

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

No Other Like Jesus, No Other Name, These are The Names of God, O Praise The Name (Anastasis), The Cause of Christ

WELCOME

What has been the most generous act of giving that you've experienced? What do you consider your most precious possession today, and how would you feel if God would ask you to give that away?

Note to Leaders: All Dgroups are encouraged to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first week of every month. You may choose to celebrate the Lord's Supper in your small group before you proceed to the WORD part. Use 1 Corinthians 11:25-26 as your Bible reading and guide for this portion.

WORD

ACTS 4:32-35

³² And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. ³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales ³⁵ and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

THE BOTTOM LINE

As followers of Christ, our bottom line must be radically different from that of the world. The believers in **Acts 4** did not consider material possessions as their bottom line, instead they were inexplicably generous because they considered their "cash" to be Christ's. They wholeheartedly served Jesus as Lord, not money (**Matthew 6:24**). We too can transform into inexplicably generous Christians as we follow the **C.A.S.H** principle of giving.

C-HRIST

The church described in **Acts 4** had at least 10,000 members; and perhaps the congregation in Jerusalem reached as high as 20,000 at that time. Yet they were all "of one heart and soul" in giving generously to anyone among them who had a need. They voluntarily sold their lands and houses so that anyone in need was provided for. They did not consider anything they possessed as their own property but belonging to God, to be used for his purpose (**Acts 4:32, 34**).

Who is Jesus to you? If Christ is your Lord, then all you have belongs to Him and you will choose to honor him with all that you have. There's a story about Abraham Lincoln telling a fellow churchgoer the reason why he would stand when the Bible was read at his church's Sunday service: that, if as president of the United States of America, people would stand to show honor to him whenever he would go up on stage

to speak, how much more should God's people honor the Lord as He speaks through His word.

A-TTITUDE

Instead of being Christ-centered, our tendency is to put ourselves at the center of everything. We expect the church and our family members to serve our needs or cater to our wants. We have to be transformed to become inexplicably generous people; in fact, God commands us to be transformed according to His will and not be conformed to the world's values (**Romans 12:2**). If Christ is Lord of our lives, then our attitude must be one of serving God and others, especially those who belong to the family of Christ — the church (**1 Timothy 3:13; Romans 12:10, 15; Galatians 6:10**).

Part of serving the church is helping meet the practical needs of those around us who are outside of our biological family, economic status, ethnicity or culture (**Acts 4:32-35**). Christians ought to be the most generous people in the world because our faith is based on the overflowing, undeserved grace of God through Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 8:8-9**). We are to be in a "giving mode", not in a "getting mode". This means that each of us must work to the best of our ability not only to provide for our own families, but also to share with others who are in need (**Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10, 13-15**). We are not to depend on others to provide for us, even as we can also humbly accept help from others in our times of need.

WORD (cont'd)

S-YSTEMATIC/STRATEGIC

True generosity is not a random act of giving. We must be systematic or strategic in meeting people's needs (**Acts 4:35**). There's a principle in the Bible that says we must not throw away what is precious by giving it to those who do not recognize its real value (**Matthew 7:6**). In other words, we must be discerning when we give. Handing out a thousand-peso bill to a street kid may satisfy our conscience, but will that truly help that child? He may end up using the money for "rugby" (solvent) to get high and numb his hungry stomach or escape the harsh reality of his family life. A more strategic and loving approach would be to channel your giving through a reputable ministry (such as CCF Uplift), as they are trained to uplift the lives of the poor holistically and for the long-term.

H-ONEST

Be truthful or honest before the Lord and the church on your financial giving towards God's work. Be

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Share an insight from the discussion. How will you apply that insight in your life, especially in the area of giving generously?
2. Which among the C.A.S.H principles of inexplicable generosity needs to be strengthened in your life? What steps will you take to do so?
3. Is there any attitude or action that the Holy Spirit is convicting you of in the area of generous giving? (For accountability, you can share this to your Dgroup leader or accountability partner).

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

When the world experiences the inexplicable generosity of Christians, they become more open to listen to the gospel that we preach. Find ways to show God's love to others in the church and outside it by giving generously in meeting their needs.

Be ready to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in every opportunity God opens for you in the next few days as a result of your inexplicable generosity!

accountable because what we have is not ours, it is God's, and we are just stewards or managers. The Lord takes what we do with what He has entrusted to us seriously. As God's beloved children, there will be consequences or disciplinary actions that we will experience when we become dishonest in our financial life (as well as all other areas of life) (**Acts 5:1-11; Hebrews 12:5; 1 Corinthians 11:31-32**).

Do not give so that you can appear generous, when in truth, you are not sharing all that God has blessed you with others in need. Do not give to gain recognition for yourself, but rather to give all the glory back to God who deserves it. He owns everything we have in our hands. If Jesus is our greatest treasure, then we will be willing to give away everything because in Him, we already have all we could ever need or want! So be inexplicably generous, people of God! Let all that you have be Christ's.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends