



## God's On Display When You're Generous

### Leader Notes

We hope you had a great Thanksgiving! As we come back to meeting with our groups, we will be finishing our generosity series. Again, this series isn't about "keeping the lights on at HDC." Rather, it is about how we, as followers of Christ, reflect God's generous character to the people in our relational world and that being a generous Christian reveals the power of the Gospel.

We want to encourage you to take time as a small group to discuss our GoFundKingdom giving campaign. This our opportunity, as a church, to come together to help fund ministry happening in our community and across the globe. You can familiarize yourself with the different ministries we are supporting at <https://highdesertchurch.com/gofundkingdom>.

This week's discussion will focus on what exactly is accomplished when the church embodies faithful generosity. Not only does it bless others, it is clear from our passage this week (2 Corinthians 9:12-15) that it is a tool the Lord uses to bring people to a saving faith in Christ.



**1. Of the 9 ministries HDC is raising financial support for through the end of the year, which do you gravitate towards the most? Why?**

Use the time at the beginning of your group to discuss the different ministries HDC is targeting in our GoFundKingdom campaign. It is always good to have conversations about the different ministries and missionaries HDC supports on a regular basis.



**Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-15**



**2. Looking at verse 12, what outcome does generosity produce?**

One of the ways the harvest of righteousness is increased is in thanksgiving. We see this theme is repeated again in verse 12.

Verse 12 says that this ministry is "not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."

God's desired outcome for giving is not just physical provision, but more importantly hearts that warm in thanks to their Lord.

A lack of gratitude is a very ugly thing. Parents are often horrified at children who complain about every little thing and don't stop to give thanks for their blessings. But parents are very pleased when they see their children graciously receive gifts with hearts and lips full of thanks to the giver.

*In a similar manner, our Father delights to see us thankfully receive His gifts and then pass them on.*



### **3. How does generosity encourage people to glorify God?**

*The ultimate goal of generosity is glorifying God. That is important to know because it also affects our attitude and method of giving.*

*For many people, when they give, they want to get the credit for themselves. Thus, they make a big show and attract attention. When they do this, they are stealing God's glory. The focus is taken off of the Lord and put on man. Putting man in God's place is a type of idolatry.*

*We should give in such a way that the focus is always on God. We want Him to receive the glory. All the thanks should go to Him. Jesus should be the center of attention in every exchange of gifts because He made it all possible. Every gift is an opportunity to celebrate again the grace we have received from the Lord.*

*So, we should have no desire to manipulate situations to get attention or credit for ourselves. Giving to God should not become some platitude where we say, "praise God," but in our hearts seek affirmation from man. Instead, we should sincerely seek to focus our own hearts on Christ's goodness. As we do that, we can encourage others to appreciate the greatest giver of gifts.*



### **4. When does giving not glorify God?**

*We must go back to 2 Corinthians 9:7. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

*There are several ways giving does not glorify God. Giving out of frustration, or compulsion is not the heart God wants us to have. In addition, we can give with extrinsic motives. Tax incentives and having buildings named after them might be the reason a person gives. But is that why God calls us to give? No.*

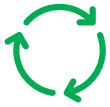
*To make it simple, God loves generosity that is rooted in cheerfulness for the sole purpose of world change that gives glory to Him.*



### **5. What indescribable gift does Paul refer to in verse 15? How does this motivate you?**

*"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift" – Paul ends his discourse on giving with this statement. The best gift in history was Jesus Christ. God gave His only Son for us. That fact should*

be the primary motivator for us to give generously. Jesus voluntarily laid down His life. He did it joyfully and sacrificially. In the same way, we should joyfully and sacrificially sacrifice everything we have for Him.



**6. What are creative ways you can be generous to others?**

*This is the time of year that we often look for ways to be generous. People tend to find in their heart to provide a nice Thanksgiving meal to family in need, or buy some Christmas presents for children whose parents couldn't afford to put anything under the tree. These are wonderful things to do.*

*However, we need to discipline ourselves to be generous during the other ten months of the year and generous in ways that people do not expect. Perhaps your group knows about someone that has an expensive car repair that is outside their budget and savings. Could your group, as a whole, contribute to the cost, for the glory of God? Maybe your group likes to go to dinner together periodically. Could this be an opportunity for each person in your group to work together to bless your server with a tip that is well beyond the conventional 15% of the tab? Let's go out on a limb here and say your group comes together to not just tip 15%, but 100% of the tab!*

*We can also be generous with our time. HDC is partnered with numerous outreach ministries in the High Desert. You do not need our permission to contact those ministries to line up times for your group to go serve them. In fact, we encourage you to take it upon yourselves to get involved with our ministry partners! Please email Pastor Kyle if you would like a list of these ministries at [kpatrick@highdesertchurch.com](mailto:kpatrick@highdesertchurch.com).*



**7. As you go on about your week, wrestle through the principles of giving in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. Pray about these principles we have discussed over the last few weeks. Ask God where you need to obey. Does your perspective toward money need to change? Does your giving plan need to be adjusted? Do you need to get on a budget with your personal finances?**

*This last question is not intended to be part of your discussion. Rather, it is there as a call to action for each person in your group. Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things."*

*Being generous is exactly the thing we ought to be praying about on a regular basis. We should always be looking for ways to be generous. Why? Because generosity glorifies God and points people towards the Gospel.*