

INFUSION # 18

JOYFUL GENEROSITY

Outreach Influence Team

Meeting Preparation

For the best experience of learning and transformation, please take some time to do the following three things:

Read: *Organic Disciples* (Chapters 16-18)

- Chapter 16 - “What More Could He Give”
- Chapter 17 - “The Adventure of a Generous Life”
- Chapter 18 - “Generosity Reveals the Presence of Jesus in Our Lives and in the World”

Also, read pages 64-67 in *Organic Outreach for Churches*, and reflect on the Mind Shift from Famine to Funding.

Pray: Think of all the ways God has been generous with you and give Him praise for His consistent goodness in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to become more and more generous in ways that others will recognize the goodness and kindness of Jesus.

Action: As you get ready for your Outreach Influence Team meeting, take 10 minutes to reflect on where people are generous or stingy (guarded) with their time, words, or resources. Note how generosity is attractive and how it stands out in our selfish culture.

Infusion Focus



In each of the infusions built on the content of *Organic Disciples*, we focus on one of the seven markers of spiritual growth. We will ask three questions: 1) How did Jesus model and teach this marker? 2) How should I follow the example of my Lord in this area of my spiritual life? 3) How should this lead me on mission with Jesus? To put it simply, we will **learn** from Jesus, **live** like Jesus, and **follow** Jesus on mission.

In this infusion, we will look at what Jesus taught about joyful generosity. Our Lord was more generous than we can imagine or dream. He left the glory of heaven, loved without boundaries, and gave His life for sinful people. His example and teaching call us to be generous with all He has placed in our care. As we do this, the world notices. Few things stand out more than a person who is generous with their time, encouragement, care, and resources. When we live this way, with glad and joyful hearts, we become a witness to the presence of Jesus in our lives. This opens the door for Gospel conversations and impact.



Opening Scripture and Prayer

Read: Philippians 2:6-11 (2 minutes)

Pray: Have someone lead in a prayer thanking Jesus for His humble entrance into this world and willing death on the cross for our sins. Also, pray that we can learn from His example and increase our desire to be generous with others.



The One-Degree Rule: Four Minutes to Share It (8 minutes)

Take time in pairs and have each person respond to the questions below. Each person should keep their sharing to around 4 minutes.

- On a scale of 1-10, how hot is your passion for lost people, and what can you do to increase your temperature by one degree in the coming week?
- What gets in the way of Christians being generous with those who are not followers of Jesus?
- Who is one person in your life who is far from Jesus, and how can you extend generosity to this person?

My Infusion Strategy: Follow-up (6 minutes)

Take time to honestly discuss these two questions:

- What did you do in the last 30 days to infuse your Level 4 leaders with a vision to make humble service (last month's theme) a part of their life and ministry?
- How are you seeking to model humble service in a way that will influence your Level 4 leaders, and help them do the same with those they influence?



Share: (8 Minutes)

- Tell about a Christian in your life who has been a great example of joyful generosity and explain how their life has been a witness to help lost people see and encounter Jesus?
 - What are two or three ways your church could increase its witness and impact on non-believers in your community by extending bold and consistent generosity?
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Learning Theme 1: Jesus Gave Up... And So Can We
(8 minutes)

Discuss: How did Jesus show us what it means to be joyfully generous when He did each of these?

- Left the glory of heaven and came to this world...
- Traded angelic praise for human mocking...
- Gave up omnipresent existence for the confines of a human body (in the womb and through His life on earth) ...
- Set aside infinite power to be fed and protected by a newlywed couple...
- Surrendered heavenly light for the darkness of a tomb...

Learning Theme 2: Stepping Into Joyful Generosity (7 minutes)

Discuss: What are specific ways you can take each of these steps, and how might this have an impact on your growth and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus?

- Giving consistently and generously to God and His work in the world through the local church...
- Responding to divine promptings when the Holy Spirit moves you to give to others freely and generously...
- Investing in eternity by financially supporting outreach ministries and mission work...
- Checking your heart consistently to be sure you are not falling in love with the stuff of this world...
- Enjoying and celebrating the wonderful things God has provided for you...
- Developing a habit of giving things away...

BONUS: (5 minutes) The Mind Shift from Famine to Funding. Many churches invest huge resources in programs and ministries for those who are already followers of Jesus. They give time, people, and money to grow believers. This is a good investment, but the result is often a famine of time, energy and money to the mission of Jesus. We need to fund the work of outreach locally and mission globally. This is a shift that many churches need to make.

