



Crazy Like Us Week Two

Opening Prayer: God, thank you for the opportunity to receive generosity from you and to extend generosity to others. Help us to remember your love for us as we discuss generosity.

Talk It Over: This week we talked about how God's generosity never runs out. Generosity is this idea that no matter what struggle we face God is faithfully in the situation with us, and looking to see us through that struggle despite of our fears about that not being true. If we can grow in trust it helps to reduce worry — which is often at the root of most of our self destructive behaviors (including consumption and stress).

- Where in your body do you know that God is faithful and generous? Maybe it's your mind, your heart or maybe you might be able to even point to a physical part of your body where you know and can feel that truth.
- Do you have a story of a time where you could feel God's generosity toward you?
- Outside of finances where have you experienced God's generosity?

Read Romans 8:31-32

Being able to really know that God is for us and with us requires trust. Trust is a muscle that needs to be exercised in order to grow and develop.

- How easy is it for you to trust?
- Do you have a mental process you walk through in order to practice trust or is trust more of a natural reflex for you? If you are comfortable, describe how that works for you, and if trust is hard for you, you are welcome to share why.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Jesus is filled with grace when it comes to our finances. He cares about our heart — not just our wallets. He desires to help us be free from the bondage that money can cause. This week we talked about a practical way to grow in generosity. The generosity ladder encourages us to go from nothing to something, something to tithing, and tithing to offering.

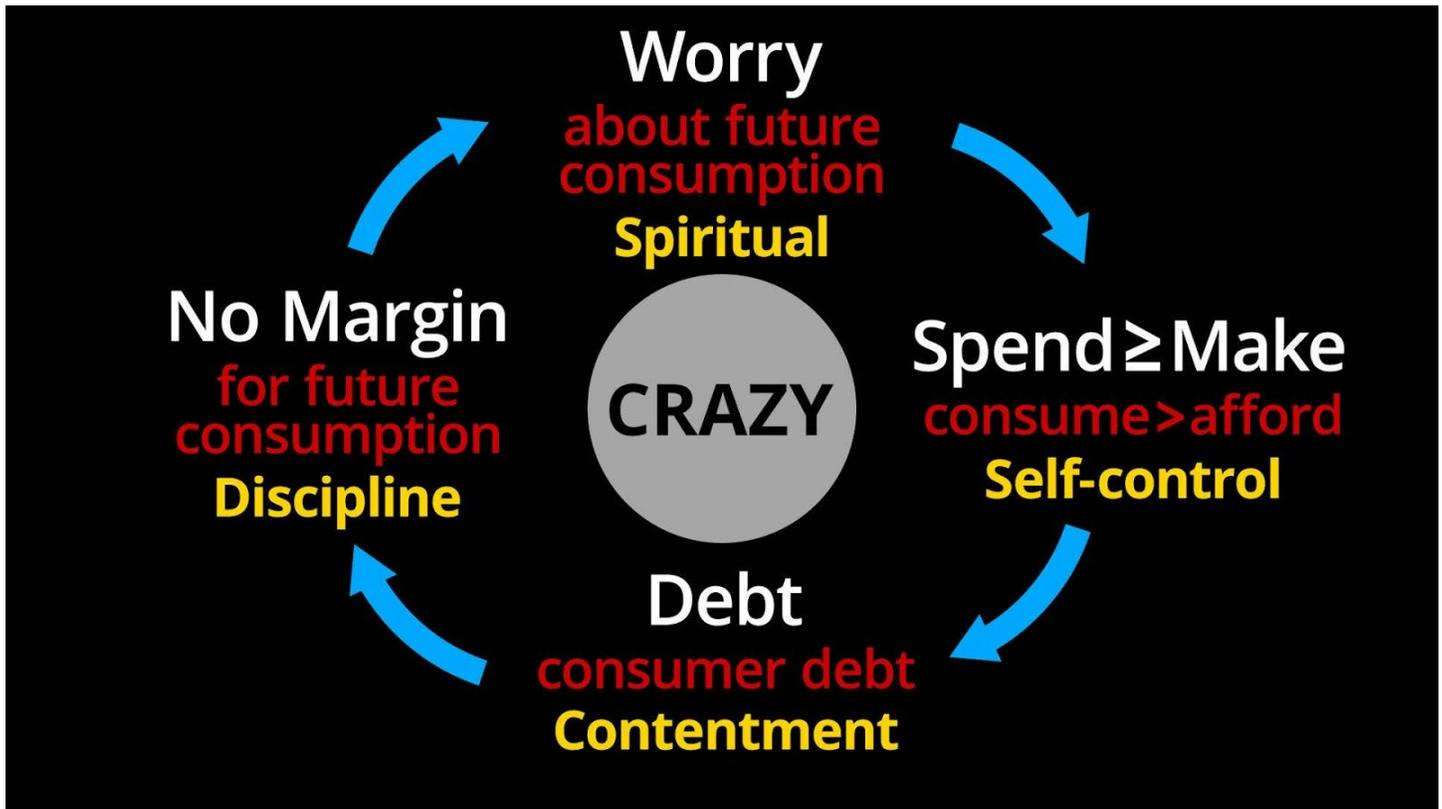
- What kind of feelings come up for you with the topic of personal finances and generosity?
- Do you see an area on the generosity ladder where you might be able to grow a little?
- What other ways outside of finances do you practice generosity?

Read Luke 12:16-21

Consumption assumption is the idea that everything that comes to me, is for me. While the idea of consuming comes out of greed, it is also rooted in worry. We worry there won't be enough. That somehow if we don't take it all now, we won't get more later. Jesus wants us to be free from worry and not allow it to consume us. (Continue to next page.)

- Can you identify with the temptation to consume? Do you often worry about not having enough?
- Can you make a connect between your childhood upbringing and the way you respond to consumption and worry now?
- Are there tools or spiritual practices you use to help you practice contentment when you feel worried?

Take a couple of minutes to look at the graphic from the week's talk. Try and identify where you can get stuck and what small next step you can do to grow in that area. The yellow words help to combat the cycle we can easily fall into. If you are comfortable, share your thoughts with the group.



Closing Prayer: God, help me to think more like a manager this week and not a consumer. Allow me to see myself as a steward of the resources you have given. Help me to reflect your goodness and represent you well.

Challenge This week read *The parable of the Seed / Sower* in Mark 4. Ask God to help you identify a way to grow in generosity and freedom.