



Anglican
Church of Noosa

The
GENEROUS Life
becoming a more giving person

Stewardship
June 2021

Connect Groups

At the Anglican Church of Noosa, the primary avenue for discipleship is in a Connect Group.

We strongly encourage everyone to be involved because these groups are specifically designed to help us grow as disciples.

The normal pattern for a Connect Group time is to have three sections: connecting with each other, connecting with the Word and connecting with God through prayer - in any order.

We need time to relate to one another by connecting personally. Depending on the members, this can be done in a variety of ways.

As we get into the Word, we examine its truth and relevance in order to apply it to our lives. Scripture is explored, explained and discussed, and the goal is to minister to each other's lives through what is learned, not necessarily to finish all the material.

Prayer is a vital part of a Connect Group's time together. Leave plenty of time so your prayer is not rushed. This is not just an 'opening' or 'closing' prayer, but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God, in a simple and conversational way. This is where the action is! The goal is to create a space where people feel enabled and comfortable to pray, and can see God at work.

Generosity - a brief intro...

From the Bible, from creation, from personal experience, It is very clear to see that God is a generous God.

He has given us a beautiful world, and here in the Noosa region we are very generously blessed with the natural beauty around us.

But God has also shown us great generosity in the love and grace of the Gospel which he freely gives. We are sinful creatures, marred by our brokenness. We are not deserving of all that God does for us, nor are we deserving of all that he gives us. The greatest gift was to send his only Son, Jesus, as our Saviour. To be born into humble circumstances in Bethlehem, and then to freely offer himself on the cross, is generosity beyond comprehension.

But that is who our God is!

What can we do in return?

Week 1 - It's all about Worship

NOTES

Introduction

Share a time of worship when you have been significantly moved. How did it impact you?

1 Chronicles 29:1-20

1. What struck you most from this passage?
2. v.6. How can the example of leaders be an encouragement?
Why do you think that is important?
3. vv.14-15. How could prayerful humility help us to be generous?
How does 'giving' being in the context of worship help with this?
4. What encouragements do you receive from this act of worship prior to David's death?

1 Timothy 6:6-19

5. How do godliness and contentment rate in your life?
6. How does wanting to be rich lead to entrapment?
7. How does the love of money lure us away from faith?

Matthew 6:25-33

8. When it comes to financial matters, how do you go letting trust trump worry?
9. How does focussing on God's great kingdom help you?

Prayer

Pray that our whole church will grow in the understanding that worship is 'all of life'.
And ask God to bring every area of your life under His Lordship.

Memory Verse – Matthew 6:33

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Week 2 - Head and Heart

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Introduction

Some might like to share about a Church experience where the giving was strong. What impact did it have on ministry, mission and people?

Amos 5:11-27

1. Do some research on the significance of the 'Day of the Lord'.
What was the popular expectation of the Day of the Lord?
What was Amos' message about the Day of the Lord?
2. vv.21-23 Israel's worship was detestable to the Lord. Why?
3. vv.16,17,27 What is the punishment which is coming?
4. vv. 14,15,24 What is the positive message Amos has for the people? Express this in your own words.
5. What does it mean for us to offer acceptable worship today?

2 Corinthians 8:8-15

6. In what way does Paul commend them for their giving?
7. In what way does Paul exhort them to continue giving?
8. What difference should knowing Jesus make?

General

9. Share with one another the general principles you use for deciding on your financial gift to God's work.
10. Is there anything you've learnt from this study which will expand your principles for giving?

Prayer

*Almighty God, whose grace and mercy
is showered upon us in Jesus Christ;
open our eyes to see those in need.*

*Teach us to give up our trust
in riches and earthly rewards,
so that in surrendering ourselves to serve others,
we may labour for the treasure that endures;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Memory Verse – 2 Corinthians 8:9

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

Week 3 - Higher Thinking

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Introduction

Can you recall a time of gaining deeper insight – in your career, family, general knowledge?

Isaiah 55

1. vv.1-2. Why do people prefer to trust worldly wealth rather than the Lord's provision?
2. vv.8-9. If God's thoughts are so much higher than ours, how can we tap into them?
3. vv.6,7. What does Isaiah want the people to do?
4. vv.10-13. If the people repent God promises good things.
What did this mean for the people of Israel?
What might it mean for us today?

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

5. Paul here sets out three principles for the Corinthians' giving -

- regular v.2
- proportional v.2
- secure v.3

Which principle is most important to you for your giving?

6. Share with the group how committed sacrificial giving has helped you grow as a disciple of Christ.

Prayer

*Generous God, whose hand is open
to fill all things living with plenty:
make us ever thankful for your goodness,
and grant that we, remembering the account
that we must one day give,
may be faithful stewards of your bounty;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

[Anglican Prayer Book]

Memory Verse – Isaiah 55:8-9

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

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