

November 2 & 3, 2019 | Greater Things – week 2
Group Discussion Questions

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, read [Mark 12:41-44](#) and [watch Emmanuel's Weekend Services message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

INTRODUCTION

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot because our charitable expenditures exclude them." (an excerpt from *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to sacrifice? When is the last time you sacrificed something significant? What did you sacrifice, and how did it make you feel?

2. Read [2 Corinthians 8:2-4](#). The people of the Macedonian church did not have much, but still they begged Paul to not skip over their opportunity to give. What makes this type of generosity possible?

"Giving is for those who can afford it" is a lie we believe. What makes this lie easy to believe?

Read [Mark 12:41-44](#). What lessons do you feel God is teaching us in the story of the widow's offering?

The widow had legitimate excuses for why she could not give. (i.e. lost her husband, no income, couldn't find work, etc.) but still she gave. What obstacles keep you from giving more, and why do you allow these obstacles to stand in the way of your generosity? What can you do to overcome those obstacles?

3. Read [Philippians 4:19](#). It takes faith to give sacrificially. Where in your financial stewardship do you notice selfishness? What has God given you that you can use to bless others?

What benefits will you experience from engaging in sacrificial generosity?

ACTION STEP

4. Giving is not about the size of the gift but the size of the sacrifice. This coming week, what steps will you take to become a sacrificial giver?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

PACK A BAG. Emmanuel is collecting non-perishable food items for families in need. In your lobby, there are metal bins with bags inside. Take a bag and fill it with the items attached, then bring the bag back to place it in the bin. Emmanuel's local nonprofit partnership, the Refuge, will pick up the items and distribute them as needed this holiday season.

DIAPER DASH. November 10th is Orphan Sunday. Emmanuel's Foster and Adoption Ministry plans to bless fostering and adoptive families with much needed diapers. Please purchase as many packages of diapers as you can afford and drop them off in the metal bins located in the lobby the weekend of November 9th and 10th.

To find out more details about these projects or other ways your group can serve together in our community, email Breanne Schafer at bschafer@eclife.org.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____