

Small Group Study: Made for More - Generosity

Icebreaker

- **Question:** Share a time when someone's generosity (big or small) made a difference in your life. What did they give—time, encouragement, a resource—and how did it impact you?

Opening Prayer

"Lord, we gather today to seek You and understand the 'more' You've made us for. Open our hearts to Your generous nature and show us how to live generously for Your Kingdom. Guide our discussion and move us to action through Your Spirit. Amen."

Scripture Readings

- **John 3:16 (NIV):** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- **Acts 20:35 (NIV):** "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
- **2 Peter 1:3 (NLT):** "By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life."

Discussion Questions

The sermon emphasizes that God gives us "more" to be generous and bless others. Let's explore this together.

1. Generosity at the Core of More

- The pastor said, "At the core of more is generosity," and that God's gifts are always for others' benefit, not just ours. How does this shift your perspective on what you've been given (talents, time, experiences, etc.)?
- Think of a Bible character mentioned (e.g., Abraham, Esther, Peter). How did their "more" benefit others? What can we learn from their example?
- What's one way you've seen generosity (beyond money) make an impact in your life or community?

2. Prepared, Empowered, and Released

- **Prepared:** The sermon says every experience—good, bad, or ugly—prepares us to be generous. Share one life experience (if comfortable) that could be used to bless someone else. How has God turned it into an opportunity?
- **Empowered:** Read 2 Peter 1:3 again. How does knowing the Holy Spirit gives us "everything we need" change how you view your ability to be generous?
- **Released:** Peter didn't plan to heal the lame man—it happened in a mundane moment (Acts 3). What's one everyday situation where you could be ready to give what you have?

3. Overcoming Obstacles to Generosity

- The pastor lists three reasons generosity stops: thinking we don't have it, feeling incapable, or not wanting to. Which of these resonates with you most, and why?
- How can we combat a "poverty spirit" (believing we lack) or pride (not wanting to give)? What role does faith play in overcoming these?
- The sermon challenges us to "stop waiting for the perfect opportunity." What's one small step you could take this week to be generous, even if it feels imperfect?

Application

- **Personal Reflection:** Take a quiet moment to ask: *What's holding me back from living generously with the 'more' God has given me?* Then, write down one specific way you can be generous this week (e.g., share a story, offer a skill, encourage someone).
- **Group Share:** If you're willing, share your step with the group. How can we pray for or hold each other accountable to take action?

Homework

- The pastor encouraged using what God's given us to bless others. This week, intentionally give something intangible (time, a kind word, a lesson learned) to someone and notice the impact. Share your experience with the group if you have a way to connect (e.g., text, social media).

Closing Prayer

- Invite group members to pray aloud or silently for each other based on the discussion and application steps. End with this prompt: "Father, thank You for being a generous God who gives us more than we deserve. Help us see how You've prepared, empowered, and released us to bless others. Give us courage to step out this week, trusting Your Spirit to work through us. In Jesus' name, Amen."