

# ONE

WEEK 8

LIFE GROUP  
FACILITATOR GUIDE

## // Announcements // Upcoming Events

March 12th - Life Group Facilitator and Host Home Training

March 15th - Winter Baptisms

Week of March 15th - Barefoot Sunday outreach prep in your life group (last week of winter life groups)

March 28/29 - Barefoot Sunday Weekend

March 20-22 - Men's Desert Retreat

## // Week 8 // Main Emphasis: Give it Away // Ezekiel 47:1-12

Over the past eight weeks, we have been exploring the ways that God wants to further unite all of us here at Newbreak as “ONE.” In the last month we talked about three of the four characteristics of Newbreak’s approach to ministry, how we “Keep it Accessible,” “Do it Together,” and “Make it Better.” As we learned three weeks ago, committing to “Keep it Accessible” means that we don’t ever want to do something that would make God or church out of reach for people. Two weeks ago, we talked about how “none of us is as smart as all of us” and in order to accomplish God’s mission for us, we need to collaborate and “Do it Together.” Last week, we talked about how we “Make It Better” when we fully embrace God’s calling and plan for our lives and how His plan has always been that we will collectively continue to grow as believers. This week we are going to talk about what it means to “Give It Away.” At Newbreak, we value generosity. We define “Give It Away” as developing hearts that are motivated to give of all that God has given us so that we may serve others.

## // Opening Prayer // 5 minutes

**FACILITATOR NOTE:** Open this week by praying for God to continually open our minds and hearts to how He is uniting us as ONE church focused on ONE mission.

## // Lean In // 5-7 minutes

Last week, we talked about how God has each of us on a path of “Making it Better.” He wants all of us to grow and mature and not simply settle for good enough. How have you processed this and/or taken steps to live this out over the past week?

## // Look Down // 15 minutes

### Read Ezekiel 47:1-12

This passage of scripture describes a vision the prophet Ezekiel had where he saw a river flowing out from the temple. As Ezekiel puts words to what he saw, we get a picture of what a life poured out in generosity can look like. Ezekiel saw God as the source of life-giving and healing waters and describes how that river flowing into the Dead Sea brings life and vitality to others. Notice in the passage how those waters were not pooling and stagnant but were always flowing outwards. Just as the water was flowing from the holy area of the temple, our generosity flows out of our commitment to right living. This flowing, running, living water from the temple cleansed, healed and restored everything in its path.

When it comes to generosity, we have to understand this isn't simply about our finances; it is about our commitment to being generous with our entire lives, which includes our time, our talents and our treasure. In the passage, the water was not flowing from only one direction out of the temple; similarly, generosity is meant to flow from every direction of our life. If I am "dry" though, I will not have anything to give away. We have a saying around Newbreak, "I can't give away what I don't have." Generosity is to be the free-flowing stream that comes from us as a result of our commitment to right living. The bottom line here is that I am not meant to be a puddle of stagnant water, but a life-giving river that flows out to my community.

**QUESTION 1: *Talk about a time you've experienced someone's generosity outside of financial blessings and how that changed your perspective on what it means to be generous?***

**QUESTION 2: *As you reflect on the idea that generosity is meant to flow from every direction of our lives, in what areas of your life do you see yourself already being very generous?***

## // Look In // 15 minutes

When we as Christ-followers are actively engaging in a generosity journey, we will find our trust in God growing deeper. That's because we have so many voices in the world clamoring at us to "not" be generous and being counter-cultural requires greater trust in God. As a result, as our relationship with God grows, so does our capacity for generosity. Along the journey we will learn that generosity isn't dependent on bank statements or our availability of time or the development of our talents, but upon how much faith we have in God. Ezekiel 47:4 says, "He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist." Each step of measuring in this passage is testing our faith to go further and further, until we are swimming and have to fully trust God. This is a process – a generosity journey.

This journey begins with small steps but over time it grows into an unstoppable force. Remember in the passage the water that flowed from the temple began with a trickle and it grew into a mighty river.

**QUESTION 3: *How do you believe others see you in your current season of life? Are you a parched desert or are you someone who is always giving life and generously pouring into the lives of others?***

**QUESTION 4: *As you consider your own generosity journey and your current capacity to be generous in your time, talent and treasures, can you think of an area of your life where you need to trust God a little more so that you can grow in your faith?***

**// Live It Out // 15 minutes**

Generosity is what God wants for us, not from us. The potential for radical transformation is why we have committed so much time, effort and energy to teaching on generosity in the past couple years at Newbreak. As a church, when we are generous with all that God has given us, we can be a part of His redemptive, life-changing work on the earth. God wants to use each and every one of us as a life-giving, healing river that pours out into a parched land.

Ezekiel 47:9 says that, “Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows.” Our generosity as a church and as individuals produces constant waves of new life. Everything we give away as a church and as individuals has the capacity to reproduce regularly. It’s our goal at Newbreak that we develop an attitude of “giving it away” and that we as a church and as individuals are known for our generosity.

**QUESTION 5: *What are some of the ways that you currently give away your time, your talent, and/or your treasures?***

**QUESTION 6: *Consider some of the following practical steps. Which of these could you begin taking to start living a life that is more generous?***

**SUGGESTED PRACTICAL STEPS:**

**Time:** commit to intentionally investing in an individual in your life – whether at church, at work or in your neighborhood – or in a Life Group at Newbreak so that you can practice “giving away your faith.”

**Talent:** commit to consistently serving on a team inside or outside of church in an area that God has gifted me with.

**Treasure:** commit to the next step on the generosity road-map, or to take some step of generosity that I have never taken before in my life—one that carries out God’s mission.

**// Key Memory Verse // Ezekiel 47:9**

“Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.”

**// Closing Prayer // 5-7 minutes**

Take some time and share any prayer requests. As you close this week, take time to pray that God would help us be individuals that have an attitude of “giving it away” and that we as individuals and as a church are known for our generosity.