



The Heart *of* Generosity

SMALL GROUP SERIES

WEEK 1:
Guard against greed



The Heart of Generosity

This week we are looking at the idea of greed and how it impacts our lives.

Share

- What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about greed?
- How would you define greed?

Pray

Today's Scripture passage is a parable, or short story, shared by Jesus and recorded in the gospel of Luke. Jesus told parables to teach people important lessons in memorable ways. Before we read it, let's pray that the Holy Spirit would speak to us.

Holy Spirit, we pray you would speak to us today through God's word. Highlight the things you want us to learn. We thank you that you lead us to good and wonderful things through your word, and we pray we put your teaching into practice.

In your name,

Amen

The Heart of Generosity

Read

Luke 12:13-21. You might like to read it in a couple of different translations.

Luke 12:13-21 (New Living Translation)

Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" **15** Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

16 Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. **17** He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' **18** Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. **19** And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"'

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

21 "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

The Heart of Generosity

Share

- What verse or phrase stands out to you from this passage? Why?
- What aspects of the man's thinking and behaviour are foolish? Why?
- Are there any ways you can relate to the rich fool? If so, how? Where do you think greed comes from?
- In Verse 15, Jesus says we should *beware* of greed and should *guard* against it. Why do you think he uses this language?¹ Do you think greed has a way of creeping up on us?
- What could it look like to guard ourselves against greed?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Life is not measured by how much you own"? If we think our life's value is defined by our possessions, what impact will this have on our thoughts/feelings/actions?
- In Verse 21, Jesus says, "a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God." What do you think a rich relationship with God looks like?²

¹ The idea is that we are under attack from covetousness/greed and must protect ourselves from it - EnduringWord.com

² You might like to check out Luke 12:33, Luke 18:22, 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and Revelation 3:17-18

The Heart of Generosity

- In what ways does this parable apply to your life today? In what ways do Jesus' words challenge or inspire you?

Pray

Ask the group if there is anything specific they would like prayer for, then pray together.

*Lord Jesus,
Thank you for all you provide for us. May we guard against greed and understand that our possessions do not define us. May we chase after a rich relationship with you, aligning our purposes with yours,
In your name,*

Amen

