

Home Group Notes for Leader's
Week of November 17, 2019

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Matthew 6:31-32

NOTES TO LEADERS: We are not to be anxious about provisions because God knows we need them. Implied: He knows and will provide.

Matthew 7:11

NOTES TO LEADERS: God knows our needs and gives good gifts to those who ask Him.

Psalms 34:10

NOTES TO LEADERS: Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

We learned last week that our behavior should reflect the character of God. Why is God generous with us? What should be our response? Look closely at the following passage.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

How is "grace" involved in God's action toward us? (8)

NOTES TO LEADERS: All that God does and provides is grace-driven. Grace means "undeserved merit." He is gifting us with something we don't deserve.

What will God provide? (8)

NOTES TO LEADERS: God will provide "all things" at "all times" for "all" our needs.

What are the intended results of God's gracious provisions? (8 - 11)

NOTES TO LEADERS: This should result in us abounding in "every good work" (8), us sharing gifts (9), enlarging the "harvest of righteousness (10)," us being generous on every occasion (11), and thanksgiving to God (11).

What is the connection between sharing "gifts" and "righteousness?" (9,10)

NOTES TO LEADERS: God gave gifts out of His righteousness. As His people share gifts, God enlarges His gifts to them, a "harvest of righteousness," in their own lives.

How does God, our supplier, respond when we share "gifts?" What are the results of our gifts? (11)

NOTES TO LEADERS: God supplies our every need. But he does not supply wealth for our own consumption. Rather, as we are generous, distributing His gifts to others, He enriches us, provides for us more supply to be generous, and gives us a "harvest of righteousness."

Complete the idea: God is generous with us to **be generous, to increase our trust in Him, and to grow His kingdom.**

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How did your family of origin treat money or wealth? Did they discuss it?

NOTES TO LEADERS: My family viewed money as security. Both mom and dad worked very hard. Money and money management weren't discussed in my family.

Discuss our 'Now What' statement: "Be generous with what God has provided knowing that He'll keep providing in the future." When is this easy to do? When is it difficult? Why is this so?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Obviously, it is easier to most people to be generous when we are feeling financially secure. If we believe what we read in the Scripture, God wants us to be generous at all times. For us, we didn't learn generosity in our early years of marriage. We were so focused on getting established that we consider that generosity was connected with our learning trust in God. This statement (above) summarizes what we learn – that God will always provide.

Read together Mark 12:41-44. What was true of the temple system (treasury) to which the "poor widow" generously gave? What did Jesus praise?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The temple system was corrupt, yet Jesus praised the widow for her generosity. Sometimes it is difficult to contribute because we feel like we should have more control over what happens. While we should always be wise, we must always keep trust in God as the priority. Trust is the key element of generosity – trust in God, trust in His plans and people.