



A Generous *Heart*

Europe & UK LifeGroup

**Wednesday 9pm - 10pm
via Zoom**

Part 1: Understanding Generosity as an Expression of God's Love

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Key Concepts:

- **God's Generosity:** We begin by reflecting on God's generosity towards humanity. God gave His only Son (John 3:16), which is the ultimate act of generosity. This self-giving love serves as the model for Christian generosity.
- **The Heart of Giving:** Generosity is not about the quantity of what we give, but the heart behind it. True Christian giving is voluntary and joyful, not forced or reluctant.
- **Generosity as Worship:** Giving is an act of worship that reflects trust in God as the provider of all we have. Generosity flows from gratitude for God's abundant blessings.

Takeaway Question:

How does my generosity reflect God's love and provision in my life?

Session One

Session Outline:

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- Begin with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to understand generosity as a reflection of His love. Pray for wisdom to embrace giving as an act of worship.

2. Introduction (10 minutes)

- **Introduce the Scripture:**
 - Read **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** aloud: "*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*"
- **Framing the Discussion:**
 - Introduce the session's focus on **God's Generosity** and how this serves as a model for Christian giving.
 - Explain that this session will explore how the heart behind our giving is more important than the amount.

3. God's Generosity (10 minutes)

- **John 3:16:** "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...*"
- **Reflection:** God's ultimate act of generosity was giving His Son for humanity's salvation.
 - Discuss how this self-giving love serves as the foundation of Christian generosity.
- **Group Discussion:**
 - How does God's generosity shape our understanding of giving?
 - Why is Jesus' sacrifice seen as the ultimate example of giving?

4. The Heart of Giving (10 minutes)

- **Key Point:** Generosity is not about the amount we give, but the heart with which we give.
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7:** The passage encourages **joyful, voluntary giving**.
 - Explain that God values the motive and attitude behind the gift, not the size.
- **Illustration:** Share the story of the **widow's mite** (Mark 12:41-44), where Jesus commended a poor widow who gave only two small coins, because she gave all she had from a heart of trust and love.
- **Group Reflection:**
 - Why do you think God values the heart behind the gift more than the amount?
 - Can you recall a time when you gave out of love and joy rather than obligation?

5. Generosity as Worship (10 minutes)

- **Key Point:** Generosity is an act of worship, a way to show trust in God’s provision and acknowledge Him as the source of all we have.
 - **Proverbs 3:9:** *"Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."*
 - Giving is an acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. It is an opportunity to return to God a portion of what He has given us.
 - **Personal Reflection:**
 - Ask participants to reflect on how they view giving in their own lives—do they see it as an act of worship or an obligation?
 - **Example:** Share examples of how generosity has been an act of worship in the Bible (e.g., King David’s offering for the temple in 1 Chronicles 29).
 - **Discussion Question:**
 - How does viewing generosity as worship change your perspective on giving?
- 6. Small Group Activity: Generosity Reflection (15 minutes)**
- **Break into small groups:** Provide each group with the following questions to discuss:
 - How does my generosity reflect God's love and provision in my life?
 - What obstacles prevent me from giving with a joyful and generous heart?
 - How can I become a more cheerful giver?
 - **Share with the Larger Group:** After 10 minutes of small group discussions, ask for a few volunteers to share their reflections with the larger group.
- 7. Personal Commitment (5 minutes)**
- **Personal Reflection Time:**
 - Encourage participants to take a few minutes to personally reflect and pray, asking God to help them grow in generosity.
 - Ask them to consider specific ways they can apply this teaching to their own lives in the coming week.
 - **Silent Prayer:** Have a minute of silent prayer for participants to commit their generosity to God.
- 8. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**
- **Wrap up the session with a prayer,** thanking God for His overwhelming generosity and asking for His help in becoming cheerful and generous givers who reflect His love.

Key Takeaways:

- **God’s Generosity** is the model for Christian giving—He gave His Son for our salvation.
- **True Generosity** flows from a heart of love, not from compulsion or obligation.
- **Giving as Worship:** Generosity is an act of worship that acknowledges God’s provision and love.

