

# CHAPTER 1: WHY IT'S GENIUS TO BE GENEROUS

## Small Group Facilitator's Guide

### Introduction (15 minutes)

- ! Call the group together precisely at starting time even if everyone has not yet arrived. This sets the expectation for beginning and ending on time.
- **Introduce The Genius of Generosity** and ask if everyone has a copy of the book
- ! Plan to have a few extra books on hand for those who do not have a copy.
- ! Have the group spend some time praying that God would direct their hearts and minds as you begin this study. Ask God to speak to each group member in a real and personal way so that they can receive the greatest possible benefit from this study.
- **Ask** "How do you feel about doing this study on generosity?"
- **Briefly introduce** Chapter 1 as a refresher for those who have read the book and as an overview for those who have not read the book.
- ! Have the participants to take out their Genius of Generosity books and open to pages 28-29.

### Viewing (12 minutes)

- ! Note: You will want to watch Chip Ingram's 12 minute video on Chapter 1 before the group gathers. This will help you know where the DVD is going and allow you to prepare for potential discussion points

### Discussion (25 minutes)

- ! Chip finishes the video by introducing a question. This is the same question as "Reflection Question 1" on page 29. While this is a great place to start, do not feel like you have to walk through the "Reflection Questions" in the order they are presented. Some of these questions may be addressed through the times of discussion without ever being formally asked. Others may not fit the culture of your group well. So, plan to be flexible as the discussion evolves and develops.
- **Say**, "Somebody tell me about the way your family viewed money and generosity when you were growing up."
- \* Potential follow-up question: How much do you think that influences your decisions about money and generosity today?

#### Session Passage

Luke 12:13-21

#### Big Idea

Our view of money should not be dictated by our family histories or our culture. They should be shaped by God.



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! Continue to use the "Reflection Questions" (on page 29) and "Bright Ideas" (on page 28) to stimulate the conversation and keep it on course.

• **Other potential discussion questions:**

- 1) It's been said that some people are savers and some people are spenders. If you're a saver, how does that impact your attitude toward generosity? If you're a spender, how does that impact your attitude toward generosity?
- 2) Ask the group to share times where they acted generously and have it made them feel (or how it impacted their attitude that day).
- 3) Why do you think generosity is important to God?
- 4) Remind the group of Luke 21:13-21 (the parable of the farmer building a bigger barn) and say, "This farmer's first reaction to his financial gain was to build a bigger barn. Why do you think Jesus said this was a bad idea?"

### Action (8 minutes)

• **Encourage the group to follow through with Chip's challenge.**

\* **Find a way to be generous with one thing that you have today.**

! Ask people to throw out some ideas related to this project. It may be that some group members need solid, practical ideas in order to start moving forward with this project.

! Encourage the group to think outside of the money box. How can they be generous with something other than money (time, their home, their cars, their words, etc)

\* **Encourage the group to memorize Luke 6:38**

! Think about picking one translation of the Bible for the whole group to use as they memorize this verse. This will help each member as they attempt to repeat the verse to each other throughout the week.

**Other tools for use in your preparation:**

<http://bible.org/seriespage/greed-affliction-affluent-luke-1213-21>

-or-

<http://www.biblestudytools.com>



# CHAPTER 2: THE PRINCIPLE WITH SECRET POWER

## Small Group Facilitator's Guide

### Introduction (13 minutes)

! Call the group together precisely at starting time even if everyone has not yet arrived. This sets the expectation for beginning and ending on time.

- **Ask** if anyone still needs a copy of the book

! Plan to have a few extra books on hand for those who do not have a copy.

! Have the group spend some time praying that God would direct their hearts and minds as you begin this study. Ask God to speak to each group member in a real and personal way so that they can receive the greatest possible benefit from this study.

- **Ask** "How has generosity impacted your week?"
  - **Briefly introduce** Chapter 2 as a refresher for those who have read the book and as an overview for those who have not read the book.
- ! Have the participants to take out their Genius of Generosity books and open to pages 50-51.

### Viewing (12 minutes)

! Note: You will want to watch Chip Ingram's 12 minute video on Chapter 2 before the group gathers. This will help you know where the DVD is going and allow you to prepare for potential discussion points.

