



WEEK 5

Generosity

ICEBREAKER

If you are comfortable in sharing - tell about a time you were outrageously generous. If you find this difficult, brag on the Lord providing to you so you could provide to others. Or share of a time that you received a generous gift.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• GOD GETTING OUR ATTENTION

Read: Matthew 6:21

Stewardship will never make sense if you start right off talking about dollars and budgets and donations. Stewardship has to address first of all the subject of what's most valuable to us – where our heart is, what we treasure, in fact what we worship.

What are some things we tend to place value on that can interfere with how we steward what God has entrusted us with?

Read: Acts 4:33

The apostles' message was arresting, powerful, a means of grace being discovered by those who heard. The lexicon explains the Greek term for 'grace' (charis) as, "good will, loving-kindness, favour; of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues".

Discuss your personal experience with God's grace?

Does the definition above align with how you have encountered God's grace in your life?

• THE CROSS MESSES WITH OUR AUTONOMY

Read: Acts 2:44

Acts 4:32

Philippians 2:5-7

Galatians 2:20

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

The early Christians gave their attention to the apostles' teaching about the Good News of Christ's grace. The Holy Spirit used the message to cause people to repent, confess their sin, and 'get over themselves' so they could honestly start to love other people more than themselves. Their autonomy was transcended by a new

sense of togetherness, being one in heart and mind, not selfishly claiming ownership of possessions but sharing. As Christ had in absolute love poured out Himself for them, so they were now freed to unselfishly 'be there' for others, as the Holy Spirit might lead.

How is the modern church doing in comparison to the early church in regards to living out what we just read?

What ways or means could we as believers begin to bring about changes in our lives that by our decisions others would see God's grace in action?

• ATTACHMENTS SEVERED FOR OTHERS' BENEFIT

Read: Acts 2:45

Acts 4:34-35

Note the emphasis on genuine need: they could look past their own challenges and problems and see the desperate straits others were in. They were willing to become unattached from their personal property in order to help others in the fellowship who were suffering.

Have you ever been challenged by God to unattach yourself from your possessions in order to be a blessing to others? If so, share about the process of going from ownership to releasing for God's purpose.

• ALL-STARS IN THE GRACE OF GIVING

Read: Barnabas: Acts 4:36-37, Acts 15:37-39

Dorcas: Acts 9:36-39

Cornelius: Acts 10:2-4

2 Corinthians 8

Experiencing this grace of giving all begins with giving our attention to the Lord, worshiping and treasuring Him, realizing His richness – and ability to outgive us.

Given unlimited opportunity, what would you like to be able to do in being generous?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Do I give out of my excess or do I give sacrificially to others as unto the Lord?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you and to direct your decisions so that you operate in the "grace of giving".

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS