



The Impossibility of Generosity

Discussion Guide

What would you do with one million dollars? You'd probably put some in savings, invest some, pay off some bills and debts, things like that. But somewhere, at some time, you would be generous and give some away, either to a friend, a family member, or a stranger. When we feel like we have more than enough, it's easy to be generous. We usually don't feel that way, but the truth is, we have a lot more than we realize.

Jump Start

1. As a child, were you rich, comfortable, or struggling? And did your family's income affect your family's happiness and emotional health?
2. *Having the right perspective encourages us to be generous.* **Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.** What is the antidote for trusting in money? If we are generous, what is the reward?
3. *People give generously when they've been transformed.* **Read Luke 7:47-48 and Matthew 6:21.** As Jesus-followers, we know where our treasure is and how great a debt we owe. How has your outlook on wealth changed since you began to follow Jesus? How does having your heart focused on Him—and on the people He has called us to love and serve—change your ability and willingness to be generous?
4. *Generous people give to see the impossible become possible.* The boy who gave up his loaves and fishes did it willingly. Jesus wouldn't have forced him to be generous, just as He doesn't force us today. **Read Matthew 19:26.** When you think forward to this season of giving, how can you take a leap of faithful generosity and trust God to do the impossible with your gifts, both in your life and in the lives of others?
5. Final Thought: A fresh perspective and a transformed heart allow us to be generous, no matter what our specific situation is. There are many "next steps" you can take to grow your generosity. Giving to The Cove, buying gifts for the Toy Store wish lists, beginning to tithe, and simply doing what God has put on your heart are all ways to take your generosity to the next level. Trust God in this area and watch how He does the impossible in your life and in those lives you affect.

Deeper

Read these passages from the Old and New Testament: Discuss the tithe, what it means, and whether this command to tithe applies to present-day believers.

- Leviticus 27:30
- Malachi 3:10
- Proverbs 3:9
- 1 Corinthians 16:2
- Luke 6:38
- Matthew 23:23

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-8. Paul does not give a command here, but an encouragement to growth. Discuss the spiritual disciplines listed and your thoughts on “the grace of giving” mentioned.

Read Luke 16:10. We are managers of God’s provision, not the owners. How does it shape your perspective to know that everything you have is a result of God’s provision in your life—that it all ultimately belongs to God? What efforts could you take in the coming months to use God’s provisions according to His desires and not your own?