



  
**GENEROUS**  
**LIFE**



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# GENEROUS LIFE

MESSAGE OUTLINES





GENEROUS  
LIFE

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MESSAGE OUTLINES

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Message 1: Generously Blessed

*True generosity connects us with a God who is joyfully generous toward His children.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Genesis 4:2-8; John 10:10

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Message 2: Jump Starting Generosity

*An encounter with the generous Jesus leads to a life of consistent giving.*

Luke 19:1-10; Acts 10:1-8

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Message 3: First Place Giving

*The order of our giving reveals the order of our hearts.*

Genesis 13:1-4, 14:18-24; Leviticus 26:3-5, 9-13; Proverbs 3:9-10

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Message 4: Ready, Set, Give

*True generosity moves beyond a focus on the minimum.*

Luke 10:30-35; Acts 4:32-37

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Message 5: Better Than I Deserve

*Generosity expresses our confidence in a God who holds the future in His hands.*

Psalms 65:1-13



# GENEROUS LIFE

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## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

It is important to assess the cultural health of the money conversation in your church before you begin a series like this. If your church does not regularly celebrate God's provision and live generously, then your culture is probably not as strong as you think it may be. If you have been either silent on the topic or focused more on money in a fund raising manner, take note: the objective of this series is to help establish a culture of unstoppable generosity.

Key practices you will want to repeat throughout this series are:

- 1. Be positive and appreciative. God provides through the congregation.**
- 2. Focus on the generous nature of God. He is generous and we are called to reflect this image.**
- 3. Lead the congregation to listen to God. They are His people and He will lead them.**
- 4. Do not hold back from sharing about the promises, principles, and power of following God. This leads to love, trust and freedom.**
- 5. Avoid teaching that we give out of duty or law. The goal is not to coerce members into giving through force or guilt, but to seek a posture of trust in our generous God and to give generously as a result.**



# GENEROUS LIFE

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## Message Outline #1

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### GENEROUSLY BLESSED

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Genesis 4:2-8; John 10:10*

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#### Purpose

*Generosity comes from God, connects us to God, and to His blessings.*

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#### Main Point

*True generosity connects us with a God who is joyfully generous toward His children.*

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#### Tips

Approach this talk with the mindset that God has a generosity dream for every individual, yet few have an idea that God dreams this way. People mostly feel failure and personal disappointment when it comes to God and money. This is especially true in the story of Cain and Abel. God never condemned Cain for his actions. He set out to disciple him toward a better future, but Cain didn't desire to go on the journey. God is always generous, gracious, and future oriented.

Repetition is important in learning. At the beginning of each message, consider taking time to remind the congregation of the series focal passage 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. At the end of this message, begin to disciple your people with a consistent growth path. Throughout the series you will have the chance to teach your people how to pray related to generosity. We've written **The Generosity Prayer** inspired by 2 Corinthians 9:8-11. You will also unpack the growth path depicted by the 5 different types of givers. Keep your language consistent when it comes to the series focal passage, **The Generosity Prayer**, and 5 types of givers.

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# Outline

## **RECEIVING AND GIVING GO HAND IN HAND (2 CORINTHIANS 9:6)**

- You can only give what you have already received.
- You can receive and give both good and bad gifts.
- You can receive without giving, but can't give without first receiving (see 2 Corinthians 8:9).
- Make a list of what you have received from God.
- Make a list of what you have given back to God.
- Decide you will be a conduit, not a sponge, of God's good gifts.
  - There is a difference between a hose and a sponge. God's intent as He opens His faucet of blessing is for that blessing to flow through us rather than stop with us.
  - Jesus came to give us life to the fullest measure so we could give it away to the fullest measure (see John 10:10).

## **GIVING TAKES GROWING (2 CORINTHIANS 9:7)**

- Learn to give with your heart.
- Exodus 25:2, 35:5, 35:21. Hearts were willing and moved and people gave.
- Learn to give with a smile.
  - Illustration: Giving is naturally rewarding. Just think of the smile on the face of the recipient of a recent gift you gave. Then think of the joy you experienced as the giver. God makes giving fun because it is a blessing for everyone.
- Learn to give as a part of your faith journey.
  - Genesis 4:2-8
    - Giving has always been a part of a personal relationship with God.
      - This text predates the law and organized faith.
    - God gives us guidance on generosity.
      - Both Cain and Abel knew what to do. Only one did what God had been teaching.
    - God gives us grace.
      - God was not rejecting Cain, just his offering. God offered grace and a do over. Cain did not follow God's invitation.

