

11 CALIFORNIANS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SEVEN: GENEROSITY

Either with a group or on your own, use the following questions to explore Bible passages and apply insights from the video session.

What stood out to you from the video?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

1. What social cause or global issue in this world is so important that you are willing to go above and beyond in order to donate to it? (For instance: cancer research, global hunger, ending illegal trafficking, etc.)

2. Why is it essential for us to have a single, driving purpose for our life? What can happen if our purpose is spread out in multiple directions?

3. If you looked at a list of where your annual spending goes (beyond the basic necessities) and read it as a priority list, what would be the top three priorities of your life? If you had an opportunity to change your top three, what changes would you make?

4. How can the act of investing in God's kingdom help us grow more into the likeness of Jesus Christ? How can the act of giving serve as a catalyst for transformation?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

5. How can giving reluctantly or under compulsion affect us negatively? Have you ever regretted giving financially to something? If so, what was the cause of your regret?

6. What personally brings you cheer and joy? What aspect of the church brings life to you?

7. What are ways in which we can give that do not involve financial offerings? How can we creatively supply the needs of our brothers and sisters in this world?

8. Share a time when God supplied for your needs, whether financial or otherwise. How did you feel before and after God had provided?

DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Luke 21:1-4

9. When it comes to our giving, what does the Lord prioritize the most? How does He measure the effectiveness of our sacrifice?

10. Regarding our work for God's kingdom, is it better to have unlimited resources or limited resources at our personal disposal? How can the limitations of our giving unleash the generosity and power of the Father?

A PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY

The following prayer was written by Ignatius of Loyola, a priest during the 16th century, who was also the founder of the Jesuit order. What is remarkable about this prayer is its simplicity and the power of its words.

Move slowly through this prayer, reading each word purposefully and meditating on each phrase. Spend at least a few moments on each line. Use this prayer as a method to begin a bigger dialogue with the Father when it comes to our generosity and the direction of our hearts.

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,
Teach me true generosity.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve.
To give without counting the cost,
To fight heedless of wounds,
To labor without seeking rest,
To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward
Save the knowledge that I have done your will.
Amen.

***[God] wants our hearts open
and bent toward doing good,
toward loving Him and
loving others by telling them
the good news of Jesus Christ.***

KYLE WELCH
