

A photograph showing two people's hands over an open book. One hand is pointing to a page, and the other is holding a pen. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the hands and the book.

# LEADER GUIDE

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## LEADER IN THE LOOP

- **End of Year Leader Party, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**// We're looking forward to celebrating with one another over all the Lord has done in HSM this past year at our leader party. We'll be providing dinner. Bring the whole family!
- **Student Serve Opportunity** // If you haven't already and have some things around the house that students in the ministry could come help serve you in, can you send those in to Katie. She sent an email out talking about how this is the application following Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> sermon on serving in the church in order to provide students with opportunity to do so with their own leaders in the ministry.
- **Summer Camp 2024, July 3-7** // We had 130 students sign up for HSM camp the day it opened...that's nuts!...the amount of students we take depends on leader bandwidth and how many leaders we can get. Essentially saying, we need you to make this camp happen. Can you let us know if you are planning on being there.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Summer Camp Registration Filling Up Quick** // Let your group know that camp is filling up very quickly and to talk with their parents ASAP about signing up. **Let students know that even if it says "sold out" to sign up and get on the waiting list in hopes they will still get in to go to camp.**
- **Life Group Party** // May 15<sup>th</sup> is our end of the year life group party. You may want to talk through ideas with your group of what the students want to do for that.

## TODAYS GOAL

For students to understand the heart behind why we do things like tithes and offerings within church and the actual blessings we gain when we live lives of generosity. The ultimately goal is real life transformation - that after talking about the motivation, students would actually begin to practice tithing in the church and looking for ways to be generous above and beyond giving to your church home.

## SERMON OUTLINE

Sermon Title: Giving

Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Supporting Scriptures: Mark 12:41-44 ("this poor widow..."); Acts 20:32 ("more blessed to give"); Matthew 16:25 "if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it")

Sermon Outline:

1. **God is after our heart, not our bank account (vs.1-5, 7; Mark 12:41-44)**

2. **Giving is more about gaining than losing (vs.6-13)**
  - a. We become happier when we give (vs.5, 7, Acts 20:32)
  - b. Our needs are always met (vs.8-11)
  - c. Other's needs are met (vs.12a)
  - d. God receives glory (vs.12b)
3. **We give because we know what we've been given (vs.13-15; Mat 16:25)**

## DISCUSSION & TEACHING

STUDY OURSELVES FULL >>>

PRAY

**ASK: What takeaways did you have from Sunday's sermon on giving as a key aspect of the church?**

**ASK: When you hear the statement, "all the church wants is my money", do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?**

- **Leader Note:** This is just to get the students minds thinking on the topic at hand. Ask follow up questions to draw out the students general thoughts on giving in the church (tithes, offerings, etc.).

READ: 2 Corinthians 9:1-7

**ASK: What can you observe as the motivation for the believers in Greece to send a generous financial/resource gift to other churches?**

**ASK: What does the Bible teach us God wants from us the most when He calls us to be generous in the church and in our life?**

READ: 2 Corinthians 9:6-13

**ASK: What spiritual blessings does Paul mention we gain when we give?**

- **Leader Note:** The main blessings mentioned in the sermon were: we become happier when we give, God promises to meet our needs, other's needs are met, and God receives glory (ultimately resulting in our joy). Paul also mentions how we become more thankful as a church as a result of receiving generosity from others.

**ASK: Do you have an example of a time when you found yourself more happy when giving than receiving?**

READ: 2 Corinthians 9:13-15

**ASK: Paul ties our generosity to being obedience to the gospel. When considering the gospel, in what ways is it a message of God’s generosity towards us?**

- **Leader Guide:** The message of the gospel applied in our life is actually a testament of when we **GAVE** our life to Christ we **GAINED** eternal life in a relationship with God forever. We gained the greatest treasure through giving up and trusting in Jesus. So, the believers in Greece really understood the gospel to the point of pursuing greater joy in this life through generosity.

**ASK: Pastor Conner mentioned how every time we give we say something about God. What does a life marked by generosity say about who God is in your life? What do we say about God if we never practice generosity?**

- **Leader Note:** The goal of this question is to help students understand that God is trying to grow in us a heart of trust in Him as our faithful, worthy, providing, good, and gracious Father. When we give we say, “God is worth more to me than \_\_\_\_\_”. When we give we say, “God is faithful to provide for me even when my obedience to him seems like losing something I think I need”. Our generosity is an opportunity to be a witness for who God is in this world.