## **GIVING IS THE PATH OF BLESSING (2 CORINTHIANS 9:8)**

- God is a giving God.
  - "Able to bless abundantly"
- God wants to give at all times and all you need.
  - "All things at all times, having all you need"
- God wants to give so that you will give even more.
  - "Abound in every good work"

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# CONCLUSION

*Introduce the different givers in the Bible. All will have the opportunity to learn from these givers in weekend worship services and perhaps small groups over the next few weeks.*

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## Beginning Giver

*I am beginning my giving journey.*

**BIBLICAL MODEL: ZACCHAEUS**

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## Consistent Giver

*I am giving at least once a month.*

**BIBLICAL MODEL: CORNELIUS**

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## Tithing Giver

*I am giving my first fruits (10% of my income) to the Lord.*

**BIBLICAL MODEL: ABRAHAM**

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## Expanding Giver

*I am giving beyond my tithe to the vision of my church and needs I encounter.*

**BIBLICAL MODEL: THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

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## Extravagant Giver

*I am living a radically generous life with all of my resources.*

**BIBLICAL MODEL: BARNABAS**

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## Resources

- Generosity Prayer and Giving Model Bookmark
- Genrous Life Coin Banks
- Generous Life Cube

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## GENEROSITY PRAYER

*“I thank God who has blessed me in all ways, at all times, with more than I need. Lead me to live generously, share joyfully, and look expectantly toward my future.”*



# GENEROUS LIFE

ADULT LEADER GUIDES





# GENEROUS LIFE

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## ADULT LEADER GUIDES

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### Session 1: The Other Side of the Coin

*True generosity connects us with a God who is joyfully generous toward His children.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Mark 10:17-27

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### Session 2: My First Steps

*An encounter with the generous Jesus leads to a life of consistent generosity.*

Luke 19:1-10; John 6:1-13; Acts 10:1-8; Luke 8:1-3

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### Session 3: Got To or Get To

*I am a steward and not an owner. I will give my first fruits (10% of my income) to the Lord.*

Genesis 14:18-24; 28:20-22, Proverbs 3:9-10

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### Session 4: Count Me In

*True generosity moves beyond a focus on the minimum.*

Luke 10:30-35; 2 Samuel 24:18-25; Acts 4:36-37; Luke 21:1-4

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### Session 5: No Holding Back

*We achieve our “dream life” when we live in the freedom of giving.*

2 Corinthians 9:9-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19



# GENEROUS LIFE

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## Adult Leader Guide Session 1

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### THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Mark 10:17-27*

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#### Main Point

*True generosity connects us with a God who is joyfully generous toward His children.*

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#### Getting Started

*As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.*

**Begin by discussing the different organizations or causes that people in your group support financially. Consider why you choose to support these particular organizations.**

**What would happen in our homes, our workplaces, and our friend groups if we stopped giving?**

Giving is part of our everyday lives, yet seldom do we consider how much giving impacts everything we do. So many charitable organizations that conduct groundbreaking research are supported by donations. Giving helps people attend college or travel on mission trips. In theory, we understand the blessing and the necessity of giving, but in practice, our lives sometimes fall short. Today we will look at the blessing of giving in our lives and will come to understand how true generosity connects us with a God who is joyfully generous toward His children.

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#### Discussion

*Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.*

**Make a list of principles and promises related to giving that you have observed reading this passage. Why do these particular principles and promises stick out to you?**

**Motives for giving vary. What is the result of giving reluctantly or because someone pressured you to do so?**

**How did Paul instruct the Corinthians to give cheerfully?**

Paul helped the Corinthians gain the proper perspective on giving. They needed to move from thought to practice; from good intentions to meaningful actions. Paul hoped to lead the Corinthians to give as a ministry and to set a positive Christian example. He wanted them to grasp that those who give more receive more, that giving comes from the heart, and that we should be cheerful as we give. To achieve all of this, Paul appealed to the gospel: because God has been generous with us, we can be joyfully generous to others.

*Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7.*

**What obstacles were the Macedonians willing to overcome to be generous? What giving principles and promises did they embrace?**

**What did God give to the churches in Macedonia? How does this relate to the actions of the churches in verse 2?**

**What difficult circumstances did these churches have to face? In spite of their circumstances, what was revealed about their character?**

How could a group of people have a wealth of generosity and abundant joy in the midst of affliction and extreme poverty? It was only by the grace of God. The church in Macedonia became an example of how God's grace leads us to an open-handed view of money and possessions. Better than most, the Macedonians understood that everything they had came from God, and their giving allowed them to be participants in the grace of God they had received.

**Like the Macedonians, have you ever given and later felt compelled to give more? What do you think led to that compulsion?**

*Have a volunteer read Mark 10:17-27.*

The man known as the “rich young ruler” stands in stark contrast to the generosity of the Macedonians.

**What does it mean to be rich? Would you define yourself as rich? Why or why not?**

**This gentleman desired security in his relationship with God. What do you make of Jesus’ response? Why do you suppose Jesus talked specifically about money as opposed to a moral issue such as anger, lust, judgment, or gossip?**

**Compare and contrast the giving experience, the giving process, and the giving outcome of the Macedonians and the rich young ruler.**

**What obstacles to generosity did the rich young ruler face? What generosity obstacles are you facing? Why is it often quite challenging for people who have much to give much?**

**Is this story an indictment against being rich? Why not? What is the moral of this story?**

Wealth is about more than money. Wealth includes having food, shelter, healthcare, clean water, and most importantly, access to the gospel. By any stretch of the imagination, we are wealthy people. Jesus encountered a very religious man who was very wealthy by worldly standards. He believed he had obeyed the law of God perfectly, yet he was not disciplined enough in his belief to respond to Jesus with his possessions. Following Jesus demands that we give Him every part of our lives, including our money and possessions. The more we comprehend God’s generosity to us in Christ, the more joyfully generous we become.

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## Application

*Our aim is to understand more deeply God’s joyful generosity toward us.*

**On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the least likely and 10 being most confident), rate your level of generosity. How would you rate your current level of financial generosity based on your capacity?**

**What is one small, concrete step you can take to grow in your level of generosity?**

What is the role of individual giving in the mission of the church? What do you imagine the church is unable to do right now but would be able to do if everyone gave generously?

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## GENEROSITY PRAYER

*“I thank God who has blessed me in all ways, at all times, with more than I need. Lead me to live generously, share joyfully, and look expectantly toward my future.”*

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## LOOKING AHEAD

*In this series, we will take a look at five different kinds of givers and their biblical heroes.*

### **THE BEGINNING GIVER**

**DESCRIPTION:** “I am beginning my giving journey.”

**BIBLICAL HEROES:** Zacchaeus and the boy with fishes and loaves

### **THE CONSISTENT GIVER**

**DESCRIPTION:** “I am giving at least once a month.”

**BIBLICAL HEROES:** Cornelius and Mary

### **THE TITHING GIVER**

**DESCRIPTION:** “I am giving my first fruits (10% of my income) to the Lord.”

**BIBLICAL HEROES:** Abraham and Jacob

### **THE EXPANDING GIVER**

**DESCRIPTION:** “I am giving beyond my tithe to the vision of my church and needs I encounter.”

**BIBLICAL HEROES:** The Good Samaritan and David

### **THE EXTRAVAGANT GIVER**

**DESCRIPTION:** “I am living a radically generous life with all of my resources.”

**BIBLICAL HEROES:** Barnabas and the widow



# GENEROUS LIFE

STUDENT LEADER GUIDES







# GENEROUS LIFE

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## STUDENT LEADER GUIDES

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### Session 1: The Other Side of the Coin

*Our generosity connects us to God who is joyfully generous to us.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Mark 10:17-27

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### Session 2: My First Steps

*Following Jesus leads to a life of consistent generosity.*

Luke 19:1-10; John 6:1-13; Acts 10:1-8; Luke 8:1-3

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### Session 3: Got To or Get To

*Nothing is mine. Everything is His. Tithing shares this truth with a watching world.*

Genesis 14:18-24; 28:20-22; Proverbs 3:9-10

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### Session 4: Count Me In

*Believers who want to follow Christ's example of generosity move beyond the minimum.*

Luke 10:30-35; 2 Samuel 24:18-25; Acts 4:36-37; Luke 21:1-4

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### Session 5: No Holding Back

*When we give extravagantly to God, He shows us what it means to live in true abundance.*

