

Proverbs 11:24-25 Reflecting God's Love - Practicing Generosity

Transition:

The Proverb reminds us that when we are generous, we prosper - especially when it comes to giving to those who are our neighbors. What is an example of not being generous? Jesus had just finished talking with his disciples privately when a certain lawyer said to him, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Then Jesus asked him "What is written in the law?" "How do you read it?" So, he answered Him saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and Love your neighbor as yourself." "You've answered correctly." Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." Then he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" So, Jesus tells him the parable of the Good Samaritan. Afterwards, Jesus asked him one simple question which brought revelation to the lawyer and set the standard for everyone on how we should be a reflection of God's love, mercy and Generosity to all.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can - just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the lawyer ask "Who is my neighbor?" (Matt 5:43-48)
2. Why should we be generous to all? (Prov 11; 24-25, 19:17, 21:13, 2 Cor 9:6-8)

Fundamental:

Practicing Generosity; in the parable, we see both the Priest and the Levite (men of high religious standing and experts in the law) walk by the half dead man and do nothing to help him. It was a Samaritan (A sworn enemy of the Jews) that had mercy on him. He was generous by taking the time to stop and to bandage his wound, using his donkey to carry him to safety and by giving the innkeeper money to take care of the injured man. Jesus tells the lawyer to "Go and do likewise." The Bible tells us that while we were still enemies of God, Christ died for "ALL" (Rom 5:10). As His followers we must reflect God's love, and generosity in action just like the Good Samaritan. We must be doers of the word, not just hearers, and love another by our actions just as Christ did and commanded. This is how all will know we are his disciples. (John 13: 34-35)

1. What did the lawyer learn from Jesus parable? (Jam 1:22-25, Luke 6: 35-36)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Identify those you know who are in need and meet those needs if you're able.
2. Consider doing SG events for the needy; clothing & food drives, fundraisers, etc.

Discipleship Tip:

Invite someone to volunteer with you to show God's love and generosity in action.

Prayer:

Pray that God shows us those in desperate need and the ability to meet those needs.