



WEEK FIVE: WE ARE GENEROUS – Study Guide

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Generosity is love's natural conclusion. God loves us and shows it through His generosity. Every good and perfect gift is from Him and apart from Him we can do nothing. These are vital truths to remember. Once we understand that, we're able to pour out our lives for others.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Generosity, by definition, is difficult. However, depending on how you're wired, it's easier to give some resources more than others. What type of resource is the easiest for you to give? What is the most difficult for you to give? (Options can include, but should not be limited to, giving time versus giving money.)

Into the Bible

- 2) John clearly taught that one of the ways you live out your love for God and others is through generosity. Read **1 John 3:16-19** to see why and how John promotes giving generously. What is the basis and motivation for generous giving? How do we show that we've been changed by Jesus?

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- 3) Nobody perfectly lives out the command to love each other through meeting needs. John is gracious about that in **1 John 3:20-24**. What is a potential effect of not being generous? How do you resolve that?
- 4) Generosity is important throughout the Bible, not just the book of 1 John. Look at the following passages on generosity and consider what God is showing through them. The following questions can be a guide: What motivates and fuels generosity? Why are we to be generous? What does our giving reveal about us? What is the alternative?
- a. **1 Chronicles 29:6-9, 14**
 - b. **Matthew 6:19-24**
 - c. **Acts 4:32-35**
 - d. **2 Corinthians 8:1-9**
 - e. **1 Timothy 6:17-19**
 - f. **James 2:14-17**

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How Does This Apply?

- 5) Generosity is more than financial giving, but it's certainly not less. It's an area where everyone can grow. What are some areas where you can be more generous with your money? What are some areas where you can be more generous with your time, abilities, and/or other resources?

Current Prayer Focus

What we're praying for together as a church:

- Neighborhood Campuses
- Building for the Statesville Campus
- 100 New Leaders at The Cove

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 6) All of Jesus' followers are called to give generously. However, some people are especially gifted to give more. Paul actually called giving (or "contributing to the needs of others") a spiritual gift in **Romans 12:8**. How can giving be both a command for all Christians and a specific gift for others without being a contradiction? How can you know if you have this gift? What does it look like to have it?

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

Romans 12:6-8

1 Peter 4:11

1 Corinthians 12:28-30

Ephesians 4:11