Suggested Follow-Up:

Encourage participants to journal their reflections on generosity during the week and to seek opportunities to practice joyful, voluntary giving. Ask them to pray about one specific area in their lives where they can be more generous, either with their time, talents, or resources.

Part 2: Generosity as a Mark of Discipleship

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Key Concepts:

- **Discipleship and Priorities:** Jesus teaches us that generosity is a way to align our hearts with God's kingdom. By prioritising eternal treasures over temporary, material wealth, we demonstrate our commitment as disciples of Christ.
- **Generosity as a Witness:** Our generosity reveals where our true treasure lies. When we give freely, we show others the radical nature of God's kingdom, where love and service to others take precedence over personal gain.
- **Sacrificial Giving:** Jesus' call to discipleship often involves sacrificial giving, not just from our surplus but in ways that challenge our comfort (Mark 12:41-44). This kind of generosity reflects a heart wholly devoted to God.

Takeaway Question:

How can I align my financial and material priorities with the values of God's kingdom?

Session Outline:

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- Open with a prayer asking God to help us focus on His eternal kingdom, to align our hearts with His will, and to empower us to live generously as His disciples.

2. Introduction (10 minutes)

- **Read the Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21**
"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- **Framing the Discussion:**
 - Introduce the concept that generosity is not just about giving; it's about where our hearts are. Discipleship is a call to prioritize eternal treasures over earthly possessions.
 - Explain that in this session, we will explore how generosity serves as a witness to the world and a reflection of our discipleship.

3. Discipleship and Priorities (10 minutes)

- **Key Point:** Jesus teaches that where we invest our time, energy, and resources reveals what we truly value.
- **Illustration:** Discuss how the pursuit of material wealth often becomes a distraction from spiritual growth and commitment to God's kingdom.
 - **Example:** Use an analogy like a bank account to explain that our "investments" in heaven are acts of love, service, and generosity, while earthly investments (material goods) have no eternal value.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What does it mean to store treasures in heaven?
 - How can we practically shift our priorities from earthly possessions to eternal values?
- **Reflection:** Encourage participants to think about how their personal spending or priorities reflect their spiritual values.

4. Generosity as a Witness (10 minutes)

- **Key Point:** Our generosity is not only about our relationship with God but also about our witness to others. It reflects where our true treasure lies.
- **Matthew 5:14-16:**
"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
 - When we live generously, we point people toward the radical love and values of God's kingdom.
- **Example:** Share stories of individuals or communities whose generosity became a powerful testimony to God's love (e.g., early Christians sharing everything in common, Acts 2:44-45).
- **Group Discussion:**

- How does generosity serve as a witness to the world?
- Can you think of a time when someone's generosity impacted your faith or view of Christianity?

5. **Sacrificial Giving (15 minutes)**

- **Key Point:** True discipleship often requires sacrificial giving. Jesus calls us not just to give from our surplus but to give in ways that challenge us.
- **Mark 12:41-44:** The story of the **widow's offering**—where Jesus commends a widow who gave two small coins, even though it was all she had.
 - **Reflection:** How does sacrificial giving demonstrate a heart fully devoted to God?
 - Discuss how sacrificial giving could be financial, but it could also involve time, talents, or other resources.
- **Personal Reflection:**
 - Ask participants to reflect privately for a few minutes on a time when giving challenged their comfort or security.
 - Ask: When has God asked me to give sacrificially? How did it feel, and how did it impact my relationship with Him?
- **Group Discussion:**
 - What does sacrificial giving look like in our modern lives?
 - How does it help us grow as disciples?

6. **Small Group Activity: Aligning Our Priorities (15 minutes)**

- **Break into small groups:** Provide the groups with the following questions for discussion:
 - What are the treasures I am currently storing up in my life—both earthly and heavenly?
 - How can I better align my financial and material priorities with the values of God's kingdom?
 - What are some practical ways I can make generosity a habit in my life, as a reflection of my discipleship?
- **Feedback:** After 10 minutes of small group discussions, invite a few volunteers to share key insights from their group.

