicate about our spending habits?
- ⇒ God increases the resources of those who are generous. What are some ways He does this?

OUR PART IN GENEROSITY!

- ⇒ WHY DOES GOD ASK US TO GIVE WITH JOY... MORE THAN WE CAN AFFORD... EVEN IN HARD TIMES.
- ⇒ ARE YOU A CHEERFUL GIVER?
- ⇒ WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN... "GIVE IN PROPORTION TO WHAT YOU HAVE?"
- ⇒ Who gives the most? The least? Nothing?

BRINGING IT HOME.

- ⇒ Did your parents teach you God's way of handling money/finances?
- ⇒ When do you struggle most with the idea of stewardship?
- ⇒ What is one specific thing you could do to trust God with your finances?
- ⇒ How would taking this step help you to see Him better?

PRAYER TIME: Pray for requests, asking for spiritual healing as well as physical.

- Pray each person would trust God in this area...and discover how good He is.
- Pray that each one would identify and begin taking their NEXT STEP with God.