



### **Crazy Like Us Week Three**

**Opening Prayer:** God, as we talk more about finances and generosity this week, help our hearts to keep moving further and deeper. Regardless of how easy or difficult this topic is for us, we want to hear our next right step from you.

#### **Talk It Over:**

We have been looking at our finances and generosity for three weeks now. Let's look at what this topic has stirred up in you. You are free to talk openly or to look at the questions below.

- What is this topic stirring up in you? What has your greatest take away been so far? What is clicking? What's been hard to embrace or implement? Are there any frustrations this topic is bringing to the surface? Any important new ideas or practices you wish you had learned earlier?

#### **Read Colossians 1:16 (Voice) and James 1:17**

This week we were reminded that everything we enjoy about life has been given to us by God. In fact, we get a good grasp of God's kind character and nature just by considering how generous he is.

- Since we are often quick to miss the good that is all around us, let's take a few minutes and share ten things we are each grateful for. You are welcome to go around the group and formally share one-by-one or toss things out as a group. The goal is simply to take a few minutes to be grateful for the things we enjoy about life.
- Sometimes other people can help us see good in our life that we might overlook. Go around the group and share something you see in someone else's life you think is a gift. For example, maybe you've noticed a specific person's creativity, their ability to connect with others, their job, their relationship with a specific person, or their wisdom you consider a gift. Like the question above, you are welcome to go around the group and share formally or you can work in a more organic, messy way. *(Just be sure not to skip someone. We want everyone to hear from other members of the group.)*
- How natural or easy is it for you to consider all the good God has given you?
- Whether seeing the good and being thankful is easy or hard for you, share if you've always been this way or was this a tendency you learned along the way. Where did you learn or develop your bent?

#### **Read Luke 6:38 (The Message)**

God gives freely to us and invites us to give freely to others. The circular idea God invites us to lean into is the Principle of Reciprocity — God gives to us, we give to others, and good will come back to us. Things don't always align perfectly, of course. The Principle of Reciprocity isn't about receiving an equivalent return or a promise of 'tid-for-tat'. Rather, this idea is a reminder that we give God permission to move us in deep ways when we live with our hands open. Plus, the repeated message Jesus communicates to us is that God is inviting us to be conduits of his love — a people group that gives as quickly as they receive.

- How are you doing at living with your hands open this season? In what ways is this concept of living with your hands open and generously most difficult for you?
- In what real ways are you practicing living generously this season?
- In what ways do you want to get better at practicing generosity? What is your dream scenario and what steps are you taking to get there?

### **Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (New Living Translation)**

Generosity is intended to be a place of freedom we enter into. A place where our heart and our money are aligned, and we can give freely to what is important to us. Along these same lines, the repeated message of this series is that generally speaking, to live from this sort of free and generous space we need to plan accordingly on the front end.

- Prior to this week's talk would you have paired freedom and generosity together? What do you think now about generosity being intended to be a place of freedom?
- Does generosity feel like freedom to you in this season? Why or why not? Has giving ever felt like freedom to you?
- A practical tool to narrow down what is most important to us is to ask these next two questions:
  - What am I grateful for? What breaks your heart? Discuss your answer to these two questions.
  - With those two previous questions in mind, share some programs, organization, or people you think you'd be interested in giving to.

### **Read Matthew 6:19-21 (The Message)**

God is not interested in our money or in need of our money. God wants our heart, and he knows that our money and heart are more connected than we sometimes think. God's invitation to process our money differently is him asking for more access to our hearts — he wants to align our hearts and our money so we can decide where our money goes and say 'yes' to what matters most.

Take a couple minutes to silently consider the idea that God is not interested in your money, but he is after your heart and inviting you into freedom.

When your done silently reflecting, discuss these questions:

- Based on all you heard from the week's talk, your group time, and God, what is your next right step?
- How do you feel you are doing at giving God your heart in this area of money, treasures, finances, and generosity? Remember, we are all in process — there are no perfect people — and God loves and cares about each of us deeply. He meets each of us where we are and invites all of us to experience his love and freedom.

### **Closing Prayer:**

God, you know where we are on this topic, where we want to go, and where you are inviting us. Help us to experience your leadership and will in the area of our finances. We want to live open handed — living in freedom and generosity — and need your help to get there.