



# Week 1 Study Sheet

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## First Fruits

### Consider

Money. Stewardship. Generosity. These topics usually appear on the list of uncomfortable topics to avoid in conversation. It might seem strange to focus a study on the socially taboo concept of generosity. However, as followers of Christ, we are convinced that everything we are and everything we have is devoted to serving God and serving others. At Oak Hills Church, we've declared radical generosity a core value.

When it comes to money, many have differing world views and philosophies. When did you learn about money? Who taught you about generosity? What role does stewardship play in your discipleship? As we journey through this study let's look for ways radical generosity connects to the life of a disciple.

### Discover

Read [Acts 2:42-47](#)

- What does this passage reveal about the commitments of the early church?
- What commitments are explicitly listed and what commitments are implicitly described?
- What examples of radical generosity do you see in this passage?

Read [Colossians 1:15-20](#)

- How does this description of Jesus connect with first fruits and radical generosity?
- If Christ is the creator of all things, does that make him owner of all things?
- How does a right view of God challenge our perspective of ownership over "our" possessions?

Read [Matthew 16:24-28](#)

- Identify the words focused on loss and gain. What does Jesus repeatedly call his disciples to do?
- Who does Jesus say will provide the reward, and how is it attained?
- What connection does Jesus draw between our worldly possessions and our souls?

### Pray

Thank God for his generosity toward you. Recount the spiritual blessings that are yours in Christ. Express your gratitude for his provision. Ask God to reveal how your view of money can better reflect his heart of generosity.

### Practice

Watch this video from BibleProject (<https://bibleproject.com/learn/generosity/>) and reflect on the way you approach life. This week, be mindful of thinking and acting from a "mindset of scarcity." Rejoice that Jesus has provided a way for us to think and act with a mindset of abundance that enables us to live a radically generous lifestyle.

### Engage

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. Review these passages from God's Word about the importance of placing God first. Read [Exodus 12:31-36](#), [Exodus 20:3](#), [Matthew 22:36-40](#), [Matthew 6:24](#), [Luke 9:57-62](#), [1 Corinthians 16:1-4](#)



# Week 2 Study Sheet

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## New Ownership

### Consider

We live in a constant tension with our possessions. Do we work to possess things, or do the things we work for possess us? Balancing the things we “need” with the things we “want” is a challenge. How often do we stop and consider: who is the real owner of our things? Howard Dayton states, “what we possess, God owns.” What if we viewed our children, jobs, gifts/talents, and time as things that we steward rather than own? What obstacles impede you from viewing God as the owner of your finances, your children, your job, and your time? God owns everything. Take time this week to acknowledge before God his ownership over all that you have.

### Discover

Read [Luke 16:1-15](#)

- What’s the difference between a manager and an owner?
- How would your life be different if you operated more like a manager?
- What connection does this passage make between faithfulness and being a good manager?
- Share a few examples of how money is currently a master over you?

Read [Acts 4:24](#)

- What difference would it make in your life to remember that God is sovereign and in control and you are not?
- How have you seen God’s sovereignty over your money and possessions?

### Pray

Declare your dependence and trust in God as your generous provider. Ask him to reveal any places in your heart where possession is king. Seek his wisdom and strength to relinquish those areas back into his sovereign hands.

### Practice

Hide God’s Word in your heart and let him transform your thinking about ownership by committing Psalm 24:1 to memory: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” Psalm 24:1 NIV

### Engage

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. Review these passages from God’s Word about the principle of ownership and our role as stewards. Read [Genesis 2:15-17](#), [Exodus 23:15-17](#), [Proverbs 3:9-10](#), [Mathew 14:13-21](#), [Matthew 19:16-30](#), [Matthew 20:1-16](#), [Matthew 25:14-30](#), [Romans 8:28-30](#)



# Week 3 Study Sheet

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## A Matter of the Heart

**Consider** Giving is personal, but not necessarily private. An act of generosity is toward another. Generosity can impact others in positive ways. A lack of generosity, conversely, can hurt others. In Matthew 6, when Jesus teaches his followers about money and possessions, he uses a story about our hearts following our treasure. Tim Keller says, “Your money flows most effortlessly toward your heart’s greatest love.” Would you agree that your money flows toward your greatest love? What evidence of this do you see in your life?

