



In Columbia as it is in Heaven: Generosity

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

1. Have questions about the sermon? Ask us at bit.ly/2Kzyd9B
(form.jotform.com/91616134918157)

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

2. Looking to grow as a LifeGroup? MidtownLifeGroups.com

3. Check out our Bible reading and Prayer Plan based on this series at midtowncolumbia.com/reading-plan

3.Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passages: Luke 12:22-34

Read **Luke 12:22-34** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?
- Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

What stood out overall from the sermon?

Our covenant practice for this week is generosity:

Generosity is giving to God's mission and learning to trust Him more than our wealth. **Therefore, I commit** to give 10% to the mission of Jesus through Midtown as a starting point for generosity.

Before we begin our time, our goal for this discussion is to go after the heart underneath our finances (Matthew 6:21). On your own time if you to go more in-depth on the theological precedent for giving, check out our blog post "Why Do We Ask Members to Give 10 Percent?" on this week's sermon page.)

- Do you have any external barriers to generosity? What are they? (Examples include: not having a budget, not sticking to a budget, your income fluctuating, unforeseen expenses.)

- What are your internal barriers to generosity? (Examples include: apathy, fear, lack of trust, a desire for control.)
- What does your money reveal that your heart is most attached to?
- What does repentance look like to fight against your internal barriers? (Examples could include: practicing thankfulness with what God's given you already, finding contentment in all circumstances rather than comparing yourself to others, giving more generously, etc.)
- What specific steps can you take this week to be more generous? Make a plan to do it. (Examples can include: making a budget, signing up for recurring giving, increasing your giving, giving to your church's building campaign, etc.)
- Even as you talk about your plan out loud, what are your internal resistances?
- How can the LifeGroup help hold you accountable to follow through on your plan?
- If you want to learn more about this covenant practice, go to this Generosity sermon page on our site and look under "Recommended Resources."

Pray for God to use our generosity so that His Kingdom will grow and we will trust Him more.

Pray for the Spirit to work in you as you practice this and take steps of repentance.

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