

Week of January 5 - GENEROUS GIVING Small Group Lesson 5

Connecting With One Another

Do you have a memory of the first time when you received something? What did you receive and how did you feel after receiving it? How about the first time when you gave something to someone? What did you give, and how did you feel after giving?

Lesson Verses - Acts 2:42-47 (CSB)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Discuss & Apply

1. Identify the various essentials to which the first believers committed. (Note: In this lesson, the focus is on the fifth essential: GIVING or MINISTERING TO ONE ANOTHER, more specifically GENEROUS GIVING)

2. What motivated the first believers to sell whatever they owned and shared the proceeds with their fellow believers in need? Do you think this is something that churches in the 21st century should be doing? What might be the pros and cons of doing so?

3. The Bible records more than 2,300 verses that relate to the concept of giving, money, and possessions. This is more than twice as many as any subject. And this is Jesus' most talked-about topic!
   Can you cite a verse or verses that:
   - Refer to God as the owner of everything and as a generous giver? (Ex: Psalm 24:1-2, John 3:16, Philippians 4:19)
   - Deal directly on how you should manage money and possessions, and give generously?
     (Ex: Matthew 6:19-21, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 1 John 3:16-18)

4. **DISCUSS**
   How essential is it to give generously for the growth and life of the church? What may happen if people are tight in their giving?

5. **APPLY**
   What are some ways you and your small group can plan and do to increase your commitment to give or to become generous givers of your time, talents and treasures

Magnify

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.