

How to Become a Generous Giver – April 6 & 7, 2019
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: 1 Chronicles 29:10-20

- In response to the Israelites' wholehearted generosity in verses 1-9, what did David do (10, 20)? Summarize the content of his praise (10-13, 20). How do you think God feels to be praised as a result of people's generosity? Recall times you've witnessed extremely generous giving. What was your response?
- What did David remark about the people's generosity (14)? Do you consider giving a gift – something you *get* to do? What story does your giving tell about God's grace in your life? What seems unexpected – even miraculous – about the Israelites' ability to give (14-16)? In what ways does this speak to your own condition?
- What role does integrity play in this story of giving (17)? What brings David joy (17)? What does he ask God to do (18-19)? Picture this being the heart-level impact of our giving campaign: willingness, honesty, joy, faithfulness, loyalty, wholeheartedness and follow-through. How does this make you feel?

Day Two: Malachi 3:6-12

- What does God declare about himself (6)? How does he reveal this to be true in your own life? What are his steadfast qualities? What framework or inspiration do they provide for giving?
- What does God's unchanging nature mean for his people (6)? Despite this, how have they historically treated the Lord (7)? What does he want them to do; what deal does he propose (7)? What do the people ask about his proposal (7)?
- Summarize God's vision for the people's return to him (8-12). What do you think he means in verse 10 when he says "test me in this"? When we are stingy with God and others, how do you think it impacts us? When we do the opposite, what are some things we may experience? What patterns of generosity do you sense God asking you to adopt? How do you plan to walk that out during The Story Continues giving campaign?

Day Three: Mark 5:1-20

- What is the setting of this passage (1)? Describe the man Jesus met upon getting out of the boat (2-5). What is your immediate response to this man? Now, slow down a bit. What is your emotional and spiritual response to him? Could you imagine spending time with him? What hope do you have for him?
- How did the man act around Jesus (6-7)? Why (8)? Describe Jesus' authority over the demons (9-13). What did the witnesses then do (14-17)? Instead of celebrating this breakthrough and welcoming more miracles, why do you think the people begged Jesus to leave? Meanwhile, what did the delivered man beg of Jesus (18)? What did Jesus tell him to do instead (19-20)?
- Consider the various reactions to this deliverance: some wanted no more of it; the man begged to accompany Jesus; others were amazed. Where do you fall? May each touch of God's grace mold you into a generous person who's eager for more of Jesus.

Day Four: Mark 10:17-31

- Set the scene (17). Why did Jesus object to the way the man addressed him (18)? What was his answer to his actual question (19)? Summarize the rest of his interaction with the man (20-22). Why do you think the man was unwilling to do what Jesus said? Read 2 Corinthians 8:12-15. What light does it shed on this text?

- What did Jesus say to his disciples about this encounter (23)? How did they respond (24)? What else did Jesus say about the rich entering the Kingdom (24-25)? What then seemed impossible (26)? How *will* it be possible (27)? Take a moment to memorize this verse, especially if you feel called to somehow, miraculously give beyond your ability to this capital campaign.
- What was Peter's outcry (28)? Why do you think he said this, in this way? What reassurance did Jesus then offer (29-31)? Through generosity and sacrifice, what do you think we'll receive in this age? And in the one to come?

Day Five: John 3:16-21

- How does God feel about the world (16)? How did he express his love, and what does it accomplish (16)? What clarifications does John then make (17-18)? Meditate on the word "gave" in verse 16. Consider everything the Lord gives to us. Respond to him.
- God's love is limitlessly giving and is perfectly embodied in Christ. Read 1 John 4:10, another place where John testifies about God's love. Christian giving isn't a matter of simply being nice; it's a mark of the transformative love and grace John often wrote about. Open your hands to receive more of these gifts now.
- Despite the beautiful light God has brought into the world via Jesus, some reject it. Why (19-20)? Pray that our new campuses, newly-trained pastors, etc. help others to "come into the light" of Jesus' love. What is characteristic of those who "live by the truth" (21)? What are you hiding in darkness? Repent and come into God's truthful and loving light so that he can transform you.