

Generosity

Study Guide

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Series Overview

God wants us to grow in generosity and be more like Jesus.

Using This Guide

You may choose to use this guide:

- for personal study and reflection
- as a discussion guide with any group of people interested in what the Bible says about these topics

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1- What is Radical Generosity?

Icebreaker: Reckless Love

Praise God's generosity with this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GGJ8cyYNzQ>

or another praise song of your choice.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- In what way can Christ's example of giving inspire us to be radically generous ourselves ([2Cor 9:15](#))?
- How does [Romans 6:23](#) show us that radical generosity is not about the recipient deserving the gift?
- Once we understand, the magnitude of the gift He gave us, how can that increase our trust in God ([Rom 8:32](#))?
- What is the source of a Christ-follower's generosity ([Luke 6:43-45](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Treasure Principle

According to Randy Alcorn's Treasure Principle, "You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead" ([Mat 6:20](#)).

Six Treasure Principles:

1. God owns everything. I'm His money manager ([Psa 24:1](#), [Deu 8:18](#), [Rom 14:10-12](#)).
2. My heart always goes where I put God's money ([Mat 6:19-21](#)).
3. Heaven, not earth, is my home ([Php 3:20](#) and [Heb 11:16](#)).
4. I should live today, not for the moment, but for eternity ([Heb 11:25-26](#) and [Mat 25:21](#)).
5. Giving is the only antidote to materialism ([Ecc 5:10-14](#), [1Tim 6:9-10](#), [1Tim 6:17-18](#)).
6. God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving ([Acts 20:35](#), [2Cor 8:7](#), [2Cor 9:10-13](#)).

Application Exercise: Treasure Self-Assessment

How true are the following statements for you?

	not true ↔ completely true
I know that everything I have belongs to God. My role is manager.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I try to live for eternity rather than the moment.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I understand that God is more interested in my standard of giving than in my standard of living.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Based on this self-assessment, ask God where He wants you to make some changes.

2-Becoming Radically Generous

Icebreaker: For Me?

Discuss examples of when someone was surprisingly generous with you (something they did for you or gave to you).

Questions for Study or Discussion

- What would be included in being a living sacrifice ([Rom 12:1-2](#))?
 - Using the abilities God gives you as He directs.
 - Focusing your thoughts on what God wants.
 - Spending your time in ways that please God.
 - Managing the resources God gives you as He directs.
 - Other?

- What makes it possible for us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice ([Rom 12:1](#) and [Rom 9:16](#))?

- Why would Paul state that offering ourselves as a living sacrifice is our reasonable service to God ([1Cor 6:19-20](#))?

- How could giving ourselves before giving our resources help us become radically generous ([2Cor 8:5-8](#))?

- What does God want from you most ([Pro 23:26](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Go the Extra Mile

Going the extra mile is performing an act of kindness that is beyond the demands of duty ([Mat 5:41](#)). When you go the extra mile, you do more than others expect. What affect does it have on you when someone goes the extra mile for you?

- It demonstrates that the person values me.
- It inspires me to do good things for others.
- It gives me a good example of how to behave like Christ.
- Other?

Application Exercise: I Will Go the Extra Mile

In the next 10 days, do something to go the extra mile for at least one person.

3-Intentional about Radical Generosity

Icebreaker: Banquet of Consequences

Discuss examples of reaping what you sow.

Sooner or later everyone sits down to a banquet of consequences.
-Robert Louis Stevenson

Questions for Study or Discussion

- What are the benefits of sacrificial giving ([Php 4:15-17](#) and [Luke 6:38](#))?
- How does God perceive our sacrificial giving ([Php 4:18](#))? Discuss ways to describe our behavior as having an aroma.
- For a good harvest, you must sow the right seeds. What does it mean to sow to the Spirit ([Gal 6:7-8](#) and [Col 3:2](#))?
- For a good harvest, you must work hard. How can you abound in the work of the Lord ([Gal 6:9](#) and [1Cor 15:58](#))?
- There is no guarantee that you will have all you want materially in this life. What was Jesus' advice about treasures ([Mat 6:19-21](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Commit to His Plan

Commit to God's plan for using your time, talents, and treasures.
Commit to:

- Find answers in His Word (**1Tim 6:3-5**). The world is not the place to find answers.
- Be content (**1Tim 6:6-10**). Choose the simple life over pursuit of stuff.
- Fight the good fight (**1Tim 6:11-12**). Be prepared to make some sacrifices.
- Honor Christ (**1Tim 6:13-16**). Living according to His Word honors Him.
- Give generously (**1Tim 6:17-18**). Focus your time, talents, and treasures on helping people grow close to Him.
- Focus on Christ (**1Tim 6:19-21**). The things of the world are cheap imitations of what He desires for us.

Application Exercise: Set a Target

- Pray about the plans God has for you. Ask Him where He wants you to use the resources He has given you.
- Set a target amount or percentage of your income to give.
- Begin working towards that giving goal.

[notes]