

Grab Gather and Grow

Week of November 26th

Stumbling Toward Generosity

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

SCRIPTURE

(read over the scripture together)

2 Corinthians 9:11

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.”

DISCUSSION

How do you think your life “*will be enriched in every way for your great generosity?*”

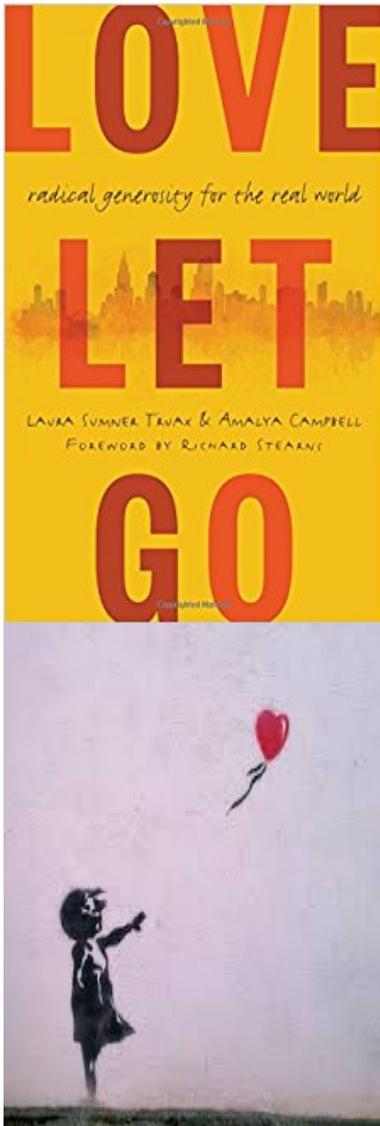
It’s one thing to love untouched by the world in the first century. It’s quite another thing when we’ve been drinking from a fire hose of information in the 21st century. Yet the antidote remains the same:
Stop. Wait. Be still. Listen.

Mindfulness, Contemplation, Meditation, Silence, Prayer.

These are the habits needed for BUMC, or any church, needed, if we are going to get to the other side of generosity. How frequently are you able to stop, wait and listen? What barriers do you face in finding time for silence, mindfulness, and prayer? How could you grant yourself increased permission for times of quiet and solitude?

Listening wisely opens us to generosity—generosity expressed and generosity received. When we listen expectantly, we begin to conceive Big Ideas from small stories, like salary increases for forty people or give loaves feeding five thousand. Careful listening allows us to remember that there is a broader narrative in progress, and in our listening, we may even catch a glimpse of the role we have been asked to play. Listen to the world’s needs, filtering out the ideas meant for us to hear, and taking our first steps. Which of these three activities do you find most challenging and why?

Throughout this worship series we’ve tied generosity to a way of living that is freeing. We’ve used the word deliberately because that’s how people describe what generosity has meant to them. There is a sense of contentment, a thread of connectedness, a joy and a peace that have rooted themselves into the soul of their lives.
All together it adds up to freedom.



When do you most often find yourself expressing gratitude? In what situations do you find it difficult to express gratitude? What links gratitude to freedom? How have you seen that linkage manifest in your life?

Generosity doesn't require a formal community. All that's required is an openness to listening and a willingness to engage. That's it. You don't need to have the heart of a saint; you already have a giver's heart. You don't need a hefty bank balance; you already live in a world of abundance. You don't need to develop a particular talent or skill; you've already been given a role to play in the grand narrative of generosity. What causes you to be optimistic about the ability of one individual to make a difference in the world? How can you increase your exposure to these sources of optimism? The disciples had five fish and two loaves of bread. What resources of time, skills, money, and relationships do you have? When have you loved and let go? Where would you next like to love and let go?

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 Methodists students 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.

Where would you next like to love and let go?

So put your **LOVE LET GO** idea into practice this week!

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: 2 Corinthians 9:11(Sermon Text)

MONDAY: Mark 12:42-44

TUESDAY: Deuteronomy 14:22

WEDNESDAY: Romans 12:1-2

THURSDAY: Colossians 3:9, 12,14

FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 9:11

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