

## 40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY LIFE GROUP LESSON WEEK 3 GENEROSITY A PATHWAY TO TRUE COMMUNITY

### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

*“Love does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.” (1 Cor. 13:5 NIV)*

- I. **Introduction:** Community grows as the direct result of living from hearts of \_\_\_\_\_ toward one another.
- A. As we contribute more, we connect \_\_\_\_\_ and reveal Christ more to the community around us. We see this clearly in the early church.  
*“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.” (Acts 2:44-45 NIV)*
- B. Our attitude of generosity should flow out of our knowledge and relationship with who \_\_\_\_\_ is.
1. In His nature, though three persons, each always lives to lift the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:21 NIV)*
2. Our knowledge of the generosity of \_\_\_\_\_ towards us.  
*“For you know the grace (generosity) of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” (2 Cor. 8:9 NIV)*
- II. **Ways to grow community through generosity**
- A. Pay attention to ways to quietly help meet \_\_\_\_\_ needs. Don't wait to be asked, be moved by the Holy Spirit to reach out. Never take advantage of others generosity.
- B. Generously give \_\_\_\_\_ and encouragement
- *“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.” (Heb. 3:13 NIV)*
  - *“...that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in us. For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.” (Philemon 1:6-7NKJV)*
- C. Generously give \_\_\_\_\_, showing patience and believing the best.
- *“Therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, if anyone has a complaint against the other...” (Colossians 3:12-13a NKJV)*

- *“A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.” (Prov. 19:11)*
- *“He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.” (Prov. 17:9)*

D. Generously \_\_\_\_\_.

- *“Instead be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” (Eph. 4:32 NLT)*
- *“Lord, how often shall I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” (Mat. 18:21-22 NKJV)*

**Facts about forgiveness:**

1. It is one of the most costly and \_\_\_\_\_ gifts. Without this gift community cannot last.
2. Failure in relationship can lead to growth if there is forgiveness and reconciliation.
3. Forgiveness needs to flow purposely and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you.” (Mark 11:25 World English Bible)*
4. Forgiveness is costly and the sense of having forgiven is often a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Forgiveness and trust are not the same thing.

E. Steps of forgiveness

1. Admit to yourself and God when you are offended
2. Choose to forgive, \_\_\_\_\_ it out in your heart
3. Choose and determine to let the price be paid, based on what Jesus did on the cross.
4. Affirm that God can use this for good
5. Ask God if there is a need to go to the person to \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong. Is it over in your heart? Would the person and/or the community benefit from a reconciliation discussion?

(Answers: generosity, deeper, God, other, Jesus, II. others, affirmation, forbearance, forgive, crucial, continuously, process, speak, reconcile)

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is one of the favorite gifts you've received from a friend?
2. What would you describe as your love language, the way that you most feel blessed by people's kindness.
  - Words of affirmation
  - Time spent and invested
  - Sharing a project together
  - Gifts of thoughtfulness
  - Other
3. Has God ever used the encouragement of others to help you discover or be clear of a gift inside of you?
4. To whom do you owe a debt of patience and forbearance, a person who endured a lot to help you succeed?
5. Without naming names, how has God used an e.g.r. (extra grace required) person, to teach you more about his love. What is something that He has most worked on you regarding the following?
  - a. Impatience
  - b. Wanting to brush off, and just be with people who make me comfortable
  - c. Being quick to criticize and make judgments
  - d. Being tempted to gossip or dismiss people
  - e. Faking and rationalizing a lack of kindness
  - f. Pretending to forgive but not really forgiving
6. Is there a specific way the Holy Spirit is showing you He wants you to be more generous in? How could we pray for you in overcoming the hindrances to your generosity?