

Small Group Guide: *Living Generously* - 1 Corinthians 16
***The Gospel Centered Life* - Part 12, 06/09/26**

Key Takeaways:

- A Gospel Centered life cares about others and is willing to pay the price to help them.
- A Gospel Centered life understands that all our resources come from God.
- A Gospel Centered life is deliberately and consistently generous.

Icebreaker Question: When was the last time you gave something to someone at a real cost to yourself—and how did it feel afterward?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4. Most of us are comfortable giving advice, somewhat comfortable giving time, but instinctively resistant to giving money. Do you find that to be true in your own life? Why do you think money feels different?
2. Paul asked the Corinthians to give to people they had never met, had no relationship with, and had no way to verify. What would make that kind of giving feel possible for you?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 16:2. Paul instructed the Corinthians to set aside money 'in keeping with their income'—proportionally and consistently. What does proportional giving look like practically in your life right now? Is your current level of giving proportional to what God has given you?
4. Read Luke 21:1-4. Jesus didn't teach tithing in the New Testament, but He did raise the bar on generosity—pointing to the widow who gave everything she had. In what ways does the widow's example challenge the way you currently think about giving?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-4. Paul describes the Macedonian church—people in extreme poverty who urgently pleaded for the privilege of giving to others. What does their example reveal about the relationship between generosity and spiritual maturity? What does it challenge in your own thinking?
6. Read Matthew 6:24 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Our attitude toward money reveals the state of our heart. Do you agree with that? What do you think your current financial habits reveal about where your heart is?
7. Read Matthew 28:19-20. There's an obvious connection between generosity and the mission of the church—that a Gospel Centered life gives strategically to what matters most: making disciples of all nations. How does thinking about generosity as mission-driven rather than obligation-driven change how you approach it?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. God loves a cheerful giver—someone who gives not reluctantly or under compulsion, but from the heart. On a personal level, would you describe your current giving as cheerful? What would need to change for it to be?
9. Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-11. God supplies us with not only what we need for ourselves, but also with what we need to live and give generously. How does this challenge the way you think about your income and standard of living? How might it change your attitude towards your income and how you spend it?
10. In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul describes the differences between a self-centered life and a gospel centered life. Take time to process this summary list. Which area feels most personally challenging to you right now—and why?
 - A self-centered life is lived in our strength—a gospel centered life is lived by the power of the Spirit. (ch 1)
 - A self-centered life is led our human wisdom—a gospel centered life is led by Jesus. (ch 2,3,4)
 - A self-centered life tolerates sin in our life—a gospel centered life deals with it. (ch 5,6)
 - A self-centered life is fixated on our status in life (single/married)—a gospel centered life is about wholehearted, undivided devotion to Jesus regardless of our situation in life. (ch 7)
 - A self-centered life is focused on our freedom in Christ—a gospel centered life is focused on our responsibilities and willing to sacrifice our rights to help others grow in their faith. (ch 8)
 - A self-centered life is all about loving ourselves—a gospel centered life is all about loving others. (ch 8)

- A self-centered life is driven by our hopes and dreams—a gospel centered life is driven by the mission of God and doesn't let our own ambitions get in the way of the mission. (ch 9)
- A self-centered life is lived for our glory—a gospel centered life is lived for God's glory. (ch 10)
- A self-centered life does what we think is best—a gospel centered life trusts God and does what He says is best. (ch 11)
- A self-centered life uses spiritual gifts for our own fulfillment—a gospel centered life uses spiritual gifts to build God's church (ch 12,13,14)
- A self-centered life settles for just being saved—a gospel centered life allows God to transform us so we experience the fullness of who God called us to be. (ch 15)
- A self-centered life has a scarcity mindset—a gospel centered life is generous. (ch 16)

Prayer:

- Thank God for His generosity toward you—for the gospel itself, which is the ultimate act of sacrificial giving.
- Ask God to reveal any areas where a scarcity mindset or self-centeredness is limiting your generosity.
- Ask for the courage and faith to give deliberately, consistently, and cheerfully—trusting that God will supply everything you need to live the life He has called you to live.