

## **Grab Gather and Grow**

**Week of November 19th**

**Stumbling Toward Generosity**

Grab this study, Gather a few people, and Grow in faith

### **SCRIPTURE**

(read over the scripture together)

**Matthew 6:33 (CEB)**

Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

### **DISCUSSION**

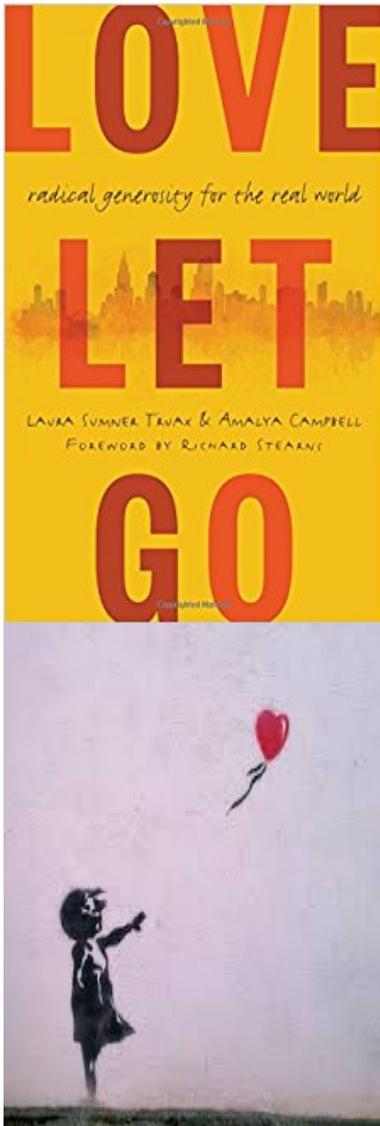
After reading over Matthew 6:33 what do you think you desire first and foremost in your life? What would it take for you to put God's Kingdom and God's righteousness first and foremost? What "things" will be given to you if you can put God's Kingdom and God's righteousness first and foremost?

Remembering who we are poses a challenge not just to people (and animals) in the fictional world. The theme speaks to us because we find ourselves asking similar questions of identity: Who am I? What is important to me? How am I supposed to live my life?

Make an inventory of the various identities you wear each day. Do you find practicing generosity easier or harder with each identity?

The longing for connection and relationship contracts with our typical transactions—much of the time we actively avoid establishing connection. Given the ease with which we can avoid interactions, we might wonder if any attempt to live relationally is fighting a losing battle. But in the generous life, proximity and relationship is fighting a losing battle. In the generous life, proximity and relationship matter.

Pastor Henry and Pastor Rich have been talking a lot lately about SeeingAllthePeople. The idea that we have to see people and build relationships with them to grow not only our faith but theirs. Who might you have the opportunity to SeeAllthePeople? Put another way, who might you have the opportunity to get closer to, to build a relationship with?



Arresting the feelings of scarcity comes only by giving. When we feel cash poor, we sense we're richer by giving money away. When we feel short on time, we perceive ourselves freer when we volunteer our hours. When we feel sapped of emotional energy, we become refueled by attending closely to another person's life. The psychological research supports this truth, but likely you've experienced this in your life already. Generosity resets the saturation point and offers contentment—in plenty and in need.

Have you experienced a time when you gave something away despite feeling constrained? How do you feel now about the situation as you reflect back on it?

## SERVE

Our *Change for Change* offering this week, and next has a dual purpose:

- 1) Support the United Methodist Church's special Student Day Offering that provides scholarships and low interest loans for United Methodist student's education in order to develop leaders for the transformation of the world.
- 2) We are donating to BUMC's own Senior Scholarship program, granting our Seniors a scholarship to help with their education so they can become leaders for the transformation of the world.

Save up your change and/or make a special donation to Change for Change.

Talk about some ways you could help some local college students. Put one or two of your ideas into service.

Provide a Thanksgiving meal, or any meal, for Avenues for Homeless Youth here in Brooklyn Park.

## FAITH FIVE

### AT HOME THIS WEEK

Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless through life this week.

Each day, gather together and share each person's high and low of the day. Read a piece of Scripture; Talk together about the scripture and how it relates to your day; Pray about your highs and lows and where God is leading you; and at the end of the day share the following blessing: ***“Through Christ, May You Let Love Go.”***

SUNDAY: Matthew 6:33 (Sermon Text)

MONDAY: Psalm 116:12

TUESDAY: 2 Corinthians 8:3-4

WEDNESDAY: Luke 12:15

THURSDAY: Philippians 4:11-13

FRIDAY: Mark 10:25

SATURDAY: Matthew 6:21 Our Theme verse for **LOVE LET GO.**