## Gospel-Centered Community Focuses on:

- Serving the Lord with humility and intensity. Acts 20:18-19
- Speaking truth with honesty and love.
   Acts 20:20-21
- Striving together amid uncertainty and adversity. Acts 20:22-24

"To stand uncertainly at a crossroads does not mean God has abandoned me. In those times He watches me with an extremely watchful eye, and He waits until patience and trust are perfected in me...

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If God brings me to a crossroads, it is His business to get me beyond it. I can rejoice in a God who is never mistaken, never late, and never non-pulsed." —Glyn Evans

<sup>32</sup>And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

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<sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus,

how He Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." <sup>36</sup>And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup>And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him,

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38being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

—Acts 20:32-38 ESV

Gospel-Centered Relationships Focus on...
Sharing Life Together Through

Grace and Generosity

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"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

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10 Reasons It is Better to Give
Giving obeys God's command.

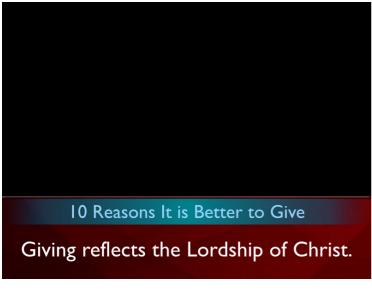
On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

"Generosity is one of the most

visible evidences of sanctification."

— | Corinthians | 6:2 ESV

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But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

-Matthew 6:33 ESV

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Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

—James 1:17 ESV

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10 Reasons It is Better to Give
Giving illustrates God's salvation.

For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.

-2 Corinthians 2:9 ESV

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<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... <sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

-2 Corinthians 9:6, 10 ESV

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Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

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10 Reasons It is Better to Give
Giving advances God's Kingdom.

in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

—I Timothy 6:18-19 ESV

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10 Reasons It is Better to Give
Giving promotes God's work of sanctification.

"In giving, as money leaves our pockets, sin leaves our hearts."

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Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

—Ephesians 4:28 ESV

10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving testifies to God's power.

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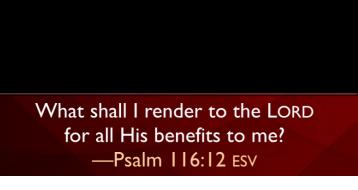
And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

-2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV

10 Reasons It is Better to Give

Giving praises God's character.

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Gospel-Centered Relationships Focus on...
Supporting One Another Through
Tears and Transitions

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...<sup>19</sup>serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews...

31Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

<sup>37</sup>And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him.

—Acts 20:19, 31, 37 ESV

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Where do tears come from?

Pain
Loss
Frustration
Joy

"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay.

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If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for."

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

<sup>25</sup>And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again... <sup>38</sup>being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

—Acts 20:25, 38 ESV

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And when he had said these things, he

knelt down and prayed with them all.

—Acts 20:36 ESV

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<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup>that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being,

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<sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

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<sup>21</sup>to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

—Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV

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