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WEEK ONE: ACTS 9:1-19

WEEK TWO: ACTS 9:20-30

WEEK THREE: ACTS 13:1-12

WEEK FOUR: ACTS 16:1-15

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The story of the Church began with the Apostles who had spent three and a half years with Jesus. The story of the Church continues with the introduction of a new character, Paul. Jesus transforms Saul into Paul and calls him to share the gospel. Paul planted churches all over the known world, the ripples of which carry all the way to us here today. Join us as we learn about the Second Act and the role that we play in it.

WEEK ONE

ACTS 9:1-19

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

Can you think of an example where one decision or one event totally changed the trajectory for a family, people group, or organization? One event can have such a huge impact on the future.

One of the most famous examples of this in sports has to do with the trade of one player and how that trade impacted two different teams.



Actually... it wasn't a trade. In December of 1919, Babe Ruth was sold by the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees. Prior to Babe leaving Boston, the Red Sox had won 5 of the first 15 World Series averaging one every three years.

Then, the ownership decided to sell Babe Ruth for a little bit of cash. After winning 5 of the first 15 world championships, the Red Sox then went 86 years before they won another World Series. During those same 86 years, the New York Yankees, the team that bought the rights to Babe Ruth, had a different experience.

The Yankees hadn't won a single championship before, but after gaining Babe Ruth, during the 86 year draught of the Red Sox, the Yankees won the world series 26 times. *26 times.*

One player, one trade, had a massive and lasting impact on both sides of the deal.

This is kind of what happened in this story about Saul, who would soon become known as Paul. Saul was playing for the “team” known as the Pharisees or the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was a leadership council in Jerusalem that had put themselves in charge of protecting their way of life by controlling how the Hebrew people interacted with the Law. The Law became central to everything going on in their society instead of God, and protecting the Law became crucial.

When Jesus showed up on the scene this became problematic for them. He was talking about fulfilling the Law. What He was talking about put the Pharisees way of life at risk, and they felt that something had to be done.

They thought killing Jesus would take care of it, but things just got worse because Jesus’ followers believed that He had been resurrected from the dead, which half of the Sanhedrin didn’t even believe was possible.

To keep the Sanhedrin together, and to keep their power intact, something had to be done about those claiming Jesus was the Messiah. So, Saul was given authority to hunt them down.

Saul was on one of these trips when he was impacted by Jesus.

Saul was certain he was on the right side of history as he was persecuting the followers of Jesus. The Sanhedrin, the group he was indoctrinated into, was adamant Jesus wasn’t the Messiah, and they saw these people claiming He was as very dangerous. Saul got into action and started arresting these blasphemers and overseeing their punishment.

Then one day, Jesus met him on the road, and everything changed. Saul changed. Saul believed Jesus was who He had said He was. He let go of all the hatred that had been spewed at Jesus from those around him during his training under Gamaliel.

He had encountered the living God, and he couldn't remain the same. That's just how it works.

Saul, now Paul, has switched teams and his impact was huge. Saul was a Pharisee. Paul is a follower of Jesus, a disciple who makes disciples.

If Saul didn't switch teams we wouldn't be here today. Saul became Paul, and he planted churches with the Gentiles, non-Jewish people, and because of those churches we are here today.

When Paul started planting churches, there were a few thousand followers of Jesus located in and around Jerusalem and that's it.

Today there are about 2.5 billion Christians all around the world. Paul's ministry had impact on most of them. One "player" leaving one team for another changed everything.

QUESTIONS

Have you experienced a life-changing event? How did you encounter God in or through it?

As you reflect on your spiritual journey, can you identify one of these crossroad moments that changed the trajectory of your life and faith?

As you become clear about where you are today, and as you look to the future, is there an area of your life that is out of alignment with God? What steps can you take to get into alignment? Who will you ask to help hold you accountable?

WEEK TWO

ACTS 9:20-30

²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

²³ After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

In the mid 1980's, Nintendo was transforming the home video game console market by introducing the NES. The transition from arcade games to the at home market was a huge risk to take. At the time, it had to be hard to imagine someone transitioning from paying 25 cents to play an arcade game to investing hundreds of dollars to play a game at home.

