

Financial Generosity Core

Goal: The aims of this core are to encourage core members toward intentional generosity as a part of their Christian walk, to help core members see all of their resources as God's, and to help core members deepen their practice of giving to the church and the broader mission of God.

Intro (It might be fun to get ahold of some fake money and pass it out to each person before asking the questions!)

- If you were given \$1,000 and had to spend it on yourself today, what would you buy?
- If you were given \$1,000 and had to give it to any missionary, Christian community, or non-profit organization of your choice, who or what would you give it to?
- Which of those scenarios was more exciting for you to dream about? How does that make you feel?

Getting personal (every person in core should answer this question)

Share about a time when you were blown away by someone else's generosity.

Study and Discussion

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

- What pattern of giving do you presently practice? (Tithing, giving whatever you happen to have on you, trying to listen to what God wants you to give, other?)
- How can we tell if we have put our hope in wealth, rather than in God?

Psalms 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it

- What do you think would change in your life if you truly saw everything as belonging to God?

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

- What dilemmas do you face when deciding whether to give of your finances? How do today's Scriptures address those dilemmas?

- Is there something that God is calling you to do through these Scriptures today? (Have people write down one thing that God might be asking them to sacrifice for the sake of living a more generous life with the finances he has entrusted to them.)

Prayer

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Break up into groups of 3 and pray for eyes and ears that are looking out for the needs around you and for hearts that are eager to give.

Go

Meet with a friend from core this week and reflect on the following Scriptures:

1 John 3:16-18, Matthew 25:31-46, James 1:27, Leviticus 23:22, Philippians 3:18

- What would it look like for your budget to reflect God's heart as revealed in these Scriptures?
- If you don't have a budget, how can you begin to intentionally allocate money for the causes listed in these Scriptures?