

“You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is **more blessed** to give than to receive.’” *Acts 20:35*

1. Seeing the joy in others .
2. Partnership with God.

“Nothing in this world can satisfy one’s desire more than to have God literally use you to build a church in a small village, bring food to an orphanage, or bring a doctor to a sick person.” – Hal Thomas

3. The return blessings .

Give freely and become **more wealthy**; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will **prosper**; those who refresh others will themselves be **refreshed**. *Proverbs 11:24-25*

“Give, and you will **receive**.” *Luke 6:38*

Generosity is something God wants for you .

“If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you **give up** your life for me, you will **find** it.” *Matthew 10:39*

In God’s economy, the more you **give** the more you **live**.

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**. *2 Corinthians 8:2*

Many Christians are not generous.

The average Christians gives 3% of their income.

Only 12% of Christians tithe.

We don’t believe it to be true.

We have made money an idol .

We are strapped with debt .

We have a scarcity mindset.

You must try it .

“Bring all the **tithes** into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a **blessing** so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! **Try it!** Put me to the test!” *Malachi 3:10*

Group Prep

In preparation for small group, read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Jesus Christ gave his life by way of death on a cross to provide all of humanity the gift of salvation. Because He gave his life for us, we are to give our whole life back to him in return. If this idea is the baseline of Christian faith, why do so many Christians find it difficult to live a life defined by generosity? On average, Christians give less than 3% of their income. What keeps Christians from being the generous community we’re called to be?

Discussion Questions

1. Take a moment to describe the generous person. What does his or her habits with money look like? Who would you consider a generous person and why? Would you consider yourself to be a generous person? Why or why not? What do you think keeps you from being more generous than you currently are?

2. When reading 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, what stood out to you about the Macedonian church’s attitude toward giving? Describe the different giving principles Paul is teaching in this passage.

According to 2 Corinthians 8:9, understanding the depth of Christ’s sacrifice for us is crucial for our ability to give generously. What motivates you to be generous? How should Jesus’s sacrifice motivate Christians to live generously?

There are three benefits in our lives when we choose to bless others rather than receive:

Seeing the joy in others: Consider someone in your life today who would benefit from your generosity. How can you demonstrate generosity to that person this week?

Partnership with God: How have you seen the church partner with God to bless others? What could your monetary gift accomplish for God’s kingdom?

The return blessings: Read Proverbs 11:24-25. How have you seen the principle of this passage play out in your life?

3. How does living a life defined by generosity lead to the abundant life Jesus desires for us? What steps should we take to become more generous?

Action Step

4. Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Will you join the rest of Emmanuel in the “\$10 Challenge?”

My action step is _____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I’m praying for _____.

Outreach: Groups in Action

Serve families that are fostering or considering how to support foster families at the Orphan Sunday event (Greenwood Campus) on November 18 from 6:00-9:00pm. We have opportunities in childcare, greeting, and post-event clean-up.

Serve on Wednesday nights from 6:00-9:00pm and help stock Emmanuel’s Greenwood Campus auditorium with connection cards for the weekend services. This is a need every week.

For more information about these opportunities, please contact Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.