A LIFE WORTH LIVING- GENEROSITY

Family Devotional/Adult &Teen Discussion Guide

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APRIL 22, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT:
Have you ever received way more than you expected? Whether it was a bigger tax refund, or an unexpected hand from your neighbor hauling bags of mulch, it feels great to be on the receiving end of generosity. It feels great to be on the giving end, too… because generosity is a function of God's character at work in us.

2. DISCUSSION:

Ephesians 1:7–8 [ESV]
"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight."

God modeled generosity - going beyond what's required or expected - when He sent Jesus to live and die to redeem humankind.

Q. God didn't have to go to such great lengths to save humanity. What other responses to sin could He have taken? What response would you have taken if it had been your decision?

Q. God's generosity shows up in plenty of other areas in life beyond our salvation. What are some other ways that God has gone above and beyond for you?

3. CHALLENGE:

Ephesians 3:17–19 [ESV]
"...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

God expects His children to take on His character - including His generosity. And that encompasses more than money - it's a willingness to give, whether the need is funds, time, energy, attention, etc. The only way that character change happens is by growing in faith through discipleship.

Q. If someone gauged your relationship with God based solely on your generosity, how close to God would they think you are?
Q. Is generosity easy for you, or is it a challenge? Is there one area for you where generosity comes more easily than others?

4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for giving to you so freely and extravagantly. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow His generous character in you as you work to know and serve Him better.

"LESSONS FROM HAMAN"
Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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APRIL 22, 2018

1. POWER VERSE: Psalm 4:4a *"Don't sin by letting anger control you..."*

### What's Up: "I Won't Let Anger Control Me!"

This week, we continue our series called, "You Only Live Once" or "YOLO." We're learning some important lessons about making our lives count! Since we only live once, we need to make sure we do our very best to honor God with our life and remain faithful to Him.

2. DISCUSSION:

Q. What are some things that make you angry?
Q. How do you normally respond when things make you angry?

There are many things in life that can make us angry. From not getting our way, to attacks against those we love, many things can bring out the anger in us.

Anger is a powerful emotion. If we allow it to take control of our lives, it can bring some dangerous results. If we don't allow God to help us with our anger - it can turn to bitterness.
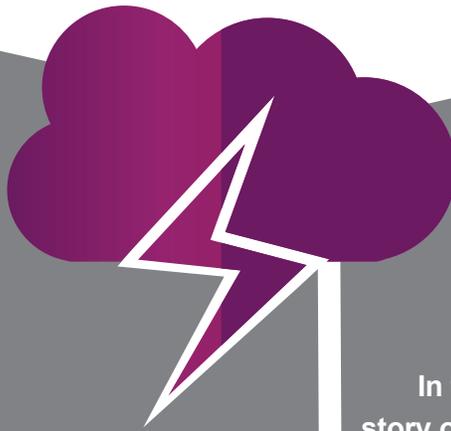
3. ACTIVITY:

Q. Have you ever allowed anger to take control of your life? Explain.
Q. Why should we ask for God's help when we're angry?

In the Bible Story this week, we learned from the story of Haman and how he reacted to Mordecai and the Jews. We learned that it is not a sin to become angry, but it is a sin to allow anger to control you.

Q. What are some appropriate ways to act when you become angry?
Q. What can you do to avoid allowing anger to take control of your life?

4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that your children would begin to ask for God's help when they become angry so they don't allow their anger to control their lives or lead to bitterness.