

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Note: The weekend of June 10/11 will be the last weekend for which we will write Discovery Questions before we take a summer break. We'll resume again in the fall. If your group plans to continue meeting, consider going to friends.church/books-resources/ and check out "RightNow Media" for some studies.

David and the Offering for the Temple

"Pressure Points" Series

June 3/4, 2017

Main Idea

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and power...everything in heaven and earth is yours."

1 Chronicles 29:11

Discovery Questions

1. Have you ever had a bad experience with "borrowing" something from someone? Either someone "borrowed" something from you, and didn't return it in good shape, or you "borrowed" something from someone else, and something happened to it? Share that experience with your group.

This week we'll look at one of the last events in David's life: the raising of money and resources for the building of the temple. David wanted to build a temple—a physical house—for God. God would not allow David to do it, but instead told David that his son Solomon—the successor to the throne—could. In order to help Solomon out, David collected money from the people to put towards the temple.

For Discovery Questions today, we'll specifically consider the prayer David offers up to God after the people donate money for the building of God's temple. In this prayer, David talks about how God is the ultimate owner of all things. This will set up the discussion about our own views about our resources.

2. Read 1 Chronicles 28:10-17.¹ What do we learn about God from this passage? List all of the things David tells us about God. What stands out to you the most about what David says?

A major focus of this passage is how God is the ultimate giver of all things, and all things ultimately come from him. It's with this in mind that we ask the following questions.

3. To what degree was a life of generosity modeled for you as you were growing up? Were your parents / mentors generally generous people or not? How did their generosity (or lack thereof) show itself? What impact did that have on you?

¹ The book of 1 Chronicles is an alternate telling of the events in 1 and 2 Samuel. 1 Chronicles look at David's life from a different perspective, and contains some details not included in 1 and 2 Samuel.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

4.
 - a. In general, would you consider yourself a generous person? Why or why not?
 - b. How aware are you of the idea that all that we've been given ultimately comes from God? What makes you answer the way that you do?
 - c. If you were to see all your finances as "on loan" or "borrowed" from God, how would that effect how you spend your money every week? What tangible things would you do with your money if you really grabbed hold of that principle?

5. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." In this verse Jesus is saying that we become invested emotionally in what we invest in financially: we focus our attention on where we spend our money.
 - a. How have you seen this principle to be true in your own life? How does this principle help you understand the importance of being "rich" towards others?
 - b. What gets in the way of living that way? What can you do to overcome those obstacles?

As you close, pray that God would help all of us become more generous towards those who are in need, and towards those efforts that build God's Kingdom by reaching those who don't know Jesus.

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DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Leader Guide

1. Have you ever had a bad experience with “borrowing” something from someone? Either someone “borrowed” something from you, and didn’t return it in good shape, or you “borrowed” something from someone else, and something happened to it? Share that experience with your group.

This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.

This week we’ll look at one of the last events in David’s life: the raising of money and resources for the building of the temple. David wanted to build a temple—a physical house—for God. God would not allow David to do it, but instead told David that his son Solomon—the successor to the throne—could. In order to help Solomon out, David collected money from the people to put towards the temple.

For Discovery Questions today, we’ll specifically consider the prayer David offers up to God after the people donate money for the building of God’s temple. In this prayer, David talks about how God is the ultimate owner of all things. This will set up the discussion about our own views about our resources.

2. Read 1 Chronicles 28:10-17.² What do we learn about God from this passage? List all of the things David tells us about God. What stands out to you the most about what David says?

As stated in the footnote, though we haven’t spent any time in 1 Chronicles in this series through the life of David, the book of 1 Chronicles is an alternate retelling of the events of David’s life. It looks at David’s life from a different perspective, including details that we don’t find in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. It’s related to 1 and 2 Samuel like the gospel of Luke, for example, is related to the gospel of Matthew.

Our passage today is rather straightforward. We’ve listed a few things it says about God; you can discover the rest on your own.

- *God is eternal (v. 10)*
- *To God belongs greatness, power, glory, majesty and splendor (v. 11)*
- *Everything on this earth is God’s (v. 11)*
- *God is exalted above all (v. 11)*
- *All wealth and all honor come from God (v. 12)*
- *Etc.*

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.

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3. To what degree was a life of generosity modeled for you as you were growing up? Were your parents / mentors generally generous people or not? How did their generosity (or lack thereof) show itself? What impact did that have on you?

Our parents and those closest to us have probably had the biggest impact on our own generosity. If our parents were generous, we are probably more likely to be generous; if our parents were not very generous, that has probably impacted us as well. Talk about the models you had for generosity, and the effects they had on you.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.

- 4. a. In general, would you consider yourself a generous person? Why or why not?**
b. How aware are you of the idea that all that we've been given ultimately comes from God? What makes you answer the way that you do?
c. If you were to see all your finances as "on loan" or "borrowed" from God, how would that effect how you spend your money every week? What tangible things would you do with your money if you really grabbed hold of that principle?

For part "c," move towards very tangible things, like, "I would be more willing to share money with someone on the side of the road," or "I would buy the Starbucks for the person in line behind me," or, "I would give more to Christian organizations." Note that the Bible doesn't condemn wealth or even spending money on ourselves, but biblical faith mandates that we also share with those who are less fortunate than us.

Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

5. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." In this verse Jesus is saying that we become invested emotionally in what we invest in financially: we focus our attention on where we spend our money.

- a. How have you seen this principle to be true in your own life? How does this principle help you understand the importance of being "rich" towards others?**
b. What gets in the way of living that way? What can you do to overcome those obstacles?

If we spend a lot of money on clothes, we will care a lot about our clothes. Those who have bought a house of any size find themselves caring deeply about their house. We are invested emotionally in things we are invested in financially. The more we share with others, the more we are to be invested in them.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.

As you close, pray that God would help all of us become more generous towards those who are in need, and towards those efforts that build God's Kingdom by reaching those who don't know Jesus.