



ID WEEK 8

BE GENEROUS TO THE POOR

Tonight's Session will run as follows:

7.00-7.40 Evening meal and introductions

7.50-8.50 Bible Study

8.50-9.00 Closing Prayer

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. How did the truth that everything belongs to God free you to live more generously this week?
2. Did you sense God say anything to you about the way you steward your resources this week?
3. One year from now, what do you want your life to look like with regards to money, simplicity, and generosity?

BIBLE STUDY (25mins)

Read **Luke 12:13-21 and 32-34**

1. What is the context for Jesus teaching about generosity here? (v13)
2. What do you think Jesus means by, '**all kinds** of greed' in v 15?
3. Verses 16-19 sounds like someone who is #blessed! What is Jesus' assessment in verse 20 and why does he ask 'who will get what you have prepared for yourself'? (Clue – think back to the original question Jesus is asked in v13)
4. In v32, why does Jesus say 'Do not be afraid little flock'? What is it that so often drives the need for more?
5. Finally, where does Jesus bring this teaching in to land? (v33-34)

DISCUSSION (25mins)

Here are some key quotes and ideas from the video to discuss:

1. **The early church was strikingly different from the culture around it in this way — the pagan society was stingy with its money and promiscuous with its body. A pagan gave nobody their money and practically gave everybody their body. And the Christians came along and gave practically nobody their body and they gave practically everybody their money."**

—Tim Keller

In what ways might we, as a church, offer the same kind of striking difference in Southend, today? What might the Lord be stirring up in us?

2. **Christians are people who “refuse to live a normal life and dare to put Jesus words into practice” — John Mark Comer**

Can you think of radical acts of generosity that have shaped your life? Who was generous to you in a time of need?

3. **"The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked; the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot; the money that you keep locked away is the money of the poor; the acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit."**

—St. Basil of Caesarea

In what ways are we close to those who are in need? What might we do to bring ourselves more into contact with people in need?

PRACTICE AND PRAY

Practice this week

Think beyond our regular giving to the church or charities. Who around us would benefit from an act of generosity this coming week?

Additional resources:

- The Generosity Module Handbook p62-90
- Rule of Life Podcast – Generosity Part 4
- Giving is the Good Life – a book by Randy Alcorn (Chapters 13-18)