



GOD IS GENEROUS

How strange it is that so often we get uncomfortable when someone is generous toward us? It seems immediately our pride wells up and we get embarrassed. We don't want anyone to think or know we could use some help. That is our independent streak thinking. Independence is fine in our world, but dependence is what's needed in God's world. It's right to depend on God. It doesn't make you weak. God IS generous. We know that by seeing Jesus and how he lived. We need to learn to be like Jesus so we CAN be like Jesus for others.

Russ said that the goal of this series is to *transform the way we think about God by learning to think about him in the way Jesus did.*

What are some of the ways that Jesus thinks about God that influences you the most?

TALK ABOUT IT

The sermon talked about hearing things about God that were never actually said.

What's one belief about God you've had to unlearn—or are still unlearning?

When you think about God, do you relate to him more as generous or requiring obedience to receive his favor? Why is that?

Read Matthew 20:1-15.

What is your initial reaction to this parable? What bothers you if you're being honest?

Where do you most notice a "transactional" mindset in your faith (obedience, prayer, failure, giving, or something else)?

How does believing God's love must be earned affect the way people experience joy, fear, or shame?

Sometimes grace can offend our sense of fairness or worthiness.

Where have you felt that tension personally?

APPLY IT

If you had to live with a God who is fair or a God who is generous, which would you choose?

(For the leader: If God was unwaveringly fair, we would all perish. God's version of generosity is extravagant and inexplicable. There is nothing fair about it other than his love and grace is offered to everyone.)

How might living out generosity help others see what God is really like?

PRAY TOGETHER