

# Bible References

## **Matthew 5:38-42** (NIV)

You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

## **Luke 6:32-35** (NIV)

If you love those that love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

## **Luke 14:12** (NLT)

Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or banquet," he said, "Don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

## **Mark 12:41-44** (CEV)

Jesus was sitting in the temple near the offering box and watching people put in their gifts. He noticed that many rich people were giving a lot of money. Finally, a poor widow came up and put in two coins that were worth only a few pennies. Jesus told his disciples to gather around him. Then he said: I tell you that this poor widow has put in more than all the others. Everyone else gave what they didn't need. But she is very poor and gave everything she had. Now she doesn't have a cent to live on.

## **Matthew 18:21 & 22** (CEV)

Peter came up to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?" Jesus answered: Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!

## **Luke 23:24a** (ESV)

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do....."



Leader Version: GIVE

Discussion Guide

go.

Pr'ime  
Groups

GO "Give"

Week of 9/23/2012

The Point: Give Generously. Even when it does not make sense.....

Matthew 5:38-42 (v. 41)

## Discussion Generators

- What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- What was the best gift you ever received as a child? What was that like? What is the most generous gift you have ever been given or the most generous act of kindness you have ever received?
- What is the most outrageous act of generosity that you have ever witnessed?
- Matthew 5 is an unorthodox approach to handling being what we would probably refer to as being mistreated or taken advantage of. What thoughts come to mind when you hear those verses? Is that the common approach that we see taken today?
- Matthew 5 really does sound like "Outrageous Generosity". What do you think of when you hear that phrase "Outrageous Generosity"? .....name a person you think of when you hear that phrase? What is different about that person than the average person?
- Luke 6:32-35 really challenges our way of thinking about what being generous or a giving person may look like. What are your thoughts about what Jesus said here? Share some examples of what generosity can or could look like?
- Let's write a list of what you think holds people back from giving more of themselves? Why do you think those reasons become the excuses?

## Discussion Generators

- Mark 12: 41-44 talks about the poor widow that gave all she had to give. So many times when we think of generosity and giving we mostly think of giving money or material things. Is that the only thing we have to offer in the way of giving? What are some other ways or resources that can be used to be an outrageous giver?
- Does watching people contribute or give ever annoy you? What is the most annoying thing to you when you observe an individual contributing or giving? How do you think we can avoid some of those pitfalls ourselves?
- In Matthew 18 21 & 22, Jesus responds to Peter's question about forgiveness with another radical thought behind generosity through forgiveness. Jesus sets the ultimate example of generous forgiveness and the most outrageous generosity ever through His death on the cross. Even in Jesus darkest hour in writhing pain, look at what Jesus says in Luke 23:24a. Do you think this example applies at all to what we have discussed on "outrageous generosity" Why or why not?
- Over the last four weeks at church, Sean talked about putting action to faith, thus the GO series. The first week he talked about Grace (caring for others), the second week he talked about Follow (as a disciple of Christ), the third week he talked about Share (our faith and beliefs), and now Give (Outrageous generosity). How do these all correspond with one another? Do they work hand in hand or are they not even related?

## Thinking Outside the Box

**Thinking inside of what you know to step outside of your comfort zone:**  
Go around the room and share one or two things about yourselves that each of you as a person has to contribute (time, talent, treasures, resources .....). After you have circled the room, go back around and identify how each person could use their gifts to give of themselves to God and to others. Now to really get outside of this box, give everyone a chance to think to themselves and then write down how they could apply that generosity to someone that they don't care for or get along with, and how they can do it in a manner that doesn't seem patronizing?