October 25, 2026 – UPLIFTED Week 2 - Lead Pastor Marc Riegel

Sermon Discussion Guide



UPLIFTED — Week 2: Everything Comes From God

Key Scriptures: James 1:12–18; 1 Chronicles 29:14–16
Additional Scripture: Matthew 6:19–24

Big Idea: Everything we have—our time, talents, treasure, relationships, and opportunities—is a gift from God. Because He is the true owner of all things, we faithfully steward what He has entrusted to us. **We don't give to make God generous. We give because He already is generous.**

What is one of the best gifts you've ever received? What made it meaningful to you?

1. Where Does Everything Come From? Read James 1:16–18.

James reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from God. He also points to the new life God gives us through His Word.

- What are some gifts from God that we often take for granted?
- How does recognizing God as the source of our blessings change the way we view what we own?
- James reminds us that God's goodness doesn't change with our circumstances. How can we remain grateful and trust Him during difficult seasons?

2. Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Will Be. Read Matthew 6:19–24.

Jesus teaches that our treasure and our hearts are connected. Money itself isn't the enemy, but it can become something we trust more than God.

- Why do you think it is so easy to look to money and possessions for security?
- What are some signs that the things we own might be beginning to own us?
- How can we enjoy God's blessings while still holding them loosely and remaining willing to share?

3. We Give Because God Has Given Read 1 Chronicles 29:14–16.

As the people prepared to give toward the building of the temple, David recognized that everything they offered had first come from God's hand.

- Why do you think David responded with humility rather than taking credit for the people's generosity?
- How does giving become different when we see ourselves as stewards rather than owners?
- How can our generosity make a difference beyond meeting a financial need—both in our own hearts and in the lives of others?

4. Taking the Next Step in Generosity

The UPLIFTED giving journey moves through five stages: **Awakened, Rooted, Intentional, Surrendered, and Kingdom-minded.** The goal isn't to compare ourselves with others, but to grow in trust and become more generous.

- Which of these stages best describes where you are in your giving journey right now? Why?

October 25, 2026 – UPLIFTED Week 2 - Lead Pastor Marc Riegel

- What fears, habits, or priorities might make it difficult to trust God more fully with what He has entrusted to you?
- What is one step you could take this week to grow in generosity—through your finances, time, talents, or care for someone else?

Putting It into Practice

Remember: Everything comes from God. You are not the ultimate owner of your resources; you are a steward of what He has entrusted to you.

Pray: Ask God, "What does a faithful response look like for me?" Take time this week to listen, reflect, and invite Him to shape your priorities.

Invest: Take one intentional step toward greater generosity. It might mean beginning a regular giving practice, reconsidering a spending habit, serving someone in need, or prayerfully considering how you can participate in the UPLIFTED vision at Emmanuel Church.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for Your goodness and for every gift You have placed in our lives. Forgive us for the times we have taken Your blessings for granted or looked to our possessions for security instead of trusting You. Help us recognize that everything we have comes from Your hand. Grow our faith, shape our priorities, and teach us to give with grateful and generous hearts. Show each of us our next step in following You, and use our lives and resources to bless others and advance Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Family Discussion Version

Read Together: James 1:17 and 1 Chronicles 29:14.

Talk About It

1. What are some good things God has given our family?
2. Why is it important to thank God for what we have instead of always wanting more?
3. What are some ways our family can share what God has given us with other people?
4. What is one thing we can do this week to show generosity?

Family Challenge

Choose one way your family can practice generosity this week. You might share a meal, help a neighbor, give to someone in need, serve together, or encourage someone who is having a difficult time.

As you do, remember: **God has been generous to us, and we can reflect His generosity to others.**

Pray Together

"God, thank You for everything You have given us. Help us to be thankful, trust You, and share generously with others. Show us how we can use what we have to help people and show Your love. Amen."