



From the Overflow  
November 17 | Group Guide

### **Before group...**

For optimal group discussion, take a few moments to look over this group guide a few days prior to your group meeting. Then, choose a few of the questions below to send to your group members. Ask them to come prepared to share their thoughts on them.

You may also want to alert those in your group about the prayer element in this week's group guide!

### **Introduction and questions (20 minutes).**

Throughout this sermon series we are taking a look at what the Bible says about money, generosity, and our stewardship of the resources God has gifted to us.

To that end, we'll be reading Scripture, praying together, sharing about the theme of generosity, and more.

[Start by watching the Week 2 From the Overflow discussion video.](#)

Begin your time together in prayer. Ask God to be present with you all. Ask God for good conversation. Ask God for vulnerability to share and courage for obedience.

Once finished, discuss the following questions:

- Has anything stirred in you since our last conversation on generosity?
- Have you taken any action steps?
- What barriers to or tensions with generosity are you feeling?
- How can this group help you live more generously?

**Read Scripture (10 minutes).**

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15.

**Discuss these questions (15 minutes).**

- Take some time to reflect on your key takeaways from the sermon. What stood out the most to you? What questions do you have? What was stirred in you as you listened?
- This week, Dan said that we are talking about generosity as witness. How have you personally experienced the generosity of God's people in your life? In what way does generosity become a witness to the world?
- **Read Acts 4:32-37.** As you read through this passage, imagine what it would be like to have "no needy persons" among us. What would be needed in and from you in order for that to happen?
- Many people know themselves as spenders or savers. Maybe you do too. But have you ever considered yourself a "kingdom investor?" How might that change your money habits if you did?
- What sort of vision of generosity would be needed for you to think of yourself as a "kingdom-investor" full-time? How can this group help you grow in that?

## **Mark 14:3-11 Prayer Practice (20 minutes).**

Each week through our *From the Overflow* series, we'll take some time to pray through a portion of Scripture. We'll focus on a specific Scripture through prayer, inviting the group to pray from the passage. This week we'll be engaging in prayer through Mark 13:3-11.

You may want to give this practice some space for the individuals in your group to walk through on their own and then return together to share or you can read through the passage together, guiding the time.

### ***As you begin...***

Find a comfortable spot to read through Mark 14:3-11. Take a moment to be still before God, inviting him to speak to you through his word.

As you read the text for the first time, allow the scene to come to life in your mind. Allow yourself to create a picture in your mind of what it would have looked like. What do you see? What do you smell? What do you hear? Let it come to life in your imagination.

### ***Read through Mark 14:3-11 again...***

Take some time to visualize what the scene was like as if you were in the room. Allow God to bring the story to life. The people we read about in Scripture were real people who walked the earth and had thoughts and feelings much like ours.

As you read the passage a second time, begin to imagine the scene as if you were right in the middle of it. You're not just an observer anymore, but a participant in the story.

Consider these questions as you read:

Who are you in the story?

What do you see?

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

What's your position?

Who else is there with you?

What are you feeling?

What's the mood of the crowd?  
What questions do you have?  
What fears do you have?

***Read through the text a second time, considering the questions above...***

What is your response to all you experience?  
What are you noticing from your responses?  
As you notice your response, how do you sense God inviting you to respond in your own life?  
What are his invitations from this story for you today?

Write a prayer in response to God.

**Read this generosity liturgy together (2-3 minutes).**

Holy Father,  
There is nothing I have that You have not given me.  
All I have and am belong to You,  
bought with the blood of Jesus.  
To spend everything on myself, and to give without sacrifice, is the way of the world  
that You cannot abide.  
But generosity is the way of those who call Christ their Lord;  
who love Him with free hearts and serve Him with renewed minds. Who withstand the  
delusion of riches that chokes the Word;  
whose hearts are in Your kingdom and not in the systems of the world.

I am determined to increase in generosity until it can be said  
that there is no needy person among us.  
I am determined to be trustworthy with such a little thing as money that You may trust  
me with true riches.  
Above all, I am determined to be generous because You, Father, are generous.

It is the delight of Your daughters and sons to share Your traits, and to show what You  
are like to the world.

Amen.

**Finish with prayer requests and pray for one another (10 minutes).**

Break into groups of 3-4 and share with that smaller group any prayer requests that you may have. Then, take turns praying for one another, over the things that each person shared.

Once finished, have everyone come back together to finish your group time with logistics and any important information members of the group need to know.