**Generosity towards God**

discussion guide

based on **1 Chronicles 29** (Linked to sermon of 16/10/16)

which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

*This was the first in our new series on David from the OT – looking at his characteristics that made God describe him as “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13.22). The aim of this series is to see how we can be people after God’s own heart as well.*

Intro (maybe in 2s or 3s): What has God been doing in your life over the last few weeks for which you’re grateful?

1 Chron 29 is David’s last recorded speech. He’s raising funds so his son Solomon can build a temple for God when he becomes king. David wanted the temple to be a ‘palatial structure’ (v1, 19) to reflect that God was the true king, and that the LORD was greater than the so-called ‘gods’ of the surrounding nations. David lists the gifts that he is making (v3-5), then the nation gives gifts, too (v6-8).

If you’re able to, share some stories of when giving to God has brought you great joy.

Skim through verses 1-17, looking for words describing the attitude with which David and the people gave.

What do you think motivated them to have those attitudes?

Does your heart attitude towards giving mirror theirs? If not, what might motivate those attitudes in you?

David recognised that everything he owned had come from God (v14-16). It’s all too easy to slip into thinking that our possessions are ours! Read Deuteronomy 8.10-18. Does that warning ring true for you? Why / why not?

The magnificent temple was the way of declaring the greatness of God’s kingdom. Dan said that since the New Testament, the primary way God brings his Kingdom is through the local church (the people, not the building), therefore our giving should be first to the local church community. Do you agree or disagree? Why / why not?

Jot down 5 reasons people give for not giving more to a local church. Choose 3 of them and debate whether they’re valid reasons, or just excuses.

Read v10-13, which capture David’s vision of God. He was giving for God’s glory and kingdom, so he gave his best, not his leftovers. What might that pattern look like in your life?

What’s your main take-away message to mull on, pray over and act upon?

Spend some time praying –

* praising God (as in v10-13),
* giving thanks that God has given you so much (as in v14-16)
* praying for David Phillips and others who are responsible for looking after our church finances (imagine how Jehiel the Gershonite felt in v8!)
* for us to be people after God’s own heart – including having a heart of generosity toward God.