

Embody



Essentials – Live Generously.

ICEBREAKER

What's a moment in your life when you experienced someone's generosity that left a lasting impression on you?

OR

If you could start a charitable organization, what cause or issue would you focus on, and why?

OPENING THOUGHTS

Why is it essential that we grow to become people of biblical generosity? How will that quality distinguish us from society at large?

Which of the following areas of generosity do you find easiest, and which do you find most difficult? Why?

1. Generous with time.
2. Generous with money and giving.
3. Generous with encouragement.
4. Generous with compassion.
5. Generous with gratitude.
6. Generous with kindness.

INTO GOD'S WORD

Read Galatians 6:10, Colossians 3:23 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. How do these three passages involve the generous use of time?

WEEK 4 – LIVE GENEROUSLY

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and Luke 6:38. What principles around the idea of generous giving can be drawn from these verses?

Read Proverbs 11:24-25. What is the promise given to the generous giver? How have you experienced this promise in your own life?

Read Ephesians 4:29 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11. What do these verses teach about generous speech? How is giving encouragement practicing generosity?

In addition, the Bible teaches us to be generous with words (Ephesians 4:29), gratitude (1 Thessalonians 5:18), and acts of kindness (Galatians 6:10).

- Why is living generously such a beautiful expression of God’s character?
- Why is living generously evidence of the presence of Jesus in a person’s life?

A P P L I C A T I O N

All of us should want to live a generous life. The question is how to make generosity a daily practice and a default response to how we engage with life. What are two or three areas of your life that you tend to hold onto very tightly? Time? Money? Friendships? Stuff? When you have your answers, ask God for wisdom in how to bring generosity into that area of your life.

Discussion: Someone once said, “The funny thing about the questions of life is that the ones we ask at the end are the ones we should begin with.” How do you want people to describe you once you are gone? Share your thoughts with your group. Working backwards, what can you do today to become the person you want to ultimately be known as?

D A I L Y T H I S W E E K (C h o o s e o n e)

As you ponder what it might mean to live generously each day, consider these examples as ways to jumpstart your generosity this week:

WEEK 4 – LIVE GENEROUSLY

- Send an email, text, or note of encouragement to someone you know who is experiencing pain or difficulty.
- Be sure that time for helping someone else or caring for someone in need is represented in your weekly calendar. If you can't think of someone to give your time to, contact the church and the church will provide you with some ideas and opportunities to live generously.
- Increase your giving toward a tithing level (10% of your income) of generosity, starting with your next pay period. If you already tithe, give a special designated gift to a ministry or cause that the church supports.
- Spend time each day this week either at the beginning or end of the day, thanking God for the good gifts he has provided in your life. Record your thoughts in a Gratitude Journal.

P R A Y E R

Our Savior and Lord Jesus, thank you for freely giving us your bountiful love and grace so that we can live abundantly and see your goodness overflow into the lives of those around us. Please give us eyes to see and ears to hear how we might share your generosity with those you've placed in our path. Give us wisdom to see if we are holding something too tightly and the grace to place it in your hands through trust. Amen.

S U G G E S T E D R E S O U R C E S

The Generosity Factor: Discover the Joy of Giving Your Time, Talent, and Treasure, Ken Blanchard and S. Truett Cathy
Zondervan, 2002

The Treasure Principle, Revised and Updated: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving, Randy Alcorn
Multnomah, 2017

Money, Possessions, and Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Tyndale House Publishers, 2003

WEEK 4 – LIVE GENEROUSLY

Simple Money, Rich Life: Achieve True Financial Freedom and Design a Life of Eternal Impact, Bob Lotich
Waterbrook, 2022

If you have questions or would like to talk to a Pastor on this subject, please contact your Campus Pastor.