

# LIFEGROUPS – Facilitator Notes

## Generosity: Part 6 – LOVE–LIVE–HOPE



**ICE BREAKER** *What is a true story that you have heard that is an awesome example of generosity to someone, or a group of people, or an organisation that was simply extraordinary? And how did that make you feel when you heard that?*

As we read the Gospels we see the example of Jesus' generosity that were motivated by love, going beyond how He felt, or His personal safety even unto giving up His own life for all of mankind. Jesus fed the 5000 plus with five loaves and two fish at the time He was in grief at the loss of His cousin John the Baptist. Yet He thought of other's needs through His pain. (Mark 6:21-44).

Jesus healed a man's withered hand on the Sabbath not fearing death at the hands of the Pharisees for breaking their religious tradition of not working on the Sabbath. (Mark 3: 1-6).

Jesus who is the Son of God, sinless, the most loving, gracious, perfect human being ever, gave up His life by dying the most agonising painful death for us, who were sinners and who deserved the penalty of death, so that we could be reconciled back into relationship with Father God for eternity. (John 3:16).

To love is to be generous.

**Romans 5:8 - 11 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup>For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup>And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**Q) From the above examples and Roman's 5:8-11, how generous do you think God is?**

*Contemplate God's generosity for you and mankind for a couple of moments.*

**Q) How generous do you personally know God to be?**

**Knowing God's generosity, His love towards us should motivate us to love and live generously.**

**Read 1 John 4:11 - 12** <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

**Q) What is the powerful truth that is revealed when Christians love one another according to 1 John 4:11-12?**

**Read 1 John 3:14; 16; 18** If we love our Christian brothers and sisters; it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life. But a person who doesn't love them is still dead. <sup>16</sup>We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters. <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions.

**Q) In the context of the passage of the scripture just read, what is the sign of being a Christian, a believer in Christ ?**

**Q) Do these scriptures in 1 John invoke any thoughts or emotions to well up inside of you?**

*Loving and living a life of generosity frees us to live a life of generous hope.*

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Generous hope is always focused upward on Christ Jesus the lover of our souls. This hope is not a hope in something that is distant or in the future only, but is the beholding of the Lord Jesus Christ as He is now full of glory, grace and love. As we behold the Lord our souls are anchored and fastened to the Lord. This is our generous hope in Christ.

**Psalms 43:5** I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again my Saviour and my God!

**Q) How does this scripture make you feel when you read it again knowing your hope is in Christ?**

**Q) How can you love like Jesus this week by showing love in action to someone?**