

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

1 Chronicles 29:1-20

LEADER'S STUDY

The Grace of Giving

1 Chronicles 29:1-20

What is happening?

King David has just finished giving his son Solomon the very detailed, lavish plans for the Lord's temple and is now addressing the whole assembly of Israelites, asking them to devote themselves to this task. In 2 Samuel 7:1-2, we get a glimpse into David's motivation for wanting to build a temple for the Lord: *gratitude* for all God had done for him, and *humility*, recognizing with shock that David was in a house of cedar while God's house was still just a tent and He deserved so much more. David leads by example, giving his personal wealth for the building of the temple.

The leaders of Israel respond by giving willingly with overwhelming generosity (5,000 talents of gold is worth over 5 billion dollars today). This causes all the people to rejoice. David praises the Lord, emphasizing that everything in heaven and on earth belongs to Him, and everything he and the people gave came from God. All their gifts are as nothing to God, for all things are His to begin with. What matters to Him is the integrity and intent of their hearts: they gave with joy and gratitude.

Where is the gospel?

God wants our hearts (our deceitful, sinful hearts...isn't that amazing?!). He wants a personal relationship with us. With great tenderness, Jesus explains to us that where our treasure is our hearts will also be. He wants us to be secure in Him, not in earthly treasures that will wear out and be destroyed. Instead of asking the people to give their wealth, David gets to the heart of the matter: "Who is willing to consecrate themselves *to the Lord* today?" To consecrate yourself means to devote yourself wholeheartedly, all your time and attention. It is only in the Lord that we will find permanent security, joy, and meaning in life.

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: God owns everything, so why does He command us to tithe? Why does He command us to give generously to one another? How is giving generously a privilege given to us by the grace of God? What is the relationship between joy and generosity? How is God calling me to depend on Him more?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to follow Him and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scriptures: Mark 12:41-44; Luke 11:42; 12:32-34; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ 1 Chronicles 29:1-20
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation. Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

Consider the historical context:

The 5,000 talents of gold given by the leaders of Israel would today be worth over 5 billion dollars. The Old Testament command to tithe (10% of your earnings) to the Lord is a bare minimum. It is a way to keep our sinful hearts in check, reminding us of Who our wealth comes from and Who we depend on.

The Pharisees got caught up in the small details, spending hours counting out exactly a tenth of small grains of their spices to give to God, while neglecting the great love of God and His purpose in commanding the tithe: that we may be secure in Him.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What seems to be the main point of this passage?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

In 2 Cor. 8:1-9, How is giving generously a privilege given to us by the grace of God?

What is the relationship between joy and generosity?

How is God calling me to depend on Him more?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

God owns everything, so why does He command us to tithe and to give generously to one another?

What does my current budget/finances reveal about where I am placing my trust?

How can I experience joy and freedom in giving?

How is God calling me to obey, based on this passage?

With whom will I share what I have learned?

(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?