
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 19

Small Group Questions: Life + Generosity = Freedom

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Read

John 3:16; Proverbs 11:24–25; Matthew 18:21–35; and 1 Timothy 6:17–19

Reflect

In Matthew 18, a king shows mercy to his servant by forgiving a huge debt, equivalent to about \$10 million today. Freed of this massive debt, the servant goes looking for a man who owes him money in turn, but it is not to show mercy. He chokes the man who owes him about \$40 and has him thrown into prison. When the king hears of it, he brings the forgiven servant back in and retracts his cancellation of the debt. The servant is handed over to the jailers to be tortured for his greed and lack of mercy. How have you seen a lack of generosity affect the trajectory of someone's life?

Life + generosity = freedom / Life + greed = bondage

Guest Pastor Dino Rizzo highlights four decisions we can make about generosity:

1. Live as a steward.
 - a. What's the difference between ownership and stewardship?
 - b. How are you exercising stewardship right now? Do you think it's sufficient?
 - c. Have you experienced the tension between hearing and obeying God? Explain.
 - i. Describe a time you felt prompted by God to do something you didn't want to do?
2. Live surrendered.
 - a. Would you say you've surrendered your life to God? Explain.
 - b. What area of your life do you still need to give over to God? What has kept you from doing this?
3. Live like a sample.
 - a. Who has served as a positive example to you in your walk with God, and why?
 - b. How can you help others sample God's mercy and grace?
4. Live to start something.
 - a. What needs to change in your life?
 - b. Do you need to start over? Start something fresh?
 - c. Where could you begin?
 - d. Think of something important God has done in your life. What were the initial steps you took?
 - i. How can your experience be used to help someone else?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?