

Pressure Points Week 7

Sermon Recap:

SAY THIS: A major theme from the sermon this week was we are not called by God to *get* rich but to *be* rich – just like Him. He gives new life and everything for us to be rich towards others with our work and our wealth to make an eternal impact.

Will someone read...

Leader Tip: For this session, due to the nature of conversations ahead, it might make sense to play some soft instrumental music in the background. It will help drown out distractions and set the vibe for the space.

HAVE SOMEONE READ THIS:

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Ephesians 1:7

Titus 2:12

1 John 2:15-17

Group Discussion:

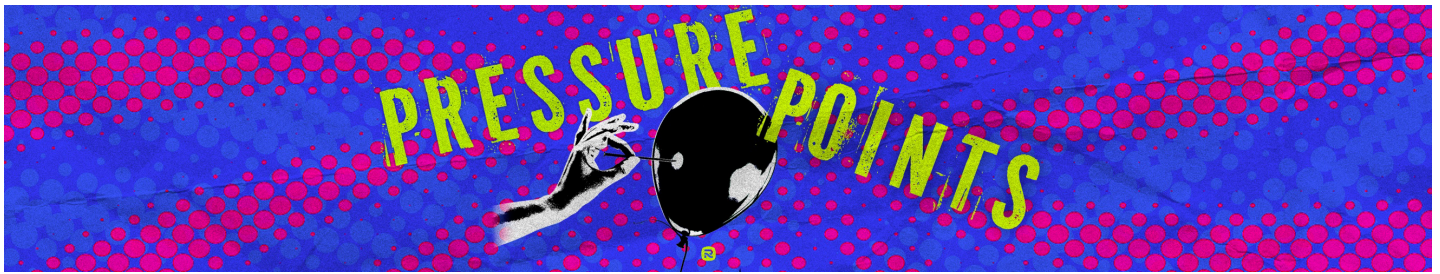
Leader Tip: Depending on the makeup of your group and the sensitivity of the topic of generosity, consider breaking up discussion time and meeting men only and women only. There's an unwritten social rule in the world of small groups: there are some things men will only say in front of other men and vice versa.

SAY THIS: As you think about the themes brought up in these verses let's spend some time sharing from our life.

Choose from the list of questions below the questions that fit your group best.

ASK THIS:

1. Growing up how did your parents or other authority figures talk about money? What was the message about money that was spoken over you as you moved into adulthood?
2. If you look honestly at the world around us, what do people most often trust to hold their life together?
3. Why do you think people so naturally place their sense of safety or identity in what they possess?
4. In your own life, when do resources feel like a gift to steward? Share with the group a story or experience when you've felt this.



5. When do resources start to feel like something you need to protect or cling to? What is/has been the tripwire?
6. Wealth has a strange gravity to it. How does having more (more comfort, more options, more security) slowly shape the way a person sees the world?
7. Think of someone you've known who was truly generous. What was different about the *spirit* of that person? What was your relationship to that person? What have you learned from them?
8. What do you think generosity does to a person over time? How might it reshape the way someone sees God, themselves, and others?
9. Every heart keeps a kind of hidden accounting book. What do you think generosity writes into that book over time?
10. Imagine a life where a person's security truly rests in God rather than what they own. What would be different about the way that person lives, gives, and relates to the world?
11. If someone believed their life was held by God rather than by what they possess, how might their life begin to look strange (or even foolish) to the world around them?

CLOSE WITH THIS ACTIVITY:

Leader Tip: Try and create an environment free of distractions for the questions below. The focus here is authenticity and vulnerability. You're wanting to encourage the group member to share the last 10% of their thoughts.

1. Where in your life right now do you feel the tightest grip...where your hand closes around something because you're afraid life might fall apart if you let it go?
2. Next, where might God be inviting you to slowly open the hand?

Consider closing by reading this prayer:

Holy God,

Tonight we've shared openly and honestly about the strange pull of the things we hold...the comforts, the securities, the wonderful treasures we hope will steady our lives. And yet we know, deep down, that none of these things can hold us, sustain us, bring us joy in the way You can.



Where our hands have grown tight with fear, teach us the courage of the open hand. Where our hearts have slowly leaned on what we possess, turn them again toward the life that comes from trusting You.

Make us sons and daughters of God who are rich in things that last. May we be quick to share what we have, slow to cling, and joyful in our generosity. May we be confident that our lives are held in Your care.

Help us keep this conversation going within us this week. In the way we see our resources, the way we treat our neighbors, and the way we remember that everything we have is a gift from God and we are His steward of what He's given us. Lead us into the life that is truly life.

Amen.