2 Corinthians 9:9-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19



# GENEROUS LIFE

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## Student Leader Guide Session 1

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### THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Mark 10:17-27*

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#### Main Point

*Our generosity connects us to God who is joyfully generous to us.*

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#### Getting Started

*Direct students to stand at their seats and remain standing as you name scenarios until they can no longer honestly say they would give in a situation. When you describe a situation in which they would not give, they should sit down.*

- Your best friend forgot her lunch money. Your mom gave you an extra \$20 today just because she was in a good mood.
- Your little brother (or sister) wants you to get him some fries after school. It's his birthday.
- Someone nominates you publicly (on social media) to give in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.
- The offering basket comes by during worship. You just got paid for babysitting (or cutting someone's grass).
- Your youth group is collecting money to buy school supplies for underprivileged kids. You only have \$15 on you and are headed to the movies with friends after church.
- You are flat broke, down to your last \$2. Your church takes up a love offering for a family of five leaving to serve as missionaries in Haiti.

**In your opinion, is generosity an important quality for a person to have? Explain. What would happen if none of us ever gave generously?**

Giving is a part of everyday life, but we don't usually stop to think about how others' generous giving impacts us. Churches meet in buildings, serve people in the community, and witness throughout the world all because of the giving of church members. Giving helps people go to

college or travel on mission trips. Many charitable organizations that conduct important research are supported by donations. Today we'll look at the blessing of giving in our lives and see how our own generosity connects us to God who is joyfully generous to us.

## **YOUNGER YOUTH OPTION**

Play a game of Minute to Win It. Give each pair of students a piece of paper and direct them to work together to name as many benefits of being generous as they can. When time has expired, invite them to share their answers with the group. Lead students to consider the benefits in their relationship with God when they live generously.

## **OLDER YOUTH OPTION**

Share the following: In his book *Tortured for Christ*, Richard Wurmbrand wrote about the years he spent in Communist prisons. Wurmbrand was often tortured and nearly starved to death. Yet, giving to others in Jesus' name was so much a part of his life that Wurmbrand regularly gave other prisoners his own food—even though he only received dirty soup every day and one slice of bread each week.

**How do you think Wurmbrand was able to continue to give generously to others even when he didn't have much? How do you think the other prisoners reacted when they received his gift?**

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## Discussion

*Direct a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.*

**Which is more important to God—the size of the gift or the attitude behind the gift? How do you know?**

**From verses 6 and 8, what is the relationship between giving and receiving?**

**What do you think it means to be a cheerful giver? People have different motives for giving. A teenager might give only because his mom or dad tells him so. At what point in your Christian life do you think you need to decide for yourself to give (see verse 7)?**

Paul wanted the Christians in Corinth to understand that those who give more receive more, that giving comes from the heart, and that we should be cheerful as we give. To achieve all of this, Paul appealed to the gospel: because God has been generous with us, we can be joyfully generous

to others. Christians support the church by giving the right way and by demonstrating attitudes that reflect the nature of God. This is what God desires—for you to give with a good attitude and because you want to.

**If you don't want to give, should you still give? Explain. How can you develop the right attitude in giving if you don't already have it?**

*Ask a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 to find out about a group of people that tested God's faithfulness by their financial giving.*

**In your own words, describe what happened in the churches of Macedonia. What would you think about a person who has financial difficulties and gives generously anyway, even joyfully?**

**What must the Macedonians have believed about God to give in this situation?**

Notice Paul referred to the Macedonians' generous giving during a time of extreme difficulty and deep poverty as "the grace of God granted" to them. In a situation like that, most of us would consider God's grace to be us getting the money we need to overcome our own financial difficulty. Many would thank God for it and go on with life, not considering it an opportunity to turn around and give it to others. The church in Macedonia shows how God's grace leads us to an open-handed view of money and possessions. They understood that everything they had came from God, and their giving allowed them to be participants in the grace of God they had received.

*Ask a volunteer to read Mark 10:17-27 to find out about a guy whose attitude was opposite the attitude of the Macedonians.*

**Compare and contrast the Macedonians and the rich young ruler.**

**Who do you relate to more: the Macedonians or the rich young ruler? Why?**

**This man was looking for security in his relationship with God. Why do you think Jesus talked specifically about money as opposed to moral issues such as anger, lust, judgment, or gossip?**

**What obstacles to generosity did the rich young ruler face? What generosity obstacles are you currently facing? Why is it often difficult for people who have much to give much?**

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# GENEROSITY PRAYER

*“I thank God who has blessed me in all ways, at all times, with more than I need. Lead me to live generously, share joyfully, and look expectantly toward my future.”*

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## LOOKING AHEAD

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**DESCRIPTION:** “I am living a radically generous life with all of my resources.”