### Discussion (25 minutes)

! Chip finishes the video by introducing a question. This is the same question as "Reflection Question 1" on page 51. While this is a great place to start, do not feel like you have to walk through the "Reflection Questions" in the order they are presented. Some of these questions may be addressed through the times of discussion without ever being formally asked. Others may not fit the culture of your group well. So, plan to be flexible as the discussion evolves and develops.

- **Say**, "Somebody tell me about one thing in your life that you know God has entrusted to you for good stewardship."

! Allow group members to share the top 2-3 items from their list

#### Session Passage

Luke 16:1-13

#### Big Idea

We are stewards of God's resources and God trusts us to manage His property well.



# CHAPTER 2: THE PRINCIPLE WITH SECRET POWER

## Small Group Facilitator's Guide

! Continue to use the "Reflection Questions" (on page 51) and "Bright Ideas" (on page 50) to stimulate the conversation and keep it on course.

• **Other potential discussion questions:**

- 1) Imagine that you went to the bank to get some money out and the bank teller told you that your account was empty because he used your money to buy some Christmas gifts. How would you feel if the teller acted as the owner of your money instead of the manager of the money?
- 2) How important is stewardship to our relationship with God?
- 3) Remind the group of Luke 16:1-13 (the parable of the shrewd manager) and ask, "In spite of the previous financial decisions you have made, how can you start planning for the future with God today?"

### Action (10 minutes)

• **Encourage the group to follow through with Chip's challenge.**

• **Begin talking about one generous project that the group can undertake over the next month.**

! Ask people to throw out some ideas related to this project, but don't try to tackle anything too elaborate. You want the group to actually complete a generous project together to experience the joy - and genius - of generosity.

! After you determine an appropriate project, help people to take ownership in the work. Assign each member of the group a different task to complete for the generosity project

• **Remind your group of the importance of Scripture memorization. (Psalm 119:11) and encourage the group to memorize Luke 6:38**

! You may ask the group to gather in small groups of 2-3 and talk about or recite Luke 6:38

**Other tools for use in your preparation:**

<http://bible.org/seriespage/does-christ-commend-crook-or-sting-luke-161-13>

-or-

<http://www.biblestudytools.com>



# CHAPTER 3: WHY GOD PROSPERS GENEROUS PEOPLE

## Small Group Facilitator's Guide

### Introduction (10 minutes)

- ! Have the group spend some time praying that God would direct their hearts and minds as you begin this study. Ask God to speak to each group member in a real and personal way so that they can receive the greatest possible benefit from this study.
- **Ask** “Did God open your eyes to any unique opportunities to be generous this week?”
- ! Allow the participants to share the how they were generous to someone over the past week (or how they completed the assignment that Chip gave in the video).
- ! Have the group spend some time praying that God would direct their hearts and minds as you begin this study. Ask God to speak to each group member in a real and personal way so that they can receive the greatest possible benefit from this study.
- **Briefly introduce** Chapter 3 as a refresher for those who have read the book and as an overview for those who have not read the book.
- ! Have the participants to take out their Genius of Generosity books and open to pages 68-69.

### Viewing (14 minutes)

- ! Note: You will want to watch Chip Ingram's 13:00 minute video on Chapter 3 before the group gathers. This will help you know where the DVD is going and allow you to prepare for potential discussion points

### Discussion (25 minutes)

- ! Chip finishes the video by introducing a question. This is the same question as “Reflection Question 1” on page 69. While this is a great place to start, do not feel like you have to walk through the “Reflection Questions” in the order they are presented. Some of these questions may be addressed through the times of discussion without ever being formally asked. Others may not fit the culture of your group well. So, plan to be flexible as the discussion evolves and develops.
- **Say**, “What do you think about Randy Alcorn's statement? And if he's right, what steps do we need to take to start raising our standards of giving?”

#### Session Passage

Matthew 25:14-30

#### Big Idea

We are stewards of God's resources and God trusts us to manage His property well.



