November 15, 2026 – UPLIFTED Week 5 - Lead Pastor Marc Riegel

Sermon Discussion Guide



UPLIFTED — Week 5: The Kingdom Grows

Scripture: Matthew 6:27, 31–34; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

GETTING STARTED

1. Think about a time when you had to trust someone with something important. What made that trust easy or difficult?
2. When you hear the word *generosity*, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Has your understanding of generosity changed during the UPLIFTED series?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Matthew 6:27, 31–34.

3. In this passage, Jesus connects worry about everyday needs with our relationship with our Heavenly Father. What stands out to you about the way Jesus describes God's knowledge and care for us?
4. What is the difference between trusting God with our needs and expecting God to provide everything we want? Why can that distinction be difficult to make in our culture?
5. Jesus says, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." What does it practically look like to put God's Kingdom first in the way we handle our finances, resources, and daily decisions?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–8.

6. Paul uses the illustration of sowing and reaping to describe generosity. What do you think it means to sow generously? What might we reap beyond financial blessings?
7. In verse 7, Paul emphasizes that giving should not be reluctant or under compulsion, but cheerful. What is the difference between giving out of obligation and giving as an act of worship?
8. Verse 8 describes God's provision as enabling us to "abound in every good work." How does this change the way we think about God's blessings and the purpose of our resources?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

9. Throughout the UPLIFTED series, we've explored four statements:
    - Everything Comes From God.

- Giving Is Worship.
- Generosity Transforms Us.
- The Kingdom Grows.

Which of these statements has challenged or encouraged you the most? Why?

10. What are some practical ways our generosity can help the Kingdom grow? Consider how generosity might help reach the lost, disciple believers, equip people for ministry, and strengthen the church.
11. Generosity is a journey, and we aren't all at the same place. What might a faithful next step look like for someone who is:

- Just beginning to give?
- Already giving consistently?
- Considering increasing their generosity?
- Struggling with financial anxiety?

12. How can we encourage one another to grow in generosity without creating comparison, guilt, or pressure?

PERSONAL REFLECTION & CHALLENGE - Take a few moments to reflect on these three questions:

- **What has God been showing me?**
- **What might God be asking me to trust, change, or embrace?**
- **What is my faithful next step?**

Remember: Our response isn't about a particular number or comparing ourselves with others. It's about seeking the Lord and responding faithfully to what He is asking of us.

PRAYER - Spend time praying together:

- Thank God for His faithfulness and provision.
- Ask Him to reveal areas where worry or the desire for control may be keeping you from trusting Him.
- Pray for cheerful and willing hearts as we grow in generosity.
- Ask God to use Emmanuel Church's faithfulness to reach people who don't yet know Jesus, disciple believers, and equip people for ministry.
- Pray that the fruit of our generosity would extend far beyond what we can see.

Closing Thought: The Kingdom grows when we trust God with what we have and faithfully participate in what He is doing. Our generosity may seem small in our hands, but God can use it to accomplish far more than we imagine.