



RELATIONAL VALUES

Joyful Giving

The D-Cycle is a curriculum containing content designed to establish the scriptural foundations of the faith in the life of a believer.

VISION FOR JOYFUL GIVING

Jesus is the most joyful and generous person that has and will exist. Jesus gave his life that we would be reconciled with the Father and continually gives freely of his time, resources, and presence to humanity. Like our Creator, we are invited to similarly give joyfully of all that has been given to us even when it does not benefit ourselves in the moment or in the future.

Key Definitions

- **Generosity:** the voluntary act of intentionally giving of what God has entrusted to us without expectation of reciprocity and sometimes at the expense of our own lifestyle / comfort

HEAD

Summary of Points

1. Are Generous with Time and Resource

- a. Believers sold their possessions and gave the proceeds to the church and those in need (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37)
- b. The believers cared about those outside of their own community and created rhythms of generosity at the expense of their own lifestyle and comfort (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)

2. Practice Hospitality

- a. Hospitality comes from the Greek word *philoxenia* meaning "love of strangers" (from *philos*, friend, and *xenos*, stranger)
- b. Hospitality is not throwing a dinner party and is not limited to having extraordinary means; rather welcoming strangers in the Spirit of Jesus into our lives through kindness and generosity.
 1. "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality" (Romans 12:13)
 2. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9)

3. Are Faithful with Little

- a. We are stewards of all God has given us, including ourselves. We are invited to use what we have to glorify Him and His kingdom while also blessing his people. God has given us each enough to use wisely to bless others.

1. “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? 13 No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (Luke 16:10-13)

Lifegroup Scriptures

D-Group Scriptures

God’s Generosity
John 3:16-17
Romans 8:32

Encouragement to Give Generously
2 Corinthians 8-9

Mary of Bethany
Matthew 26:6-13

Everything in Common
Acts 4:32-37

Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30

Hospitality
Romans 12:13
1 Peter 4:8-9

Faith without Works
James 2:14-19

Discussion Methods

Below are two suggested methods for discussing Scripture.

Traditional DBS New Testament Letters	Inductive Bible Study Gospels, Acts, Old Testament Accounts
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does this say about God? 2. What does this say about me/people? 3. What is my obedient response? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observation – What happened? 2. Interpretation – What does it mean? 3. Application – How can I obey?

HEART

Questions

1. Why do you think it can be difficult to joyfully give yourself away for others?
2. Why is it important to think of others as much as you think of yourself?
3. How are joyful giving and the gospel related?

Lifegroup content ends here

HANDS

Discipleship Actions

1. In what area of your life is it a challenge to joyfully give yourself away? Time/Presence? Finances? Talents/giftings?
 1. Why do you think it's challenging?
 2. Pray and ask Jesus how you can be joyfully generous in this area of your life?
 2. What area of your life do you believe you are an owner rather than a steward? How has that been impacting the way you live out that area of your life?
 3. Who in your daily life is in need and how can you joyfully give to them?
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RESOURCES

Books

- [Money, Possessions, and Eternity](#) – Randy Alcorn
- [Gospel Patrons: People Whose Generosity Changed the World](#) – John Rinehart