Discuss:

- What does your church budget look like? What percentage of the budget is spent on those who already know the Savior and how much is invested in those who still need to meet Jesus?
 - How can you direct more time, people energy, and finances to ministries that are designed to fulfill Jesus' call to be His witnesses locally and all over the world?
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Planning

Discussion and Collaboration: (8 minutes)

- How much of your church budget is directed toward people and ministries that are truly outwardly focused? How can we increase the percentage of our budget for outreach?
- How can you personally increase your financial generosity toward the work of Jesus in reaching people who are not yet His followers?
- What outreach event, ministry, or strategy are you engaging in (in your area of ministry) in the next three months and how can others (OIT members) pray and support you?
- What is happening for outreach in the life of the whole church in the next six months and how can the members of the OIT help this succeed? How can you all be praying for a powerful work of God through this outreach?

My Infusion Strategy: How will I infuse what I have learned about joyful generosity into my Level 4 Ministry Leaders and beyond? (4 minutes)

*Reminder: we recommend the Cup of Coffee or Shot of Espresso agendas to condense this material into manageable training for multiplication with your leaders and volunteers.

Identify:
Person/Group/Team

Write Down:
Infusion Strategy/Action

Closing Prayer: Pray together for... (4 minutes)

- Thank God for His lavish generosity toward you and His people (the Church).
 - Ask for the Holy Spirit to convict each of you to grow in generosity.
 - Pray for commitment to take what you have learned in this infusion time and share it with your Level 4 ministry people.
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Read: Philippians 2:6-11 (3 minutes)

Pray: Have someone lead in a prayer thanking Jesus for His humble entrance into this world and willing death on the cross for our sins. Also, pray that we can learn from His example and increase our desire to be generous with others.



The One-Degree Rule: Three Minutes to Share It
(6 minutes)

Take time in pairs and have each person respond to the questions below. Each person should keep their sharing to less than 3 minutes.

- On a scale of 1-10, how hot is your passion for lost people, and what can you do to increase your temperature by one degree in the coming week?
 - Who is one person in your life who is far from Jesus, and how can you extend generosity to this person?
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Share: (4 minutes)

- Tell about a Christian in your life who has been a great example of joyful generosity and explain how their life has been a witness to help lost people see and encounter Jesus.
 - What are two or three ways your church could increase its witness and impact on non-believers in your community by extending bold and consistent generosity?
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Learning Theme 1: Jesus Gave Up... And So Can We (5 minutes)

Discuss: How did Jesus show us what it means to be joyfully generous when He did one of these:

- Left the glory of heaven and came to this world...
- Traded angelic praise for human mocking...
- Gave up omnipresent existence for the confines of a human body (in the womb and through His life on earth) ...
- Set aside infinite power to be fed and protected by a newlywed couple...
- Surrendered heavenly light for the darkness of a tomb...

Learning Theme 2: Stepping Into Joyful Generosity (5 minutes)

Discuss: What are specific ways you can take one of these steps, and how might this have an impact on your growth and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus?

- Giving consistently and generously to God and His work in the world through the local church...
- Responding to divine promptings when the Holy Spirit moves you to give to others freely and generously...
- Investing in eternity by financially supporting outreach ministries and mission work...
- Checking your heart consistently to be sure you are not falling in love with the stuff of this world...
- Developing a habit of giving things away...



Discussion and Collaboration (4 minutes)

- How much of your church budget is directed toward people and ministries that are truly outwardly focused? How can we increase the percentage of our budget for outreach?
- How can you personally increase your financial generosity toward the work of Jesus in reaching people who are not yet His followers?

Closing Prayer: Pray together for... (3 minutes)

- Thank God for His lavish generosity toward you and His people (the Church).
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to convict each of you to grow in generosity.
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Read: Philippians 2:7 (2 minutes)

Pray: Have someone lead in a prayer thanking Jesus for His humble entrance into this world and willing death on the cross for our sins. Also, pray that we can learn from His example and increase our desire to be generous with others.



The One-Degree Rule: One Minute to Share It (3 minutes)

Take time in pairs and have each person respond to the question below. Each person should keep their sharing to less than 1 minute.

- On a scale of 1-10, how hot is your passion for lost people, and what can you do to increase your temperature by one degree in the coming week?
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Share: (2 minutes)

- Have someone tell about a Christian in their life who has been a great example of joyful generosity and have them explain how this person's life has been a witness to help lost people see and encounter Jesus?
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Learning Theme: Stepping Into Joyful Generosity (5 minutes)

Discuss: What are specific ways you can take one of these steps and how might this have an impact on your growth and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus?

- Giving consistently and generously to God and His work in the world through the local church...
 - Responding to divine promptings when the Holy Spirit moves you to give to others freely and generously...
 - Investing in eternity by financially supporting outreach ministries and mission work...
 - Checking your heart consistently to be sure you are not falling in love with the stuff of this world...
 - Developing a habit of giving things away...
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Discussion and Collaboration: (2 minutes)

- How can you personally increase your financial generosity toward the work of Jesus in reaching people who are not yet His followers?
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Closing Prayer: Pray together for... (1 minute)

- Ask the Holy Spirit to convict each of you to grow in generosity.