

# A Life of Generosity

## SELECTED SCRIPTURES

*In this lesson we explore how generosity to others demonstrates the goodness of God toward us.*

### Group Questions

1. What are some characteristics of a generous person?
  - a. Do you think people are naturally generous? Why or why not?
  - b. What are some common barriers to a life of generosity?
2. Discuss some of the examples of generosity in action in the New Testament.
  - a. Who was the ultimate example of generosity? (2 Corinthians 8:9)
  - b. How should we apply the story in Mark 12:41–44 to our lives?
3. Do we ever feel our money is *ours*? What does James 1:17 say about this?
4. What should the answer be to “how much should I give?”

Discuss some of the sacrifices you might have to make if you begin giving sacrificially.

5. Read Matthew 6:19–21.
  - a. Where are we to invest our treasure?
  - b. What happens to earthly treasure? What happens to heavenly treasure?
  - c. List some ways you can “lay up treasures in heaven.”
  - d. Verse 21 says that our hearts follow our treasure. Discuss.
6. Generosity started with God and is to continue with us. God gives generously to us so we can be channels of His love and blessings to others. Discuss some ways you and your group can model generosity to those around you.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

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The whole idea of generosity in English terms derives from the Latin word *generosus*, which originally meant “of noble birth.” It was a class thing—in the word *generous* is the word *genus*, which means “birth, race, or stock.” So, a generous person was originally a person who was above average in his class, standing, and birth. The idea of acting generously gradually evolved as fitting behavior for those of noble birth. You may not have been born into a noble earthly family, but you were born again into the family of the King of kings. It therefore behooves us to give according to our noble standing.

One of the greatest mistakes anyone can make is to think they own anything. God is the creator and owner of everything. What we have has been given to accomplish His purposes, not ours. We are to be good stewards of His possessions; we are to be channels of His goodness to others.