Nintendo started competing against Atari after Atari developed the 2600, a device that could play multiple games just by changing out a cartridge. What started with one option is now a \$500 billion industry.

While Nintendo and Atari were battling, a third company wanted in the game (pun intended). Sega, a long time gaming company started by two Americans overseas, wanted to be a bigger part of the video game industry. To help them break into the American market, Sega poached Nintendo executive, Bruce Lowry.

All of a sudden, Bruce, who had been with a hated competitor, was on the team. How hard was it to trust him? How hard would it be to follow him as the leader when just a few days ago he was playing for the other team?

It had to be hard for early team members to accept someone they had spent thousands of hours battling to defeat. How long would it take you to truly believe Bruce wanted what was best for his new team?

The same was true for Saul/Paul. He had an experience with Jesus that no one witnessed, but he had been the lead persecutor for the other team. It's one thing to believe in the transforming power of Jesus, and it's another thing to entrust your life to someone who had killed your friend. How do you make that switch?

That's what the early followers of Jesus were battling when Saul/Paul showed up on the scene. How could they trust him?

They didn't know God had called him to be THE light to the Gentiles. They didn't have the perspective that he would be the author of most of the New Testament of the Bible. To be fair, they didn't even know that was going to be a thing yet.

They just had to believe Saul/Paul or have someone take a risk and vouch for him. Barnabas was willing to take a risk and trust him. We don't know if Barnabas heard from God or if he just had a feeling. Think about the risk Barnabas was willing to take.

The key may have been that instead of asking, "What's the worst that can happen?"; Barnabas might have asked himself, "What's the best that can happen?" Trust can be difficult but Barnabas' trust was in the Lord, more than in Paul. He believed God had called Paul. **Trusting God is easy. He loves us and wants what's best for us.**

The other side of this is for Saul/Paul. From the very beginning Paul's life was at risk. The Jews in Damascus and the Hellenistic Jews (Greek Jews) in Jerusalem all wanted to kill Saul/Paul just a few days into his following of Jesus.

That was a testament of what was to come for Paul. Throughout his entire journey in the mission field he would encounter persecution.

Changing sides comes across as risky. **In reality, choosing not to change to Jesus' side isn't risky because the outcome is certain. It's destruction.** Paul committed his life to making as many people as possible aware of this truth.

QUESTIONS

The grace of Jesus is bigger than our past mistakes. Is there someone that the Lord is calling you to forgive?

As you take inventory of your life, is there a new follower of Jesus that you could take under your wing and disciple?

Can you think of a time that you took a risk for Jesus? Describe what happened and the impact of you stepping out in faith. Where may God be calling you to risk again?

WEEK THREE

ACTS 13:1-12

¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

⁶ They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

⁹ Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰ "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?" ¹¹ Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun."

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Humans have made their way to some of the most remote places on the planet. Edinburgh of the Seven Seas is the most remote town on the planet, located on the island of Tristan da Cunha. The town is 1,500 miles from the nearest town and 1,600 miles from any continental land. It takes 6-7 days by boat to get there... from anywhere.

This tiny island has been marginally inhabited for around 160 years. Never more than 300 people, and only recently have there been regular incursions from the outside world. Even here, there are two churches.

That isn't true of every people group, however. Of the more than 17,000 people groups in existence, it is estimated that more than 7,000 of them haven't been reached with the Gospel. That seems impossible in the world we live in. Most of us can't remember a time where the Gospel wasn't at least accessible, even if we didn't want anything to do with it.

Paul was uniquely called to serve the Gentiles. The group called the Gentiles was made up of anyone who wasn't Jewish. In the Bible, this is anyone outside God's chosen people. Paul's call was unique because before Jesus, there wasn't much worry about what would happen with the Gentiles. They were, at best, adversaries. Jesus came as a light to all people, and Jesus Himself called Paul to be a light to the Gentiles. Paul took this seriously.

In religious circles, Paul's missionary journeys are well documented. This passage explains one of them. A trip to Cyprus. Cyprus wasn't an isolated place. It was a populated island in the middle of an ancient thoroughfare. Cyprus is just 149 miles long and 62 miles wide at its widest point. For comparison, Iowa is 310 miles wide and 199 miles long.

Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark made their way all around the island. They made sure they had an opportunity to share the Gospel at every settlement.



