

BE RICH
WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE
"GIVE"

READ

This week we started a new series titled "Be Rich", it is more than a series, it is also an initiative we are doing with churches around the country. Be Rich is built around three ideas: give, serve and love. This week we focused on how we can give to leverage what we have for the benefit of others.

Helping you experience grace and discover purpose is our mission. We talked about grace a lot in our last series. Grace is about love and forgiveness that is found in Jesus. This week we focused on the second part of our mission, discovering purpose.

According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, purpose is something we move toward. We start with our basic survival needs, as these are met we begin to think about and search for purpose. We want to do something that matters. Andy Stanley shares an important idea about purpose, "Purpose is a means to an end".

The purpose of anything is a means to an end. The purpose of a broom is a clean floor, it is not the broom. You cannot be both the means and the end. To find purpose you have to get past yourself. Instead of asking "what's in it for me?", instead ask, "Who am I here for?". Once you find the answer you can become the means to whatever end they need.

The best example of a purposeful life can be found in Jesus. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). "...*the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28). His purpose wasn't defined by himself but by others. Jesus is a means to an end. The end is grace, forgiveness, life, heaven, eternity, healing and wholeness for other people.

Paul is one of many who experienced this. Paul started out as a violent enemy of the church but after an encounter with Jesus became one of its core leaders. Paul's life became a means to an end that wasn't him. He discovered purpose as he spent his life starting churches so other people could experience life changing grace through Jesus.

In one of Paul's letters he instructed Timothy how to talk with people about money.

1 Timothy 6:17-18

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

If you want to have purpose you have to leverage yourself for more than yourself. Here Paul is talking not only about money, but also time and energy. If we want our time, talent, treasure, and ultimately lives to matter, to have purpose, then they have to be used for more than just ourselves. We have to be generous.

Generosity is an advance decision. You don't accidentally become generous, you choose to. You will never miss what you give, you miss what you waste. This week we kicked off the Be Rich series by receiving a special offering that we will give 100% away to local non-profits. Our church has a purpose and it's not us. We are here to love and serve others. We invite you to start to experience purpose by using your life as a means to help someone in need experience hope.

DISCUSS

Just for fun take the concept of "Purpose is a means to an end" and apply it to other things in life, for example the purpose of a broom is a clean floor...

Reflect on someone in your life whose life is a means to an end for others, who uses their time, talent or treasure for the benefit of others. Share about this with your group.

Share about a time when you used your time, talent or treasure for the good of someone else.

Can you relate to the statement "You will never miss what you give, you miss what you waste"?

How might your life look different if you started asking "Who am I here for?" to help discover your purpose.

Brainstorm with your group ideas of how you can you leverage your time, talent or treasure for someone else this week?

PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP

Pray that each person would decide in advance to be generous, that we would be looking for opportunities to leverage our lives for the benefit of others.

PRAY FOR FCC

Pray for us to show outrageous generosity that will impact our community through this Be Rich series and beyond.

PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

Pray for our global partners around the world, that they would leverage their time, talent and treasure to help others experience hope.