

Week 3 Small Group: Abundance > Comfort

Next Steps
October 18, 2020

Opening Prayer:

We have come together to share, to grow and to change.

May we all feel safe with each other. Safe to explore the scriptures and question. Safe to consider new ideas.

Safe to share our lives with each other, and with our amazing God. Amen.

Quote:

Gentleness, self-sacrifice and generosity are the exclusive possession of no one race or religion. Mahatma Gandhi

Breaking the Ice:

Can you remember your attitude towards money as a child? Did that change as you earned your own money? How might this mindset still be affecting the way you manage your money?

Wrestling with the Word:

Read: Malachi 3:10 (for context read Malachi 3: 6-12)

- What attitude do these verses reveal about the people?
- What might it mean that someone has robbed God? What does this principle teach us about God? About people? About money?
- God does not need our sacrifices and offerings, so how does this text lift up why this matters?

Next Steps:

- During COVID-19 many of us experienced things that did not make us comfortable. What was the motivation for doing things out of your comfort zone? Did anything lead to something “greater than” being comfortable?
- The primary reason people choose not to give is fear. How might the statements in Malachi, by God when it comes to generosity, “I can be trusted” and “I can be tested” affect our fear?
- Do you have any systematic habits of generosity? What are they?
- What principles can we learn from this passage to apply to our giving today?

Prayer for the Week:

Generous God, help us recognize all we have as a gift from you. Help us see the hidden blessing around us, so we can give out of our abundance, rather than trying to keep ourselves comfortable. Let our actions become contagious so that the needs are many are not just met, but instead cared for abundantly. Amen.