

**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 research<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dr. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 3:23
- Delusional \_\_\_\_\_
- Biblical \_\_\_\_\_
- Irrational \_\_\_\_\_
- Greed and \_\_\_\_\_

**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...

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### **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