

Life Trails Small Group Study Guide

Lesson 7 – Generosity

From Sunday, October 24, 2021

Warm Up:

Have you ever been a collector or had a collection of some kind? Share about it.

Maybe it was baseball cards when you were a kid. Or stamps. Or autographs. Or match books. Or beanie babies. Or state quarters. Or Precious Moments. Or antiques. Or sports jerseys. (You get the idea.)

Take a vote on who had (has) the most interesting collection!

Ask, “If you were to start a collection, what would it be?”

- What is the attraction with collections? Or why did you decide to collect what you did?
- There is obviously nothing inherently wrong with collecting and collections – yet how might they become detrimental?
- What are some unofficial “collections” that people have that might not be good?

Debrief:

The following were the suggested action steps from the corresponding week. Take some time to debrief on what everyone did, and on what was learned from the experience.

From October 10 –

- Show how you were able to review and improve your generosity.
- Share how you were able to be generous with someone in some way other than financial.

From October 17 –

- Take some time to review your budget or financial goals. How might you reallocate some resources that would allow you to be more generous?
- Choose a certain amount of money for the coming week (or month) that you will set aside for generosity. Reflect / share on the experience of giving and being intentional about it.

From the message:

- Where/when have you personally observed or experienced the principle of sowing and reaping?
- What are some of the needs around us that might be addressed by generosity?
- What does the phrase “living large” mean to you?

From the passage:

This week rather than review the passage from the Sunday message, we are looking at a similar passage found in 1 Timothy. In Paul’s letter to Timothy he is providing instruction not just for Timothy to follow, but also to teach.

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10; 17-19

- What is the connection between contentment and generosity?
- Why is the pursuit of material wealth so dangerous?
- In what ways do arrogance and generosity stand in contrast to each other?
- We are expected to find enjoyment in what we have – but what does this look like? How might this get out of hand?
- What are some examples of being generous in good deeds?
- What do you think Paul’s point is in verse 19? How would you describe the “life that is truly life”?

For discussion:

- Who is the most generous person that you know – and why do you think that of him/her?
- What are some of the different “abundances” of life that we enjoy? How can we share them?
- Why does abundance often lead to selfishness (when it seems like it should lead us to generosity)?
- When have you been the beneficiary of someone else’s generosity? How did it impact you? How do you think it might have impacted them?

- What are the primary barriers that keep us from giving to God and to others?
- What are the typical financial goals that most people have? What makes them right or wrong? How might a Christ-followers financial goals look different?
- What are some different ways that we can be generous?
- How does being generous change who we are?
- **As a group, using this study and the messages of this month as a reference point, identify the key concepts/principles that should direct us in the area of generosity.**

Activation:

Choose one (have each person identify which one):

- Choose a certain amount of money for the coming week (or month) that you will set aside for generosity. Reflect / share on the experience of giving and being intentional about it.
- Up your awareness. Keep a list (on paper, in your phone, in your head) of the various needs that you become aware of in the world around you. Choose one and do something about it!
- What is something that you have in your possession right now that you either have in abundance, or that you could do without, in an effort to be generous? It could be anything from some furniture to be given to a single mom, or some time to be given to an elderly person, to a pie that could be shared with the neighbors. Identify and act!