



Home Group Discussion Guide

November 7-13, 2021 – The Soul of Community – a Generous Community

Devotion: I recently presided over a celebration of life service and as I was preparing for it, I asked what words described the person whose life we were honoring. Without missing a beat, the answer came back: Generosity. As they shared stories, the examples they gave me weren't all about money, though this person was clearly generous in a financial way, but it was about his spirit and his demeanor and his heart. Yes, he was known to surprise waitstaff with a generous tip at the end of a meal, but he gave of his time to a local boys and girls club. He poured out words of encouragement to the people he came in contact with. He lavished time and energy on co-workers and friends. He was generous in every way that we are called to be generous.

Jesus gives us many examples of generosity in His life and the ministry while He was on earth, whether it was in giving food or healing or prayers or time or forgiveness. As a community of faith, our relationship is meant to be founded on a spirit of generosity. Even gathering together for home group is an example of generosity. You have other people and other tasks calling for your attention, but you have chosen to give that time and attention to each other. And in a world where our greatest resource is time, that is no small gift. Remember the quote from Ronald Reagan, **“Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God.”**

Scripture – Read 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

- What do you think this passage means by sowing and reaping? How does that translate to your own life right now?
- Who is the one supplying all the “seed” that we are to be sowing? Have you considered that you are not the one supplying the seed? How does (or should) that affect our mindset around giving?
- List everyone who is affected by your generosity according to this passage. (vv 11-13)
- How have you missed opportunities to be generous the last couple of weeks? What could you do to be prepared mentally and spiritually to be much more generous this coming week?

How is it with your soul? *(You'll notice that these questions are the same each week. This helps us develop a habit of looking for God and considering how we are responding to God's presence during the week.)*

- Where have you seen God this week?
- Where have you struggled this week?
- How can you be open to God/the Holy Spirit this week?

Prayers