Group Discussion Questions
Open Handed: Everything Is a Gift

It's easy to hold tightly to what we have: our time, our homes, our money. Sometimes we hold on because we're afraid there won't be enough. Other times we think, "I worked hard for it, so it's mine." In ***1 Chronicles 29***, King David gives a huge amount toward a temple he will never see built. Then he prays, *"All things come from you, and of your own have we given you."* King David knew that **everything is a gift from God**. We aren't owners; we are **stewards** of what God has trusted us with. When we trust the Giver more than the gift, we find freedom and joy in living with **open hands**.

GET THINGS STARTED

1. Pastor Geoffrey shared stories of people living open handed: foster families, The Ranch, Beltway Garage, and Beit Hallel in Israel, etc. Which story stood out to you most? Why?
2. What is one of the best gifts you've ever received? What made it special?
3. Why do you think talking about money can make people uncomfortable?

GO DEEPER

1. Read ***1 Chronicles 29:9-13***. The people gave "with a whole heart" and celebrated. How does King David begin his prayer? Why do you think he starts with who God is instead of what they gave?
2. Read ***1 Chronicles 29:14*** and ***Deuteronomy 8:18***. Where do these verses say everything we have comes from? How do they push back on the "I earned it" mindset?
3. Read ***1 Chronicles 29:15***. King David says our days are "like a shadow." How can remembering that life is short change the way we use what we have?
4. Read ***1 Chronicles 29:17-18***. King David cares more about the people's hearts than the amount they gave. What does it mean that God wants **generous hearts**, not just generous moments?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What is the difference between being an **owner** and a **steward**? Which one do you tend to live like?
2. Picture everything God has given you sitting in your hand: time, money, home, energy, and abilities. Which one are you most tempted to hold with a **closed fist**? Why?
3. Pastor Geoffrey said, *"We can easily trust the gift more than the giver."* Besides God, where are you tempted to look for security?
4. Instead of asking, "What do I want to do with what I have?" what would change if you asked, *"Lord, what do You want to do with what You've given me?"*

PRACTICE IT NOW

- Close your eyes and open your hands in front of you. Quietly ask: ***"Father, what have You entrusted to me?"***
- Then ask: ***"Lord, what would it look like for me to trust You with this?"***
- Invite everyone to share one thing they want to hold with open hands. Pray for one another to trust God and find joy in being used by Him.

Everything we have came from God
and everything we have still belongs to Him.