



Growth Group Discussion Questions

Lesson: #LevelUp! A Generosity Mindset
Primary Scriptures: Romans 12:2; I Timothy 6:17-19
Lesson 2 - Week of April 12, 2020

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) When it comes to generosity, what is the one thing that you freely give and what do you struggle with giving?

DISCUSSION

As a culture, we are not normally positive or thankful. We are mainly focused on our problems and evaluating our circumstances by what we don't have. When we compare, we **never** compare down; we always compare up. Therefore, we live in a **limitation mindset**. It's easy to get our priorities misplaced when we focus on our limitations. From childhood, we have been trained and conditioned that we deserve more and better. And when we don't get more, we feel limited and deprived. As an example, fill in the blank on the following sentences. If I only had _____, then I would _____. When _____ happens, then I will _____. If you have ever struggled with those thoughts, then you probably have been the victim of a limitation mindset.

As we #LevelUP, we want to develop a **possibility mindset**, and the bible is filled with instructions on how to obtain it. A possibility mindset challenges your limitations mindset by reversing the limitation and turning it into a possibility. The bible is filled with amazing stories of how people like us encountered many of life's unfair circumstances, yet they believed in a God of possibilities. In other words, they had faith in God (believing God just enough to **do** what he says).

Hopefully, this lesson will help you to navigate toward a possibility mindset, because you were created to be someone great in God's kingdom. Keep in mind that **great** people **don't** accept or acknowledge their limitations. Romans 12:2 provides guidance on how we can become great in God's kingdom: "*Do not **conform** to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*" We have to be mindful not to conform to this world, because it will suck us into a lot of different mindsets that are opposite of God's. When you are subject to a limitation mindset, you will be miserable, negative, critical and harsh. Therefore, let us strive not to be this way, but let's be transformed (LevelUp) into the mindset of possibilities.

How do we **break** a limitation mindset and how do we **embrace** a possibility mindset? Good question. It starts with our perspective. Let's look at how the apostle Paul was instructing Timothy on how to handle people with a limitation mindset in 1 Timothy 6:17, "*Command those **who are rich** in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*" For many of us, after reading "those who are rich" in this scripture, we mentally check out thinking this does not apply to us because we are not rich. But you are richer than you think. To show you, let's do a fun exercise. However, before we do, let's talk numbers. The Federal poverty level for a family of three is approximately \$20,090. The average income per family in Atlanta is \$65,345. Armed with this data, go to globalrichlist.com and enter your own numbers and see how they compare to global incomes. After seeing where you rank, you probably don't feel as poor as you thought originally. The point of the exercise is to challenge your perspective to see that we are rich in so many ways and not just monetarily, but in our freedoms in this country, our beliefs, and what we get to do for leisure, etc. We

live a very rich culture and if that is true, then why are we so unsatisfied? It's mainly due to our limitation mindset.

Another way of breaking the limitation mindset is to develop an attitude of gratitude. It helps to have an attitude of gratitude, knowing that God will keep His promises and that He will take care of us by providing what we **need** and sometimes what we want. There's a story of a father who took his daughter to McDonald's to enjoy some one-on-one time. He ordered her a Happy Meal and upgraded the fries to medium. During their conversation, the dad reached over and got one of her fries. She burst into tears and yelled "That's my fry!" And the father replied, "Well, did you pay for it?" We can all see the flaw with the child. But in reality, the same flaw exists within all of us when we don't have an attitude of gratitude and our Father takes away what He has given to us that we couldn't have purchased or created on our own. We have to be mindful and grateful of what we **have and not focus on what we don't have**. We must adopt an attitude of gratitude, which is thinking that we don't deserve anything, but we have a lot. **Gratitude** is the realization that we are not entitled to anything. Once we take on this disposition, we start to see everything as a surprise and gift, ranging from our five senses, to food, to clothing, to shelter, etc.

The next way to break the limitation mindset is priority. Many of us find it challenging to prioritize our resources to assist others. Paul writes in I Timothy 6:18-19, ¹⁸ *Command them **to do good** (don't think, do), to be rich in good deeds (to be an inspiration to others), and to be generous and willing to share.* ¹⁹ *In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.* We need to walk through life with open hands, not closed fists. As a point of reference, we can look to the main principles of electricity. Electricity is a power charged from a positive to a negative. It moves in a current, and it generates a lot of power depending on different factors. When putting wiring together, it's important not to break the current. If the current is broken, then it must be grounded. Electricity has to be grounded, because that energy and charge must go somewhere, and if it's not channeled to the proper place, it can cause incredible damage. With generosity, God is the source of everything and we are simply a conduit. When we break the current by being selfish and refusing to give our **time, talent and treasures**, we only destroy ourselves. It's only when we are grounded in what is **true** (by having an attitude of gratitude and spirit of generosity and allowing things to flow through us), that we start to see **power** in our lives. With a generosity mindset, we start to recognize that what we have (the 3 T's) is useful not only to ourselves but for others as well. Remember this about life: takers (hoarders) are always broke and givers are always rich. The way to transition from a limitation is by engaging in acts of gratitude and generosity. And finally, we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. How's your level of generosity? How willing are you to prioritize others over yourself?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Principle #1: A list of THANKSGIVING

Take a blank sheet of paper and write **everything** that you are thankful for. When you have finished with the list, take a picture of it with your phone. And **when** you start feeling the limitation of life by what you don't have, pull out your list and remind yourself of what your Father has given you.

Principle #2: THANKSGIVING #LevelUp!

From your thanksgiving list that you created from above, select one thing that you can give to someone to make their life better this week. Keep in mind that this exercise is not limited to finances. There are other examples of generosity such as kind words, encouragement, etc.