



Advent - The Heart Behind Generosity

December 4, 2022
CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As A church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)
Suggested time: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) · *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
 - Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

Read 2 Corinthians 29:9-22

1. What is the Holy Spirit showing you in these passages about God or about yourself?

Recap the Sermon.

2. What did the Holy Spirit teach you through the sermon? What comforted you? What convicted you?
3. What typically is your heart posture when you are called to be generous? Do you tend to view giving as "wearisome duty" or "worshipful delight"? Why do you think that is?
4. Which of these is the hardest shift for you to make?
 - o Everything belongs to me -> Everything belongs to God
 - o Everything I have, I earned -> Everything I have is a gift from God
 - o Giving as human effort/duty -> Spirit-empowered obedience and joy

Pray.

Pray that we would experience the same joy and delight God feels as He shares His kingdom with us, as we are generous with others.

PRACTICE

As a group, take a few minutes to head to givelikegod.com and talk about the three steps of this year's 'Give Like God' Initiative. Consider these questions:

What is the general response to the three initiatives?

How is the Spirit leading various group members to participate?

CARE AND PRAYER

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: 30-45 minutes.