GENEROUS

Leader Conversation Guide – Generous: Open-Handed Living

Main Idea

God is generous. From the very beginning, we see His generosity in the way He loves us, provides for us, and gave His Son for us. As followers of Jesus, we are called to reflect that same generosity in the way we live. But generosity is about more than what we give; it reveals who has our hearts.

This week's message challenged us to consider whether we are mastering our money or allowing money to master us. When we put God first, live by faith instead of fear, and hold our resources with open hands, we demonstrate that He is the Lord of our lives. As we begin our discussion, let's ask God to help us trust Him more, put Him first, and develop hearts that are generous.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
MATTHEW 6:21

Make it Practical:

1. Money Tells the Story of Our Hearts
   - What we prioritize financially reveals what has first place in our lives.
   - We must ask ourselves whether we have money or money has us.
   - Our treasure and our hearts are connected.
   - Matthew 6:21, 24

2. Change the Order
   - Being mastered by money means we live first, save second, and give last.
   - Mastering our money means we give first, save second, and live on the rest.
   - Giving first demonstrates that we trust God with our resources.
   - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

3. Trust God With Open Hands
   - God knows what we need and promises to provide.
   - We are called to seek His Kingdom first instead of allowing worry to control us.
   - Faith means trusting God even when we don't know exactly how everything will work out.
   - Matthew 6:31-33; Isaiah 29:13

Talk About It

The message challenged us to consider whether we have money or money has us. What are some signs that money might be becoming too important in someone's life?

The statement "We're not stingy, we're scared" challenges us to look beneath our actions. Have you ever struggled to be generous because of fear or uncertainty? What helped you trust God?

What would change in your life if you began approaching your finances with the mindset of an open-handed steward rather than an owner?

Generosity is not a money issue. It's a Lordship issue.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being so generous toward us. Forgive us for the times we've allowed fear, greed, or worry to keep us from trusting You. Help us put You first in every area of our lives and develop hearts that are cheerful and generous. Teach us to live by faith and hold everything You've given us with open hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Next Steps

Examine Your Heart: Look at your spending habits and ask yourself what they reveal about your priorities.

Take a Step of Generosity: Identify a practical way to become more generous this week, whether through tithing, giving, or meeting someone's need.

Choose Faith Over Fear: When you feel anxious about your finances, intentionally remind yourself that God knows what you need and seek His Kingdom first.