

Church from Six-Foot Apart: Week 2

Discussion Guide



You can use this discussion guide on your own, with your family, or virtually with your discipleship community. For audio or video of the sermon, visit www.bellevuechristian.church/sermons or subscribe to the Bellevue Christian Church on your favorite podcast provider.

If you were meeting with your DC virtually, it can be helpful to start with a check-in: “How is everyone feeling right now? Does anyone have anything they need right now?” Asking those questions is more important in a season of crisis than discussion questions.

Read

We’re in a series called *Church from Six-Foot Apart: Life Together When You Feel Alone*. We’re in a season right now where we’re not gathering together in our building as a church, but that doesn’t mean we can put the habits of life together on hold until the pandemic is over. It’s up to us to find ways to adapt the basic habits of life together. Over the course of this series, we’re going to be reimagining the habits listed out in Acts 2:42-47.

This week we’re exploring what it looks like to devote ourselves to the habit of generosity instead of drifting into the habit of hoarding—one of the habits in Acts 2:42-47. We’re going to look at a few different passages, but specifically we’re going to focus on Acts 4:32-37 where we get another glimpse at what generosity looked like in the life of the early church:

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. *No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.* ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ *that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales* ³⁵ *and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.*

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet. (Acts 4:32-37)

Reflect

It's okay if you don't get through all the questions. These questions are nothing more than a launching point for moving toward everyday life like Jesus. Feel free to add additional questions of your own. If you're with kids, feel free to rephrase some of the questions or add questions of your own that might be more suitable for them.

- Ice-breaker Question: **What's one of the most generous gifts you've ever been given?**
- Acts 4:32-37 is a more in-depth vision of generosity in the early church. **What are some things you notice in this passage about their generosity?**
 - Their generosity was both organic and organized—in other words, people were both giving spontaneously to one another *and* giving to the church leadership to distribute as needed. **What are some advantages/disadvantages to each kind of generosity?**
 - **How might this kind of generous community be attractive to unbelievers?**
- **What are some reasons why we resist the kind of generosity in Acts 4:32-37?**
- One of the questions we have to ask is *why* they were so generous. It's likely that the Apostles had taught them what Jesus taught about life in the kingdom of God.
 - **Can someone read Luke 12:22-34?** As he/she reads, listen for what this teaches us about money and resources in the kingdom of God.
 - **What are some things you learn from this teaching about money and resources in the kingdom of God?**
 - On Sunday, we talked about the difference between an “abundance mentality” and a “scarcity mentality.” **How would you explain the difference between those two?**
- There's another passage where Paul talks about generosity when he's trying to raise money from the church in Corinth to help with famine relief in Jerusalem.
 - **Can someone read 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 and 9:10-11?** Listen for what we can learn about generosity from this passage.
 - **What are some things you learn from this passage about how generosity works?**
- On Sunday, we talked about three circles of generosity to consider: 1) local church, 2) local community, and 3) local/global partners (non-profit organizations, church plants, and missionaries that we support as a church or you support personally).
 - **What could it look like to be generous in each of those three areas right now?** Think about money, time, and stuff.
 - **Is there one act of generosity you want to do this week in response to our discussion?**
- Acts 4:33-34 says, “And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.” **What do you think it means that “God's grace was so powerfully at work in them”?**
 - **How has God been generous to us in the gospel?**
 - **What's the connection between God's generosity and our generosity?**
- **What's one of your biggest takeaways from this week's discussion?**

Respond

Spend time responding to this week's discussion in prayer. Pray specifically that we will exceed our goal for the "Donate the Bell" campaign to raise \$15,000 for a COVID-19 relief fund through our church.

*For a helpful video on generosity in the Bible from *The Bible Project*, check out this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62CliEkRCso>.