

Growth Group Homework and Discussion Questions

For the Week of January 31-February 6, 2010
"Overcoming the Poverty of Means"

Homework:

Before your Growth Group meets, take about 20 minutes on your own to complete the following..

- Read Psalm 103
 - How has God blessed you? Even though He has blessed you in too many ways to count, make a list of 15 of His blessings to you.
 - Some versions begin Psalm 103 with the words, "Bless the Lord, O my soul..." In what ways do you "bless the Lord?"
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Growth Group Discussion Questions:

The following questions are to be discussed when your Growth Group meets this week.

My Story: If your house was on fire and you had to get out quickly, what three possessions (not people) would you make sure to take out with you ? Why?

Digging Deeper:

Read Luke 9:23-25.

Pastor Larry said that the problem that many people have is that they get caught up in making a lifestyle (consumerism) rather than living a legacy (generosity).

- What do Jesus' words in this passage tell us about why this is a foolish way to live?
- What does Jesus mean when He says, "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it?"

We learned four principles of generosity from 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 in Sunday's message. Look over that passage again and answer the following questions:

- What do you think is most surprising about this passage? Most exciting? Most challenging?
- What does verse 2 reveal about generosity and joy?
- How were the Macedonian churches different from the Corinthian church in their generosity?
- What was Paul calling the Corinthians to do?
- In verse 9, how did Jesus become "poor?" How has He made us "rich?"

Living It:

Pastor Larry talked about three mindsets concerning money and possessions.

- Which mindset did your parents have when you were growing up?
- How did their mindset affect you?
- Which mindset do you generally have?
- Which mindset do you want to have? Why?

Think back over the "Simple Abundance" series these past three weeks...

- What is the biggest obstacle for you in handling money and possessions according to God's Word? The "poverty of spirit" (selfishness), the "poverty of mind" (fear and anxiety), or the "poverty of means" (consumerism)? Explain.
- What principles have you learned from this series that will help you overcome this obstacle?