

## Discussion Guide

11/10/2024

# It Starts in the Heart

## It's Time for a Heart Check

Pastor Daniel Groves

### Main Idea

A transformed heart results in new desires, a better attitude, and a heart of thanksgiving, and it shifts our behaviors that ultimately honor God. Today, Pastor Daniel takes us through the story of a monumental moment in Zacchaeus's life. He had a radical heart change and began to live his life with more compassion and generosity.

*Above all else, Guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

Proverbs 4:23

### Anchor Passage

Luke 19:1-10

#### 1. **A Changed Heart from God Leads Us to Compassion & Generosity.**

True generosity comes from the heart and is not defined by the amount given, but by the sacrifice and spirit in which it is offered. As we recognize God's immense generosity in giving His Son for us, our hearts are moved to reflect His love through sacrificial giving, which aligns us more with His character and strengthens our trust in His provision.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:11, Mark 12:41-44, John 3:16, and Romans 8:32

How can we cultivate a heart of sacrificial generosity in our own lives, and what might that look like in terms of our time, talents, and resources?

#### 2. **A Joy-Filled Heart From God Inspires Compassion & Generosity.**

With open hands, you will be looking for opportunities to bless others, serve others, and share the same Joy and love you received from Jesus with others.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.

How can understanding that giving is a privilege rather than an obligation change the way we approach generosity in our lives? What are some practical ways we can give with joy and purpose?

3. **A Surrendered Heart to God Leads Us to Love What He Loves.**

As a church, HopeCity is called to be a unified, compassionate, and generous community that helps others find hope in Jesus, recognizing that people matter to God and, therefore, should matter to us.

Read Matthew 22:37-39

How can we as a group better reflect God's love for people in our community, and what are some practical ways we can serve and show compassion to others?

## SUMMARY

We are at church moved by compassion, by loving people, romancing this city to Jesus, building campuses and planting campuses, helping people find hope, and doing whatever it takes to reach people far from God by letting them know that He's not mad at them but that He loves them. We are a church that is moved with compassion and generosity.

## CALL TO ACTION

1. Cultivate a Heart of Sacrificial Generosity. Commit to identifying one area in your life (time, talent, or resources) where you can give sacrificially to serve others this week. Whether it's volunteering your time, using your skills to bless someone, or giving financially, make it an intentional act that reflects God's generosity.
2. Embrace Generosity as a Joyful Privilege. Shift your mindset from seeing giving as an obligation to viewing it as a privilege. This week, seek out opportunities to bless others—whether it's paying for someone's meal, offering a helping hand, or donating to a cause you care about—and do it with joy, knowing that you're reflecting God's love.
3. Serve with Compassion as a Unified Church. Identify a need in your local community or church (such as [Hope for Christmas](#)) and commit to serving it as part of a group.

## GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

### **Game:** Who Would You Invite?

One small group icebreaker game that can reveal a lot about your guests is Who Would You Invite? Give everyone a few minutes to come up with a list of the three people outside of standard family and friends they'd invite to their Thanksgiving. Celebrities, famous people in history, a favorite author, a fictional character, or a deceased ancestor are all good ideas; the possibilities are limitless! Let everyone share the three people they'd invite and why - you might be surprised by some of the answers!