

Growth Group Questions
Week of October 21

1. How hard is it for you to grasp the concept of a generous heart? What would it look like in your life to have a generous heart? What does it mean to be generous? Who is the most generous person that you know?
2. Did anything about today's sermon, Growing & Giving – Generously, stick out to you?
3. Read Deuteronomy 15:7-15. Do you agree or disagree that generosity is a heart issue? Would your friends say that you are generous?
4. Do you think that the amount of your gift/generosity is important, or the act of giving that is important?
5. How does generosity fit in to your spiritual health? If you think generosity is needed for your spiritual health, how can you take a step to be more generous?

Lectio Divina for Growth Groups

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

The phrase lectio divina is Latin for “sacred reading” and describes an ancient approach to reading the scripture that originated in the Benedictine tradition. Including this practice in our Growth Group meetings this semester will do at least three things: 1) Invite each person to go deeper into study of the week’s sermon text. 2) Invite each group to go deeper into group discussions each week. 3) Equip each person with a spiritual practice that can be used on a daily basis with any passage of scripture during personal devotion time.

A group practice of lectio divina includes three readings of the text aloud. It is best to choose three different readers and three different translations, if possible. During each reading, group members will listen for three different but related purposes as detailed below. Silence will follow each reading, and then discussion will follow at the very end.

First Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: One group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for a word or phrase that jumps out in their minds. Tip: Simply acknowledge the word or phrase without judgment or analysis.

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of that word or phrase.

Second Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: A second group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for why that original word or phrase might have jumped out in their minds. Tip: Ask, “What is going on with me right now that this word or phrase might have significance in my life?”

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of what they have discerned.

Third Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: A third group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for what God might be calling them to do with the information they’ve learned in the first two readings. Tip: Ask, “How is God inviting me to respond to what’ve I learned tonight? What action might I take?”

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of what they have discerned.

Group Discussion