**BIBLICAL HEROES:** Barnabas and the widow



# GENEROUS LIFE

CHILDREN LEADER GUIDES





**GENEROUS  
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**CHILDREN LEADER GUIDES**

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**Session 1: Jesus and the Wealthy Young Man**

*You can connect to God through giving.*

Mark 10:17-27

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**Session 2: Jesus and Zacchaeus**

*Time spent with Jesus helps you understand the importance of giving.*

Luke 19:1-10

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**Session 3: Jesus Fed 5000**

*I can give my best to God.*

John 6:1-15

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**Session 4: The Good Samaritan**

*I can choose to give to God more than He asks of me.*

Luke 10:30-35

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**Session 5: The Widow Gave All**

*Giving freely to God points others to Him.*

Luke 21:1-4



# GENEROUS LIFE

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## Children Leader Guide Session 1

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# JESUS AND THE WEALTHY YOUNG MAN

*Mark 10:17-27*

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## Main Point

*You can connect to God through giving.*

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## Getting Started

*Use this section to introduce today's message to kids.*

Gather kids in a circle that can easily expand as more children arrive. Invite kids to begin thinking about things they own and that are in their homes. Beginning with the letter A, ask the child to your left to name something he owns or is in his home that begins with that letter. Continue around the circle with each child sharing something with the letter of the alphabet that comes next. This is a fun activity and not a memorization game. For difficult letters—such as Q, V, X, and Z—encourage children to name an item with that letter in the word.

### **YOUNGER KIDS OPTION**

Write different possessions on index cards and invite kids to put them in alphabetical order. You can also choose to gather and provide actual possessions for the kids to sort into alphabetical order, such as a blanket, clothing, cup, plate, towel, and shoes.

### **OLDER KIDS OPTION**

Challenge kids to all name something with each letter without repeating an item that has already been said. For example, kids may name apples, alarm clock, ant farm, and applesauce cups.

**Were you able to name every single thing your family owns during this game?**



**How many things do you think your family owns?**

**How difficult would it be for you to choose some items from your home to sell?**

**What kinds of things would you choose to sell?**

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## Discussion

*Share with kids that they will be learning about living a generous life for the next few weeks.*

Ask kids to share what they believe the word *generous* means. Affirm their answers as you are able to do so. Help kids understand that the meaning of *generous* is to do more than is expected or required of you. Usually, we talk about being generous with regard to money or time, but there are so many different ways to show generosity which they will discover in the weeks to come.

For the next five weeks, you'll be learning what God says about being generous. You will learn how much is required of you and how you can go above and beyond what that is!

*Invite kids to open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 9:6.*

Assist kids as needed, as you remind them 2 Corinthians is in the New Testament of the Bible. Announce 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 will be the theme verse for learning about generous living. Each week, you'll focus on learning more of the verse, so at the end of five weeks, kids will know all three verses.

Choose a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 aloud, then spend time discussing the meaning of each verse. Use the following questions to guide conversation.

### **VERSE 6**

**What does it mean to sow and to reap? (To sow something is to plant something. To reap is to gather.)**

**Why is this verse giving you advice on how to farm? (Help kids understand it is an example to help explain what God wants you to know.)**

What does the word *sparingly* mean? (Very little or as small as possible.)

Challenge kids to read verse six again, replacing the word *sows* with the word *gives* and *reap* with *receive*.

What message is this verse sharing with you?

## VERSE 7

What kind of giver does God love? (cheerful)

What does this verse share that you should not give? (You shouldn't give because you feel like you have to do it.)

## VERSE 8

What does this verse say you have? (Everything you need.)

What does it mean to excel in something? (Excelling means to do really well.)

Talk with kids about the message of this entire verse passage. Allow them to draw the conclusion that God honors those who give. Giving pleases God. Present today's main point that you can connect to God through giving.

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# Introduce the Memory Verse

## SUPPLIES

Paper plates, marker, Memory Verse Card

## PREPARATION

Write the words to 2 Corinthians 9:8 on the paper plates, one word per plate. For younger children, number the plates in the correct order on the back.

