

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE - WEEK #3

1) READ ACTS:4:1-35 - THE EARLY CHURCH WAS FACED WITH EXTREME HARDSHIP. PROSECUTION AND PERSECUTION WERE THE NORM. YET, AGAINST ALL ODDS, WE SEE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED AND TOGETHER.

QUESTIONS:

***WHEN YOU ARE GOING THROUGH A CHALLENGING/DIFFICULT TIME, WHAT IS OFTEN YOUR RESPONSE?**

***WHAT IS YOUR INITIAL REACTION TO THE GENEROSITY AND FELLOWSHIP DESCRIBED IN VERSES 32-37?**

***HOW DO YOU FEEL LIKE WELL HOUSE CHURCH DOES WHEN PRACTICING AND EMULATING THIS PART OF ACTS? WHERE AND HOW COULD WE STAND TO GROW?**

2) READ ACTS 4:36-5:11 - IT APPEARS THAT LUKE CONTRASTS THE HEART OF TWO 'GIVERS': BARNABAS AND ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA. THIS COMPARISON CAN GIVE US SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

QUESTIONS:

***WHERE HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED OR SEEN WILD GENEROSITY? HOW DID IT IMPACT YOU?**

***IT APPEARS THAT IN THE MIDST OF OTHERS EXTREME GENEROSITY, ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA WANTED PEOPLE TO THINK THEY WERE GENEROUS TOO - MORE GENEROUS THAN THEY REALLY WERE.**

WHY DO YOU THINK THERE IS A GRAVITATIONAL PULL TO PUT ON A 'MASK' WITH OTHERS?

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3) READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15 - PAUL ADDRESSES AN ISSUE THAT OCCUPIED MUCH OF HIS INTEREST DURING HIS MISSIONARY JOURNEYS: GENEROSITY TOWARDS OTHERS.

QUESTIONS:

- *DO YOU THINK YOUR GENEROSITY COULD BE ALTERED BY REVISITING THE GENEROSITY OF JESUS?
- *WHAT ARE THE FIVE AREAS THAT PAUL SAYS THE CHURCH IN CORINTH EXCELS AT?
- *DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE TO EXCEL IN THESE FIVE AREAS AND STILL NOT BE GENEROUS?
- *WHY IS VERSE 8 SIGNIFICANT?

4) READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-15

QUESTIONS:

- *WHAT IS PAUL REFERRING TO IN VERSE 1 WHEN HE SAYS "THE MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS?"
- *VERSE 6 IS OFTEN CALLED THE LAW OF THE HARVEST. HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A TIME WHERE YOU GAVE AND IT ACTUALLY BLESSED YOU?
- *WHAT FACTORS DETERMINE IF GENEROSITY IS DONE GRUDGINGLY OR CHEERFULLY?
- *READ VERSES 10-11. WHAT DO YOU THINK PAUL MEANS WHEN HE SAYS "YOU WILL BE MADE RICH IN EVERY WAY?"
- *WHAT IS THE RESULT OF BEING "MADE RICH IN EVERY WAY?"