



## Part 1 Discussion Guide

### Face the Issue:

This week we began a new series called “Generous”. As we enter the holiday season, we will hear a lot about being generous and generosity. What does it mean to be generous and how can we be generous in a world where being greedy and selfish seems to be the norm?

Jeremy pointed us to the answer and that answer is to do what God has commanded us to do. Jeremy pointed out that the source of generosity is more important than the act of generosity and that source is God Himself. When we are being generous with others we are acting like Jesus who is the image of God the Father.

So just how “generous” is God? Can we truly trust Him to be generous with us?

*What fears do you think exist about God’s desire to provide good things for us?*

### Into the Word:

#### Read Matthew 6:25-34 and 7:7-11

*Jesus acknowledges that we worry about many things in life. What are the specific worries that Jesus names?*

*What threat does the lack of these things hold for us?*

*How do your worries about these things get expressed?*

*What change of perspective is Jesus offering to his listeners as he speaks about the birds and the lilies of the field?*

*in verse 26 Jesus talks about our value to God. Why is it sometimes—or even often—hard to believe we are deeply valued by God?*

*What practices might help you come to believe more deeply that you are incredibly valuable to God?*

*What does Jesus mean by his call to “seek first [God’s] kingdom and His righteousness”?*

*In Matthew 7:7-11 Jesus continues the conversation about God’s desire to provide for us. What does Jesus say about God’s desire to give us good gifts?*

*What difference might it make in your life to trust in God’s goodness and generosity?*

*Even though God gives gifts in abundance without our asking, Jesus suggests that our part in receiving God’s good gifts is in asking, seeking and knocking. Why might these be important activities for us?*

**Apply The Word**

*In a time of quiet, open your hands as a symbol of openness to God's generosity. Ask God to help you let go of your worries. turn each worry over to God's loving care. as you continue to sit with hands open in prayer, ask God to increase your capacity to trust in His desire to provide all you need. With hands open, receive God's care for you, God's dearly loved child.*