

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Recall / Getting Started

This week's sermon talked about how Egypt's livestock dying was like everyone's bank account going to zero overnight — not just a pet dying, but their whole financial security wiped out.

- Why do you think the Bible spends so much time on something as ordinary as farm animals dying?
 - Has there ever been a moment when you felt like your "bank account went to zero" — financially, emotionally, or otherwise? You don't need to share details, just what that kind of shock feels like.
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2. Digging into the Text

Read Exodus 9:4-6 and Exodus 16:17-18 together.

- In both stories, God makes sure everyone has exactly what they need — no more, no less. Why do you think God cares about that kind of fairness?
 - The Apostle Paul later quotes the manna story (Exodus 16:18) directly in 2 Corinthians 8:13-15, applying it to how Christians share money with each other. Why do you think Paul went all the way back to that Old Testament story to make his point about generosity?
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3. Personal Reflection

The sermon named "expressive individualism" — basically the idea that in our culture, most of us assume, "It's my money, my choice, nobody else's business."

- Where do you notice that mindset showing up in your own thinking about money — even in small ways?
 - Jesus said that following him means gaining a new family — "brothers, sisters, mothers, houses, and land" — but also persecution (Mark 10:29-30). Why do you think Jesus includes both the gain *and* the hardship in that promise?
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4. Living It Out

The sermon pointed to a church in Tennessee that paid off \$8 million in medical debt for their community, and challenged us to consider what "radical generosity" could look like at SouthRidge.

- What's one specific way you could be more generous with what you have — time, money, or resources — toward someone in your life right now?
- Besides the existing *benevolence fund*, what are some creative ways that SouthRidge could see that *there are no needy persons amongst them* (as Acts 4:34 states)?