

Message: Excelling in Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Growth Group Questions

Week of October 22, 2017



Growing Together (Use these questions during your family/community time)

As you start your group tonight, consider these things:

1. Preach the Gospel to each other - Have 1-2 people share the Gospel in their own words. (5min)
2. Share your story - Have 1-2 people share their story of how God is working in them. This doesn't need to be a full life story - in fact it shouldn't be. (3min max each) Consider sharing a time when you felt unloved, hopeless or lost and Jesus was your rescuer, and how God restored/is still restoring you. He is Love, Hope. You are found. That's the Gospel at work in your life!
3. Praying for People - Share an update on those God has put on your heart (and your prayer list). Have you had any spiritual conversations with them? Continue to pray that God would move in their hearts and that HE would open your eyes to see what HE is doing as well as give you opportunities to share the Gospel with them. Have courage! Remember it is God who does the work, we get to partner with Him. Share who you're praying for. As a group, be praying for each other's friends by name.
4. Plan a Party - Intentionally plan an event to invite your friends to. Maybe your friends come to an event with your whole group? Or you invite your friends to a dinner with you and one other couple from your group. Your friends may not feel comfortable coming to your party, so you may need to get creative and go to them, or somewhere in between. The key is that you're intentionally inviting, and that you're not doing it alone. Keep praying for opportunities!

Thinking About and Applying the Message

5. Why is this irrational generosity we've been talking about over the last 5 weeks so integral to who we are as followers of Jesus?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-8. In what ways does our generosity test the "sincerity" of our love? When it comes to excelling in generosity, where do we find it most difficult to move from desire to action?
7. Read Psalms 67:1-2. We are blessed to be a blessing. Bob talked about "pipe cloggers" that get in the way of this.
 - How have discontentment and its companions (spending and debt) obstructed your ability to excel at generosity? Read Philippians 4:12-13. What does Paul say about overcoming discontentment?
 - What about security? Discuss under what circumstances our otherwise good stewardship practices of saving and investing could become a hindrance to our being a "conduit of blessing".
8. As we close this series on "Irrational Generosity", share one thing that God has shown you over the last 5 weeks about becoming more "irrationally" generous?