

## [Roots] Group Questions

### [Roots] Becoming a Generous Soul

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**BIG IDEA:** “Roots: Growing A Life that Lasts”: Roots are an anchor in the soil to provide stability and a firm base for the entire structure of the trunk, branches, leaves and fruit. Roots absorb water and nutrients needed for growth. The same is true for Christ-followers. Unless we are rooted and grounded in an abiding faith in Christ, we wither beneath the weight of life’s challenges. “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7. So how do we create a life that lasts? The most effective way is to immerse ourselves in God’s word and live in a place of surrender, striking our roots deep into life-giving soil and living waters of Christ.

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#### ICE BREAKER: DID YOU KNOW?

- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead, and a place to sleep—you are richer than 75% of the world.
- If you have money in the bank, cash in your wallet or pocketbook and spare change in a dish someplace—you are among the top 8% of the earth’s wealthiest people.
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation—you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

Helen Keller said, “The best and most beautiful things cannot be seen or even touched; they must be felt with the heart.

1. **READ Proverbs 11:24-25. What is the most generous thing you have ever done? What is the most generous thing ever done for you? How long ago did it happen and how did it make you feel?**
  2. **READ 2 Corinthians 9:5-11. What is the God’s promise in verse 10 and how is it linked to a generous heart?**
  3. **READ Malachi 3:7-12. God wants us to test Him. Name a time when you put God to the test beyond “Lord, if you show me \_\_\_\_, then I’ll do \_\_\_\_” and really put everything in God’s hands. Describe what this kind of surrender/test looks like and what you think might happen if you did it?**
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#### Scripture:

- **Proverbs 11:24-25**

**24** One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

**25** Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

- **2 Corinthians 9:5-11**

**5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. **6**The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7**Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8**And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. **9**As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” **10**He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. **11**You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

- **Malachi 3:7-12**

**7** From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ **8**Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. **9** You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. **10** Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. **11**I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. **12**Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

**Meditate & Memorize:** Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. Deuteronomy 15:10

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**More Information:** Comments, questions and notes are taken from: The Bible, blueletterbible.org, biblegateway.com  
If you have any comments, suggestions, **life-change** stories, or feedback to give regarding these questions or your group please email [lesa@midwaychurch.com](mailto:lesa@midwaychurch.com).