

Lent 1
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, March 6th, 2022



Series Focus: Lent is a time to repent—to turn from our ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus. What do those ways look like? Join us for our Lenten series as we explore the higher ways of God and embrace his will for our lives.

Sermon Title: From Security to Generosity

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9; Luke 4:1-13, 10:25-37; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Sermon Focus: The prophet Isaiah wrote that God's ways are higher than our ways. Jesus brought this into sharp focus in his temptations, through his life and teachings, and in how he gave his life to defeat sin and death. Clearly, we must change our thinking and trade our ways for *his* ways if we want to truly be free. In this first message of our Lenten series, *Seeking God's Ways*, Pastor David invites us to move from prioritizing our security to living with generosity toward our neighbors and enemies.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Isaiah 55:6-9 together. When you hear this passage, what do you think of when God says his ways are “higher” and his thoughts are “better” than ours? Remember, this is being said to Israel in captivity and amidst uncertainty about the future. How then might this passage speak to where we are today?
2. In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus tells a parable about a Samaritan who stops to help a man who had been beaten and left for dead. Pastor David suggested that one possible reason the priest and Levite walked past, instead of helping the man, is because they were concerned about their own security. What are some ways that God might be challenging disciples in the US to set aside our own security so that we can generously help those in need? Give specific examples of this.
3. Here are some reasons why we should choose generosity. Talk about the points below. Which one of these resonate with where you’re at in life? Generosity...
 - keeps us from placing ourselves at the center of our universe
 - invites us to shift our security from what we can keep to what we can give
 - sensitizes us to the needs of others around us and prompts us to help
 - teaches us that all we have is a *gift from God* to be freely, openly, shared
 - teaches us that our security comes from God, not in things of the world
 - is what God wired us for *and* leads to greater mental and spiritual health
4. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 together. The apostle Paul is describing a Kingdom principle of reaping what we sow. If we sow a little, we get a small return. If we sow a lot, then we will reap a full harvest of good things. How have you seen and experienced this in your life? Also, how is God speaking to you through this passage? How is the Spirit leading you into being more generous with giving?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:3 together. Pastor David said that we can be generous with our monetary giving to the church and service to other non-profits, but if we are not generous givers of our love, mercy, and grace, then we are missing the heart of God and hurting ourselves. Be honest and share with your group how the Spirit is inviting you to love others more generously with your words, thoughts, and actions. How is God speaking to you about this?
6. Share with your group any areas where you seek control for “security” reasons. Close your time praying for each other over the things that have been shared.