



How relaxed would we feel, how open would we be, if we didn't operate from a condition of scarcity, but rather, from great abundance? What if we had more than we could possibly imagine, and an ever-flowing stream with bread enough and to spare? What if we saw people in terms of God's greatest hopes rather than our worst fears; what would it look like to be the people of unlimited generosity? It would look like the kingdom of God.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

**SCARCITY & ABUNDANCE.** What do you do when you don't feel like you have enough? Describe what it looks like to live from a condition of scarcity. How imagine what it is like when you feel like you have more than you could possibly use. Describe living life from a condition of abundance.

**THE GOD OF ABUNDANCE.** Read **2 Kings 4:1-7; Matthew 14:13-21; Luke 6:38.** Why do you think God in these stories gives more than enough? **Follow up: Read Ephesians 3:20, James 4:6 & Romans 5:20.** What does it mean for God to give grace in abundance?

**GUILT.** Read **Jonah 3:4.** What is the message God gave Jonah to preach? Why do you think "repent" is not listed as a viable alternative? The text says that the ruler of Nineveh didn't even know if God would relent, but he begged for it (Jonah 3:9). Discuss "God will not let the guilty go free."

**GENEROUS GRACE IN THE OT.** Read **Jonah 3:10 & Exodus 34:6.** How does God's response speak to his character? What do you love most about how God reacted? Does it surprise you? Does it make you glad or concerned? Discuss as a group.

**GENEROUS GRACE IN THE NT.** Read **Matthew 20:1-15.** Discuss the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. Do they have a point in their complaint? Why does the owner do what he does? What is Jesus' lesson in this parable?

**ARE WE GLAD OR ANGRY?** Read **Jonah chapter 4 & Matthew 20:15.** Why do Jonah and the laborers share such displeasure? How is that an attitude of the condition of scarcity? Talk as a group about how you react to the generosity of God toward other people. God wants to be generous to all people (Gen 12:1-3; 2 Peter 3:9). How does this shape your view of God?

Group Introduction Activity: Play musical chairs. Then discuss how people act when the music stops.