

Leader Guide

Key Scriptures

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35 NIV

"And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'"

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. and I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:16-21 NIV

"But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity." Isa 32:8 NLT

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Mal 3:10 NIV

"The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing." Pr 21:25-26.

Build Relationships - *The goal of this time is to help your group bond together.*

- Consider starting with one of the following options:
 - Find a fun game to help people get to know each other.
 - Have some snacks and allow people to mingle. Provide an icebreaker question to help people chat as they mingle.

Start Talking - *The goal of this time is to help people ease into serious conversation with each other.*

- **Read Acts 20:35**
 - **Question:** How have you experienced Jesus words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive?"

Watch Content - *Spend the next 10-15 minutes watching the teaching video.*

Talk about Luke 12:16-21 *Spend a few minutes helping your group reflect on the this passage of scripture.*

- **Read Luke 12:16-21**
- **Question:** What do you think the point of Jesus' story is? In what ways do people in our culture make the same mistake as the rich man?
 - *We need to be careful that we don't make our life all about building our own possessions at the expense of becoming rich toward God.*
- **Question:** What do you think it means to be "rich toward God?"
 - *You might want to follow up by asking, "how does generosity relate to being rich toward God?" The big idea here is that being rich toward God is when God is worth more to us than anything else. This absolutely entails us being generous. If God and his priorities are of tremendous value to us, we will use our worldly wealth in pursuit of God's priorities. Jesus says, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34)*
- **Group Reflection:** Ask your group members to spend a minute reflecting by writing down their answer to this question on their participants guide: What is currently a more important priority for you, accumulating possessions for yourself or becoming rich toward God? What is a next step you need to take?

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Leader's Lesson Notes

Talk about Generosity - *Spend a few minutes helping your group reflect on the importance of Generosity.*

- **Say:** Scripture consistently portrays generosity as a major priority that God has for his people. Traditionally, God's people have intentionally planned to be generous through the practice of a tithe.
- **Question:** How can practicing a tithe be good for our souls?
 - *For one, it helps us live into God's priorities. God's priorities are good for our souls. Additionally, setting aside a percentage of your income for generosity puts parameters on our lives that can be good for our souls. It can force us to learn to appreciate what we already have more, develop contentment, learn more effective priorities, and confront the realities of greed and covetousness in our lives*
- **Question:** What do you think keeps us from practicing the kind of generosity that Jesus encourages?
- **Group Reflection:** Pastor James said you need to learn to be generous when you have less if you are going to be the type of person who is generous when you have more. Ask your group to take a minute and reflect on this question: What is a step you can take to work toward practicing intentional generosity this week?

Take Action - *Encourage your group to act on what they have learned today by taking one or more of the following steps.*

- **Say:** This week, pre-decide that you are going to be a radically generous person. Make a plan to be generous now because learning to be generous now helps us be generous in the future. To help, try doing one of these things this week.
 - Write out your budget this week. Start by prioritizing a percentage of your income to generosity. 10% is a great amount to prioritize because it is a large enough amount that it helps force you to organize other parts of your life differently so generosity can be a priority.
 - Find a copy of *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn and read it. Even better, find another person from your growth group to read it with.

Pray Together - *Gather prayer requests and find a way to have your group pray for each other. Either break into smaller groups or go around the circle and give everyone a chance to pray if they would like. You can close with the following prayer.*

Pray: *Lord, you are our ultimate treasure. We know that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be. So help us put our treasure into your priorities so that our hearts will align with yours. Amen.*