



Excited & Scared | Shawn Johnson | 12.02.2023

Weekly Study

## SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

**What's your favorite way to show up for others?**

**What do you need most this week?**

**Share a time you experienced God's perfect provision and timing in your life through someone else's generosity and love?**

## GROW

Welcome to week three of our series, Kingdom Builders. This week Shawn gave the second half of his two-part message, *Excited & Scared*, where he talked about the link between sacrifice and generosity, the different stages of giving, and how to navigate/process emotions that come up when answering the question, "God, based on everything you've given us, what would you have us do this year to build your kingdom, not just mine?" We serve a loving God that wants to provide for us and move through us to bless others - he never wants to take from us. As Shawn puts it, "It's not about what you have and how much you give away, it's about trusting God with what you have."

**Read Mark 12:41-44, 1 Chronicles 29:14-18**

The world says generosity is about how much you give. God says generosity is about what you give and why you give it. Jesus was counting hearts in the treasury, not money - that's the only way two coins could possibly hold more value than all of the riches given by others. The widow gave her whole heart in her offering which turns out to be the only thing God wants but doesn't have - the heart of every person.

Life is hard, and many of us are doing our very best just to get by. This can make generosity difficult at times. We've all been there. We tell ourselves, "Next week or next month after this thing goes away." Or "maybe next year if I land a better job," and so on. The problem with this mindset is that when it's time to shift seasons we end up bringing our unchanged hearts with us. Sometimes we're more generous on paper in more successful seasons, sometimes we're not. Either way, God still doesn't have our whole heart. Generosity is a heart issue, not a resource issue. If you can't give when you have nothing, you won't give when you have everything.

**What is your takeaway from the two passages? Explain.**

**When you're thinking about being generous, what does that conversation sound like/process look like? Have you ever asked yourself, "Where's my heart at?" Explain.**

**How has the Lord "tested your heart" when it comes to generosity? What do you think He found? Explain.**

M O V E

**Read 1 Chronicles 21:24, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

Shawn acknowledged that there is no shortage of opinions, emotions, and responses when it comes to thinking about and talking about giving. Shawn is often excited and scared, and shared that it's okay to feel both. We experience excitement because we want to be generous, help those in need, and build the kingdom of God. And scared because being generous often costs us something we deeply value. Shawn mentions that God likely prefers for us to experience both. God wants us to give with joyful hearts. Being excited is usually the easy part. We've all experienced the joy that comes from giving to others. But being scared but saying yes anyways requires more faith. God doesn't want us to be scared, experience pain, or drown during hard times. Rather, asking us to be generous beyond what we think we're capable of does two things. First, it deepens our relationship with, and strengthens our trust in him. It allows us to eliminate idols in our life, relinquish any false sense of control we may have, and truly lean into the provision, protection, and love that God has for us. Second, trusting God with everything we have stretches us in a way that makes space for God to move in, and through our lives. God says that his power is perfect in our weakness. This is why Paul "boasts" in his weakness - he knows God has to show up for things to work out. And he always shows up.

**How do you need God's strength to show up in your weakness right now?**

**Do you trust that if God called to be generous in a radical way, He would fill in and meet your needs where your resources might fall short? Explain.**

**Throughout this series, has God been stirring up your heart to be generous in any particular way? What's on your heart? What has that process been like?**

**If you're on the fence about giving, what's the biggest thing holding you back right now?**

**P R A Y**

God as this year comes to an end we thank you for your provision in our lives, however big or small. We know that everything comes from you, and you have entrusted a portion to us for a time. Would you begin to speak to us and reveal what you'd like for us to return to help build your kingdom. Would you stir up a spirit of radical generosity within your people this year. Would you challenge us to stretch ourselves in a way that makes space for you to do in our lives what only you can do, trusting that in our weakness, you are strong.