



GROWTH GROUP

Relational Generosity

Week of 10/04/2020

Getting Started

What do you love about fall? **Get people talking and ready to open up a bit by getting to know each other some more.**

Into the Word

Read **Genesis 13:1-12.**

What problem developed in Abram's life? **Because both he and his nephew Lot were blessed and rich. As a result of God's continued generosity to them both, they had a hard time living close together and finding enough pastureland for both of their herds and flocks.**

How did Abram settle the matter? **Abraham trusted in the Lord and let Lot choose which land he wanted.**

Which land was better? **We're told Lot recognized the plains of Zoar near Sodom were better than the lands in Canaan at the time. Abram would have noticed this too. Yet, Abram let Lot choose which he wanted and where he wanted to go.**

What reasons were there for one to expect Abram to choose which land he wanted instead of offering to Lot to choose first? **Abram was older. Abram was richer. Abram was viewed as Lot's master. Abram was the one responsible for everything Lot had—without his uncle, Lot would have nothing. Plus Abram is the one with the promise and chosen by God.**

Apply

When is a time someone made their forgiveness for you clear when you expected them to express their anger or disappointment? **Answer will vary. Forgiveness is often the most impactful relational generosity.**

Without naming names, have you suffered because of someone who was materially generous but not kind and still a jerk? **Really, don't name names. Keep things in bounds. The point is to recognize and discuss that you can be materially generous and still be a jerk, like Pastor said. Pastor Kurt mentioned several examples of relational generosity. Which one(s) struck you as an opportunity that you have? Grocery giveaway, hospice volunteer, reading a book to your kids even though you're tired, calling your grandma on the phone, passing up a promotion because you'd lose connections or relationships or time at home, letting your classmate go first at school, making mom breakfast, loving people who disagree with you politically. Selfish sinful nature looks at relationships and asks how other people can benefit me. Christian generosity looks at relationships and asks how can I benefit other people. Examples like this are important to consider.**

List examples of relational generosity in the life of Jesus. **Let the group answer at least three before sharing these ones mentioned in the sermon; Proactive about tension, not afraid to address it. Patient, sitting with Nicodemus and the woman at the well. Forgiving tax collectors and prostitutes, Never steamrolling others to get ahead, but being willing to be hurt, lied about, taken advantage of, and ridiculed. As they pounded nails into his hands, he said, "Father, forgive them." The list can include, but is not limited to these examples.**

Around the Room

Share your highs and lows for the week **as well as your prayer requests.**

Pray