

Read: Luke 16:11 (NLT), 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (ESV), 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (ESV), & Malachi 3:6-12(NLT)

Open:

- What was your first job that you were able to earn some money?
- Name a lesson or two you learned about money at an earlier age.
- Define what 'generous giving' means?

Dig:

Read: Luke 16:11(NLT)

- How can someone be untrustworthy with worldly wealth? What are evidences of this behavior?
- What does Jesus mean when he says, "...who will trust you with true riches of heaven?"
- Discuss this truth as a group: *"True Riches means to have Jesus' presence, peace, power, provision, protection of God that results in the fullness of joy."*

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NLT)

- Macedonia churches were persecuted from the beginning of their launch. What are some of things that they endured?
- How were the Macedonian churches able to endure these tests and afflictions? (v.2)
- What was the key to their generosity? (v.3-5)
- What is the tension between self-sufficiency and dependency on God? (a generous heart)
- Please name some of the ways in which the Macedonians gave. (According to their means, Above their means, Of their own Accord, Enthusiastically)

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (ESV)

- What does it mean to sow? What does it mean to reap?
- Why does this passage say that, *"for God loves a cheerful giver"*?
- How does giving, tithing, and generosity cause the follower of Christ to grow in maturity?

Read: Malachi 3:6-12 (NLT)

- *How does God open up Heaven? How does God require each of us to return to Him? (In generosity)*
- *In verses 8-10, believers are warned of robbing God. How is it possible for someone to rob God?*
- *God invites believers to put Him to the test in verse 10. What is God's response to the test?*

Reflect:

- Martin Luther said there are three conversions that take place in a follower of Christ: 1) a conversion of the head, 2) a conversion of the heart, and 3) the conversion of the checkbook/pocket book. Discuss this quote.
- Talk through the levels of Growing in Grace towards Generous Giving. Encourage your group to take the next step in giving.
 1. Occasional - I give to Bridge City Church, but not consistently.
 2. Consistent - I give regularly to BCC, but less than 10 %.
 3. Tither - I give 10% of my income to BCC. (\$1 for every \$10).
 4. Generous - I give to offerings over and significantly above my tithe to BCC.