



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 7

Living Generously

2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:8; 9:11,15 Proverbs 22:9; 11:25

We often equate 'giving' with the offering in church services. But giving is so much more than placing something in the bucket when it comes around each week.

Giving is a lifestyle of generosity. It flows from the very core of our being - the way we think and act. It is being generous *not only* with our pockets, but with our words, our time and the way we see the world.

God calls us to live generously because this reflects the actions and heart of Jesus who so graciously gave his life for us; an *incredible* gift (2 Corinthians 9:15)! Indeed, the spirit of generosity IS the spirit of Jesus.

Generosity changes lives. Living with a generous spirit brings freedom to ourselves and empowers the lives of others. Through our generosity others will give thanks to God. Let's be a church that is known for its generosity, so that people are able to say *Thank God for you!* (2 Corinthians 9:11).

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

- Q:** Share a time when someone's generosity has impacted your life.
- Q:** Whose example of generosity inspires you? How has their example impacted you?
- Q:** Read Isaiah 32:8. Generosity is *purposed* and takes effort. Do you take time to strategise and plan generosity? Share strategies that you have used in the past to facilitate a generous spirit in your life. (**Leaders Tip:** This may include financial planning, gift buying, serving the poor, visiting those in need etc.)
- Q:** What are some of the hindrances to generosity in a person's life? (**Leaders Tip:** Generosity in this question can be both acts of generosity, such as financial giving, as well as a spirit of generosity).
- Q:** How can we cultivate generosity in our lives?
- Q:** Share your most life-transforming revelation on giving and generosity.
- Q:** What generous things can you do over the rest of this week?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Mother's Day – We will be celebrating and honouring all the mums! Mobilise your group to bring mums to church on this special occasion.
- Sunday Night visits Friday Night (Friday 11th May) – Sunday Night services are visiting Friday night. The international food festival will also be on, check myhillsong.com for service times!

More
over the
page



I LOVE MY CONNECT

BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these questions and scriptures to help believers develop a Biblical worldview.

- Q: Read** Proverbs 22:9 **and** Proverbs 11:25. How is a generous person blessed by God? Describe the different ways God blesses generosity.
(Leader's Tip: Answers may include spiritual freedom from self-centredness, greed and possessions as well as actual financial blessing and gifts that enable us to pass on the blessing even more.)
- Q: Read** 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 **and** 9:8. How do we live generous lives if we 'can't afford to give'?
- Q: Read** Genesis 12:1 **and** Luke 4:18. What is the purpose of God's blessings in our lives?
- Q: Read** 2 Corinthians 8:9. How would you answer a non-Christian says to you: "Oh, churches are only interested in your money!"?
(Leader's Tip: Answers should consider the example of Jesus, the nature of generosity and the call to be blessed to be a blessing, the church's mission to the world.)
- Q:** What ways do you need to apply this study to your life?

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** Jesus' actions on earth were generous at their very core. He became 'poor that we would be made rich'. How has his example inspired generosity in your own life?
- Q:** Why is generosity essential in a leader? Discuss the different ways generosity is outworked in leading.
- Q:** How can we cultivate a generous soul (Prov 11:25) in the lives of others?
- Q:** How can being generous help you develop leaders and start new Connect Groups?
- Q:** Take turns preparing and sharing an offering message.

Check Up

- Check in with leaders in your group on how they're going with:
- Nation Builders giving in their Connect Group.

PRAY TOGETHER

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Nation Builders Faith Goal
- Ps Brian & Bobbie Houston

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside of people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353 or Brisbane 07 3422 8500 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS Use this section to inspire and inform people on the difference their giving can make. Together we support

1. **Church Planting.** Amsterdam, Berlin, Japan, Moscow, Paris, Stockholm, Constance, Toronto.
2. **Gospel Missions.** Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) Hillsong TV and overseas workers in South East Asia (China, Thailand and South East Asia)

In previous years, we sowed seed into Churches in London, Kiev and Cape Town. Today we see incredible fruit! How exciting that we can now plant seed into new Churches like NYC and Germany. Your giving TODAY will make a difference in the nations TOMORROW!

If you haven't already done so, please take the time during your next meeting to set a new Nation Builders Faith Goal for your Connect Group in 2012.

