

PART FOUR: ICNU // Macedonian Churches

//INTRODUCTION//

We are in week four of our series, "ICNU". Over the past four weeks we have looked at various stories in the Old Testament that all have had the common thread of: God seeing in us what we sometimes do not yet see in ourselves. This week we will be looking in the New Testament, at how Paul celebrated the Macedonian church's generosity. We will also celebrate the historic generosity of Newbreak Church.

//WEEKEND REWIND//

As you have had time to reflect and think about this past week's message, what are the things that either challenged you or caused you to take action in your own life?

//WEEKLY REVIEW//

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (The Message)

In the passage we see Paul describe how generosity was because of God's working in the church. It was because of God's grace. It's important for us to understand that generosity is not simply obedience to a command, but is initiated by God and reflects what HE is doing in His church and in His people.

1. When it comes to generosity, where is God currently working in your life?

//DISCUSSION QUESTIONS//

2. "Our generosity reflects God's transformation of our hearts." Discuss how God may have worked through an act of generosity to cause a "heart-change" in your life?
3. What are some of the roadblocks that keep you from being generous?
4. Where are you on the roadmap to generosity?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

- **First Time:** This is new to me so I commit to giving to Newbreak once in the next 90 days.
- **Occasional:** I am ready for the next step so I commit to giving some money every time I am at church for the next 90 days.
- **Intentional:** Now that I am in the habit of giving, I commit to giving a set % of my income to Newbreak, whether I am able to make it to church or not for the next 90 days.
- **Tither:** I am ready to increase my giving and commit to giving 10% of my income to Newbreak for the next 90 days.
- **Extravagant:** I want to become even more generous and commit an amount above and beyond my normal tithes to Newbreak in offerings that will further the Kingdom of God both locally and globally.

5. What are some practical steps you can take to move forward on the generosity road map?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

- **Prayer:** Ask God to show you how you can be more generous.
- **Budget:** Look at your budget and ask yourself the question, “What changes do I need to make in order to be more generous?”
- **Join a Financial Support Life Group:**
 - **Newbreak 101:** This is a great place to start if you’re new to Newbreak and want to get a better understanding of what it means to be generous.
 - **Financial Peace University:** We all need a plan for our money. This group presents God’s plan, which includes practical steps for getting rid of debt, managing our money, and spending of money, wealth and giving.

//MOVING FORWARD//

Being generous takes great sacrifice. It is absolutely counter-cultural in today’s society. Imagine how much our generosity, not only as Newbreak, but individually, can make a difference in the lives of others. Imagine what our schools could look like in this neighborhood if our generosity increased to the point where we could make sure that no child was ever hungry. Imagine what it could look like if those who were victims of torture in their country of origin found a place here to find healing and a new beginning. God sees in Newbreak a group of people who are radically passionate about generously giving to show this world His love.

//CLOSING PRAYER//

Pray for each other, and for Newbreak, that God would make us a church that is known for our radical generosity.

//CHANGING YOUR MIND//

“You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us—in one stroke he became poor and we became rich.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 (The Message)