

Conversation Starters
Alternative Acts: Give Your Best
Sunday May 14th, 2017

*Below is a guide to help start conversation about **this week's message**. Feel free to pick, choose, and adapt as you see fit. This is just a guide. Have fun, be real, and know that practicing good conversation is a healthy learning experience.*

Break The Ice:

1. Trying starting things off by watching this video:
“Francis Chan – From Pastor to Millionaire....Giver!”
<https://generousgiving.org/media/videos/francis-chan-from-pastor-to-millionaire-giver>
What did you think of this story
What inspires you about his family's choice to become “ridiculously” generous?
2. **Tell a story of when you were on the receiving end of someone else's generosity. How did it make you feel? How did they feel about it?**
3. Read the article: *The Science of Giving: Why one act of kindness is usually followed by another* -
<http://www.happify.com/hd/the-power-of-a-single-act-of-kindness/>
Have you experienced this to be true?
What do you find interesting about how kindness affects people?

Start The Conversation:

1. *Read Matthew 23:23-24.* What comes to mind when you read this passage? What stood out in this **week's message?**
2. What do you think of the **metaphor “strain out a gnat but swallow a camel”**? Does it mean anything to you?
3. What is your understanding of tithing or financial giving? Why give?
4. Why is it so much easier to follow religious **rules than it is to live out the “weightier” values of following Christ: justice, mercy, and faith(fulness)?** How can we move from the one to include the other?

Live It Out:

1. What do you think it looks like to move from tipping to tithing? Or from tithing to generosity? How do we **do this faithfully without becoming “religious” about it?**
2. When you consider Niagara, what needs in the region inspire a heart of mercy, justice, and faithfulness? What could your group do together to meet these needs? What could you do as an individual?
3. Read Micah 6:8. If you could pick one of the three to work on this week (act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God) what would it be and how could you grow in that area?

