

## SMALL GROUPS AGENDA

# Generosity Discussion

In addition to meeting with Small Groups, it is hoped that every group that regularly meets (choir, council, etc) will take at least 15 minutes to have a discussion about stewardship and generosity. The outlines below are designed to be used with group and for the allocated time given.

### STARTER

Each group should start by hearing the following information:

- ▶ The average Protestant gives away 1.9% of their income
- ▶ The median protestant (one in the middle if you line up by giving percentage) gives away 0.9% of their income with only 0.62% coming to the church
- ▶ The First Article of the Creed states:
  - » I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth.
    - › Martin Luther says about this:
      - » *I believe that God created me, along with all creatures. God gave to me: body and soul, eyes, ears and all the other parts of my body, my mind and all my senses and preserves them as well. God gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and land, spouse and children, fields, animals, and all I own. Every day God abundantly provides everything I need to nourish this body and life. God protects me against all danger, shields and defends me from all evil. God does all this because of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, not because I've earned it or deserved it. For all of this, I must thank, praise, serve, and obey God. Yes, this is true!*
- ▶ Jesus states in Matthew 6:21
  - » "For where your treasure is, your heart will be also"
    - › If our heart follows our treasure, where is our heart if the median protestant only gives. 62% to the church? (answer—not in the church)
- ▶ If God creates everything and provides us with everything we have, should we focus on what we give, or what we keep?
- ▶ *Presenter should share a bit about their journey to become more generous.*

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## 15 MINUTES

- ▶ Ask everyone in the group to share with at least one other person both of these:
  - » Who is the most generous person you have known in your life. Please share a story about how you witnessed their generosity.
  - » What is the first financial gift you remember ever giving, to whom did you give it, how much was it, and why did you choose to make this gift?
- ▶ Ask people to share the best of their responses with the entire group
- ▶ Conclude by sharing that the purpose of the stewardship appeal is that we each become more generous and together we will achieve our goals.
- ▶ *Take a minute to answer questions that people have.*

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## 30 MINUTES

- ▶ Ask everyone in the group to share with at least one other person:
  - » Who is the most generous person you have known in your life. Please share a story about how you witnessed their generosity.
  - » What is the first financial gift you remember ever giving, to whom did you give it, how much was it, and why did you choose to make this gift?
- ▶ Ask people to share the best of their responses with the entire group
- ▶ Have people share with someone else in the group:
  - » How has your giving to the church grown throughout your life? How is it that you continue to grow in your giving?
  - » Why do you give financially to the church?
- ▶ Share the best responses with the entire group.
- ▶ Conclude by sharing that the purpose of the stewardship appeal is that we each become more generous and together we will achieve our goals.
- ▶ *Take a minute to answer questions that people have.*

**1 HOUR**

- ▶ Ask everyone in the group to share with at least one other person:
  - » Who is the most generous person you have known in your life. Please share a story about how you witnessed their generosity.
  - » What is the first financial gift you remember ever giving, to whom did you give it, how much was it, and why did you choose to make this gift?
- ▶ Ask people to share the best of their responses with the entire group
- ▶ Have people share with someone else in the group:
  - » How has your giving to the church grown throughout your life? How is it that you continue to grow in your giving?
  - » Why do you give financially to the church?
- ▶ Share the best responses with the entire group.
- ▶ As a large group, ask people to share their response to the following:
  - » How does giving to the church make you feel?
  - » What would you share with a new member as to the importance of them being generous in their financial participation in the church?
  - » What excites you most about the future of our congregation
  - » What is your biggest hope for the congregation to accomplish once the stewardship appeal is concluded?
- ▶ Conclude by sharing that the purpose of the stewardship appeal is that we each become more generous and together we will achieve our goals.
- ▶ *Take a minute to answer questions that people have.*