November 1, 2026 – UPLIFTED Week 3 - Lead Pastor Marc Riegel

Sermon Discussion Guide



UPLIFTED — Week 3: Giving is Worship

Key Scripture: Proverbs 3:1–12

Big Idea: Giving is more than a financial transaction; it is an act of worship. When we give, we honor God, declare that He comes first, and express our trust in His provision.

Think about a time someone gave you something meaningful—not necessarily something expensive, but something that showed they cared. What made that gift meaningful to you? How does gratitude for what someone has done for us change the way we respond to them?

1. EVERYTHING COMES FROM GOD

Last week, we were reminded that everything comes from God. James 1:17 teaches that every good and perfect gift comes from Him, and 1 Chronicles 29:14 reminds us that we can only give what we have first received from God's hand.

1. Why is it easy to think of our money, time, abilities, and possessions as things that belong exclusively to us?
2. How might our attitudes and decisions change if we viewed everything we have as something God has entrusted to us?

Consider: Gratitude changes our perspective. Instead of asking only, “What do I want to do with what I have?” we begin asking, “God, how can I honor You with what You've given me?”

2. GIVING IS WORSHIP

In Proverbs 3:5–10, we are called to trust the Lord, submit to His wisdom, fear Him, and honor Him with our wealth. Generosity isn't an isolated financial decision; it is one expression of a life that puts God first.

Worship is more than the songs we sing on Sunday. It is our response to who God is and what He has done. Our giving, along with our time, talents, relationships, and choices, can all reflect our worship.

3. What is the difference between giving to earn God's favor and giving because we have already received His love?
4. Proverbs 3:9 calls us to honor God with our wealth and the firstfruits of what we receive. What does it look like to put God first rather than simply giving Him whatever is left over?

Consider: God isn't asking us to give in order to manipulate Him into blessing us. He invites us to trust Him and let that trust shape how we use what He has entrusted to us.

3. GENEROSITY FLOWS FROM A TRANSFORMED HEART

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Giving can be misunderstood. We might think our gift is too small to matter, that giving more will guarantee more blessings, or that God is only interested in our money. But biblical generosity is not about earning, impressing, or manipulating God. It grows from a heart that is learning to trust Him.

- Which misunderstanding of giving is easiest for people to believe? Why?
- Where is it most difficult for you to trust God with your resources, time, or abilities?
- How can we encourage one another to practice generosity without guilt, comparison, or pressure?

Consider: The goal isn't simply to give more. It is to become people whose hearts, priorities, and lives increasingly honor God.

4. RESPONDING THROUGH UPLIFTED

As we prepare for Commitment Sunday, we are invited to pray and consider how God is calling each of us to participate in His mission through Emmanuel Church. The commitment card is a tool for that process—not simply a financial transaction, but a prayerful response to God's goodness.

- What might it look like for you or your family to prayerfully discern your next step in generosity?
- How can we approach Commitment Sunday with faith and gratitude rather than fear, guilt, or comparison?
- What would it mean for our church if generosity became a shared expression of worship and trust?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Over the next two weeks, take time to read through your UPLIFTED materials and pray individually or with your family.

Ask God these three questions:

1. **Gratitude:** God, what have You entrusted to me?
2. **Trust:** Where are You inviting me to trust You more deeply?
3. **Response:** How are You calling me to honor You through my generosity?

Don't begin with a number. Begin with prayer. Be willing to listen, reflect, and take the next faithful step God places before you.

TAKEAWAY

We don't give to earn God's favor or get something from Him. We give because everything we have comes from Him, and we want every part of our lives to honor Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for every good gift You have placed in our lives. Forgive us for the times we have treated what we have as though it belongs only to us. Teach us to trust You more deeply and to honor You with our whole lives. As we prepare for Commitment Sunday, give us wisdom, willing hearts, and freedom from fear or comparison. Help us become a generous people who reflect Your goodness and participate faithfully in Your mission. In Jesus' name, amen.