## YOUNGER KIDS ACTIVITY

Allow kids to put the plates in order according to the numbers, then flip them over and read the verse together. Shuffle the plates and review the verse several times. Challenge kids to commit the first part of 2 Corinthians 9:8 to memory as you say the verse together.

## OLDER KIDS ACTIVITY

Form a circle and provide children with the prepared plates in the order of the verse. If you have more plates than children, some children may hold two plates. Guide kids to say the word on his plate, then pass it to the left for the next child to say the next word, stack the plate, and continue to pass the plates around until the entire verse has been said. Repeat the activity once more and shuffle the plates. Challenge kids to put the verse in correct order.

Display the cards kids will be taking home to help them learn the verse during the emphasis on Generous Living. Challenge kids to continue to work on learning the verse at home this week, and they will work on learning the last part of 2 Corinthians 9:8 next week.

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# Bible Story

## SUPPLIES

Teaching Picture 1

Remind kids of the question you asked them earlier about what item they would choose to sell. Invite kids to share the reasons behind some of their answers. Ask kids to think about the most expensive thing his family owns as you share today's Bible story. Open your Bible to Mark 10:17-27. Be familiar with the Bible story below as you share it in your own words.

## A WEALTHY YOUNG MAN

*Based on Mark 10:17-27*

As Jesus was getting ready for a journey, a man ran to Him and knelt before Him. He asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?"

Jesus asked, "Why are you calling Me good? Only God is truly good. You know the commandments: do not murder, keep your marriage promises, do not steal, do not lie, do not cheat and honor your parents."

The man replied, "Teacher, I have done all these things since I was young."

Jesus looked at the man and loved him. He said, “There is only one thing more you must do. Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to the poor. Then you can come and follow Me.”

The rich man walked away from Jesus feeling very sad because he owned many things. He wanted to follow Jesus, but he wasn’t willing to do what Jesus told him to do.

Jesus’ disciples were nearby. He told them, “How hard it is for rich people to enter God’s kingdom! It is easier for a camel to walk through the hole in a needle than it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

Jesus’ disciples asked, “If wealthy people cannot be saved, who can be saved?”

Jesus said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God. With God all things are possible!”

*Use the following questions to guide discussion:*

**What good things had the rich man done? (Following God’s commandments.)**

**What did Jesus tell the man to do? (Sell everything he owned, give the money to the poor, and follow Jesus.)**

**Why did Jesus say it was difficult for rich people to enter God’s kingdom? (Rich people have to love God more than all their riches.)**

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## Application

### **PANTOMIME POSSESSIONS ACTIVITY**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Index cards, marker

#### **PREPARATION**

Write the following words on separate index cards: football, cell phone, clothes, video game controller, money, television.

Allow volunteers to take turns pretending to use the item on the card while others try to guess what it is. After each item is revealed, talk with kids using the following questions.

**How could this item become more important to someone than following God?**

**How can you use this item but still honor God with what you say and do?**

**Why is it important to put God above this item?**

If time allows, assist kids in creating more cards to choose from to act out.

### **YOUNGER KIDS OPTION**

Rather than pantomime, you may allow them to draw pictures of the items for others to guess. Follow the same method of guiding the discussion.

### **DRY ERASE BOARD**

#### **SUPPLIES**

White cardstock (1 sheet per child), page protectors (1 per child, the non-glare kind), duct tape, dry erase markers, scissors, prepared paper plates from “Learn the Memory Verse”

Provide each child with a piece of paper and page protector. Direct kids to place the piece of paper inside the page protector. Using cut strips of duct tape, assist kids as needed to create a border around the page protector and to seal it off at the open end. Once it is sealed, kids have created their own dry erase boards.

Provide the paper plates from “Learn the Memory Verse” for kids to practice writing the words to the verse. Suggest they have friends write parts of the verse and leave blanks for them to fill in.

Encourage kids to take home their dry erase boards and practice writing 2 Corinthians 9:8-9 on the page.

### **YOUNGER KIDS OPTION**

Modify the verse to include only 2 Corinthians 9:8. Rather than having kids write the whole verse on their new boards, read aloud the verse and invite kids to write down the missing words as you say the verse. Use the newly created boards to supply answers to review questions you may ask about today’s Bible story.

