

· G E N E R O U S ·

Part 1: A Matter of the Heart

Big Idea

As we are approaching the holiday season, we need to focus on one of the most important values of our church...**GENEROSITY**. We will discover as we study this together that learning to demonstrate generosity is truly a “matter of the heart.”

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

Discussion Questions

- When do you find it the easiest to give generously? When do you find it the most difficult? What factors contribute to the difference in those situations?
- Pastor Chris made the statement, “Let me be clear. You are under no ‘obligation’ to give. Jesus moved us from external obligation to internal motivation.” How does that statement affect you and your ideas about giving and generosity?
- How important is your motivation when you give? Why should we never “give to get,” and what is the proper attitude and motivation for generosity?
- Why is it important to connect “God, and faith in Him” to our acts of kindness and generosity?

Next Steps

- Take some time each day during this message series to ask God what steps you can take to be sure your heart reflects His when you give.
- Meet with your family or close spiritual friends and develop a plan related to how you can be intentional in using the “Random Acts of Kindness” cards to demonstrate generosity toward others.
- Act on that plan, and discuss with one another how those actions affected you and others.

Prayer Focus

Have your group members pair up and pray for one another that generosity will become a hallmark in their lives. Also pray that our church will be known for our generosity.

Leader Tips

Ask your group members to share stories about their random acts of kindness.