



RADICAL GENEROSITY PARTICIPANT GUIDE - February 9, 2020

PRIMARY PASSAGE

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:16-18 NIV)

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5 NIV)

ICE BREAKER

- Share a story of when someone else's generosity had an impact on your life.
- Recap past values -> Gospel of Grace, Biblical Truth, Authentic Relationships, and Empowered People

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) Have you ever felt like you were told *what* to do without the *why* behind it? How did that change how you approached the task?

2) When it comes to Radical Generosity, we are given the *why* before the *what* - "we give because Jesus gave" (see 1 John 3:16). How does this change your view of generosity?

3) Paul uses the Macedonian church as an example of people who saw giving as a privilege and joy (see 2 Corinthians 8:2, 4), in spite of their economic status. What does this reveal about the connection between joy and generosity? How have you seen this play out in your life?

4) What are some obstacles that keep us from being Radically Generous?

5) The Radically Generous prioritize life-change over lifestyle, which causes them to give sacrificially (see 2 Corinthians 8:3). What changes in your life do you need to make to follow this example?

6) Following up with the above question - What does this say about the idea of the “American Dream?” How does our culture support or deny the Biblical value of generosity?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1) The Macedonian church gave themselves first to God then to others. For us to be Radically Generous toward others we first have to give ourselves fully to God. Have you done this in your life? If not, what’s holding you back?

2) The Gospel of Grace is an act of Radical Generosity - Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves. How can you model this to those around you this week? As in, how can you do for others what they cannot do for themselves?

3) What is a next step you can take this week to begin to become Radically Generous?