



ACTIONS + ATTITUDES
THAT MAKE YOU MORE
THAN HAPPY!

LESSON 13 // BE GENEROUS

Big Idea: Joy is inseparably linked to generosity—a vital part of the pathway to a joyful life. Generosity is a godly quality and a personal choice. You can choose to develop a generous spirit. Then you will find that generosity is a key to increased joy and blessings.

Philippians 4:15-19 (NIV) *Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

Malachi 3:10 (NLT) *“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”*

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NLT) *You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*

Acts 20:35 (NIV) *In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

Start Talking:

How do you think generosity might be related to your spiritual growth and maturity?

Start Thinking:

Read Philippians 4:15-19. What do you learn from these verses about the value of generous giving and the encouragement it can bring to those who give as well as those who receive their gifts?

Read Malachi 3:10. In what way is God inviting us to put Him “to the test” in these verses?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. Why is important that we don’t give “reluctantly or in response to pressure”? What does it mean to give “cheerfully”?

Read Acts 20:35. In what ways is it “more blessed to give than to receive”?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for God to help you give “cheerfully” and generously because of all He has given to you, and to increasingly value giving more than getting. Look for ways to give to God and others this week that will express this generosity and fight against any temptation to withhold what He wants you to give.