



That's My Church - Week 5 Study Guide

We are called by Christ to be generous beyond what we can afford.

We will answer this call by _____.

*For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. **2 Corinthians 8:3 (NLT)***

- Describe a time when you have benefitted from another person's generosity. How did this person's generosity make you feel?
- At what times or in what situations do you feel it's easier for you to be generous? At what times can it be difficult?

Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely...

Psalm 112:5 (NIV)

...the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than receive."

Acts 20:35 (NIV)

A generous man will prosper, he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)

- Which resources (time, finances, possessions, your home, etc.) are you currently being generous with? Which resources could you be more generous with?
- What kind of impact do you think it will have on others as they see us become more generous and give beyond what we can afford?
- How will you personally answer Christ's call to be generous beyond what you can afford? How will you answer this call as a group?

For Further Study

Think for a moment about your possessions. What is the one thing you own that holds the most value to you personally?

Read Acts 4:32-37. This passage gives us a look at the early church and how Christians were generous with all of their possessions. As a result there was no poverty among them. (4:34)

- What attitude did the believers have toward one another? (4:32)
- How did the Christians show their unity? (4:32)
- How effective was the apostles' witness? (4:33)
- What godly quality enhanced the unity and service of the early Christians? (4:33)
- What did some better-off Christians do from time to time? (4:34-35)
- How did the early wealthy believers disburse the money they got from selling their lands or houses? (4:35)
- What was exemplary about Barnabas? (4:36-37)
- How was Barnabas' generosity singled out? (4:36-37)

In this scripture, the believers sold their land and homes to aid the poor. Do you think you could donate or sell something as valuable as real estate or a vehicle to help someone in need? Would it be difficult? Why or why not?

Is it easier to be generous to strangers or to those we know such as our family, friends, or DNA Group? Why?

Describe someone you know that stands out as a true "Barnabas" in your view.

What type of impact on the world could the church make if all Christians were generous like Barnabas was in this passage?

Final thought: Share any specific needs you may have with your group so they can pray with you and assist you with your needs. Pray as a group and in your quiet time this week for God to give you opportunities to be generous to others with either your time or resources or both.