



The Heart *of* Generosity

SMALL GROUP SERIES

WEEK 3:
Do not worry



The Heart of Generosity

Today we are looking at Jesus' instruction: "Do not worry".

To help us understand what he meant, we will look to the example of the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

Share

- What first comes to mind when you hear the phrase 'do not worry'? You can be honest!
- What are some things you worry about?

Pray

Before we read today's Scripture verses, let's pray the Holy Spirit would speak to us and lead us closer to Jesus.

Holy Spirit, thank you that you want to speak through God's word. Please reveal to us what you want us to learn and help us put it into action.

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Read

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and Matthew 6:25-34. You might like to read them in a couple of different translations.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (New Living Translation)

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. ²They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

³For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

Matthew 6:25-34 (New Living Translation)

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

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28 “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, **29** yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. **30** And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ **32** These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. **33** Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

34 “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Share

- Do you think worry about money is a big issue for people today? Where do you see this in your own life or in people around you?
- How would you describe the feeling of worry? How does it feel in our body/mind/spirit?
- What reasons does Jesus give for not worrying? See how many you can find!
- Do you think Jesus is saying we don’t need to think about our future financial needs or that it is

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unreasonable for us to feel concerned? What is the big idea that Jesus wants us to grasp here?

- How do you think the Macedonians managed to be so generous, despite facing hardship? Have you heard of this kind of behaviour from anyone else?
- The Macedonians had a deep revelation of God's generosity and care for all people, and this transformed their hearts. Have you ever had a revelation or experience of God that helped you become more generous?
- How would seeing people the way God sees them change how we respond to need?
- What is one way we could apply Jesus' teaching in our lives today?

Pray

Spend some time praying for each other. Ask if anyone would like anything specific to be prayed for.

Lord, we give you thanks that you gave up your riches and became poor so that we can be rich. Spirit of God, we ask you to work in our hearts and minds like you did in the Macedonians. Lord, we ask you to set us free from worry and anxiety in this life. Give us a rich appreciation of your love for us - how high and deep and wide and long is your love for us and your world.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

