

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

In the sermon this week, Pastor Don takes a look at seven foundational principles that God gives us to help keep our family relationships healthy and thriving. One of those values is generosity, so today in our small groups we'll be taking a closer look at the way God calls us to live our lives with open hands toward the people close to us. To get your group started, let everyone share about a special or significant gift they received - what were the circumstances, and what made it so special?

BIG THOUGHT

God wants us to be generous to the people around us (including our families) so He can meet their needs through our willing obedience.

Dig

1. When the Israelites were getting established in the Promised Land, God gave them very clear instructions about the way they were supposed to treat their fellow Israelites. Read Deuteronomy 15:1-3. What were the Israelites told to do? How does this system sound to you today - unrealistic? Wonderful? Confusing? Something else? What would it look like for you to show this kind of generosity to your own family members?
2. Now read v. 4-6. What did God want to *not* exist in Israel? How was He going to make this possible? (v. 4b) What does this tell us about God's expectation for what we do with the blessings He gives us? Does generosity always lead us today to a place of security similar to what God promised to Israel in v. 6? Why or why not?

3. Now read Proverbs 11:24-25. How would you summarize this principle in your own words? Are there certain areas where you tend to be generous and others where you tend to be stingy? Why do you think it's hard sometimes to be generous in our family relationships? Share your thoughts with the group...
4. Read Proverbs 11:28, then read Luke 12:15-21. What is the main problem these verses are confronting? How does intentional generosity give us a chance to combat these tendencies in ourselves?
5. Finally, read how Paul concludes his instructions for family life in 1 Timothy 5:8. How can we keep this kind of generous spirit in light of the realities and sometimes complicated nature of family relationships? To finish up, let each person in the group share a brief example of someone who is doing what Paul says...

Take it Further

Talk with God, and thank Him for wanting to use us to show His generosity to the people in our family - then ask for His help in giving us the wisdom to know how to do it!

Daily Readings

Day 1: Luke 6:38

Day 2: Proverbs 21:13

Day 3: Hebrews 13:16

Day 4: Proverbs 19:17

Day 5: Acts 2:45

Day 6: 2 Corinthians 9:6

Memory Verse: Luke 12:15



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