

GENEROUS

EQUIP HUDDLE

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of the core value of Generosity at RLC is to help us see that we are called to be people who are generous with what God provided us with. That includes our time, talents, and money. We are to be people that live with open hands as we share the Gospel with this world so that people can find and follow Jesus.

CELEBRATE

What are you celebrating in your personal life or ministry right now?

CONNECT

Share a time when you were generous toward someone or some organization and how did it make you feel? OR share time when someone was generous toward you and how did it bless you?

COACHING CONTENT

VIDEO

[Our Lead Pastor Rusty George on being Generosity](#)

KEY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

- In this passage, we see that God owns everything. So, if God is the owner, then that makes us stewards or managers of the resources God gives us. You see, before we can be generous, we have to understand stewardship and that all that we have is not ours to own. When we think we are the owners, the fear of losing it or not having it might stop you from being generous with your resources. Jesus has to become the Lord over our money, possessions, positions, and talents. When this happens, we can become radically generous. As Christians, we seek to imitate the one who gave his life for us, Jesus. Generosity is one of the greatest expressions in the life of a steward, knowing all they have is a gift and to be used for God's kingdom and God's glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you feel like you have been acting like an "Owner" or a "Steward" with all that God has given you? What do your actions and spending habits tell you about what position you currently sit in?
2. Knowing, understanding, and experiencing all the good things you have in Jesus, does your faith compel you to be generous and partake in the act of giving?

- This is a blog article from Pastor Greg Laurie of Harvest Church that gives general Biblical principles and values of giving financially. It does not specifically address generosity in terms of time and resources but it does help us understand why “giving” in general is an essential Christian practice as the people of God, under the rule of God, accomplishing the mission of God.

What the Bible Says

The Bible contains more than two thousand verses on the subject of Christians and their money. Time and again, the Bible associates our money with our commitment and relationship to the Lord.

What Is Giving?

The word give has been defined as “to make a present of.” One of the many ways we can give to others is to give financially. Through giving, the early church helped one another and invested in what God was accomplishing. Sadly, the concept of giving has become distorted today. Yet our giving is vitally connected to who we are.

Giving Is an Act of Worship

Giving is a spiritual sacrifice and an expression of love and gratitude, because everything we have comes from God (see 1 Chronicles 29:14). Some people say, “I can’t afford to give!” In reality, we can’t afford not to give. David said that he will not give to the Lord that which cost him nothing (see 2 Samuel 24:24). No matter what we give to God, what is left will always sustain us better than if we hadn’t given at all.

Giving Is a Test of Our Faithfulness

The way we give indicates a great deal about our spirituality. Our giving reveals our value system. Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). God does not ask us to give because He needs our resources. Rather, He challenges us to make Him the focus of our lives instead of our money and possessions.

Biblical Principals for Giving

Although the Apostle Paul never overemphasized the subject of giving, he never neglected its importance either. In 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, we find specific guidelines for giving: it is to be a universal practice for believers; it is to be done regularly; it is a personal act; and it is something we should be prepared to do. As we give, God will meet our needs and prosper us (see 2 Corinthians 9:6–10).

Motives for Giving

God promises to bless us if we have the right attitude toward giving (see Luke 6:38; Proverbs 3:9–10). However, some people give with the wrong motives. They may give in an attempt to manipulate God, to relieve guilt, to increase self-worth, to achieve recognition, to obtain power, or to gain tax advantages.

However, the Bible instructs us to “let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). The motives that God desires for our giving are to express our love to Him, please Him, lay up treasures in Heaven, and help reach the world for Jesus Christ.

The Principle for Stewardship

A steward oversees the affairs and property of another person. Stewardship implies that everything we have belongs to God. Being a good steward means to manage our resources well and use them to glorify God.

The Principle of Tithing

Old Testament law required God's people to give ten percent of their income, which could include flocks, herds, or crops. This ten percent was known as a tithe. In addition to the tithe, God's people were required to give offerings to the Lord for the care of the temple and the salaries of the priests. In the days of Israel, tithing was not voluntary giving. It was demanded as a form of taxation.

Is tithing for today? Dr. J. B. Gabrell made this observation: "It is unthinkable from the standpoint of the cross that anyone would give less under grace than the Jews gave under law." God makes an incredible promise to those who give to His work. He will "open for you the windows of Heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10–11).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is giving as an act of worship?

2. What are some of the difficulties we face in attempting to close the gap between our desired generosity and our actual generosity?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. - 2 Corinthians 9:11

- Paul is reminding us here that God will provide for us in every way for us to be as generous as possible. And in turn people will give credit and glory to God and not to us because He is the Provider and we are simply stewards of His faithfulness.

DISCUSSION QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What's one step you will take in increasing one aspect of your generosity moving forward?

CLOSING THOUGHT

God has blessed us extravagantly and in turn expects us to bless others with a generous heart. Our giving of our time, talents and treasures is a direct expression of our essential call as Christians: to love God with our whole being and to love others as we love ourselves.

COMMUNICATE

Pertinent ministry announcements that need to be communicated.

CARE

Prayer requests and corporate prayer