

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF JANUARY 17TH, 2010

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

A New Pattern of Generosity

"Proclaiming the whole gospel, then, means much more than evangelism in the hopes that people will hear and respond to the good news of salvation by faith in Christ. It also encompasses tangible compassion for the sick and the poor as well as biblical justice, efforts to right the wrongs that are so prevalent in our world...The whole gospel is truly good news for the poor, and it is the foundation for a social revolution that has the power to change the world."

-Rich Stearns, *The Hole In Our Gospel*

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. "

-1 Tim 6:18

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Proverbs 30:7-9

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Genesis 45:28; Job 23:12; Matt 6:11; Luke 11:3; Deut 8:12, 31:20, 32:15; Neh 9:25; Proverbs 3:9-10, 13:22, 19:17, 22, 27:23-27, 30:22; Josh 24:27; Exodus 5:2; Job 21:14, 15; Exodus 20:7; Heb 13:5; Psalm 24

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The author of this passage
 - The genre of literature this passage falls into
 - The way this genre is intended to be read
 - The goal of these requests
 - The character elements illustrated in this prayer
 - The things most highly valued in this author's view
 - This author's view of wealth

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the original readers, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- The encouragement this week was to give generously, save wisely and live simply. Which one of those do you need the most growth in? Which have you had the most success with?
- What are some encouraging or inspiring examples of people who have done these three things well?
- When you think about a plan for “reverse engineering” your life, what shape does it take?
- Pastor JR said that “you are always shaping someone’s future” but that the question is, “who’s future will you shape”. How do you answer that question? What better future do you envision?
- When you make financial decisions, what questions do you let guide and inform those decisions? What do those questions say about you?

“Gaze upon Christ long enough, and you’ll become more of a giver. Give long enough, and you’ll become more like Christ.”

–Randy Alcorn

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

–John 13:35

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Matthew 2:9-11

This Week: Proverbs 30:8-9

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (January):

CHRIST – That Jesus would be treasured by more and more people in our city, that he would be greater in our own lives, and that as we learn to love and follow him in greater ways we would be continually shaped by his gospel.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for his righteousness and holiness
- Praising God for his unparalleled generosity demonstrated in Christ
- Confessing any ungodly aspirations for wealth for the sake of our comfort, convenience or power
- Confessing our greed, self-concern, ungraciousness, and unwillingness to share
- Thanking God for hearing and responding to our prayers
- Thanking God for leading us in paths of righteousness
- Asking God for provision for our need, and radical generosity beyond that
- Asking God to give us an increased vision for the better future he is bringing about

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Proverbs: An Introduction & Commentary* – Derek Kidner
- *A Commentary on Proverbs* – Charles Bridges (available at: <http://tinyurl.com/yjcyaxb>)

NEXT WEEK’S TEXT

Hebrews 1