

Living Generously

Open-handed living in a scarcity world

LISTEN & WATCH www.BTLdiscipleship.guide/generosity [QR code]

BIG IDEA	Generosity is the overflow of a heart that trusts the Father. We give because He first gave, and in His kingdom, what we give away in love multiplies.
MEMORY VERSE	<i>Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver.</i> 2 Corinthians 9:7
ACTION STEP	Decide on a planned, regular giving step and set it up this week.
OUTCOME	I've set a planned giving rhythm and practiced one spontaneous act of generosity.

The Way of Jesus Read before you meet • about 5 minutes

The most generous person who ever lived

Jesus gave Himself: His time, His attention, His touch, His meals, and finally His life. “Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Generosity isn’t a fundraising strategy. It’s what happens when God’s grace flows through us to others.

Scarcity story vs. gospel story

Our world runs on a scarcity story: *There won’t be enough. Hold on tight. Protect what’s yours.* Jesus tells a different story: “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). Then He adds, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:34).

Notice the order. Your heart follows your treasure. If you want to care more about God’s kingdom, start putting your treasure there.

More than money

Generosity includes money, but it’s bigger: time, attention, skills, your home, and your table. The early church shared so freely that “there were no needy ones among them” (Acts 4:34).

The generosity triad

- **Planned.** Decide ahead of time what you’ll give, and give it first, not from leftovers. Many Christians use the tithe (10 percent) as a benchmark. If that feels far away, choose a percentage and take a step toward it.
- **Spontaneous.** Keep a “mercy margin”: a little money or time set aside so you’re ready when a need appears.
- **Relational.** Share a meal, open your home, and give your time to a real person with a real need.

You can't out-give God. "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

When You Meet *about 60 minutes*

Who leads: The disciple opens in prayer, leads Connect, and leads Read. The discipler leads Practice and Pray & Plan.

Connect • 10 min

- Tell about a time someone was generous to you. How did it affect you?
- How is your Freedom Plan going? What needs adjusting?

Read • 20–25 min

Read aloud: Luke 12:13–34 and 2 Corinthians 9:6–11

1. What did the rich fool get wrong (Luke 12:16–21)?
2. What worries make it hard to live with open hands (vv. 22–31)? What does Jesus say about the Father?
3. What does Paul promise about sowing and reaping? What does "cheerful" giving look like?
4. What most tempts you to grasp: time, money, or control?

Practice • 15 min

- **Generosity inventory.** Look at four areas and ask, "Where is God inviting me to open my hands?"
 - **Time:** Who could use an hour of my week?
 - **Talents:** What skill could I offer?
 - **Treasure:** What would planned, first-fruits giving look like for me?
 - **Table:** Who could I welcome into my home for a meal?
- Then each decide on your planned giving step. Write it down. You don't need to share the number.

Pray & Plan • 10 min

- Pray for open hands and trusting hearts.
- Confirm your planned step and your spontaneous act for the week.

For disciplers: Share your own journey with giving: what's been hard, and how God has provided. Stories open hands faster than rules.

For groups: Never ask anyone to share giving amounts. Consider a group generosity project this month: meet a real need together.

Live It This week's action step

Decide on a planned, regular giving rhythm (a percentage or amount, given first) and set it up this week, through Colonial, another ministry, or both.

My planned giving step _____

I'll set it up by _____

Go deeper (optional): Set aside a “mercy margin” in your budget or calendar this month so you’re ready when a need appears.

Pass It On within 48 hours

Do one spontaneous act of generosity for someone on your BLESS list: buy a coffee, share a meal, or meet a practical need.

Five Days with Jesus 10–15 minutes a day

Use **R³** each day: Read, Reflect, Respond.

☐ **Day 1 • 2 Corinthians 9:6–11**

What seed will I sow this week?

☐ **Day 2 • Luke 12:32–34**

Where is my treasure? What’s one step I can take toward the kingdom?

☐ **Day 3 • Acts 2:44–47**

What can I share this week: space, stuff, or skills?

☐ **Day 4 • Proverbs 11:24–25**

Who needs refreshing through me?

☐ **Day 5 • John 6:1–14**

What “loaves and fish” can I put in Jesus’ hands?

Awareness: Scarcity Story vs. Gospel Story

When you hear the whisper, “*There won’t be enough,*” answer it out loud: “*My Father knows what I need. I will seek His kingdom first*” (Luke 12:30–31).

Ready to Move On?

- ☐ I’ve decided on a regular, planned giving rhythm.
- ☐ I practiced one spontaneous act of generosity.
- ☐ I can tell one story of God’s provision.

When you and your discipler agree these are true, move on to the next session. If not, take another week. That’s growth too.

Sources & Acknowledgment

The original pathway

This booklet adapts and substantially rewrites material from *Discipleship Pathway* (2024) by Rev. Megan Koch and Rev. Phil Wiseman of Table Church in Des Moines, Iowa, used with the authors' blessing. The original identifies its license as Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0).

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The Colonial adaptation

Prepared for Colonial Presbyterian Church by Pastor Jeff Sparks for the Be the L.I.G.H.T. Discipleship Pathway. This adaptation keeps the original ten lesson themes; adds a Launch session with a gospel foundation and a Commissioning session with a multiplication plan; restructures each lesson around a weekly meeting, one action step, and a five-day reading plan; and draws on Colonial's *Be the LIGHT Abide Guide* (P.R.A.Y., R³, BLESS, and the Abide Plan), earlier micro-course drafts, and Kent Mathews' evangelism training at Colonial (listening, validating, clarifying, and "know, tell, do, and be the story").

Also informed by

Zúme Training (the Model, Assist, Watch, Leave pattern and the emphasis on obeying and sharing between sessions); *Rooted* by Mariners Church (short daily readings and shared experiences); and *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer (one practice at a time, and a rule of life).

Quotations

John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies* (2021). Dallas Willard, on "pitching its message too low." Henri Nouwen, on downward mobility. Robert Louis Stevenson (attributed), on seeds and harvest. The *Didache* (early Christian teaching, 1st–2nd century), on weekly fasting.

Scripture

Scripture quotations are from the Berean Standard Bible (BSB), which is in the public domain. Read the full passages in any trustworthy translation or audio Bible.

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