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## Prayer

Announce you'll be learning a generosity prayer as a group that you'll be using for the next few weeks. The prayer is based on several verses in the Bible. Read aloud the prayer, then ask kids to identify where the verse is found (2 Corinthians 9:8-9).

Read aloud a phrase at a time for kids to repeat after you. Modify the length of the phrases depending on the age of the group.

*Thank You God for blessing me in so many ways. Thank you for giving me everything I need and even more. Help me to be generous, happily share with others, and be excited about what You have planned for the future.*

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## Challenge

Share that next week kids will be learning about two different kinds of givers: beginning givers and consistent givers. Ask kids to pray about which kind of giver they are. Generate interest in next week's lesson by giving a hint about who you will be studying.

**Hint:** He enjoyed climbing.



# GENEROUS LIFE

PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDES





**GENEROUS  
LIFE**

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**PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDES**

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**Session 1: Jesus and the Wealthy Young Man**

*God loves a cheerful giver.*

Mark 10:17-27

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**Session 2: Jesus and Zacchaeus**

*Giving is a way to show that you love Jesus.*

Luke 19:1-10

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**Session 3: Jesus Fed 5000**

*I will give my offering to God.*

John 6:1-15

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**Session 4: The Good Samaritan**

*I can choose to give to others.*

Luke 10:30-35

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**Session 5: The Widow Gave All**

*I can give an offering to God.*

Luke 21:1-4





# GENEROUS LIFE

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## Preschool Leader Guide Session 1

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# JESUS AND THE WEALTHY YOUNG MAN

*Mark 10:17-27*

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## Main Point

*God loves a cheerful giver.*

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## Early Arrivals

*Use the following activity with children who arrive early.*

### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring Page 1, colors

Invite kids to color the page. As they color talk with them about what they think is happening in the picture. Invite them to share any details they notice.

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## Getting Started

*As preschoolers arrive, use this section to introduce them to today's topic.*

### **SUPPLIES**

Play money, including coins and bills

Engage preschoolers in playing with the money. Encourage them to stack like items together and count them. Talk about what the different coins are worth. Count the coins and bills. Stack them all together. Answer questions about money and talk with kids about how much money they believe different things cost.

Discuss with children that today you will talk about giving. Why does God want us to give money to Him? Giving to God is important. Today's Bible story talks about a rich young ruler. You will learn why giving is important.

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## Memory Verse

*Invite preschoolers to sit together as you prepare to share today's memory verse.*

### SUPPLIES

A strip of construction paper, marker

### PREPARATION

Write: "God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7" on the paper and place it in your Bible.

Choose a preschooler to select the verse marker from your Bible. Say the verse aloud. Invite preschoolers to say the verse with you. Encourage them to make their best cheerful faces as they say the verse.

**What does it mean to be cheerful?**

**Why does God want you to give cheerfully?**

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## Bible Story

*Share today's Bible story.*

### SUPPLIES

Teaching Picture 1 and something that is valuable to you that isn't easily broken, such as a picture, book, or article of clothing

Open your Bible to Mark 10:17. Present your valuable item to the group. Invite them to pass around the item while you share why it is important to you. Provide several reasons, and share a short story about the item and several reasons why it is important to you. Place the Teaching Picture and your valuable item where preschoolers can look at them while you share the Bible story. Use the following story as a guide as you tell the story in your own words.

### THE RICH YOUNG RULER

*Based on Mark 10:17-27*

One day a very rich man ran up to Jesus and asked Him, “What can I do to learn more about God’s love and how he wants me to live?”

Jesus explained to the man he needed to follow God’s laws. The rich man said, “I do! I follow all of God’s laws.”

Jesus knew this man had a lot of money and nice things. He told the man to go home, sell everything he owned and give it to those who were poor, and come back and follow Him.

The rich man was sad. He loved his things more than he wanted to follow Jesus. The man left, because he knew he wasn’t going to sell all of his things.

Jesus turned to His disciples and explained what happened. Money and other things can get in the way of loving God. Jesus explained it is important to make choices that make God happy. Loving God and doing what He says is one way to show God you want to follow Him.

**How do you think I would feel if God asked me to give up (insert the valuable item you brought with you)?**

**Why was the ruler sad? (He didn’t want to sell his things to follow Jesus.)**

**Why does God want you to give? (God wants to know He’s the most important thing in your life.)**

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## Application Activities

### **ACTIVITY 1: MATCH THE MONEY**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Several sheets of paper, play money coins, marker. Real coins may be used under close supervision.