7. **Personal Commitment Time (5 minutes)**

- **Individual Reflection:** Give participants a few minutes to silently pray and reflect on how God might be calling them to change their financial and material priorities.
- **Challenge:** Ask them to make one practical commitment for the week, whether that's giving more intentionally, sacrificing something for the sake of generosity, or realigning their time and resources.

8. **Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**

- End the session with a prayer, asking God to guide participants in aligning their hearts with His kingdom values. Ask for wisdom to live generously, for strength to give sacrificially, and for faith to trust in His eternal provision.

Key Takeaways:

- **Discipleship and Priorities:** Jesus teaches us to store treasures in heaven, not on earth. This reflects a heart aligned with God's kingdom.
- **Generosity as a Witness:** When we give freely, we show the world the love and values of God's kingdom.

- **Sacrificial Giving:** Jesus calls us to give in ways that challenge us, demonstrating complete trust in God's provision and commitment to discipleship.

Suggested Follow-Up:

Encourage participants to reflect on their spending habits and the treasures they're storing in their lives. Ask them to set aside time this week to pray about ways they can give more sacrificially, aligning their priorities with the eternal values of God's kingdom.

Part 3: Generosity in Community and Fellowship

Scripture: Acts 4:32-35

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ... God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them."

Key Concepts:

- **Generosity as a Community Virtue:** In the early Christian church, generosity wasn't just an individual responsibility but a communal practice. The believers shared what they had to ensure no one was in need.
- **The Role of Generosity in Fellowship:** Generosity builds unity within the Christian community. By meeting each other's needs, we reflect God's care and strengthen the bonds of fellowship.
- **Caring for the Poor and Needy:** Generosity within the church extends beyond meeting internal needs. Scripture calls believers to care for the poor, widows, orphans, and strangers (James 1:27). This is a central expression of Christian love.

Takeaway Question:

How can I practice generosity to foster community and support those in need within and beyond the church?

Session Outline:

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- Begin with a prayer asking God to open our hearts to the needs of others and to guide us in fostering unity through generosity. Pray for the wisdom and willingness to live generously in community, reflecting the love and care of Christ.

2. Introduction (10 minutes)

- **Read the Scripture: Acts 4:32-35** *"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ... God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them."*
- **Framing the Discussion:**
 - Introduce the idea that in the early church, generosity was a key part of community life. It wasn't just an individual act, but a communal effort where all believers took care of each other.
 - Explain that today we'll be exploring how generosity fosters unity, strengthens fellowship, and addresses the needs of the poor.

3. Generosity as a Community Virtue (10 minutes)

- **Key Point:** In the early Christian church, generosity was a shared responsibility that helped foster unity. People didn't view their possessions as their own but freely shared with those in need.
- **Discussion:** Ask participants to reflect on how this communal form of generosity contrasts with individualism in today's culture.
 - How does sharing possessions in community demonstrate a higher level of trust and unity?
 - What are some modern examples where communities share resources to support one another?
- **Illustration:** Discuss how some modern Christian communities or organizations (like mutual aid networks, food banks, or shared housing initiatives) practice communal generosity today, ensuring no one is in need.

4. The Role of Generosity in Fellowship (10 minutes)

- **Key Point:** Generosity strengthens relationships within the Christian community by building unity and fostering trust. When believers care for one another's needs, they reflect God's love and care.
- **Proverbs 11:25:** *"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."*
 - Explain that generosity is reciprocal—it not only blesses the receiver but also builds up the giver.
- **Group Discussion:**
 - How does generosity strengthen bonds of fellowship in your own church community?
 - How have you personally experienced the blessing of giving and receiving within the church?

