

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fearless Generosity (Season 2) | Pastor Mike McKinney

Monday, Sept 22 - Sunday, Sept 28 (Week 2)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: **Laying a Foundation & Building Relational Capital**

As our groups get started this semester, let's be intentional about creating space for people to really get to know one another. Building relational capital doesn't happen all at once, it grows when we leave time for conversation, listen well, and encourage members to share life together. This month, prioritize slowing down the agenda, leaving room before and after meetings for fellowship, and finding simple ways to help group members connect. Strong relationships built now will become the foundation for deeper discipleship and care in the months ahead.

ICE BREAKER: If you had to give up one "luxury" item or habit for a month, what would it be and why?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Step Up Sunday - an opportunity to discover where God can use your gifts to serve and be part of a team. You can view all of our teams on our website under the "connect" tab under "Join A Team". If you didn't get a chance to talk to any of our ministry leaders, but are still interested in getting connected, please contact our Administrative Coordinator, Damaris Tabares (damaris.tabares@churchatbergen.org).
2. Prime Timers (50+) please join us for an evening of fellowship that will include a German dinner, a devotional by Jeff Burkes, and a time of group games. A part of the dinner will be catered, but your help will be needed with side dishes, desserts, and beverages. Please sign-up in our Monday email newsletter or by emailing info@churchatbergen.org. Thank you! Any questions, please contact Kris Rienstra at kgrienstra@gmail.com
3. Our next Child Dedication Class will be held on Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 AM at the Hicks' home in Paramus. This class is an important step for parents who wish to dedicate their children and learn more about what it means. Please fill out the form in our Monday email newsletter. Questions? Contact our BergenKIDS Director, Barbara Krieger.
4. We hope you will join us every Tuesday at 6:30 PM for our weekly prayer gathering.

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read this week's scripture from Mark 12:41-44, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

In this past week's sermon, Pastor Mike confronts the delicate balance between faith and finances, challenging us to examine our relationship with money through the lens of the Gospel. Drawing from the story of the widow's mite in Mark 12, he reveals how true generosity isn't measured by the amount given, but by the sacrifice it represents.



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Through vivid illustrations and personal vulnerability, Pastor Mike acknowledges the real financial struggles facing us in North Jersey while pointing to Jesus's ultimate sacrifice as the model for fearless generosity. He weaves together biblical truth with practical wisdom, emphasizing that generosity isn't about rigid rules like 10% tithing, but about responding to God's extravagant grace. The sermon culminates in a powerful call to action: rather than making impulsive decisions, we are encouraged to pray for courage and wisdom to develop sustainable generous living that demonstrates trust in God as our ultimate provider. The sermon closes with a reflection on eternal perspective and left us contemplating not just our giving habits, but our entire approach to stewardship in light of eternity.

QUESTION #1: Pastor Mike stated that, “the true mark of generosity is a sense of life being lost.” What does this mean, and how does it differ from common views of generosity? How do you feel about this statement and do you agree or disagree, and why?

QUESTION #2: How does the story of the widow's offering challenge or affirm your current understanding of giving and generosity?

QUESTION #3: What fears do you have when it comes to giving or being generous and how do these fears impact your actions?

QUESTION #4: How does the Gospel's portrayal of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross for you make you feel about the concept of generosity?

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking **and recording** prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).



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