

crazy generosity

life groups study

REACH

THE CHURCH AT ROCK CREEK | EST 1995

crazy generosity

week
one:

time

choosing what's most important

Focus Verse

Luke 10:38-42

Theme

Don't let distractions steal your time from what matters most.

Opening Question: When your day gets busy, what's usually the first important thing that gets crowded out

1. Scripture Reading

Read Luke 10:38-42.

This story contrasts Martha's distraction with Mary's devotion and challenges us to consider how we spend our time.

2. Self-Assessment

Answer True or False:

- I often feel like there aren't enough hours in the day.
- I try to multitask almost all the time.
- I sometimes feel guilty that I'm too busy for the most important things, like prayer.
- I put off important tasks because I get addicted to deadlines.
- I struggle with impatience.

If you answered 'True' to any, you might be living more like Martha than Mary in this season.

3. Teaching Summary

A. Martha and Mary: Two Approaches to Time

- Martha: Responsible, hospitable, but distracted ('dragged away') by details.
- Mary: Fully present, sitting at Jesus' feet.

B. The Problem of Distraction

- Martha's distraction came from letting the urgent push out the important.
- She triangulated Jesus into her frustration instead of talking to Mary directly.

C. Jesus' Response

- Jesus valued Martha's service but reminded her that 'only one thing is needed.'

D. Lessons for Us

- Busyness can disguise itself as faithfulness while actually pulling us away from Jesus.
- Misplaced priorities can make us resentful.
- The 'storm inside' often reveals time out of balance.

4. Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you relate to Martha? In what ways do you relate to Mary?
2. What are your biggest 'time distractions' that keep you from God and loved ones?
3. How do you know when you're letting the urgent crowd out the important?
4. Why is it sometimes easier to focus on tasks than relationships?
5. What would it look like for you to 'choose what is better' with your time this week?
6. How can our group help each other guard time for what matters most?

5. Personal Reflection

If I had two extra hours each week, how would I invest them in what matters most to God? Write your answer and ask God to help you create that space.

6. Group Challenge

This week, replace one less important activity with intentional time with God, your family, or someone who needs encouragement. Share next week what you noticed.

7. Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- Wisdom to see what's truly important
- Freedom from distraction and resentment
- Courage to reorder time for Kingdom priorities
- Grace to live in God's presence daily

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**week
two:**

talents

expanding our reach through risk
and stewardship

Scripture Focus

2 Corinthians 10:15-16; Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents)

Theme

God has entrusted us with resources, gifts, and influence. Will we play it safe, or step out in faith and risk for the Kingdom?

Opening Prayer

Open in prayer, and remember to thank God for Rock Creek's 30 years and ask for open hearts to hear His Word and respond.

Icebreaker Question

When was a time you took a risk-and it paid off? This can be funny, serious, spiritual, or practical.

Scripture Reading

Read these verses:

- 2 Corinthians 10:15-16
- Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents)

Key Teaching Points

1. Growing Faith Expands Reach: Our church's ability to reach further depends on the faithfulness and maturity of each member.
2. The Power of Partnership: The master entrusted his resources-a radical partnership.
3. The Root of Inaction: Often fear, apathy, or misunderstanding God.
4. Playing it Safe vs. Living by Faith: God values effort over perfection.
5. Stewardship Is Risk + Love: Risk for others grows our love and influence.

Discussion Questions

1. Which servant do you most relate to-and why?
2. What talents, time, or treasures has God entrusted to you that you've been afraid to invest?
3. What risk is God asking you to take for His Kingdom right now?
4. How can we expand our REACH as a group or church family in this next year?
5. What lies about God's character might keep us from risking more for Him?
6. What's one step you could take this week to steward your gifts better for God's glory?

Personal Reflection

Where do I need to take a Kingdom risk? Write a note, prayer, or action step.

Closing Prayer

Close with gratitude for God's trust, confession of fear, courage to risk, and vision to reach Central Arkansas.

Optional Take-Home Challenge

This week, take one intentional Kingdom risk. Use your time, talent, or resources in a new way to bless others-and share next time.

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week
three:

treasure
learning to say “enough”

Focus Verse

2 Corinthians 10:15-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Theme

Godliness with contentment is great gain.