#### **PREPARATION**

Trace the shapes of different coins on the paper. You may make several copies, depending on the number of preschoolers, or provide different shapes on each piece of paper. Write “God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 2:9” on the bottom of each sheet.

## **TAKE HOME IDEA**

Send home a prepared sheet with each child to continue to practice coin match ups at home.

Provide preschoolers with the different coins you traced on the paper. First, ask them to guess which coins match the outlines you made on the paper. Invite kids to match the coins to the shapes drawn on the paper and place the coins accordingly. Review the coins and how much each one is worth. Complete the activity several times, encouraging preschoolers to improve upon the time it takes to place the coins on the paper.

**What did Jesus want the young ruler to do to follow Jesus? (Sell everything he owned)**

**Would you have been able to do what Jesus asked?**

**Why is it important to give to God?**

**How does God want you to be when you give to Him? (Cheerful. He wants you to WANT to give to Him.)**

## **ACTIVITY 2: GIVE AWAY THE BLOCKS**

### **SUPPLIES**

Verse Marker used earlier in the lesson, blocks (enough for each child to have several) or you may cut out circles or another shape that you may distribute to kids, bucket, or basket to hold the blocks

### **PREPARATION**

Place the bucket in the middle of the play area.

Provide each child with blocks. Do your best to make the distribution as even as possible. Remind kids that Jesus wanted the rich young ruler to sell everything he had. Invite a preschooler to hold up the verse marker and encourage kids to say, "God loves a cheerful giver," together. Invite preschoolers to take turns placing one block in the basket at a time. Continue to do so until all the blocks have been placed in the basket.

**Was it difficult for you to give up a block?**

**How would you feel if I had asked you to give up your favorite stuffed animal, your bike, or your**

favorite book? (Assure kids that God is not asking for those things, but it is important to give to God because you want to give.)

What do you think happens when someone gives cheerfully to God? (God gives back!)

Why is it important to give money to the church? (The church can use the money to do good things for God.)

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## Prayer

Close with prayer. Invite kids to work on learning the prayer, as they will say the same prayer for the next few weeks. Read aloud a phrase at a time, and invite preschoolers to repeat it.

*Thank you, God, for giving me everything I need.*

*Thank you, God, for blessings.*

*Help me to be giving and  
Help me to share with others,  
Today and tomorrow, Amen.*

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## Challenge

Practice being a cheerful giver this week!

### **BONUS ACTIVITY**

Call out different emotions for kids to display. Use this activity to remind preschoolers how God wants them to give. Talk with kids why it is important to give because they want to give, and not because they feel like they have to do so. Modify the game by choosing a preschooler to display an emotion for other preschoolers to guess. Ideas include happy, sad, mad, scared, disappointed, and excited.



# GENEROUS LIFE

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS





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FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

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Week 1: The Other Side of the Coin

*True generosity connects us with a God who is joyfully generous toward His children.*

Luke 15:11-32

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Week 2: My First Steps

*An encounter with the generous Jesus leads to a life of consistent giving.*

Matthew 25:14-30

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Week 3: Got To or Get To

*I am a steward and not an owner. I will give my first fruits (10% of my income) to the Lord.*

Proverbs 28:25

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Week 4: Count Me In

*True generosity moves beyond a focus on the minimum.*

Matthew 6:19-21

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Week 5: No Holding Back

*We achieve our “dream life” when we live in the freedom of giving.*

Proverbs 11:24



# GENEROUS LIFE

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## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL # 1

### The Other Side of the Coin

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#### Main Point

*True generosity connects us with a God who is joyfully generous toward His children.*

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#### Read the Bible

*Luke 15:11-32*

<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I’m no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> “But the father told his slaves, ‘Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let’s celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate.”

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#### Talk about the Bible

*Use these questions to guide your family in a discussion about the text.*

**What does the parable of the prodigal son teach us about God’s love for and generosity toward us?**

**What is one specific gift God has given you that you are grateful for today?**

**As a family, what is one way you can show the generous love of God to another family this week?**

**Parents, share with your children about why giving of your time and money to your church is important. Then discuss a way you can be even more generous at church in the coming days.**

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#### Prayer

“I thank God who has blessed me in all ways, at all times, with more than I need. Lead me to live generously, share joyfully, and look expectantly toward my future.”