

RELATIVELY GENEROUS

CHRISTMAS OFFERING - 2017

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- You can find some on page 6 [here](#).
- What is a food you enjoy at Christmas time?

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- How does our world define the word, “rich?”
- What personal or cultural stories can you recall of people “losing everything” when it came to finances?
- What percent of their income do you think the average American gives to charity? Guess before looking at the answer at the end of these notes.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

*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. In this way they will **lay up treasure for themselves** as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Money is uncertain. God is certain. Share a time in your life when money proved to be that to you. Uncertain.
- What is one of your first memories of encountering extreme poverty or extreme riches? What kind of impact did it have on you?
- How has giving helped you put your hope in God and not in money?
- How do you feel about “the poor” being asked to contribute at church in the same way as those who have more? How is it dishonoring or honoring to them?
- When has someone else’s level of generosity caused you to second guess yours? Why?
- How did you feel the last time you were extravagant towards God? How did you decide that you were actually being extravagant, and it wasn’t just a large number?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Jesus, your extravagance challenges me. Help me rise to Your example. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- When you have a discretionary financial decision this week that has to do with generosity, decided what you are going to do, then double it.

Organization type	% of households giving	Average donation if giving	% of income if giving
All	67%	\$1,872	2.2%
Religious	45%	\$1,703	1.8%
Secular	56%	\$863	0.9%

<http://nccs.urban.org/data-statistics/charitable-giving-america-some-facts-and-figures>