



# HEART OF GOLD

Week 1

## BREAKING THE ICE

What is the best gift you've ever received?

Who is the most generous person you know?

How have you experience generosity in your life?

## MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin was back starting a new series called, "Heart of Gold". Pastor Kevin started the message talking about Jesus's generosity and that God is abundantly generous. He was generous with His time, attention, presence, power, invitation, resources and, most importantly, He generously gave up His life on the cross.

1. Which of the following is easy for you to be generous with, and which is more difficult for you to be generous with?

Time, Attention, Presence, Power, Invitation, Resources

Read Matthew 6:19-21

What we spend our finances on is an indication of what is important to us, and what we value the most. Over the next few weeks we will be talking about generosity in our lives.

2. How is your relationship with your finances shaping your heart?

This week Pastor Kevin taught us how to move from pride to gratitude. Pride could be the biggest obstacle for generosity. Pride is focused on getting, having, comparing, not giving. Pride is self-absorbed. We all struggle with pride. John Scott said, "Pride is your enemy, humility is your greatest friend."

3. How have you seen pride bring destruction in your life?

We move from pride by being humble. We are humble when we seek God first instead of doing it all on our own. Pastor Kevin gave us three practices to help us grow from pride towards humility and grow in increasing our generosity.

Read Matthew 6:1-4

The first practice to grow in generosity is to PRACTICE GIVING SECRETLY. Jesus wants to liberate us from a man pleasing spirit. When we look to get praise from others and worry about what everyone else thinks, we are trying to please man instead of God. When we are generous in private it pleases God and He rewards us. Giving secretly can be as simple as giving the bigger piece of donut to someone else.

4. What kind of experience do you have with either someone being generous to you in secret, or you being generous to others in secret?

The second practice to increase generosity is PRACTICE GRATITUDE PUBLICLY. Pride says look at me. Gratitude says look at God. When someone is kind to us we need to express gratitude to them; gratitude is how we remember. Unexpressed gratitude is experienced as ingratitude. When we give thanks, we diminish pride and are more likely to give. When we are generous we look more like God.

5. Who do you know that expresses gratitude well in your life? What can you learn from in helping you express gratitude in your life?

The last practice to increase generosity is practice investing eternally.

Read Matthew 6:19-21 (again)

Pastor Kevin said, "How we handle our finances here on earth, impacts the way we experience heaven, and helps other people know how they can be there. It impacts the way we experience God here on earth".

When we help someone in need we are storing up treasures in heaven. When we give to help others in need or to tell them about Jesus, we are storing up treasures in heaven.

6. What are some ways you can practice investing eternally?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Thank-you God for showing us what generosity is when you sent your Son Jesus for us. Help us to see where we have let pride instead of humility seep into our lives. Open our eyes to see how we can give generously with our time, attention, presence, power, invitation and resources. Surround us with friends who can encourage us to do the same. Amen.

## **ACTION STEP**

- + Think about how you can give generously this week with your time, attention, presence, power, invitation and resources.
- + Grab a bag and food list from your local campus to help give towards food insecurity in your community.
- + Talk with your group about how you can all give together towards the Global Good initiative, helping feed Sudanese refugees in Egypt.
- + Practice giving secretly, practice gratitude publicly and practice investing eternally this week.