

# GREATER THINGS

WEEK 2 // SMALL GIFTS MATTER

DANNY ANDERSON

You were created to be a giver.

Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to **excel** also in this gracious act of **giving**.  
*2 Corinthians 8:7*

Giving is for those who can afford it.

Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and **watched** as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in **two small coins**. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has **given more** than all the others who are making contributions.”  
*Mark 12:41-43*

What was it that made her gift “**more**”?

Her gift was a sacrifice.

“For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to **live on**.” *Mark 12:44*

They are being tested by many troubles, and they are **very poor**. But they are also filled with abundant **joy**, which has overflowed in rich **generosity**. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but **far more**. And they did it of their own **free will**. *2 Corinthians 8:2-3*

*“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare...If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them.”*  
— C.S. Lewis

What is it that you can’t do because of your generosity?

She didn’t make an excuse.

They **begged** us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. *2 Corinthians 8:4*

What’s your excuse?

Her gift demonstrated her deep faith.

Whoever is **generous** to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will **repay** him for his deed. *Proverbs 19:17*

Small gifts matter to God because it’s not the size of the gift, but the size of the sacrifice that matters.

*To further explore and apply this message with your small group, visit [eclife.org/groups](https://eclife.org/groups) to access this week’s group discussion questions.*

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

*Full list of events and registration is available at [eclife.org](https://eclife.org)’s EVENTS page*

### Be The Change

An annual campaign led by Emmanuel’s Student Ministries, Be the Change is a small group led fundraising opportunity to raise money for families in need over the holidays. Our goal is to raise enough money to purchase 600 boxes of food to share with families who rely on school-provided meals during Christmas break. Follow along on Emmanuel’s social media accounts for opportunities to get involved, or make a financial donation at [eclife.org/bethechange](https://eclife.org/bethechange).

### Outreach Opportunity

Support Emmanuel’s Foster and Adoption Ministry by bringing packages of diapers and an encouraging note to church on November 9 and dropping them in the metal collection bins in the lobby.

### Middle School Retreat

A day designed just for middle school students, including games, food, fun, and an encouraging message. Students not currently attending a church can come as your guest for free. Visit [eclife.org/events](https://eclife.org/events) to register.

### VERB

Designed to help 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students connect with God and with one another, each month’s VERB focuses on a different theme that will help students grow in their relationship with Jesus. Students will experience a friendly, welcoming environment that is both fun and encouraging.

When: Sunday, November 17, 6:00pm

Where: Greenwood Campus E-Café & Auditorium

### The 1824

Join us for an environment created specifically for young adults: 18\* to 24 years old. Each month, we gather for worship, teaching, and a chance to chat with others facing similar unique life experiences.

When: Thursday, November 21, 7:00pm

Where: Greenwood Campus Fieldhouse

*\*18-year-old attendees must be graduated seniors.*