



## STUDY 4 - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> we gathered for some focused praying regarding transition of pastoral ministry. Let's continue to pray especially in our small groups.

Remember to feed back any insights or general comments about the way ahead to the leadership team.

### CORE VALUE 4 – GENEROSITY

Reading **2 Corinthians 8.1-9**

Generosity – goes well beyond the realm of financial giving.

- What are some of the areas in life where generosity can be expressed?
- Do a google search for some surprising examples of 'random acts of kindness.'

Wikipedia definition: A random act of kindness is a non-premeditated, inconsistent action designed to offer kindness towards the outside world.

**GENEROSITY – Generously give of our time, energy and resources to support the church and the community we serve.**

- How do we go about being a church with big hearted generosity?

We are all accountable to God for the resources that we have been entrusted with by God – Luke 12.48

**God certainly loves to see generosity in his children. 2 Cor 9.7 'God loves a cheerful giver.'**

### GENEROSITY LIES AT THE HEART OF THE GODHEAD.

#### THE GENEROSITY OF GOD THE FATHER

God is an amazingly generous God. We are recipients of His wonderful generosity.

**There is generosity in creation.** In the vastness of the universe *the heavens declare the glory of God.* Generosity in the uniqueness of every snowflake in winter, every leaf that falls in autumn and every fresh growth in spring.

**There is generosity in the giving of his Son.** John 3.16 certainly celebrates the generosity of God.

- Can you find any other verses that affirm great generosity expressed in God reaching out in salvation power?

We are most like God when we are generous. It is through generosity that we show the world the awesome nature of our generous God.

**2 Cor 9.13** *As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.*

- In what ways have you experienced the generosity of God?
- How do you express your gratitude?

#### THE GENEROSITY OF GOD THE SON

**Mark 10.45** The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.

- Discuss together the generosity seen through Jesus' life and ministry. Illustrate how Jesus gave people his time, his energy and his resources.

### **THE GENEROSITY OF GOD THE SPIRIT**

**Psalm 51.12** *Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*

Galatians 5.22 is about the **Fruit of the Spirit** (not fruits but fruit!)

1 Corinthians 12.4-7 is about the **Gifts of God's grace** that are to be released in our lives but how do we go about doing this?

Pray that the church would discover a release of generosity in all we say and do.

### **GENEROSITY AT THE HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Generous with your TIME.** We all have the same amount of time, 24 hours in each day! You are free to spend it any way you want, but you can only spend it once!

- Reflect on the Message translation of Matt 11.29 *'Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.'*

### **Generous with your ENERGY**

Think about the different types of energy and how they need to be used but also actively renewed.

- Physical energy
- Emotional energy
- Mental energy
- Spiritual energy

Alan spoke about those generous with their energy: **Onesiphorus**, 2 Tim 1.16-18; **Phoebe**, Rom 16.2; **Timothy** Phil 2.20-21

### **Generous with your RESOURCES**

Ecclesiastes 11.1-2 (Msg) *'Be generous: invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns. Don't hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others.'*

Jesus said *It is more blessed to give than to receive*, Acts 20.35.

God's grace is powerfully made visible in our lives through generosity.

- Think through together the harvest principle of sowing and reaping in 2 Corinthians 9.6 *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.'*

### **FOR YOUR OWN NOTES**