

Connect Group Conversation (Leader Guide)

Week of March 17th, 2024

MAIN IDEA

This Sunday, Pastor Steve McCoy led us through a heartfelt conclusion of our journey through the book of Philippians, emphasizing the beauty and depth found in giving back to God. He shared how giving is not about the amount but the spirit of sacrifice, showing our trust in God's provision. Pastor Steve encouraged us to see everything we own not as ours but as God's, entrusted to us for stewardship. He beautifully reminded us that our ultimate example is Christ, who gave everything for us, inviting us to live lives marked by generosity, not for our gain but for the eternal impact in God's kingdom.

Leader Tip: Encourage openness and vulnerability in sharing. Sometimes the topic of giving and stewardship can touch sensitive areas of our hearts. Remind the group that our discussions are a safe space to explore how God's Word influences all aspects of our lives, including finances.

TALK IT OUT

- After reading Philippians 4:10-19 in your group, how does Paul's perspective on contentment and reliance on God challenge your view of personal resources and generosity?
- Considering the theme of giving back to God, what is one thing you feel God is asking you to surrender more fully to Him? How can this act of giving deepen your trust in God?
- Discuss how the principle of stewardship over ownership (everything belongs to God) affects your decisions about money and possessions. Can you share a time when giving felt like a step of faith?
- How can we as a group support one another in living out a lifestyle of generosity, as modeled by Christ and taught by Paul in Philippians?

Students/Young Adults

- What does it mean to you that God is a giver? How can you reflect this characteristic in your school or with your friends?
- Paul talks about being content in any situation (Philippians 4:11-13). How does this idea apply to your life as a student?
- Discuss a time when you had to trust God with something important to you. What was the outcome, and what did you learn about God and yourself?
- How can you use your talents and time to serve others and give back to God? Share some practical ideas.

Parents of School-Aged Children

- As a parent, how can you model the principle of giving back to God for your children? Share some practical ways you can do this in your family life.
- Discuss the importance of teaching children about stewardship and generosity from a young age. How can you incorporate these lessons into everyday moments?
- Reflect on the concept of 'losing to gain' in Christ as mentioned in the sermon. How does this principle influence your parenting and the values you instill in your children?
- What are some ways your family can participate in acts of generosity together, perhaps supporting a missionary or a local charity?

Optional Deeper Discussion Topics

- **Stewardship vs. Ownership:** Reflect on how recognizing everything as God's changes our role to stewards rather than owners.
- **Contentment in Christ:** Discuss the secret of being content in any situation through the strength Christ provides.
- **Sacrificial Giving:** Explore the impact of giving not from our abundance but in a manner that truly costs us something.
- **Eternal Perspective:** Consider how our investments in God's kingdom have eternal value, far beyond the temporary nature of material wealth.