

Cultivate Reflection Guide

Giving Up: How to Find REAL Courage December 4 & 5, 2021

If you missed this weekend's message, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

Tis' the season for giving. While we often focus on **what** we give, God focuses on **how** we give. Our generosity has much more to do with what we believe, than what we give. When we look up to God, we will be motivated to give and receive in a way that reflects and honors Him.

Use this week's Reflection Guide to start a REAL conversation in your community group or for personal bible study as you cultivate God's word into your life during the week. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond as you live out what we're learning. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Read: [Luke 19:1-10 ESV](#)

Notable Quotes: Review these notable quotes from Pastor Claude's message. Which of these encourage, instruct or challenge you and why? Was there another word, verse or point that stood out to you?

- Generosity is God's tool to teach us to trust Him day after day.
- Generosity will kill all the idols in our life.
- Success does not equal significance.
- The one person that is everything says that you're something – we are safe and somebody in Christ.
- Jesus doesn't come to rob you. He comes to redefine you.

Reflect & Respond:

1. Take inventory: in what ways have you experienced God's generosity in your life? This could be tangibly or spiritually, emotionally and relationally.
2. Describe the qualities, characteristics or attributes that you believe make a person generous. Which of those qualities are you good at? Which do you need to grow in?
3. Pastor Claude challenged us to be REAL about the things in our life that rob us of generosity – fear, anxiety, bitterness, self-absorption, anger, sin, jealousy, unrealized desires and unresolved conflict. What in your life is standing in the way of you living generously? This could also be a “once I _____, then I will _____” narrative that is delaying generosity.
4. Satan will do anything to keep us from the ocean of God's goodness. He does this by causing us to chase after the wrong things leaving us distracted and exhausted. Is there anything (or anyone) you're chasing after that is causing distraction or exhaustion?

Prayer: Courage to give, starts with giving ourselves to Jesus. Humble yourself in God's presence. Lay down the obstacles, distractions and exhaustion that are keeping you from pursuing generosity with self, God and others. Ask God two things: what He desires for you and what He requires of you. Invite Him to do the work of refining you, the work of growth and change, SO THAT you can become a person of generosity.

Live it Out: Read [2 Corinthians 8:1-5 NLT](#). What is one way you can live out rich generosity this week? This may be through tangibly giving what you are able, but it could also be through sharing your time, resources, insight, gifts and talents. Even serving someone with a simple act of kindness can be a generous expression of the love of God. Need ideas? Visit cultivate.sc/livekindly for 21 Ways to Live Kindly.