

Introduction:

1. What does it mean to “be generous”?

- **Definition:** Showing a readiness to freely give or share money and other valuable things; providing more than the amount needed or normal: abundant, ample; showing kindness and concern for others.
- **Synonyms:** Liberal, lavish, magnanimous, openhanded, free-handed, bountiful, unselfish, ungrudging, benevolent, charitable, big-hearted, free, noble, good.
- **Antonyms:** Mean, stingy, selfish, meager, miserly, unwilling to share, cheap, greedy, tight, unkind, thrift, self-seeking.

Summary: We all have thoughts, words, time, stuff, money, and influence to share with others.

2. Why is living generously so important?

- Generosity is commanded by God. 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- Generosity is the antidote to idolatry and materialism. Luke 16:1-15
- Generosity today determines your harvest tomorrow. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
Luke 6:38
- Generosity expresses God's love and kindness to others. Matthew 5:16
- Generosity results in joy to the giver. 2 Corinthians 9:11
- Generosity results in praise and thanksgiving to God by the recipients. 2 Corinthians 9:11-12
- Generosity is God's method to fund His Kingdom agenda until His return. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- Generosity requires us to put our finances and priorities in order. Matthew 6:33
- Generosity grows our faith and develops our intimacy with Christ. Matthew 5 & 6
- Generosity is a prerequisite to claiming God's promise to meet all our needs. Philippians 4:19
- Habitually generous people are happier, have deeper relationships, and live longer. Scientific research¹

¹Dr. Stephen Past and Jill Neimark – *Why Good Things Happen to Good People: How to Live a longer, Healthier Life by the Simple Act of Giving*

Summary: Living generously is the most logical, wise, and rewarding way to arrange our lives and resources.

3. What are our first steps to living generously?

- Recognize it's a _____.
- Re-evaluate your view of _____.
 - Exodus 32-33
 - Genesis 12
 - Psalm 84:11
 - James 1:19
- God is _____ to bless your life.

Summary: We do not own or deserve _____.

4. What keeps us from living generously?

- Human _____
- Delusional _____
- Biblical _____
- Irrational _____
- Greed and _____

Romans 3:23

Summary: Living generously requires wisdom, honesty, practice, faith, and humility.

5. How can you become more generous?

- Take daily “baby steps” with words, thoughts, time, stuff, and money, and record them.
- Celebrate, daily, God’s blessings and record them.
- Give your _____ and best portion back to God each payday.

Summary: I will step out in faith this week to grow in generosity by...

Discussion Questions:

1. What is keeping you from living generously? What steps will you take today to change this?

2. Do you need to re-evaluate the way you view God? What passages from scripture can you use to help you view God for who He really is?

Resources:

I Like Giving – Brad Formsma
The God Guarantee – Jack Alexander
The Genius of Generosity – Chip Ingram