They probably walked everywhere they went. They invested a lot of energy to make sure this small island heard the Truth. They even shared about Jesus with the “governor” or proconsul of the island.

Have you ever wondered how far you would go to share the Gospel? **Some of us would go halfway around the world on a mission trip before we would invest in sharing the Gospel with our neighbors.** Maybe some of us haven’t experienced the same Gospel as Paul. We don’t have the experience of transformation that Saul/Paul experienced, so we don’t have the drive to share the story of salvation.

Transformation always precedes testimony.

QUESTIONS

When you have a chance to share about who Jesus is to you, what do you say? How do you share your transformation story?

What would have to happen in your life for you to intentionally share the Gospel with those around you?

Would you commit to consistently praying for those who do not yet know Jesus and for opportunities to make Christ known?

WEEK FOUR

ACTS 16:1-15

¹ Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. ² The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. ³ Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river,

where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Every yes is a no to something else. Conversely, every no opens up the opportunity for a future yes. We get 168 hours every week. No more, no less. We get to use them as we see fit, but all of our decisions have consequences or costs.

When we say yes to one thing it “costs us” something we are by default saying no to. Sometimes we don’t even know what we are saying no to because our focus is on what we are committing to, but every yes is a no to all the other things we could have been doing.

You want to sleep in? Awesome, enjoy, but know that by sleeping in, you are saying no to the game or the walk in the woods or the trip to the city.

Decisions are hard to make, and frankly, many of us may struggle with some “decision fatigue.” We are sick of making decisions because of all the decisions we have been faced with since COVID.

“Decision fatigue is the decline in the quality of decisions due to making numerous choices, leading to feelings of overwhelm, brain fog, and a tendency to make impulsive or poor choices, procrastinate, or stick with defaults.”

Do you have a process for how you make decisions? Not the simple decisions like how you get to work, but the more challenging decisions. How do you make them? What information do you need? How do you process it? How do you measure the success of your decisions?

Do you ever go back and look to see how you are doing? What was the last decision you made that you can remember? How did it go? Was it worth whatever you said no to in order to make that happen?

Paul and those with him were trying to allow Jesus to guide all

their steps. They were totally dependent on Him for where they were to go and where they were not to go. Paul had ideas of where to go, maybe even what made the most sense, but Jesus isn't super caught up in being efficient.

In this passage, Paul and his friends kind of had a plan that they thought was good, but Jesus frustrated it, trying to redirect them. How do you discern when a plan being difficult to execute is Jesus trying to refocus us versus the enemy trying to distract us from our calling?

With so many decisions to make, sometimes we can just get stuck. We want to wait until it's abundantly clear that Jesus wants us to do this specific thing. It is unlikely that Jesus is going to show up at the foot of your bed while you are sleeping to give you instructions. It's possible, just not likely.

If we wait around for that to happen, we end up doing nothing which is exactly what the enemy would prefer.

Paul gives us a good example in this passage. They were trying stuff. They were going places, and if they would get steered away from there, they would try the next place. They didn't sit idle and wait, they kept trying things until it was clear what they were supposed to do.

What does trying stuff look like for you? It's unlikely you are going to find yourself in Turkey trying to decide if you should go into Asia or head over to Macedonia, but maybe you are stuck trying to decide on what job to take or how to fully engage in your church community. Maybe you are trying to figure out if you are supposed to have more kids or pursue a relationship.

We have a lot of opportunities to make decisions. Maybe we should make some decisions, get feedback on the decisions we have made and then make the next one.

Maybe our time for sitting back and waiting on a special revelation from Jesus just for us is over, and it's time to start sharing the Gospel where we are while we wait on God to move us.

It could be there is a "Lydia" waiting for us to connect with her. Lydia played a huge role in the early church. She made a huge impact, and perhaps, her role, if it still existed, would have been significantly limited if Paul and his friends hadn't been open to the changing of their plans or continuing to move when their plans were interrupted.

There's an author named Mark Batterson who refers to these God moments as "divine appointments." These are moments when God orchestrates two people to be in the same place at the same time for His purpose and glory. We just have to be open to these "divine appointments", willing to say yes before we have all the details. Willing to say yes before we can see what the results will be. We are not responsible for the results, we are just responsible for our role. Saying yes today to a future opportunity smooths out the whole process.

