

Doubling Down – Week 2 – Personal Generosity
Spiritual Formation Guide

When it comes to the Bible's teachings on money, trusting Scripture sometimes gets harder, but the truth of the matter is that God wants his church to be excellent at giving. He doesn't need our money, but he does want our hearts, and generosity has the potential to grow us in all the right ways if we let it.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

"A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God." Luke 12:13-16

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Psalm 24:1

Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops. Proverbs 3:9

On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. 1 Corinthians 16:2

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Discussion and Reflection Questions:

- Icebreaker: What's your favorite kind of gift to give? What's the best gift you've ever received?
- Read Matthew 6:21. What do you treasure?
- Read the parable in Luke 12:13-16. Share with one another what you notice. Where do you find yourself in this story?
- In this passage, Jesus talks about "many kinds of greed." What are some kinds of greed that aren't as obvious?
- Eddie shared that "The best way to resist greed is by giving." Have you experienced this? Share as you're willing.
- Look over the verses listed above & have people read them out loud: Matthew 6:1, Psalm 24:1, 2 Corinthians 8:7, Proverbs 3:9, 1 Corinthians 16:2, and Acts 20:35. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- How can you pray for one another in the area of generosity? Spend a few moments praying for one another and for our church community to grow in faithfulness in this area.

Personal Reflection Questions (on your own during the week):

- Eddie shared a challenging question for self-reflection: Do we believe in the Bible's authority for ourselves as much as we believe in it for others? Take a minute to write a simple response and talk to God honestly about that.
- Spend some time reflecting on the challenges offered in the message. Which one do you sense God inviting you to embrace in the coming season?
 - Become a regular giver give the first and the best of what you have to God.
 - Become a percentage giver.
 - Become a sacrificial giver.
- Reach out to a friend who follows Jesus and share some of your reflections. Ask them to pray for you as you embrace God's invitation to generosity.

28 Days of Prayer

November 7 - December 4, 2021

As a church family, we are going to spend the coming weeks intentionally praying together.

You can download the full prayer guide as a pdf <u>here</u>.

Want to receive prompts each day by text or email? Visit www.wschurch.org/pray to sign up.