



The Generosity Challenge

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Challenge**
**SERMON & SCRIPTURE
DISCUSSION GUIDE**



Week 1: October 26, 2025 (Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost)

Text: Genesis 1:27-31; John 3:11-16

Topics: Image of God, Creation, Generosity, Gift, Love, Abundance, Responsibility

Core Values: As Christians, we believe that everything we have is a gift from God.

Theme: Being born in the image of God, we are to be generous.

Beginning thought... Before you begin to discuss this topic, what are your thoughts on generosity now?

Bible Study Questions:

1. What does it mean to be created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)?
2. How does God's act of giving creation to humankind demonstrate divine generosity (Genesis 1:28–31)?
3. In John 3:16, how is God's generosity expressed through the giving of Jesus?
4. How do the testimonies in John 3:11–13 relate to our role as stewards of God's message?
5. What connections can you draw between God's love and our call to be generous?

Group Discussion Questions:

1. How do you personally reflect God's generosity in your daily life?
2. In what ways does our understanding of being made in God's image affect how we view our possessions and resources?
3. Can generosity go beyond money? Share examples of generosity with time, attention, or compassion.
4. How can we cultivate a generous spirit in a culture focused on individual gain?
5. What practices can help us become more aware of God's abundance in our lives?
6. How can we pray for you?

Prayer: Creator God, You have made us in Your image, breathed Your life into us, and entrusted us with the care of Your good creation. You are the giver of every good gift—life, love, and grace beyond measure. Thank You for showing us generosity through the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we study Your Word, open our hearts to reflect Your generosity in our lives. Help us to see our resources not as possessions, but as blessings to be shared. Teach us to live with open hands, giving freely as we have freely received. Shape us to be generous people, in spirit and in action, that the world may see You through us. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



Week 2: November 2, 2025 (All Saints Sunday; Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost)

Text: Luke 17:11-19

Topics: Gratitude, Healing, Faith, Return, Praise, Wholeness, Response

Core Values: As Christians, we believe that everything we have is a gift from God.

Theme: We are grounded in Gratitude.

Beginning thought... Before you begin to discuss this topic, what are your thoughts on gratitude now?

Bible Study Questions:

1. What is significant about the one leper who returned to thank Jesus (Luke 17:15–16)?
2. What does Jesus' question "Where are the other nine?" reveal about gratitude?
3. How does gratitude relate to faith in this passage (v. 19)?
4. What might have motivated the Samaritan to return and give thanks?
5. How does this story expand our understanding of stewardship as a thankful response to God?

Group Discussion Questions:

1. When have you experienced gratitude as a transforming force in your life?
2. How do we express gratitude to God in tangible ways?
3. What does it look like to be "grounded in gratitude" as a Christian community?
4. How can we help cultivate a culture of gratitude in our church and families?
5. What role does gratitude play in motivating our giving and serving?
6. How can we pray for you?

Prayer: Gracious Healer, You meet us in our brokenness and speak words of life and healing. Like the one leper who returned, we pause to say "thank You." Thank You for grace that restores, for mercy that surprises, for love that never fails. Forgive us for the times we have taken Your blessings for granted. Plant deep in us a spirit of gratitude—a gratitude that moves us to live differently, love deeply, and give freely. Let thanksgiving be the soil in which our stewardship grows. As we reflect on Your Word, may our hearts be stirred to praise, and our lives reflect Your goodness. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Week 3: November 9, 2025 (Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost)

Text: Ephesians 1:15-23; Mark 9:14-29

Topics: Prayer, Power, Hope, Calling, Gifts, Faith, Offering

Core Values: As Christians, we believe that everything we have is a gift from God.

Theme: Be in prayer about what to offer to God. (time/talents)

Beginning thought... Before you begin to discuss this topic, what are your thoughts on stewardship now?

Bible Study Questions:

1. What is Paul praying for in Ephesians 1:17–19, and how does it relate to spiritual insight?
2. How does the “immeasurable greatness of God’s power” (Eph. 1:19) impact your understanding of offering your time and talents?
3. In Mark 9:24, the father cries, “I believe; help my unbelief!” How can this prayer guide us in discernment?
4. What does Jesus mean when he says, “This kind can come out only through prayer”? (Mark 9:29)
5. How do these passages shape our approach to asking God how to serve?

Group Discussion Questions:

1. How do you currently discern what gifts or talents you can offer to God?
2. What role does prayer play in your decision-making about how to use your time and energy?
3. Share a time when prayer led you to serve in a way you didn’t expect.
4. What holds us back from offering ourselves more fully to God’s work?
5. How can the church better support people in discovering and using their spiritual gifts?
6. How can we pray for you?

Prayer: Holy God, You call us to more than we can see or imagine. You have given each of us gifts—some known, some yet to be discovered—and You invite us to offer them back to You in faith. Help us to be still and listen for Your Spirit. Give us wisdom as we pray, courage as we act, and faith as we trust in Your leading. When we feel uncertain, strengthen our belief. When we feel inadequate, remind us that Your power is made perfect in our weakness. Teach us, Lord, what we are to offer—our time, our talents, our very lives—so that Your kingdom may come among us. Through Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.



Week 4: November 16, 2025 (Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost)

Text: Luke 19: 1-10

Topics: Faith, Joy, Overcoming, Repentance, Salvation, Generosity, Change, Transformation

Core Values: As Christians, we believe that everything we have is a gift from God.

Theme: How can generosity change us and the world?

Beginning thought... Before you begin this discussion, what are your thoughts on generosity now; have your thoughts changed over the course of this sermon series?

Bible Study Questions

1. How did Luke describe Zacchaeus? What do we know about him?
2. What problem did Zacchaeus have? How did he solve his problem?
3. What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus in verse 5? What does "I must stay" imply?
4. What reputation did Zacchaeus have in Jericho? How do you learn about his reputation?
5. Verse 10 is considered to be the key verse of Luke's Gospel. What is the message of this verse and how is this concluding verse of the passage significant?

Group Discussion Questions

1. Those who want to see Christ will likely overcome difficulties to do so? Have you overcome difficulties in your search for Christ?
2. How does a person's reputation affect our opinion of them? How do we often learn of a person's reputation? What's wrong with gossiping? If we want to share our faith with someone, how much attention should we pay to their status and reputation?
3. What does it mean to be reconciled through Christ, and why is this important for our understanding of salvation?
4. How does Zacchaeus repent and express his changed/transformed heart?
5. What do the actions of Zacchaeus reveal about the power of God to change hearts?
6. What practical changes might you consider implementing to be more generous and to better reflect Christ in your daily interactions and decisions?
7. How can we pray for you?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for seeking me and granting the gift of your salvation through Jesus Christ, which has transformed my life. Let us rejoice that a seeking Savior will always find a sinner who is looking for a new beginning. Help me to live with a generous heart that reflects Your love and sacrifice. Please, fill me with the Holy Spirit to give selflessly of my time, talents and resources, not from compulsion, but with a cheerful and grateful heart, knowing that all that I have is from You. Guide me to see the needs of others so that I may help them and bless them as you have blessed me.