

Community—A Generous Community
Study Questions

1 Peter 4:8-11, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Warm-up

1) When was the last time you felt especially fortunate? What brought on that feeling?

A little deeper

2) [1 Peter 4:8-9] How do you react when someone is helping you but they are grumbling about it or having a negative attitude?

If you go to a Chick-fil-A restaurant and say, “thank you” for something, the person serving you will often say, “my pleasure” in a happy and sincere tone. **How do you feel when you are being helped cheerfully?**

How can Peter’s instruction in verse 8 help you maintain a cheerful attitude when helping others? (Consider his instruction applied both to the helper and the one being helped.)

3) [1 Peter 4:10-11] In whose power are we to serve others? If we see a person in need, and we’re able to help, but we’re not interested in helping, what should we do?

Ultimately, where do our abilities to help—and to do so cheerfully—come from?

4) [1 Corinthians 9:7-8] When we help or give cheerfully, God promises to give us all we need. What are some examples of Jesus applying this in the Gospels? (If you can’t think of any, you could start with Mark 6:35-44.)

What are some other examples involving figures from the Old Testament or an apostle? (If nothing comes to mind, a starting point might be Acts 3:1-8)

Bringing it home

5) [Psalm 112] Take a moment to read Psalm 112 (perhaps split it into two, so each person reads 5 verses). What sort of perspective (of both mind and heart) do you think it would take to live generously without fear?

What part(s) of this seem most difficult or dangerous to you? What do you think would help move you closer to fearless generosity?

6) Is there anything you’ve been doing begrudgingly for others? Where is your mind focused when this happens—are you doing it out of your own strength/purpose, or out of God’s?

(If what you’re doing is not from God, consider giving it up and making yourself available for something that is.)

7) Is there anything you feel God has been inspiring you to do, but you just haven’t committed to doing it yet?

What do you need to make the commitment? Consider praying with others about it.