- **Example:** Share stories from church history or modern-day examples of how acts of generosity led to deeper relationships and unity within Christian communities.
5. **Caring for the Poor and Needy (15 minutes)**
- **Key Point:** Generosity extends beyond meeting the needs within the church. Scripture calls believers to care for the poor, widows, orphans, and strangers, reflecting God's heart for the vulnerable.
 - **James 1:27:** *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."*
 - Discuss how caring for the vulnerable is not optional but a central part of Christian discipleship.
 - **Reflection:** How do we balance meeting the needs of those within the church with the command to care for those outside the community who are in need?
 - **Group Discussion:**
 - What are some practical ways we can help the poor, widows, orphans, and strangers in our communities?
 - Are there specific groups of people in our local context that God is calling us to serve through generosity?
 - **Practical Examples:** Highlight examples of Christian ministries or missions that focus on caring for the poor and marginalized (e.g., local food pantries, shelters, outreach programs for refugees).
6. **Small Group Activity: Practicing Generosity in Community (15 minutes)**
- **Break into small groups** and provide the following questions for discussion:
 - How can we practice generosity within our own church to foster unity and support one another?
 - What needs do we see in our local community that we can help meet through generous acts?
 - Are there specific ways we can collectively (as a small group or church) be more intentional about sharing our resources?
 - **Feedback:** After 10 minutes of small group discussions, invite a few volunteers to share key insights or action steps from their group with the larger group.
7. **Personal Reflection and Commitment (5 minutes)**
- **Personal Reflection:** Encourage participants to take a few minutes in silent prayer, asking God to reveal how they can personally practice generosity in their community and beyond.
 - **Challenge:** Ask each participant to commit to one practical act of generosity they can do in the coming week, whether within their church or to help someone in need outside the church.
8. **Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**
- Conclude the session with a prayer of gratitude for the early church's example of generosity. Ask God to empower the group to live out this example in their own community. Pray for open hearts, hands, and resources to meet the needs of others.

Key Takeaways:

- **Generosity as a Community Virtue:** In the early church, believers shared their possessions as a way of fostering unity and ensuring no one was in need.

- **Generosity Strengthens Fellowship:** Meeting one another's needs builds trust and deepens relationships in the body of Christ.
- **Caring for the Vulnerable:** Scripture calls us to extend our generosity beyond the church to care for the poor, widows, orphans, and strangers.

Suggested Follow-Up:

Encourage participants to reflect on the discussions and identify specific ways they can contribute to fostering a spirit of generosity in their church or small group. Suggest that they set aside time during the week to pray about areas where God might be calling them to be more generous, both in their immediate church community and in serving the broader community.

Part 4: Generosity as an Eternal Investment

Scripture: Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Key Concepts:

- **God's Promise to the Generous:** Jesus teaches that generosity leads to blessing, both in this life and the life to come. The blessings may not always be material, but God promises to reward faithful generosity.
- **Generosity in Faith:** Giving is an act of faith, trusting that God will provide for our needs as we pour out what we have to bless others. It reflects our confidence in God's abundant provision.
- **Eternal Impact of Generosity:** Acts of generosity have an eternal significance. By giving to others, we participate in God's mission of love and redemption, and we build up treasures in heaven, not just on earth.

Takeaway Question:

How can I invest my time, resources, and talents in ways that have eternal significance for God's kingdom?

Conclusion:

Generosity as a Christian is more than just an occasional act; it is a lifestyle that reflects God's nature and love. From personal giving to communal sharing, generosity is a tangible expression of our faith in God and our love for others. Through generosity, we witness to the world the transformative power of the gospel.

This series encourages personal reflection, prayer, and action steps to cultivate a heart of generosity.

Session Outline:

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- Open with a prayer asking God to reveal the eternal impact of generosity and to guide the participants in trusting Him as the source of all they have. Pray for open hearts and a spirit of faithfulness in giving.

2. Introduction (10 minutes)

- **Read the Scripture: Luke 6:38**
"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
- **Framing the Discussion:**
 - Introduce the theme of generosity as an investment in eternity. Explain that Jesus teaches us that our generosity doesn't just benefit others but has an eternal impact.
 - Today's session will explore how giving reflects our faith and trust in God's provision and how it builds treasures in heaven.

