



## Crazy Like Us Part 3: First Things First

### **INTRODUCTION**

Everyone gives something somewhere to someone. But that only masks the fact that we don't know how to be generous. Generosity isn't about how to give. It is more than random acts of giving. Persuasive people can inspire or guilt us into giving. But generous people don't need to be sold or guilted. They plan to give. If you choose to become generous—to plan to give—you'll give more.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with or had never heard before that encouraged you?

#### **Generosity requires a plan**

- Is generosity only for the planners and organized? Why is planned generosity for everyone?
- Would you consider yourself a "3S Giver"—someone who gives spontaneously, sporadically, and sparingly? Do you agree that kind of giving gets in the way of generosity? Why or why not?

#### **Generosity requires a specific amount or percentage**

- What are priorities in life that we designate our income towards? What makes them important to us?
- Why is designating an amount or percentage to generosity so hard at times?
- What are some priorities we have in our society in our country and even here in Colorado Springs that are not necessarily of eternal significance? Why is it so hard for others to give those up? What makes it hard for me to give those up?
- What is it that motivates us to re-prioritize our priorities in order to be generous?

#### **Generosity requires that you decide ahead of time where your money goes**

- Andy said we should give financially from a grateful heart and from a broken heart. What breaks God's heart? To whom or what are you grateful for? What would it look like to say "yes" to those organizations, charities, or people?
- What breaks your heart? Does that intersect with what breaks God's heart?
- Why do you think it's hard sometimes to be broken for those who are far from God?
- Read 1 Corinthians 16:1–3. What is freeing about deciding for yourself what and where it is best to be generous? What is challenging about that kind of freedom?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

Being radically generous may seem crazy, but Jesus said the alternative is crazier. It reduces you to an owner and a consumer. It leaves you discontented. And no matter what you choose, you will eventually lose possession of your stuff anyway. So choose your crazy. But remember: happy is the person whose life is ordered around giving rather than receiving.

Here is the crazy thing, we have a God who loves us so much that he had plan to save us. He calculated the cost and know it would cost him his life. It broke His heart that the people he created were separated from Him. He made the choice to be generous so that we could experience eternal happiness and in turn help others experience the same.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

**Memorize:** Learn Matthew 6:21; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3

**Journaling:** Write about things that break your heart or are grateful for and how god is leading you to act on those things.

**Prayer:** Maybe you are not sure what you are grateful for or nothing comes to mind when you ask what breaks my heart. Pray for God this week to break your heart for what breaks his and show you who or what you are grateful for in your life. Pray for a cause you are passionate about.

**Accountability:** The 3 aspects of generosity that Any shared and start acting on this and then ask someone in the group to pray for you as you take this step of faith.

- Premeditated – What is my Plan? \_\_\_\_\_
- Calculated – What Amount or Percentage \_\_\_\_\_
- Designated – What or for whom am I grateful and what breaks my heart?

\_\_\_\_\_