

Small Group Meeting on 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Have you started to review your giving of money, time and talents that was suggested last week? If so, how has that been going?

Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

Shockers – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

Blockers – something from the text that raises questions for you.

Setting the scene:

- 1 and 2 Chronicles are a looking back at the people's history through the lens and understanding of the exile. If the books of Samuel and Kings are the first cut of the people's history, the books of Chronicles are the second cut.

- A key focus of 1 Chronicles from chapter 13 onwards is the preparations that David makes for building the temple – the chapters include the gathering of money, architects, temple leaders, skilled craftsmen and so on.
- David had wanted to build the temple; but God delays it to Solomon's time. However, God promises David that he (God) will build another sort of 'house' for David – a dynasty that will last (see 2 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 17). A dynasty that, from our standpoint will culminate in 'great David's greater son'.

Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. Having listed his own giving, David asks the question: 'who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?' He sees the giving as an act of consecration. How would you describe giving?

'Recognising God's prior gifts to him, David must give himself back to God in true, sincere, consecration (17b). So too must Israel (17c).'¹

Q2. In his prayer David uses words which form the basis of what we regularly use in our services, 'All things come from you O Lord and of your own do we give you'. How do you view the time, money and talents that you have?

¹ Michael Wilcock *The Message of Chronicles* Leicester: ivp 1987 p. 116

Q3. 'Money' (how much we have and how it is used) is one of the taboos in our culture. What is your reaction to David spelling out what he has given to encourage others to give?

(In the churches of our Ugandan partners there is a far greater degree of openness and an opportunity often given to publicly outdo others in what they have given.)

Should the PCC be requested to publicly declare their corporate combined giving to encourage others to give?

Should you audit each other's bank statements to be accountable – why/why not?

Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by “walking the talk”. What are you going to be doing this week that will help you ‘consecrate yourself to the LORD’? It may be a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

Some continuing and new challenge ideas

1 Continue Your Review of Giving

Continue the review you started last week on your giving of time, money and talents.

2 The Next Generation

David never saw the impact of his giving (by the end of 1 Chronicles 29 he is dead) but his legacy impacted succeeding generations.

Think about where you are investing what God has given you for the next generation of believers, and yet-to-be believers, and how that might change what you give.

3 Reflect on the series so far

Next week we will move to look at a different form of stewardship – stewardship of the created order.

So far:

Psalm 104 has invited us consider God as Provider

Psalm 100 has invited us to give thankfully and joyfully because God is God

1 Chronicles 29 has invited us to recognise that all that we have is on loan to us

Take time to think how these various strands are beginning to change existing habits and attitudes, and spend time responding in prayer and action.

Group Prayer

As a group, pray for one another this week as you continue to reflect on your stewardship of all that God has given you. Pray for the PCC and its decisions – particularly where finance is involved.