Generosity: Acts 2:42–47

HOUSE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — IN (LOOKING BACK) · UP (LOOKING UP) · OUT (LOOKING FORWARD)

Before You Meet: Generosity in Acts 2 was not produced by guilt or obligation. It was the overflow of people who had met, seen, treasured, and trusted Jesus. The real question is not "How much should I give?" but "What am I treasuring, and do I trust the One who gave everything?"
UP (Gospel) is one third of the night. Give real time to IN and OUT too.

IN — Looking Back *(Community)*

Care · Worship · Celebrate Faithfulness · Motivation & Encouragement

Care. Check in — highs, lows, and needs for prayer or practical help.

Worship. Praise together: a song, silence, or naming one thing God has given you that you're thankful for.

Celebrate Faithfulness. Follow up on last week's step and celebrate it out loud.

Motivation & Encouragement. Name a way you've seen someone be generous lately and encourage them by name.

UP — Looking Up *(Gospel — Sermon Discussion Guide)*

Reword or skip questions as needed. Pray first and aim for genuine conversation.

Key Takeaways

1. **Heart, not guilt.** Generosity flows from a transformed heart, not from obligation.
2. **Love gives.** Love is a fruit of the Spirit, and love gives (the Good Samaritan, John 3:16).
3. **Meet Jesus.** Like Zacchaeus, an encounter with Jesus loosens our grip on possessions.
4. **See Jesus.** Everything we have, even life and breath, is a gift from God (Acts 17).
5. **Treasure Jesus.** Like the child who drops the candy for the sundae, something better loosens what we guard.
6. **Trust Jesus.** Trust God for the spiritual return on our giving, not only financial reimbursement.
7. **Together.** Acts 2 generosity was corporate, and giving is never a substitute for knowing Jesus.

Opening (Choose One)

- The sermon describes generosity as flowing from a transformed heart rather than obligation or guilt. When has generosity felt like a burden versus a joy for you, and what made the difference?
- The sermon argues that love, as a fruit of the Spirit, is inseparable from giving. How does seeing generosity as an expression of love rather than a financial decision change how you think about it?

Read Acts 2:42–47. They had everything in common, selling their possessions and distributing to anyone in need.

Digging In

1. **Radical.** Acts 2:44–45 describes believers selling possessions to meet needs. What would it take for a modern church to practice that level of generosity, and what obstacles would need to be overcome?
2. **Zacchaeus.** He gave dramatically after meeting Jesus, with no outside instruction. When has meeting Jesus or deepening your relationship with him changed how you held your possessions or resources?
3. **Not mine.** Acts 17 says life and breath are gifts from God. How would your daily financial decisions change if you truly believed nothing you have is yours?
4. **Treasure.** In the candy and ice cream sundae picture, what currently competes with Jesus as your greatest treasure, and how honest are you willing to be about it?
5. **Trust.** The sermon separates trusting God to financially reimburse you from trusting him for spiritual return. Which is harder for you, and why?

Going Deeper

6. **Shortcut.** Giving outwardly while neglecting Jesus can become a substitute for real connection with God. Have you experienced or seen generosity used as a spiritual shortcut, and what did it reveal?
7. **Weakest link.** Meeting, seeing, treasuring, trusting: which is weakest in your life right now, and what would it look like to strengthen it?
8. **Obstacles.** What most often keeps you from giving freely: fear, habit, busyness, or not knowing the need? What would help you move past it?
9. **Gospel.** God gave his Son because he loved us (John 3:16). How does his generosity toward you in Jesus change the way you hold what you have?

Closing Reflection

10. Together. Acts 2 generosity was corporate, not just individual. What does it look like for a church body to cultivate a shared culture of generosity rather than leaving it to individual conviction?

OUT — Looking Forward *(Mission)*

Preparing for the Mission · Going on Mission · Praying for the Mission

Preparing for the Mission

- **Examine your heart.** Before thinking about what you give, ask: Have I met Jesus? Am I seeing him in Scripture? Do I treasure him above money? Bring one honest observation to share.
- **Return to Jesus.** If your relationship with him has grown cold or crowded out by busyness, make that your only focus this week. Repent, return, and ask him to reclaim his place.

Going on Mission

- **Stewardship question.** How will you be generous with the resources God has entrusted to you to steward for his purpose and glory? Which opportunity below will you take this week?
- **Ask God.** Pray for a person or need he is already placing in your path, and how he wants you to respond.

Three Opportunities from the Sermon

- **Give a gift card.** Meet a practical need for someone in your path or in our church family.
- **Contribute to Watchcare.** Give toward the care of those in our church walking through hardship.
- **Adopt a family through the Giving Tree.** Do it as a group to share a story of what God does through your generosity.

Keep Going

- **Text us your story.** Text the anonymous line at (507) 577-0707 so we can hear about what God did as you practiced generosity.
- **Share stories.** Over the coming weeks, tell one another where you saw God move through an act of generosity, however small.

Praying for the Mission

Pray over any act of giving group members are considering. Thank God for his generosity toward us in Jesus; confess where you still guard the candy; and ask that he use your giving for kingdom purposes and do the spiritual work in others that only he can do.

Closing

The early church did not become generous by trying harder. They were captivated by Jesus. Pray that generosity would be the natural overflow of who you are in him.

Group Notes & Prayer Requests