Small Group Discussion Questions
Contagious Generosity: Week Four, God’s Economy, Pastor Mike Magura

Psalm 24: 1 “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it…” [God owns EVERYTHING.]

God has been generous with you (even the ability to make money). So we should be generous as a response.

1. Do you typically view your skills and abilities as a gift from God? Are you tempted to take all the credit for what you have and how you got it?

Luke 9:23-24 “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”

2. Are we still disciples if we don’t (choose not to) take up our cross? What does this look like practically for you? How are you tempted to save your life? Have you ever given over control of your life, possessions, decisions, preferences and opinions to Jesus? How did it go? What would it look like to do that right now?

Following God is supposed to cost us EVERYTHING.

3. Do you agree? Is this just a onetime cost? Or is it in perpetuity (an ongoing cost)?

Following Jesus is about becoming like him. It’s about learning how to live the way he lived. Letting his priorities become our priorities.

4. How are you doing in regards to this? How have your priorities changed since you became a Christian? What’s the most current growth area for you? What area of your life does Jesus want to shape and influence right now? If you had to guess, what do you think he will want you to work on in 10 years?

Following God is supposed to cost us EVERYTHING.

5. Have you ever experience generosity in a close relationship? Have you ever been generous for the sake of blessing/growing a relationship? How did it go? Is there a relationship in your life that would be blessed if you took a step of generosity?

Generosity encourages relationship.

6. How does God’s economy differ from that of our culture? Jesus has made the biggest sacrifice of all on cross. Do you see your role as a Christian to follow his example by living a life of sacrifice? Why/Why not?

Acts 2: 42-47 “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

7. The resurrection of Christ had a direct impact on how these first Christians viewed their stuff. Have you ever experienced this type of Christianity? Do you want to? How would your relationship to your stuff have to change in order to live this way?

OR

This passage is used all the time to inspire the church to return to its heritage. What would it be like to be part of a community like this? Would you want to be a part of it? Why/Why not?

Most of us aren’t generous. Because generosity is RISKS!

8. When was the last time you stopped yourself from being generous because it seemed foolish? Did you grow up in a home were generosity was modeled? What were your earliest experiences of generosity? How do those experiences shape your own generosity today?
9. What are 3 reasons for the lack of generosity in your life? How could you become more generous?

Do you own your stuff, or does your stuff own you.

10. Have you ever had an expensive hobby, or owned a money pit? When did you realize that you were owned? How did you deal with it? Does anything own you now? What steps could you take to be free? Did anyone ever teach you how to hold your stuff in a way that was good for you and your stuff? If so, who? What did you learn? If you have kids, what kind of relationship do you want them to have with their stuff?

“We need to learn how to hold our stuff differently as a result of what God has done in our lives. All my possessions are just tools for fulfilling God’s purposes. I either give them away or use them on that sole basis.” Rick Warren

11. What do you think about Rick’s attitude towards his stuff? Can you imagine getting to the same place that he is? What’s holding you back? What would you do differently if you treated your stuff the way that he does? (How many extra car keys would you have to make?)

Exodus 36:1-7 “So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded.” Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing and said to Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done.” Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.”

Generosity becomes contagious when a community of people buy into the reality that God’s economy can be trusted to take care of us far better than any other economy.

12. Have you ever been a part of contagious generosity like this? What was it like?

God’s WORK must be supported by God’s PEOPLE.

13. Do you agree? Why or why not? Do you typically assume that someone else will cover the cost if you don’t? Do you see yourself as a participant or a spectator in what God is doing in your community?

Imagine what God could do with a church full of generous people.

14. Take a few minutes to dream as a small group about this? What would it be like? What would you want our church to do with all that people give? How can you contribute to making these dreams a reality?

15. Where is God calling you to be (more) generous? Finances, Relationships, Possessions? Be specific! Take a couple minutes to share with another person 2-3 areas that you want to take risks with your generosity this week. Ready, GO!

It’s not GENEROSITY, if there’s no RISK!

16. What will you need from God to help you to become more generous? Take some time to ask him for those things now.