

GO NEXT 5

(Acts 2:44-47)

GO Church is traveling on a journey, paying close attention to certain indicators **–SIGNPOSTS**– to assure us that we are on the right track.

Recap of the GO NEXT Series:

- **Signpost #1: Everyone is welcome!** God wants everyone and so should you; Everyone means everyone, no fine prints; We are all responsible to make the Jesus community a welcoming place.
- **Signpost #2: Nobody is perfect, we are all growing-** we bear with one another, commitment to grow and commitment to accountability.
- Signpost #3: We uphold one another, we don't hold down or hold back anyone. The Jesus community is kind to one another, encouraging one another, fellowshipping together and praying for one another.

Signpost #4: "Generosity is a way of life"

A way of life is a practice that defines how a person or group of people conducts life on a consistent basis. It starts with habits (we deliberately practice generosity because we are naturally given to self-preservation), then becomes customs and can end up in belief.

- habits: actions practiced over time and can become in voluntary in nature
- **customs:** habits of a group or individual practiced over a long period even though it is normally unwritten.
- **belief:** the conviction of the certainty of an action, practices or truth.

To see how the Jesus community and generosity are synonymous, we have to look at the scriptures and a little bit of history.

- 1. The early church in its beginning stage (Acts 2:44 47)
- 2. The early church during Paul's missionary trips (2 Cor. 8:1-150
- 3. The world before the emergence of the church

For us as a Jesus community, we need to note the following:

- Generosity is a spiritual thing (2 Cor. 8:7)
- It comes from the heart first (2 Cor. 8:2)
- Paul says it's a privilege (2 Cor. 8:4)
- Make your but give cheerfully and generously (2 Cor. 9:5-7)

