

5

Group Guide

The Church Sacrifices to Serve One Another

June 29, 2025

Main Passage: Luke 6:30-31; Acts 4:32-35; Philippians 2:1-4

Theological Theme

A healthy and faithful church is radically generous, and that requires individual sacrifice.

Introduction

- ❓ Are you surprised by the fact that giving back is good for you? Do you think our society supports this idea or rejects it?
- ❓ What does it mean to serve your neighbor?

1. The Golden Rule (Luke 6:30-31)

Many of us are familiar with the Golden Rule: “Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them” (v. 31). Did you know that rabbis (religious teachers) in Jesus’s day had a similar teaching? We know it today as the Silver Rule, and it is, in some ways, the inverse of the golden rule. The Silver Rule taught that you should not do to others what you would not want done to yourself.

- ❓ What is the Golden Rule? How did you learn it?
- ❓ The Golden Rule is part of Jesus’s teaching about loving our enemies. How do you think He meant it to be followed? What does this tell us about sacrificing for others?
- ❓ Application: How do you observe the Golden Rule?

2. All Things in Common (Acts 4:32-35)

Jesus taught that we should do for others what we want done for us and that we are to be known by our love. In Acts 4, we get a front-row look at how the early church put these ideas into practice. We live in a very different culture today, and while our church’s living out this generous lifestyle won’t look the same as it did for these first Christians, we can learn much from their example.

- ❓ What does it mean for a body of believers to be “of one heart and mind” (v. 32)?

- ❓ How would you describe the church community's action in this passage?
- ❓ Application: How might our group take care of our community as the early church did?

3. Christian Humility (Philippians 2:1-4)

This passage teaches an important call in the Christian life: humility. When we are humble, we don't boast because we have a right understanding of our status: We are sinners saved by the grace of God. This type of humility affects how we live daily, how we interact with others, and how we approach giving and generosity.

- ❓ What does it mean to be humble?
- ❓ What does it mean to "consider others as more important than yourselves" (v. 3)?
- ❓ Application: What are some examples of Christians around you putting your interests above their own? How has this impacted you?

Conclusion

We live in a society that is all about more. But at what point do we realize living this way is getting in the way of our biblical call to radical generosity? At what point do we put our foot down and say enough is enough? We would likely all say we think people are more important than things, but do our lifestyles reflect that belief?

Today, let's recognize those twin gods for what they are: idols standing in the way of right living the way God intended and designed. When we recognize this, we are prompted to consider what kind of sacrifices we're making today for the sake of others.

- ❓ How would you sum up the idea of radical generosity? We explored what this looked like in the early church, but what does this look like for believers in 2025?
- ❓ What are some intentional things you could do this week to put the Golden Rule into action in your life?
- ❓ What are some simple things we can do as a group to be more radically generous with those who have needs?