



Island Groups

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Week of May 18, 2025

BE GENEROUS – WEEK 3

THE COST OF GENEROSITY

(LUKE 10:33-35)

OPENING PRAYER TIME

As we continue our "Be Generous" series, exploring the parable of the Good Samaritan more deeply, let's make sure we are anchoring everything in prayer. We are asking each Island Group to begin their weekly meetings with 10-15 minutes devoted to prayer.

You might guide the group through prayer by offering these prompts, pausing for 30-60 seconds between each one to allow time for silent or spoken prayer:

- Thank God for His incredible generosity in giving His Son for us, the ultimate example of costly giving
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us recognize the divine promptings to be generous in our daily lives
- Confess any ways we've avoided opportunities to serve others because of the personal cost involved
- Pray for courage to use what we have and do what we can when God presents opportunities to help others
- Ask God to help us be good stewards of our time, talent, and treasure for His kingdom
- Invite Jesus to open our eyes to see the needs around us that we can meet, even when it costs us something

You may want to incorporate a time of silence for personal reflection and listening, or to encourage members to voice simple one-word prayers of praise and gratitude. The key is to allow room for the Spirit to lead, while still being intentional about prioritizing prayer.

Remember, **PRAYER IS THE WORK** that empowers everything else! So let's commit to pursuing Him wholeheartedly as we gather.



DISCUSSION

Begin by asking, "**Have you ever done something generous for someone that cost you significantly - whether in time, money, or convenience? What motivated you to make that sacrifice?**"

Ask someone to read **Luke 10:33-35**. What details stand out to you in this passage about the Samaritan's actions? What specific things did he do for the wounded man?

Pastor Paul highlighted that when the Good Samaritan "**saw him, he took pity on him.**" What do you think that "prompting" felt like for the Samaritan? Have you ever experienced a similar prompting to help someone in need?

When have you looked at a problem or situation and thought, "somebody needs to do something about this"? How did you respond to that thought? Pastor Paul suggested that this is often God prompting us to do what we can. How might this perspective change how we view these moments in the future?

Pastor Paul emphasized that the Good Samaritan "**did what he could do**" and "**used what he had**" to help the wounded man. He didn't have a first aid kit or medical training, but he still acted. Why is this an important principle for us to remember when we feel inadequate to help?

Have someone read **Luke 10:35**. Pastor Paul pointed out that two denarii was equivalent to two days' wages (roughly \$200-300 in today's money). How does this detail change your understanding of the Samaritan's generosity? What does it reveal about his commitment to this stranger?

Pastor Paul suggested that the innkeeper likely knew and trusted the Samaritan because he was "**a man intentionally looking for opportunity to give, to serve.**" How might our reputation for generosity (or lack thereof) affect our ability to help others effectively?

Ask someone to read **Ephesians 2:10**. According to this verse and Pastor Paul's explanation, what is our purpose as Christians? How does this connect to the idea that we were "**born to be a blessing to others**"?

Pastor Paul emphasized that "**helping others will cost you something.**" Looking at the Good Samaritan story, what specifically did it cost him? (Time, convenience, money, possible sleepless night, etc.) Are there costs to generosity that you find particularly challenging to give?

Have someone read **John 3:16**. Pastor Paul opened the sermon series with this verse to show that "God so loved the world that **HE GAVE**." How does God's giving nature serve as the foundation and model for our own generosity?

Pastor Paul said that our most important resource is time, and we have three options: we can **spend it, waste it, or invest it**. How would you describe the difference between these three options? In what areas of your life are you currently investing your time rather than merely spending or wasting it?

Discuss Pastor Paul's statement: "***If you want to see how important something is to you, look at how much money you spend on it.***" What does your spending reveal about your priorities? How might this principle help us evaluate our commitment to God's kingdom?

Pastor Paul shared a personal story about a woman who felt God's prompting to give his family tickets to Wonder Works. Discuss a time when someone's generosity made a significant impact in your life. What made their act of generosity especially meaningful?

Share the statement, "**Do for one person what you wish you could do for many.**" Why is this an important principle? How might this help us overcome feeling overwhelmed by the many needs around us?

APPLICATION

Pay attention to the promptings you feel this week when you notice needs around you. Rather than thinking "someone should do something," ask God if He is prompting you to be that someone. Keep a small journal of these promptings and how you responded.

Identify one way you can better steward your time this week. Consider if you're spending, wasting, or investing your time. Choose one activity to eliminate that wastes time and replace it with something that invests in others or God's kingdom.

Take inventory of your talents and abilities. Write down 3-5 gifts God has given you and pray specifically about how you could use each one to serve others. Choose one talent to put into action this week in a way that blesses someone else.

Make a practical plan to be more intentional about looking for opportunities to give and serve. This might mean setting aside a specific amount of money for spontaneous giving, planning margin in your schedule for unexpected needs, or committing to a specific service opportunity in your church or community.

CLOSING PRAYER TIME

Take time to share prayer requests. Write these down and distribute them so the group can be praying throughout the week. In addition to the prayer requests, include the following in your prayers:

- Thank God for the example of the Good Samaritan and for Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice for us
- Confess any selfishness or reluctance to give of your time, talent, or treasure when it feels costly
- Ask the Holy Spirit to make you more sensitive to His promptings to serve others
- Pray for courage to "get off your donkey" and help others even when it's inconvenient or difficult
- Thank God for specific people who have been generous toward you and ask Him to bless them
- Pray that our church would be known for its generosity and that we would individually and collectively reflect God's giving heart

Close by thanking God that He is the owner of everything, and we are simply managers of what He has entrusted to us. Ask Him to help us be faithful stewards who use our resources to help others and advance His kingdom, even when it costs us something.