What's stopping you now from saying yes to a future opportunity that will come? **Saying yes now means you won't have to decide in the moment what to do.**

QUESTIONS

Is God an intentional partner in your decision making?
Why or why not?

Can you think of a time where God put you in the right place at the right time to make an impact in someone's life? A divine appointment. Would you share that story?

In the busyness of life, what is a step you could take to slow down and grow your awareness and openness to the opportunities that God is placing before you?

WEEK FIVE

ACTS 16:16-40

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.

²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.

²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer

woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

³⁵ When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” ³⁶ The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

³⁷ But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

³⁸ The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. ³⁹ They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

Do you recognize this character?



That's Gollum from the book/movie series *The Lord of the Rings*. According to the history given in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, Gollum didn't always look like this. In fact, Gollum was actually Sméagol, a "hobbit-type" person from a family of high repute. Almost royalty, as it were.

Once Sméagol interacted with the Ring, his transformation started. He was overwhelmed by the power the ring held over him. This power has many names but at least one of the names is greed.

Greed is defined as, intense and selfish desire for something, especially wealth, power, or food.

Greed is not a recent phenomenon. It's been a permanent part of the human condition since the fall of mankind. In *The Lord of the Rings*, Tolkien draws an eye opening picture as to what greed actually does to us.

Greed isn't annoying or bothersome. Greed is all-consuming. It transforms us, but in all the wrong ways. Greed drives us and takes us to a point where we will do whatever it takes to get what we want. We don't care how we hurt people or what happens to them as long as we get what we want. Eventually, this desire

turns from what we want into what we feel like we deserve, what we are entitled to.

The ugliness of greed looks like Gollum.

Obsessed with the ring, Gollum is the alter ego of Sméagol who is totally disconnected with reality. He has left life behind, totally consumed by his desire to possess the ring.

Greed is ugly.

It's ugly because it's not from God. Greed drives us to do terrible things to ourselves and to one another. In this passage in Acts, greed rears its ugly head. The greedy owners of a female slave exploited her for money in a very public way.

Her owners didn't care what happened to her as long as she could still produce money for them. When that stopped happening because of her interaction with Paul, they didn't care about the woman who had provided for them all these years. They only cared about punishing those who stopped the money train.

Paul and Silas were beaten with rods. This was a common form of corporal punishment in Roman cities during that time, and it left it's victims with severe cuts, deep bruises, and loss of blood. But none of that mattered to the slave girl's owners. They just wanted their money.

We can be so consumed with our greed that we don't really care what we look like pursuing it. Or we care, but not enough to stop or change. Like Gollum, we become the greed we pursue.

It can start innocently enough. In our culture, money is necessary to live, but it can become difficult to discern how much is enough. Who decides how much is enough? When do you decide that?

Author, Mark Batterson, talks about making money decisions well in advance so that you are less likely to be swayed by greed in your decision making. Before Batterson had sold a single book, he and his wife decided what their maximum income would be, and they committed to giving away every penny above that. They decided this years before they were ever faced with extra income.

Paul shows us the remedy for greed in this passage. *Generosity*. Of course, generosity is connected to giving money, but generosity is not just a way to use our finances. Generosity is a lifestyle. Paul was generous with the jailer in this story.

After a huge earthquake that was likely an act of God to free Paul and Silas, Paul acted generously with the jailer by staying put and not putting the jailer's life at risk by their escape. No money was exchanged, but Paul was generous with his life so he could help this man who was participating in imprisoning him. That's unheard of generosity.

This is who Jesus is. He is generous with us while we are still sinning. He's generous with us while getting nothing from us. **Do we act the same way?**

QUESTIONS

When you think about money, what does it provide for you? Circle what money means to you:

Status **Security** **Enjoyment** **Control**

The Bible has a lot to say about money. Read *Luke 16:13*; *Proverbs 3:9-10*; *Hebrews 13:5*; *1 Timothy 6:6-10*; *1 Timothy 6:17-19*; *Matthew 6:19-21*. Which passage jumps out to you, and why?

Do you know someone who you consider to be a generous person? What do they do that seems generous to you?

Generosity is an antidote to greed. Write down one way you will commit to growing generosity in your life. Share it with someone who is in a position to hold you accountable.

