

## The Habits of Grace

### Habit 4: Generosity

March 28, 2021 / Chris Johnson

Generosity is the \_\_\_\_\_ of being extravagantly \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." **Luke 15:1-2, NIV**

God wants to pour out His extravagant, unselfish love on \_\_\_\_\_ people. God excludes \_\_\_\_\_ from the chance to experience His love.

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate. So he divided his property between them.' **Luke 15:11-12, NIV**

<sup>13</sup> Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. **Luke 15:13-16, NIV**

What do I believe about happiness? Do I believe the lie that happiness comes from \_\_\_\_\_ what I want?

<sup>17</sup> When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. **Luke 15:17-20a, NIV**

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have

sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. **Luke 15:20b-24, NIV**

What kind of father would radically \_\_\_\_\_ and lavishly \_\_\_\_\_ undeserving sinners? Only our heavenly \_\_\_\_\_ whose heart is full of \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" <sup>10</sup> "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" **Mark 11:8-10, NIV**

<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" **Luke 15:25-32, NIV**

If I depend on my good to be good with God, then I miss out on God's good \_\_\_\_\_ me and \_\_\_\_\_ me.

### MEMORY VERSE

<sup>20</sup> His father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. **Luke 15:20, NIV**

**My next step:** I will let God's generosity FOR me flow THROUGH me to others by being extravagantly unselfish.

What's your next step today? Mark it on your Communication Card.

# Impact Groups

## The Habits of Grace: Generosity

**Getting Started:** What is an act of generosity that made a big impact on you?

### Going back to Sunday

What truth from Sunday's message was most impactful for you? How has the truth made a difference in your thinking, your emotions, or your words and actions this week?

### Read Luke 15:1-2.

*<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."*

This verse, among others, is a big reason why our vision at CrossWalk is that we strive to be "a church for the unchurched." How do we best live this out as Christians individually and as a congregation?

### Read Luke 15:11-16.

*<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate. So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

One of the lies that we often believe is that we can be happy if we get what we want. How does our culture contribute to this lie? How can we successfully stop believing that lie?

### Read Luke 15:17-24 in your Bible or in the notes.

What do these verses reveal about God's heart for sinful people?

List out one or two practical ways that we can better soak up God's generous heart for sinners.

### Read Luke 15:25-32 in your Bible or in the notes.

Through this parable, Jesus isn't just showing the heart of our heavenly Father, He's also warning us against falling into the ditch on either side of the road. On one side is the sin of doing whatever we want. On the other side is the sin of doing what we think God wants so that we can be good enough to save ourselves. How do both of these sins ruin our ability to be generous to others?

### My Next Step

Generosity means to be extravagantly unselfish. How can we unselfishly share God's generosity this week? Think about ways to continue to invest in someone far from Jesus so that they will want to come to church with you to hear about Jesus this Easter.

### Doing Life Together

Invite someone to Good Friday or Easter worship. How will you do that this week?

### Prayer

Pray together as a group for about 10 minutes. Many groups do this in a circle format, allowing each person in the circle to pray or pass as they wish until all have had a chance to pray.

### Reminders

Good Friday worship at Laveen only, Friday, April 2, 7:00pm

Easter worship at Laveen, Sunday, April 4, 9:00am and 11:00am

Easter worship at Midtown, Sunday, April 4, 10:00am