

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of June 25th, 2006

Acts 2:44-45; A Generous Community

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

Generosity. Think for a moment about the people who have been generous with you. What difference has that made in your life? As I look at my own life, it is those who have been generous who have been the most influential in my life. Whether they were generous with their time, their encouragement, or their money, these gracious folks have made a forever difference in my life. How about you? That is the first question in our small group materials this week. Hope your group enjoys the discussion.

Blessings to you,
Scott

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Generous** – Who comes to your mind when you hear the word “generous?”
- **Justin Martyr** – Justin Martyr, a member of the early church wrote this historic account of the early church’s generosity:

“And the wealthy among us help the needy; and we always keep together; and for all things wherewith we are supplied, we bless the Maker of all through His Son Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Ghost. And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things...And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who (cares for) the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need.”

- What stands out to you about Justin Martyr’s comments?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Together, Read Acts 2:42-47 (focusing on verse 44-45).

1. How do you think the behavior in 44-45 was viewed by those outside the early church community?
2. How do these verses apply to our contemporary church that has gone global in scope and is now so culturally diverse?
3. Assign different people to read several Old Testament Scriptures: Exodus 23:10-11, Leviticus 19:10, Proverbs 14:31, Isaiah 1:17 and Isaiah 58:6-10.
4. What do these verses show us about God’s heart for the needy and oppressed?
5. In Exodus and Leviticus, we discover the practice of leaving part of your field unharvested. What are some modern day equivalents to this practice? Is there a way we could practice this principle?
6. Please Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-15 and 9:6-15. What is Paul’s economic goal for the Corinthian Christians?
7. As you look at these two passages, what do you conclude are Paul’s principles on giving?

Getting Personal:

- After listing Paul’s principles for giving, consider which ones are easy for us to embrace and which ones are difficult for us to embrace. (**Leaders note:** You may want to have people respond to this question in pairs).

Putting it into Practice:

- Is there something your home group could do to help someone in need?