



# St. Andrew

## *Growth Group Activities*

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March 22

Acts 5: 1-11

1. When looking at greed it is important to focus on the sin and not the sinner. Explain why.

2. Identify which are sins against the 7th Commandment: Do not steal.

Going over fantasy football at work.

Paying the admission price for 12 and under for a 14 year-old.

Fudging tax numbers.

Borrowing a friend or neighbor's shovel and never getting around to return it.

Cheating in school.

Downloading what is not free.

Selling something without disclosing problems.

3. Satan works hard to get into people's hearts. Share ways that you work to keep him out of your heart.

4. I once heard, "the sermon we like the least is the one we need the most." Apply that to a money-based sermon.

5. Last week Pastor Hunter said, “generous people tend to be joyful people.” Is the same true of greedy people? Support your answer.

6. Contrast these 2 statements:

God lets me keep 90% of what he gives me.

God wants 10% of what I have.

7. Give evidence of God’s generosity in your life.

8. Scripture to consider:

Luke 12:15

Ephesians 5:5

Matthew 5:24

Proverbs 22:9

2 Corinthians 8:9

Genesis 4:4



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## *Growth Group Activities*

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March 15

Acts 4: 32-37

1. Pastor Hunter said believers see their possessions differently. Explain what he meant. We know that it all comes from God. We know that it all belongs to him. We are to use what he gives us and share with others what he gives us. We are not to be selfish with his gifts as though they are ours.

A great read is Deuteronomy 8:8-18. Have the group read those verses.

2. Some unbelievers are very generous and some Christians are less than generous. For each statement make a list of reasons why.

Reasons for generosity from an unbeliever (or Christian for that matter)

To be recognized

To expect to be paid back (the Romans said “do et dus” (I give in order that you will give)

To please their god

Tax benefit

Reasons for lack of generosity

Greed

Lack of trust

It’s mine through hard work. If you want, go and work for it. (this is Biblical...kind-of...God does forbid laziness and living off others when people are capable...but this can also be a poor excuse to keep things to ourselves)

3. Circle the statements you agree with:

God wants your money.

St. Andrew wants your money.

God needs your money.

St. Andrew needs your money.

God wants your heart more than your money.

God doesn’t need your money.

St. Andrew doesn’t need your money.

Fulfilling the mission of the church takes money.

I would circle these:

St. Andrew needs your money.

God wants your heart more than your money.

God doesn't need your money.

Fulfilling the mission of the church takes money.

4. Read Exodus 36:6. What is extraordinary about the verse?

The people gave so much for the tabernacle that the church leadership told them to stop giving. Has that ever happened at St. Andrew?

5. Pastor Hunter said, "generous people tend to be joyful people." Research backs that up. Discuss why that is true.

They tend to be more thankful for what they have and appreciate what they have and that leads them to be more willing to share. The thinking is: I appreciate having this and I want you to have something to appreciate also. Sharing makes people happy.

6. Martin Luther said the last thing to be converted for a Christian is their wallet. Tell you why you agree or disagree with him.

There is no wrong answer here, but the point is what pastor said in the sermon: money is a pervasive idol in our culture.

7. What is sacrificial giving?

This is giving off the top instead of giving what is leftover. To make a sacrifice is to give something up for someone else. That is God-pleasing.