

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of November 28-December 4, 2021

## “LIVING THE GENEROUS LIFE”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Since Christmas is coming, what is one “gift” that you would like to receive?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read John 12:1-8, Matthew 26:6-12, Mark 14:3-11.

1. In two separate columns, list out the differences you see between Mary’s and Judas’ heart. Which aspect of Mary’s love comes easiest to you? Which aspect is most difficult for you?
  
2. Matthew and Mark places Judas’ dark change of heart as happening immediately after Mary’s extravagant act of love. According to the following verses, why are greed and the love of money so dangerous?  
  
Matthew 6:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Timothy 6:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
James 4:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Given the value of the perfume, if you were there, how would you have reacted as you watch Mary break the alabaster jar? How would you define the word “devotion”? Do you think is Mary’s devotion is an act of worship?
  
4. How do the disciples react to Mary when she empties her bottle of perfume upon Jesus? (See also Matthew 26:8-9 and Mark 14:4-5.) What do you think were the reasons why they responded that way? What does this reveal about their hearts?
  
5. Do you relate to Mary’s unabashed affection for Jesus? If so, what are some judgments or misconceptions you’ve suffered as a result? If not, what are some things that might be keeping you from this type of affection?
  
6. Have you ever calculated or considered what it should cost you to follow Jesus? In what ways have you found Jesus to be worth what it has cost? Are there areas of

your life where your affection for Jesus isn’t in alignment with the worth you say you place on him?

7. Finish the following statements Jesus made about Mary’s generous love:

“She has done a \_\_\_\_\_ thing to me.”

“She did what she \_\_\_\_\_.”

“She poured perfume... to prepare for my \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Wherever the gospel is preached... what she has \_\_\_\_\_ will also be told.”

Which of the statements strikes you most? What are some practical ways that you could be more generous?

8. **NEXT STEPS**

*We are most like God when we are generous!*

- I will allow the Holy Spirit to help me grow in generosity.
- I will not let selfishness rule in my life.
- I am thankful for the opportunity to be generous.
- I offer my gifts and my life to the Lord!

*Don’t forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you grow to be consistent in living a generous life.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

November 29	Matthew 6:19-34
November 30	Luke 12:13-21
December 1	Mark 12:41-44
December 2	John 12:1-11
December 3	2 Corinthians 8:1-9
December 4	1 Chronicles 29:1-14
December 5	Psalms 150