



Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. Blessed for who? This series explores the blessings that come from living the generous life. Those who trust Jesus and do what he says will learn that his words are genius!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 When you were growing up, how would you describe your family's view of money and generosity? How would you say your upbringing has influenced your current views of money? With that in mind, who taught you to be generous?

2 Jesus once said, **"It is more blessed to give than to receive."** (Acts 20:35). How have you experienced that to be true?

3 GENEROSITY IS IMPORTANT because it reveals if God is important. Rick noted that to bless God means *"to live like He has no rival and no equal."* Jesus knew this would be a struggle for his followers. **Read Matthew 6:19-24.** As verse 21 points out, where we spend our money reveals what we treasure most. Why is that the case? Follow up: What are some practical ways we can store up treasure in heaven instead of accumulating possessions on earth?

4 IT BLESSES GOD... by recognizing His ownership. Rick reminded us that *"The Scriptures are absolutely clear about God's absolute right to all things."* **Read Deuteronomy 10:14, Psalm 24:1, Job 41:11.** How does it make you feel to be reminded that God owns everything? Why is that sometimes a difficult truth to live by?

5 Rick said, *"Tithing is simply a recognition of reality—that we don't actually own anything."*

Read Deuteronomy 14:22-23. What do you think is the role of tithing for followers of Jesus today? Have you tried it? If so, did it bless you? If not, why not?

6 IT BLESSES GOD... by embracing His mission. You bless someone by caring about what they care about. Rick said that *"God's mission is not calling us to escape the world, but to join Him in renewing the world through radical generosity."* Share an example of a time when embracing God's mission led someone you know to a life of radical generosity. How did that impact you?

7 IT BLESSES GOD... by affirming His character. We cannot magnify the greatness of God without affirming the goodness of God. We affirm God's character by radical generosity, which means bringing Him our "firsts." **Read Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 9:7-8.** What does generosity proclaim about God? What does a lack of generosity proclaim?

8 GENEROSITY IS GENIUS because trust is God's love language. Generosity is grounded in the gospel. **Read Romans 8:32.** How does it make you feel knowing that God did not hold back His best? What is one way you can bless God this week?





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- 1** Think of a very positive blessing you have received. Describe how it made you feel? In what ways did it change you and the direction of your life?
- 2** **Read Genesis 1:27, 28.** What would you say is the most basic way that God blessed us? (verse 27). How would you describe the blessing of verse 28? How does being an image-bearer of God bless and equip you for life?
- 3** **GENEROSITY IS IMPORTANT because we were created to pour not store. Read Luke 12:16-21.** Rick noted, "His sin was not in being rich; his sin was being a bottleneck in the flow of God's blessing to others." Give some examples of being generous with each of the following: Your time. Your attention. Your wisdom. Your influence. Your money - (**see 1 Timothy 6: 17-18**) "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" —ML King
- 4** **IT BLESSES OTHERS... by meeting their legitimate needs. Read Acts 2:45.** Rick reminded us that the early church refused to allow legitimate material needs to exist in their community. The reason? Their hearts were captured by grace. In contrast, the world believes in ungrace, where "the haves" are seen as having all the value. **Read 1 John 3:17.** How can practicing generosity this

week reveal to others the love of God in you, and also show others their "real worth" to God?

5 **IT BLESSES OTHERS... by modeling a different path to joy.** Our path to joy will never come through our "stuff." It comes through generosity. **Read Proverbs 11:25; Hebrews 13:5.** Rick said, "There is a transcendent kind of joy the world needs to witness that comes from clinging tightly to God and holding everything else loosely." How can others see your joy through generosity? Any personal examples?

6 **IT BLESSES OTHERS... by making good news more available.** Getting the good news to others must be funded. **Read Luke 8:1-3.** Rick noted, "You were born, and you were reborn, to pour." Like Mary did to Jesus. She broke the bottle, anointed Jesus with expensive perfume, affirming His mission and gift to the world. **Read Mark 14:9.** In what ways does our own generosity reach far into the future?

7 **GENEROSITY IS GENIUS because what gets poured get stored. Read 1 Timothy 6:19.** Jesus keeps track of everything we pour, even a cup of cold water. So, as Rick said, "Store up this truth in your heart: you were blessed to be a blessing." What is one way you can bless others this week?





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1 Think of something you have given to someone else. How did it make you feel to bless another person? What long-term effects did your original blessing have on that person that you learned about later? How did that make you feel?

2 GENEROSITY IS IMPORTANT because it is not a purchase. In other words, it rewards me not from a purse, but from a purpose. **Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-11.** Rick noted, *"I need a better reason to live than to see how big a barn I can build."* Generosity gives me that reason to live. The greatest quality of life comes from knowing the generosity of Jesus and making Him known. Rick said, *"Money can only add meaning to my life when it is not the meaning of my life."* Agree or disagree? How can money add meaning to our lives?

3 IT BLESSES ME... by guarding my heart. **Read Luke 12:15.** Money mimics God more than anything else, promising to provide only what God can provide. It is generosity that pushes back against the lies that money is what blesses us the most. What are some of the promises that money makes but cannot deliver? How do you guard your heart against those lies?

4 IT BLESSES ME... by growing my faith. **Read Matthew 6:31-33.** Trust is God's love language. We need the absolute confidence that our Father will take care of us. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-3.**

How does being generous, help us learn of God's trustworthiness? Share a story of how God "came through" for someone because you were generous.

5 IT BLESSES ME... by increasing my reward. Our real reward is eternal. The "stuff" we accumulate here will decay, be burned up, or stolen. Generosity creates dividends for both now and eternity. **Read Matthew 6:19-20; Matthew 19:28-29.** Why is it so easy to think that our real rewards exist only here in this life?

6 IT BLESSES ME... by securing my joy. Rick said, *"Abundance of stuff has little to do with abundance of joy... For kingdom people joy lasts because it is based in the unending and unfailing grace of God."* **See 2 Corinthians 8:4-5.** The Corinthians gave out of an understanding of His grace. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:9.** What can you do this week to share with others your joy over receiving the grace of God?

7 GENEROSITY IS GENIUS because stories make me richer than stuff. Share a generosity story that had the biggest impact on you. Go make some good stories! Bless someone this week by picking up the tab (Ideas: Buy the drink(s) for the next person(s) in line at Starbucks. Pay for the person behind you in the drive through; Buy a load of washing for someone at a laundromat, etc.). Then ask? Who got more joy out of it?