3. God's Promise to the Generous (10 minutes)

- **Key Point:** Jesus promises that generosity will be rewarded, both in this life and the life to come. While blessings may not always be material, God assures us that faithful giving leads to abundant returns.
- **Reflection on the Passage:**
 - Jesus uses the imagery of "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over," which refers to the way grain was measured in ancient times. This suggests that God's blessings overflow when we give generously.
- **Group Discussion:**
 - How have you experienced God's blessings in response to generosity, even when those blessings weren't material?
 - How does knowing that God promises blessings encourage you to give more freely?
- **Personal Example:** Share a testimony (from personal experience or from others) where someone experienced God's faithfulness through their generous giving, leading to spiritual growth or blessings.

4. Generosity in Faith (10 minutes)

- **Key Point:** Generosity requires faith. When we give, we trust that God will provide for our needs, even when giving might seem challenging or uncertain.
- **2 Corinthians 9:8:** *"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*
 - Explain that faith in God's provision means that we do not rely on our resources alone but trust God to multiply and bless what we give.
- **Illustration:** Use the story of the **feeding of the 5,000** (Matthew 14:13-21) as an example of how God multiplies what we give when we act in faith.

- **Reflection Questions:**
 - How does giving reflect your trust in God's ability to provide?
 - What steps can you take to increase your faith when it comes to giving generously?
- **Group Activity:** Invite participants to share moments when they felt called to give but hesitated. What happened when they trusted God and gave, despite uncertainty?

5. Eternal Impact of Generosity (15 minutes)

- **Key Point:** Generosity is not just about making a temporary difference in someone's life; it has eternal consequences. Acts of generosity build up treasures in heaven and advance God's mission of love and redemption.
- **Matthew 6:19-21:**
"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."
 - Explain how generosity aligns with the work of God's kingdom and carries an eternal reward. When we give to others, we are participating in God's mission to love, save, and redeem the world.
- **Reflection:**
 - How does viewing generosity as an eternal investment change your perspective on giving?
 - In what ways can your generosity impact not only the immediate needs of others but also their spiritual well-being and future?
- **Group Discussion:**
 - Think of ministries, charities, or missions that have had long-lasting impacts through the generosity of others. What can we learn from these examples?
- **Practical Example:** Share the story of someone who has made an eternal impact through their generosity, such as a missionary, philanthropist, or a church community that funded a long-term ministry.

6. Small Group Activity: Investing in Eternal Significance (15 minutes)

- **Break into small groups** and provide the following questions for discussion:
 - What are practical ways you can invest your time, resources, or talents in ways that have eternal significance for God's kingdom?
 - How can you shift your focus from temporary concerns to eternal impact in your daily life and giving?
 - Is there an area of your life where God is calling you to give more generously — whether financially, with your time, or through your talents?
- **Feedback:** After 10 minutes of group discussions, ask a few participants to share their insights or practical steps they can take to make eternal investments.

7. Personal Reflection and Commitment (5 minutes)

- **Personal Reflection:** Give participants a few moments to reflect silently and ask God to reveal how they can invest more fully in eternal treasures through generosity. Encourage them to pray for guidance in identifying areas where they can give more generously.
- **Challenge:** Ask each participant to make one specific commitment for the week: to give sacrificially, invest time in a ministry, or support a mission with eternal significance.

8. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

- Close the session with a prayer, thanking God for His promises of provision and for the privilege of participating in His kingdom through generosity. Ask for faith and courage to invest in eternal treasures and for wisdom in how to be good stewards of the resources He has entrusted to us.

Key Takeaways:

- **God's Promise to the Generous:** Jesus teaches that generosity leads to blessings, both in this life and for eternity.
- **Generosity in Faith:** Giving is an act of faith, trusting in God's provision and believing He will bless what we give.
- **Eternal Impact:** Acts of generosity have an eternal significance, building up treasures in heaven and advancing God's mission on earth.

Suggested Follow-Up:

Encourage participants to reflect during the week on how they can shift their focus from temporary concerns to eternal investments. Suggest setting aside time to pray about areas where God may be calling them to give more generously. You may also encourage them to explore ministries or missions that have long-term kingdom impact and consider how they can support those efforts.