

GENEROSITY

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Do you like giving gifts to people you love? What do you usually give?
- What's one thing you'd like to give to someone but can't afford yet? Why do you want to give it to him/her?
- Share about a time when someone was unexpectedly kind to you. How did you respond?

WORD

“... give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” **LUKE 6:38**

Generosity is using our time, money, talents, and other God-given resources to help others. However, it's sometimes hard to give. When this happens, we go back to God's Word. The Bible reminds us that God knows all our needs and cares for us (Matthew 6:24-35). The Apostle Paul also tells us that God will supply our every need when we give generously to others (Philippians 4:19). God's greatest act of generosity is Jesus Christ. When we received salvation from Jesus, we were given the free gift of eternal life. Knowing how richly blessed we already are in Jesus results in a life of generosity. In this lesson, we will learn how we can be generous to others as well.

1 Give generously.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **2 CORINTHIANS 9:6**

The Bible promises rewards and blessings for our generosity—based on the measure we used to give. The more generous we are, the more we will reap. Why do you think it's hard to give generously? Why is it hard to give when we don't look to God as our source?

2 Give freely.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion . . . 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

We can give freely because we have received freely—of God’s love, mercy, and grace. As we trust God for provision, we can give freely, with glad and sincere hearts. We should not fear lack, because God honors our giving by enriching and blessing us (Proverbs 11:25). Why should we not give *reluctantly or under compulsion*?

3 Give cheerfully.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

We can give, but not do so joyfully and cheerfully. To give cheerfully is to be so content in God’s provision that we graciously share and give, without holding back. God loves this and this is how He wants us to give. What does a reluctant giver look like? Why does God not like this?

APPLICATION

- Do you trust God to provide for you and meet your needs? How can you grow in your understanding of and appreciation for Him as your provider this week?
- Are you a cheerful giver? How can you apply what you learned today? To whom can you be generous this week?
- How can you become a more generous giver? What's one thing you can do to develop the spiritual discipline of generosity?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His generosity and for how He has blessed you freely and cheerfully. Thank Him for His abundant provision.
- Pray that you would develop the spiritual discipline of generosity. Ask God to bless you so that you would be a blessing.
- Pray that you would know who to give to, when to give, and how to give. Pray that God would be honored and glorified as you step out in faith to give.



EVERY NATION

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