# CHAPTER 3: WHY GOD PROSPERS GENEROUS PEOPLE

## Small Group Facilitator's Guide

- ! Allow group members to share their thoughts and ideas
- ! Continue to use the "Reflection Questions" (on page 69) and "Bright Ideas" (on page 68) to stimulate the conversation and keep it on course.
- **Other potential discussion questions:**
  - 1) Sometimes when we consider acting generously, it feels like we may be giving away things that we are going to need later. How can we get beyond the fear of generosity and start living in faith?
  - 2) Matthew 25 indicates that God is honored by those who are willing to take financial risks for Him. How can you balance the risks of stewardship and the wisdom of financial planning?
  - 3) Who is someone who has blessed you and taught you the value of generosity?

### Action (11 minutes)

- **Encourage the group to follow through with Chip's challenge.**
- **Begin talking about people that you can mentor regarding generosity.**
- ! Ask parents in the group to share how they are passing these lessons on to their children.
- ! Ask the group how they are investing in the lives of their peers (co-workers, other family members, etc.) to help them understand how generous God is.
- **Challenge the group to recite Luke 6:38 and if the group has done well with this verse, pick an additional verse about generosity to memorize.**
- ! Potential verses – Proverbs 19:17, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Matthew 6:24

### Other tools for use in your preparation:

<http://bible.org/seriespage/parable-talents-matthew-2514-30-luke-1912-28>

-or-

<http://www.biblestudytools.com>



## CHAPTER 4:

# HOW GOD MEASURES GENEROSITY

## Small Group Facilitator's Guide

### Introduction (15 minutes)

! Begin by praying for each group member by name. Pray that God would implant His heart for generosity within them and that they would desire to start living generously – as God is generous toward them.

! Alternatively, you may want to ask the group to break up into groups of 2-3 to pray in this way for each other.

• **Ask** “How has your mindset about finances and stewardship changed over the course of this study?”

! Allow the participants to share the how they encouraged others to be generous over the past week (or how they completed the assignment that Chip gave in the video).

• **Briefly introduce** Chapter 4 as a refresher for those who have read the book and as an overview for those who have not read the book.

! Have the participants to take out their Genius of Generosity books and open to pages 88-89.

### Viewing (14 minutes)

! Note: You will want to watch Chip Ingram's 14 minute video on Chapter 4 before the group gathers. This will help you know where the DVD is going and allow you to prepare for potential discussion points

### Discussion (25 minutes)

! Chip finishes the video by introducing a question. This is the same question as “Reflection Question 1” on page 89. While this is a great place to start, do not feel like you have to walk through the “Reflection Questions” in the order they are presented. Some of these questions may be addressed through the times of discussion without ever being formally asked. Others may not fit the culture of your group well. So, plan to be flexible as the discussion evolves and develops.

• **Say**, “Because we are all in different places in life, the word ‘sacrifice’ may mean different things to each of us. What would sacrificial generosity look like in your life?”

! Allow group members to share their thoughts and ideas

#### Session Passage

Luke 21:1-4

#### Big Idea

We are stewards of God's resources and God trusts us to manage His property well.



## CHAPTER 4:

# HOW GOD MEASURES GENEROSITY

## Small Group Facilitator's Guide

! Continue to use the "Reflection Questions" (on page 89) and "Bright Ideas" (on page 88) to stimulate the conversation and keep it on course.

• **Other potential discussion questions:**

- 1) Chip mentions that finances are the "training wheels" of generosity. How do you feel about money being the starting point for generous living?
- 2) The widow in Luke 21 gave out of the little that she had to live on. Another widow (in 1 Kings 17) gave her last, small loaf of bread to Elijah. How can you adopt their mindsets of faith?
- 3) Is it harder for you to be generous in a moment of desperation or in a time of plenty?

### Action (6 minutes)

- **Encourage the group to follow through with Chip's challenge.**
  - **Begin talking about how the group can work together to complete the project of generosity that was proposed in week 2.**
- ! Ask the group to set a date (preferably within the next month) to complete this goal.
- **Challenge the group to read pages 92-94 and pray about initiating their own Genius Giving Groups.**

**Other tools for use in your preparation:**

[http://www.jesuswalk.com/lessons/20\\_45-21\\_4.htm](http://www.jesuswalk.com/lessons/20_45-21_4.htm)

-or-

<http://www.biblestudytools.com>

