



# GENEROUS LIVING

“

Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

Isaiah 58:7

”

Living generously includes stewardship, service, and plentifully giving of oneself or one's resources. Generosity includes giving of yourself, your finances, time, and talent in a way and not expecting anything in return. As followers of Jesus we recognize that God is the true owner of everything and all we have to begin with. We give for the advancement of God's Kingdom on earth and for our formation into Christlikeness.

Generosity as stewardship is looking after and generously offering what God has given you. This includes your gifts, talents, resources, and finances, wherein you offer them open-handedly to the Lord to use for his purposes. As we open ourselves to stewardship, we will see that, over time, we have the opportunity to be more like Christ as we continue to be free from greed, hoarding, and self-centeredness.

Generosity as service is a willingness to offer yourself, gifts, talents, resources, and finances as a way to love others. Jesus' whole life was a life of love and service. The root of the gospel story is that Jesus ultimately gave himself so that we may live and have true life in him. Prior to his death, though, Jesus lived a generous life as he fed the hungry, washed his disciples's feet, healed the sick, raised the dead, and blessed children, to name a few.

Jesus displayed a heart of compassion and service towards others. As we seek to live generous lives through the practices of stewardship and service, we will, overtime, become more like him in these ways. Generosity plays a huge role in our spiritual formation and we have the opportunity to partner with the Holy Spirit as we seek how he is leading us to live generously in both general and specific ways.

### **Prayer Prompts**

Generosity is a lifestyle. Take some time over the next few days to pray over these different prayer prompts about living a generous life.

#### **Ask the Lord...**

- "Lord, is my current lifestyle one of generosity? In what way am I being generous right now?"
- "Lord, in what ways can I grow in generosity? Where specifically are you asking me to be more generous? My time, talents, finances, resources?"

#### **Ask the Lord...**

- "Lord, when it comes to stewardship, how do I feel that all things I have belong to you?"
- "Do I believe this and live as if it is true?"
- "Lord, in what ways are you asking me to be more of a steward of what you have given me?"
- Who is someone I can financially bless to support their needs?"

#### **Ask the Lord...**

- "Lord, when it comes to service, how do I feel? Is service a part of my Christian formation or is this a hardship and challenge for me?"
- "Lord, in what ways do I live out of an entitlement heart and mentality rather than wanting to give for the sake of loving others well?"