

# WISEgenerosity

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Discussion Guide

WISEgenerosity aims to promote and produce conversations about giving and living. Whether you're exploring with family, friends, colleagues, a school group, a book club, etc., I hope that this "Discussion Guide," along with the rest of the WISEgenerosity platform, will help you along on your path.

All the best, Chris

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### *Chapter 1: WISEgenerosity is Key to a Meaningful and Effective Life*

Reflect on great gifts you've received and given during your life. How were the W.I.S.E. giving factors represented?

### *Chapter 2: The "Why" of Generosity – To Find Fruitful Purpose*

Reflecting on the "Four Potential Life Purposes," which of the following statements best reflects you?

- 1) I see giving as a way to make others happy and to feel good about myself.
- 2) I see giving as making the best of use of resources I don't need but which can benefit others.
- 3) I see giving as serving an external purpose or higher calling.

### *Chapter 3: The "Why" of Generosity – Abundance Meaning, and Impact*

How do you explain the "paradox of generosity" that giving things away actually multiplies their value to us and to others? Ross Mason and Rais Bhuiyan offer powerful examples of the ways in which WISEgenerosity can benefit our lives and those around us. What impressed you most about their stories?

### *Chapter 4: Three Expressions of Generosity – Kindness, Charity, and Philanthropy*

What are your thoughts about the three expressions of generosity: kindness, charity, and philanthropy? Which appeals to you most?

### *Chapter 5: Generosity – Generous Attitudes + Generous Actions*

Kim Bearden and Betsy and David Glass exhibit contagiously generous attitudes and actions. Who in your life has a similarly positive impact on those around them?

### *Chapter 6: Possessional Generosity*

Which of the stories in this chapter resonated most strongly with you? Why?

### *Chapter 7: Personal Generosity*

Which of the examples in this chapter resonated most strongly with you? Why?

## *Chapter 8: Social Generosity*

Which of the elements in this chapter resonated most strongly with you? Why?

## *Chapter 9: Emotional Generosity*

What did you think of the example provided about “emotional first responders”? How do you react to situations in which you are called to be emotionally generous towards others?

## *Chapter 10: Relational Generosity*

Do you agree that kindness is a “superpower”? How do your thoughts (considerate attitudes) and your words and deeds (caring actions) exhibit kind and loving generosity towards others?

## *Chapter 11: Generosity Drivers and Motivators*

How did Oseola McCarty live a wisely generous life? What can we learn from her example?

## *Chapter 12: Your Generosity Personality*

How does your Generosity Personality Type help you to better understand your own giving tendencies? How about other people in your life? Are there ways in which your personalities align productively?

## *Chapter 13: WISEgenerosity Overcomes Generosity Resistance*

Reflect on the three common excuses that keep people from being more generous: importance (my effort isn’t needed), redundancy (someone else is doing it), effectiveness (it won’t make a difference). Have you heard other people use any of these excuses to justify not being generous? Have you used them yourself?

## *Chapter 14: Understanding “Bad” Giving – and How to Prevent It*

Apply the lessons from this chapter to a specific example. What do you do when a stranger on the street asks you for money? Should you react differently? If so, how?

## *Chapter 15: Giving and Human Needs*

There is a lot to digest in the “WISEgenerosity Model for Human Flourishing.” Which aspects of this framework resonated most strongly with you? Why? And how might these elements apply to your life?

### *Chapter 16: Generosity Dimensions*

Imagine a gift you recently made or one you are considering making now. It could be a charitable or philanthropic contribution to a nonprofit organization. It also could be a present for a friend or loved one. How is this gift W.I.S.E. from your perspective and from the recipient's? Was or is there a way to increase any of the generosity dimensions involved?

### *Chapter 17: Wealth Success and Wealth Failure*

What impressed you as the crucial differences in the trajectories of the Rockefellers and the Vanderbilts? What lessons from their experiences apply to your own family?

### *Chapter 18: Proximity – Closer Is Better*

Reflect on any current or anticipated gifts that you're considering. How do they relate to the proximity model where effective giving begins with purpose, then self, then family and friends, then community, then the world at large?

### *Chapter 19: Proportion – Larger Is Better*

What examples of "tin giving" can you think of in your own experience or in the wider world? What examples of "golden giving" can you think of? What examples of "diamond giving" can you think of? What made the "diamond giving" special and different from other gifts? Are there opportunities in your life for more of this kind of giving?

### *Chapter 20: Production – More Frequent Is Better*

What most impressed you about the Generosity Production examples shared? What examples of productive generosity have you witnessed – when one good deed led to another and another?

### *Chapter 21: Power – Stronger Is Better*

Do you agree that fully purposeful and productive giving comes when you align passion, opportunity, and impact? Where do you see opportunities for "powerful" giving in your own life?

### *Chapter 22: Present – Now Is Better*

Considering the tension between meeting current life needs and devoting resources for generosity, what is your balance between giving now and giving later? What are potential blessings and benefits from sharing more time, talent, treasure, and ties now?

### *Chapter 23: WISEgenerosity Example – Fully Engaged Giving*

What impressed you most about the story of John and Teresa Croyle and Big Oak Ranch? Are there parallels between the Croyles' lives and your life in terms of inspiration and opportunity?

## *Chapter 24: Giving Through Life's Ages and Stages*

What did you think of the generational model of giving presented? Do you see a role for yourself in opportunities for community improvements and positive social change based on this framework?

## *Chapter 25: Exponential Giving*

What stood out to you most about Bruce and Rhonda Deel and the City of Refuge story? What other examples of exponential generosity have you seen?

## *Chapter 26: Changing the World One Relationship at a Time*

What came to mind while reading about young Ruby Bridges and her kind teacher? Can you think of other examples where a potentially isolated example of generosity produced large results?

## *Chapter 27: WISEgenerosity Ripple Effects*

Where and when have you experienced the ripple effects of others' giving? How can you initiate ripple effects yourself?

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## *Afterword: Continuing on a Path of WISEgenerosity*

Here are three short questions to answer now in your journey of WISEgenerosity:

- What breaks your heart and troubles your mind?
- What lights you up and makes you come alive?
- What is your next step of WISEgenerosity?