

2021

Deep Pockets | Group Guide

Week 1

A perspective on generosity



Overview

When you think of God, what adjectives come to mind? Because of the pace and stress of our modern lives, we often miss and misunderstand God. From the beginning, God has shown himself to be generous. From the extravagance of creation to the extensiveness of his plans for our lives, God's work evidences a giving heart. When we understand his generosity, we are more capable of living generously. When we give, we give from deep pockets.

Week One

How do we experience the generosity of God in the Vertical community? Thankfully, through each other. In week one, through a conversation about an old story and reflection on our current situation, we will discover together the incredible ability of God to exercise generosity on multiple levels. Because of this love for us, he meets the needs we know about and then some. We will see together how God gives graciously from a deep supply.

Big Idea: Generosity is a big part of the character of God.

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1-24 niv, Psalm 37:4-5 esv

Action Items & Takeaways:

1. What's going on is always about more than just what's going on.
2. His generosity over us not only extends past our immediate need, it also extends past our imaginations.
3. Delight, Commit, Trust

Group Guide:

1. How do you experience God through the people in your community?
2. Is generosity a quality you have in people around you? Are you more generous to others than they are to you?
3. Read 1 Kings 17:1-24

In this story, we see God being generous with things he knew Elijah needed, and even things Elijah didn't know he needed. What are some things you are looking for generosity in? What are some things you can look back on and see God's generosity in that you didn't see before?

4. We've all had our "brook" or river that we've come to hungry, and looking for satisfaction- what is that brook look like for you now? If not now, what did it look like for you in the past?

5. "What's going on is always about more than just what's currently going on"..
What does this statement mean to you? (God works multi level, and is always preparing us for bigger things than what we currently see)
6. Where in your life have you "missed" the generosity of God? Why do you think you missed it then, but see it now?
7. Read Psalm 37:4-5 esv
How can we be generous with ourselves and with others?
8. It's because of His generosity to us that we can be generous to others- what are areas that you want to be more generous in? (time, finances, relationally..etc)

Resources:

- "Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." 1 Kings 17:1 (NIV)
- "The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.""
1 Kings 17:22-24 NIV
- Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. Psalm 37:4-5 est