

Small Group Discussion Guide — April 25, 2021

- Series: if/then
 - Sermon: Give Generously
 - Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8: 1-12
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

If we truly lived believing the resurrection was true, what fear of yours would you consider irrational? What can you do to make your belief in the resurrection a reality in your daily life?

CONNECT:

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Describe a moment of spontaneous generosity that you witnessed or participated in. What emotions did the moment evoke for you?

ENGAGE:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8: 1-5.
 - How does Paul describe the situation the Macedonian church was facing? Does their response to their situation surprise you? Explain.
 - Paul speaks in verse 4 about the 'privilege of sharing.' What does he mean? How have you experienced that privilege at Hope?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8: 6-12.
 - Paul now turns his attention to the Corinthian church. What is he asking them to think about? Do you think his focus is money? Why or why not?
 - How does Paul relate generosity to Jesus? How does our call to live generously flow from what Jesus did for us?

APPLY:

1. If money is not an idol, but our idols are what we do with our money, what do you see as your idol? If we were to truly live believing the resurrection is true, how would you change where you "invested" your money? What investment could you make to enrich yourself spiritually?
2. In what ways besides giving money do you consider yourself generous? How could you nurture a spirit of generous living in the next weeks?
3. David asked, "If we are called to be 'fishers of men,' what are your 'nets worth'? How are you living that call? Where are you being called to cast your nets?"

PRAYER

Gracious and loving Father, you showed us your generous heart by sending your Son to atone for our sins. Jesus became poor so that we could become spiritually rich. Give us hearts of generosity, that we may be more like him who gave all for us. In the precious name of Jesus we pray, Amen

GOING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 20:1-16. How does this parable reveal the generous heart of God? What is the most surprising thing about God's generosity?
2. Devise a plan to give more generously - to tithe if you are not currently doing so. Remember the 5 P's of excelling at anything: Prioritize, Plan, Purposeful, Percentage, Progression.

SCRIPTURE

- Proverbs 4:23
- Proverbs 11:25
- Proverbs 22:9
- Mark 12:43
- Matthew 20:15

QUOTATIONS

“For Paul the resurrection was no metaphor; it was the power of God. And when he spoke of Jesus as raised from the dead, he meant Jesus alive and at large in the world not as some shimmering ideal of human goodness or the achieving power of hopeful thought but as the very power of life itself.”

Frederick Buechner