

**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



**Series: The Power of Generosity**

"Generosity is not something that God wants *from* you, it is something that God wants *for* you."- Andy Stanley. Too often when we talk about "generosity" in church, we think of it as something God or church leaders want from us; something we are obligated or commanded to give. But what if generosity means more than just a habit of giving away money? What if living generously is actually a lifestyle that God wants us to experience and enjoy? Join us this September as we discover the power of generosity to make our lives better, because living generously allows us to experience community and freedom, to live with joy, and make an impact in the world.

**Message description**

What will I be remembered for? Why am I here? Am I making a difference in the world? As humans, we want our lives to matter. We want to find meaning and purpose, and to know that we made a difference to someone somehow somewhere. But we can't really do that if we keep everything we have for ourselves. Practicing generosity opens us up to other people and ensures that we can make a difference in the world. Generosity is the way we can join with the work of a local church to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ; to release the love of God so that lives are continually changed. Generosity makes our lives better because it allows us to have an impact and make a difference in the world for Jesus!

**Key Scriptures**

2 Corinthians 9:1-15, Matthew 25:14-30

**Questions Related to This Week's Message:**

1. If you are feeling brave, consider what someone may write for your eulogy. What do you hope to be remembered for?
2. What are you doing with what God has given you? Do you feel you are fully using your gifts, time, resources, and talents to make a difference in our community and world?
3. Our vision as a church is to join Jesus in the revolution of transforming lives through teaching and serving. Our third core value is **RELEASE: creating measurable and sustainable change**. Revolution Church is committed to releasing God's revolutionary love to others through service and community partnerships. We believe this extends the work of the kingdom of God, which is the revolution that changes the world. In the Kingdom, injustices are confronted, deepest needs are met, and lives are transformed. Where have you seen God's revolutionary love at work through our release ministries? Where do you long to see God's love released in new ministries to our community?
4. **Last week we asked:** How is God challenging you to practice generosity as a part of your spiritual life right now? **Follow-up for this week:** Have you committed to joining the revolution in your financial giving for 2022? Why or why not? How can this group help you in your discernment?

### **Going Deeper:**

*Over the course of this series, we will dig into the passage from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. This is a letter from Paul to the church in Corinth encouraging the believers in their giving. His specific ask is for a financial gift for the Christians and poor in Jerusalem, which the Corinthians had already promised to send (9:1-5).*

*This week, we explore the impact of generosity.*

### **Re-read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

In this series we have explored how:

- (1) God is the source of grace and multiplies the gift of grace.
- (2) God's grace is sufficient for all that we need in this life, therefore God is trustworthy.
- (3) God's grace empowers us to do good in the world.
- (4) True generosity is practiced as a real gift, without obligation.
- (5) We have been enriched in every way to be generous in every way (or we have been blessed to be a blessing).

Verses 12-15 reveal how generosity impacts others: it not only supplies for real needs, but it leads all to offer thanksgiving to God. And Paul says this kind of service and generosity is gospel work (v 13)!

1. What impact does the generosity of the Corinthian church have on the Jerusalem church (vv 14-15)?
2. Beyond financial impacts, how does this partnership strengthen the early church to spread the gospel?
3. Where do you see opportunities for better partnerships in the universal church today?

### **Read Matthew 25:24-30 on the judgement of the third servant in the parable of the talents.**

The third servant buries his talent in the ground out of fear. He says, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours." But notice, it is the servant who believes these things about the master. The master is never explicitly described in this way. His inactivity as a servant was based on what he believed about the character of the master. What we know and believe about God informs our daily life and action as well. When we misunderstand the character of God, we may not have the courage to practice true generosity in our lives.

1. What are some common ways that people often misunderstand God (as too harsh, merciless, only judgmental)?
2. How do you think this impacts their ability to engage in mission and generosity?
3. What did the third servant do wrong in this parable? Do you think he failed to successfully use what he had been given, or just fail to try? What do you imagine would have been the master's response if the third servant had used the one talent instead of burying it and lost it all?
4. Notice the difference in outcome of the first two servants and the third: the first two enter into the master's joy, the third is sent to utter darkness. The judgement is not found in a harsh location but in separation from the presence of God. Where do you see the grace of God at work in this parable?

### **Family-Related Questions:**

Our kids often see the needs of the world and their neighbors more keenly than we do. Our kids have also been given gifts of care and compassion that can empower them to make an impact in the world. Ask your children, from your perspective, where do you see needs and hurts in the world right now? In our city? Or even in your classrooms? What do you think we as a family or church could do about it? Think about all the relationships you have at home, school, sports, other activities, or church: how do you think you can make a difference in someone's life today?