1. Recap

- Week 1: Time
- Week 2: Talents
- Week 3 (Today): Treasure the Treasure of the Heart

Opening Question: When you hear the word ‘treasure,’ what comes to mind first and why?

2. Scripture Reading

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.

Note that Paul is not condemning money itself, but the love of money and the endless pursuit of ‘more.’

3. Teaching Summary

- A. The Illusion of ‘More’:
 - Polls show people believe 1020% more money will solve their problems.
 - The world tells us: we should be discontent and that contentment is one purchase away.
- B. The Danger of the More-Mindset:
 - Those who crave wealth can wander from the faith.
 - They pierce themselves with many griefs.
- C. Godliness + Contentment = True Gain:
 - Freedom from comparison and greed.
 - True gain is knowing God knows, loves, forgives, and can use you.
- D. Declaring ‘Enough’ Day:
 - Resign from keeping up with the Joneses.
 - Live with gratitude and stewardship.

4. Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people always believe ‘just a little more’ will make them happy?
2. How have you seen advertising or culture create discontent in your life?
3. What might ‘wandering from the faith’ look like today?
4. What’s the difference between contentment and complacency?
5. How would your life be different if you declared today as ‘Enough Day’?
6. How can we help each other stay content and generous?

5. Personal Reflection

What is one 'more' I need to release so I can live content in Christ? Write it down and pray over it this week.

6. Group Challenge

This week, practice contentment by saying 'no' to an unnecessary purchase or comparison, and 'yes' to generosity. Share next week.

7. Closing Prayer

Pray for gratitude, freedom from the love of money, hearts that beat for God's priorities, and courage to live 'Enough Day' every day.

crazy generosity

week
four:

treasure
trusting God with all we have

Focus Verse

2 Corinthians 10:15-16

Theme

When we trust God with our treasure, we release control and gain true freedom.

1. Recap:

- Week 1: Time - Choosing what's most important
- Week 2: Talents - Using our gifts for the Kingdom
- Week 3: Treasure - Contentment in God (Part 1)
- Week 4: Treasure - Trusting God with All We Have (Part 2)

Opening Question: When was a time you had to trust someone else with something valuable to you? How did it feel?

2. Scripture Reading

Read 2 Corinthians 10:15-16 and Psalm 24:1. Optional: Read Job 1:21.

Note: These verses remind us that everything belongs to God and that our role is stewardship, not ownership.

3. Teaching Summary

A. In God We Trust?

- Printed on every U.S. dollar bill, yet money is often the hardest thing to trust God with.
- Money gives a sense of security, power, and importance, making it hard to release control.

B. Owner or Steward?

- Psalm 24:1: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
- We are stewards, not owners, of time, talents, and treasure.

C. The Wallet Exercise

- Holding your wallet/phone/checkbook symbolizes holding your financial life.
- Passing it to someone else represents surrendering control.
- Truth: Release to God brings freedom; clinging brings slavery.

D. The Power of Treasure

- Money is not evil; the love of money is.
- Danger: An inordinate desire for what it promises.
- People misuse treasure by hoarding, overspending, or overworking for it.

E. Trust Leads to REACH

- Generosity and trust in God are powerful ways to expand Gospel reach.
- Give God full control over your resources so He can use them for His purposes.

4. Group Activity

Hold your financial-life item (wallet, phone, checkbook). Pass it to the right for one minute.

Discuss: How did that feel? (awkward, vulnerable, unsettling, freeing?)

5. Discussion Questions

1. Why is money often the hardest thing to trust God with?
2. What's the difference between being an 'owner' and a 'steward'?
3. Do you tend to hoard, spend quickly, or overwork for money?
4. How does trusting God with your treasure lead to greater freedom?
5. What step could you take this week to release control of your resources to God?
6. How might God use your trust and generosity to REACH others?

6. Personal Reflection

If God asked me to give up something valuable today, would I trust Him enough to do it? Write down one area to surrender to Him.

7. Group Challenge

Practice an act of generosity that stretches you this week-give time, resources, or help without expecting anything in return.

8. Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- Deeper trust in God as Provider
- Freedom from the love of money
- Courage to release control of time, talents, and treasure
- Opportunities to REACH others through generosity