**ASK: Should we tithe even if you don’t make very much money or only receive an allowance? Why or why not? And if yes, what might that look like?**

## APPLY THE WORD >>>

**ASK: Do you practice generosity now? Why or why not? If yes, in what way?**

**ASK: How might you begin to practice generosity in your life from today forward with your money, resources, and or time?**

- **Leader Note:** Now in HSM on Sundays there will be a black box labeled “GIVING” on the connect wall in the student center as a place where students can give both cash or can scan a QR code that will take them to the churches website where they can give electronically. Encourage students to take this opportunity as a space to start practicing generosity.

## CLOSING

In this time, we want to do three things: 1. Give hope, 2. Remind students of any instructions for upcoming week(s), and 3. Pray together before mutual ministry.

- **Hope:** God promises to provide for us so that we can continue living lives of generosity towards others.
- **Encouragement:** Encourage the students to take a next step in practicing generosity in their life.
- **Prayer Focus:** That God would show us more of His faithfulness, goodness, and grace as we begin giving back to Him what He first gave us.

## ADDITIONAL QUESTION BANK

*Below is a list of questions to consider adding throughout your group discussion if you chose. These are generic questions that might benefit your group when seeking to dive deeper into a particular Scripture or applying that Scripture to your life. Familiarize yourself with these as a leader to pull out of your pocket during discussion when needed.*

### **STUDY OURSELVES FULL**

Question for *discovering the meaning of a passage*:

- What is emphasized in this passage? What verses stand out?
- What other passages in the Bible relate to this one? Where else in scripture do we find similar doctrinal truths, illustrations, verses, ideas, etc.? In what way do they relate?
- What does this teach me about God and His character?
- What does this teach me about human nature, character, and behavior? What in this passage highlights mankind's sinful nature in comparison to God's perfect nature?
- What does this teach me about Christ, His salvation, and the gospel?
- Are there any commands to obey, promises to claim, and or any warnings to heed?
- What is one question I have about this passage?

### **APPLY THE WORD**

Questions for *applying the passage to our life*:

- Is there anything that shows me something about the character of God for which I can praise Him for?
- Is there anything that reveals something wrong about myself for which I can repent? What action steps can I begin today to begin making progress towards holiness?
- Is there anything that is needed for which I can ask God for in prayer?
- How does this convict me to change? In what way? How does this change the way I think, feel, and live?
- What is my prayer in light of this passage? Write out my personal prayer in response to reading His Word.

## MUTUAL MINISTRY

*Life on life accountability, encouragement, and prayer.*

If the space allows it, break up into smaller groups comprised of one leader with a handful of students per group. Walk through the mutual ministry questions decided upon as leaders for the night by having each person share in light of the questions.

If your group is larger, rather than having each individual share for every question in one turn, have everyone go around and share to one question at a time and repeat the process until everyone has shared to each question. This allows for greater engagement as you're constantly listening to other and waiting to share your thoughts. After each individual student shares, follow up by asking them if there are any ways you as a group can encourage them and or hold them accountable throughout the week. Make sure to write down everyone's prayer requests and pray for them regularly!

Below are the 6P's for you to choose from as ideas for questions. For under classmen, consider starting with just starting the year off by sharing on Practices, Praise, and Prayer Requests. This may be all you can get through as you begin to establish mutual ministry within your group.

### The 6 P's:

- **Practices** (Matt 22:37) – How was your time with the Lord this week? Did you spend intentional time in the Word and prayer? What did God teach you? What did you pray about? How have you seen God answer your prayers?
- **Precepts** (James 1:22-25) – What from the Scriptures we discussed today convict you to change? In what way?
- **Praise** (1 Thes 5:16) – What is one thing you can praise and thank God for this past week?
- **Purity** (Eph 4:22-24; James 5:16) – How was your sexual purity this week? In moments of temptation, what did you do? Did you fall into clicking (pornography, soft porn, social media) this week? How were your eyes/heart out and about? How was purity with your girlfriend/boyfriend?
- **Proclamation** (Mat 28:18-20) – Did you have any gospel conversations or moments planting of gospel seeds in non-believers lives this week?
- **Prayer requests** (James 5:16) – How can we pray for you this week? What are you praying about that we can partner with you in prayer for? Are there any ways we continue to encourage you or hold you accountable throughout the week by reaching out over text/call/facetime this week (verse of encouragement, accountability check in, etc.)?

## PRAYER

Remember, the end goal of mutual ministry is heart change, not behavioral modification...this happens by interceding in prayer for your students. Finish off mutual ministry by praying all together. Depending on the time you have left, this may look like praying for the person on your left or asking a couple students to pray for the group as a whole. Use the prayer requests shared and Scripture for the night as the basis for your prayer time.