

Our inclination is to think only of           ourselves          .

The sinful nature can be summed up in one word,           selfishness          

*“Americans these days are up to their eyeballs in debt. We make more money than anyone else and we have nothing to show for it except a lot of stress and a bunch of junk to impress someone else. Texans call that ‘big hat no cattle.’” Dave Ramsey*

1. When you are generous you are living from your true           identity          .

The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are **generous** givers. *Psalm 37:21*

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to **share** with anyone in need. *Ephesians 4:28*

Light shines in the darkness for the godly. They are **generous**, compassionate, and righteous. *Psalm 112:4*

They share freely and give **generously** to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor. *Psalm 112:9*

2. When you are generous, you           reflect           the           heart           of           God          .

For God so loved the world that he **gave** his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of **love**, just as Christ loved us and **gave** himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:1-2*

3. When you are generous, you step into           real                     life           .

Command those who are **rich** in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be **generous** and willing to **share**. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the **life** that is **truly life**. *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

“It is more blessed to **give** than to receive.” *Acts 20:35*

The more you **give**, the more you **live**.



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

## Introduction

We are born selfish; a tendency we will fight the rest of our lives. It is rooted in us, and our culture capitalizes upon this tendency by teaching us that life is found in money and possessions. This kind of life is not the abundant life God has planned for us. There is a better life, an abundant life, and it is found by living a life of generosity.

## Discussion Questions

1. Generous means to be liberal in giving and sharing; unselfish. When you hear this definition, who comes to mind and what kind of an impact have they made on you personally? Although most of us would like to think of ourselves as a generous person, generosity doesn’t usually come naturally. What makes it so difficult to be generous? Do a quick estimation of the percentage of your income you consistently give away. On a scale of 1-5, how generous are you? Explain.

2. The Bible teaches us that being generous is part of who we are as God’s children. Read Psalm 37:21 and Psalm 112:4. In what ways does our generosity reflect our true identity as a child of God? Read Ephesians 4:28. Share a situation when you saw the opportunity to share but felt you couldn’t or didn’t want to? What were the factors that kept you from sharing?

3. God, the most generous Being in the universe, gave to us his most prized possession, His Son. Read John 3:16. Our generosity reflects the heart of God. What must change in your heart so others can see Him in you and through you? What are some steps we can take to produce a change of heart in the area of generosity?

4. Our culture teaches that a great life is found in having money and possessions. Read Matthew 10:39 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Jesus and Paul both claimed that a better quality of life is available to those who are willing to live open-handed. Do you believe this? What does it feel like to live this way?

There are three ways you can partner with Emmanuel to develop the habit of generosity.

1. Regular church giving
2. Year-end Christmas gift
3. Multi-site Campaign

What specific steps do you plan to take this week to develop the habit of being a cheerful giver? If you feel you can’t take action, what’s holding you back from stepping into this aspect of the abundant life God has planned for you?

## OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

### OUR CHURCH

Join us as all three campuses come together in the Fieldhouse at the Greenwood campus on November 27 from 4-5:30pm. Serve with us as one church to pack 650 boxes that will provide food to families in the inner city during the holiday break through Shepherd Community.

### OUR COMMUNITY

Make an impact during the holidays by donating items such as toys, hats, gloves, or coats for Christmas. We will collect items through December 11. Please drop them off at the Greenwood Campus’s West Office Entrance in care of Kerry Jones, and they will be distributed through The Refuge or directly to families in need.

### OUR WORLD

Hope Road will be traveling to Nicaragua December 8-12. While there, they will provide Christmas gifts to over 2,500 children. Have some holiday fun by creating hand-made Christmas cards as a family and our missions team will distribute them to children while in Nicaragua. Please turn them in next weekend at the Outreach Counter or Information Desk.

## Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

I’m accountable for \_\_\_\_\_, and their action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_

This coming week, I’m praying for: \_\_\_\_\_