



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Discussion Guide: They Thrive
November 5, 2017

Opening Questions:

- Do you agree with the statement, “There is no joy in possession without sharing?” What things or moments in your life have proven this to be true? Why do—or do you not—think this statement is the way things work?
- When you think about the pecking order of what Christ-followers are supposed to do in and with their lives, what are the top three things you would usually list? Was sharing possessions one of those things? Why or why not?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Luke 3:10-11...** Why do we all desire a basic set of expectations to let us know whether or not we’re doing things right? Do you find yourself constantly searching for a “how to” guide; especially when it concerns your faith? What’s that about? If you don’t, why don’t you?
- John indicates that a large part of “doing” the Christianity thing is sharing a good portion of what we have with people who need it; it’s helping others with our own resources. Be honest, is there a part of you that’s frustrated by that? What is it in us that worries so much about whether or not the other person “deserves” what we’re giving them?
- Read **Luke 3:12-14...** While we may not be as corrupt as the tax collectors or soldiers in Jesus day, the idea of not even starting with more than is necessary still applies. Considering the “then some” as the beginning instead of what’s left over, isn’t always easy. How would we have to change our thinking and lifestyle to fall more in line with what John is preaching here?
- Read **Hebrews 13:15-16...** The writer tells us to “not forget” to do good and share with others. How do we end up forgetting something like that? How important of a component must this one be to a life lived like Jesus’ life?

Application Questions:

- This week’s bottom line was **THE EXTRA ISN’T FOR HAVING...IT’S FOR HELPING.** How do you plan on using your property properly going forward? What tangible steps need to happen for you to start seeing your margin with a purpose from God?
- In the first week of this series, Josh talked about how we all need margin. After hearing this week’s teaching, what would you say is the answer to why God would provide us that margin in the first place? Is extra an end in and of itself? Or is it a means to another end all-together? Does the answer excite you or disappoint you? Why?

End your time together praying for one another, asking God to loosen your collective grip on the extra. Ask him to show each member of your group the specific purposes he has for the margin (big or small) that he’s given you. Even if the resource is more time and energy than money, what does he want you to do with it? How does he want you to help someone else?