November 8, 2026 – UPLIFTED Week 4 - Lead Pastor Marc Riegel

Sermon Discussion Guide



UPLIFTED — Week 4: Generosity Transforms Us

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1–12

Icebreaker

Think about someone you've known who is genuinely generous. What made their generosity memorable? Was it something they gave, something they did, or simply the kind of person they were?

Discussion Questions

1. Generosity reveals our hearts.

In the Macedonian church, Paul describes people who experienced severe trials and extreme poverty, yet demonstrated overflowing joy and rich generosity (vv. 1–4).

- What stands out to you about their response?
- How can generosity reveal where our trust and priorities really are?
- Why is generosity sometimes difficult, even when we know everything comes from God?

2. Generosity begins with surrender.

Verse 5 tells us that the Macedonian believers "gave themselves first of all to the Lord."

- What do you think it means to give yourself first to the Lord?
- How does surrendering our hearts change the way we view our money, possessions, and resources?
- What might it look like to live with open hands rather than closed fists?

3. Generosity flows from God's grace.

In verses 8–9, Paul points to Jesus as the ultimate example of generosity. Though He was rich, He became poor so that through His poverty we might become rich.

- What does Jesus' example teach us about the heart of generosity?
- How is Christian generosity different from giving to earn God's favor or recognition?
- How should receiving God's extravagant grace change the way we treat others?

4. Generosity requires a response.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to finish what they started (vv. 10–12). He reminds them that giving is acceptable according to what a person has, not what they don't have.

- Why is it sometimes easier to have good intentions than to put our faith into action?
- What is the difference between equal giving and 100% engagement?
- As you consider your own generosity, what might God be inviting you to do next?

Takeaway Challenge

Don't simply decide what you can afford to give. Ask God what He wants to grow in you.

As we prepare to turn in our UPLIFTED commitment cards next Sunday, spend time praying individually and as a household. Ask God to reveal your next faithful step—not by comparing yourself to someone else, but by responding to His grace.

Remember: Generosity is a spiritual practice that shapes our hearts. As we faithfully give, God grows our faith, loosens our grip on earthly possessions, and forms us into people who reflect His generous character.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your incredible generosity toward us. Thank You for giving us more than we could ever earn or deserve through Jesus. Help us to give ourselves fully to You. Grow our faith, transform our hearts, and teach us to live with open hands. Show us how to be generous with everything You've entrusted to us—our resources, our time, our stories, and our lives. May our generosity help others experience Your love and grace. Amen.