**Discover**

Read [Matthew 6:19-24](#)

- What does our spending say about the focus of our heart?
- In what area of your life do you find it is most easy to spend money?
- What are “treasures in heaven”?
- How does a disciple “store up treasures in heaven”?
- Why is it difficult to talk about money, spending habits, and giving habits with each other?

Read [Acts 4:32 – 5:11](#)

- How does this passage characterize the generosity of the disciples?
- Recall a time when you had the opportunity to bless someone else by freely sharing what God had entrusted to you? How did that feel? What impact did that act of generosity have?
- Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira only gave part of the proceeds? Why would they face God’s judgment?
- What contrasting distinctions are there between the offering of Barnabas and the offering of Ananias and Sapphira?

**Pray**

Prayerfully read [Psalm 139:23-24](#) this week and ask God to search and know your heart. Invite him to discern your thoughts and show you what is out of line with his character and will. Tell him your hesitations and fears, rest in his provision, and surrender to his good plans for your life.

**Practice**

Share your generosity journey with someone this week. Select a person you are in biblical community with and talk openly together about how you steward the resources God has entrusted to you. Share what you’re learning as a follower of Jesus regarding money, spending habits, and giving habits.

**Engage**

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. Review these passages from God’s Word about how our actions reveal our hearts and how our generosity impacts those around us. Read [Joshua 7:1-26](#), [1 Samuel 15:8-23](#), [Luke 6:44-46](#), [Luke 21:1-4](#), [Matthew 25:34-46](#), [James 2:15-16](#)



# Week 4 Study Sheet

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## The Generosity Journey

- Consider** “We reap what we sow.” This phrase is often used as a lesson in consequences. Instead, let’s think about it from a kingdom perspective. As a disciple of Jesus, we view the harvest with an understanding that we are simply stewards of what belongs to God. When we approach the harvest as a steward, and not an owner, we tap into the renewable provision and abundance of God. In this world, our resources eventually come to an end. However, there is no end to the seed sown into God’s kingdom. As his disciples, Jesus teaches us about stewardship and generosity for his kingdom’s sake. This week ask God to lead you cheerfully and generously in stewarding the abundance he’s provided.
- Discover** Read [2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#)
- Why does Paul use the agricultural concept of sowing and reaping when explaining giving?
  - Why would Paul caution giving “reluctantly” or “under compulsion”? How does this contrast the way we should give? (v. 7)
  - What words would you use to describe your current motivation and attitude when giving?
- Read [Acts 6:1-7](#)
- What does this passage reveal about the way the church was caring for the Greek widows?
  - How was this resolved? What was the testimony of the church?
  - Have you asked the Holy Spirit to help you share the resources God has entrusted to you?
  - What impact could we have in our community and around the world if we became a radically generous church?
- Pray** Ask God to show you how to be radically generous with your life. Invite God to shape you into a disciple who generously gives their resources to others. Ask him to share his gifts through you, with others where you live, work, learn, and play.
- Practice** Use the attached Generosity Journey resource to identify your next steps of obedience in response to what God has shown you during this study.
- Engage** Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. Review these passages from God’s Word about how he intends for us to manage the resources he has entrusted to us. Read [Deuteronomy 16:17](#), [Proverbs 6:6-8](#), [Proverbs 11:25](#), [Proverbs 13:11](#), [Proverbs 13:22](#), [Proverbs 21:20](#), [Proverbs 22:7, 9, 16](#), [Proverbs 27:23-24](#), [Proverbs 28:27](#), [Malachi 3:10](#), [1 Timothy 6:10](#)

# The Generosity Journey

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Where are you on the generosity journey? Find your place and take your next step.

## INITIAL GIVER

I have never given financially to the work of the church.

I am learning that giving is a matter of the heart for a follower of Jesus Christ.

I will prayerfully meditate on Matthew 6:19-21.

I am ready to begin this journey of generosity by making an initial investment in God's kingdom through his church.

## CONSISTENT GIVER

I occasionally give financially to the work of the church.

I will prayerfully look at my finances and ask the Lord how much he wants me to give.

I am ready to give a set amount on a regular basis (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly).

## PROPORTIONAL GIVER

I consistently give some of the money God has entrusted to me to the work of the church.

I want to follow the model of proportional giving described in the Bible and give a regular percentage of my income on a consistent basis.

If the Lord chooses to bless me with additional income, my proportional giving will result in even more resources being invested in the work of the church.

## PRIORITY GIVER

I want to declare that Jesus is the priority in my life by embracing the biblical principle of the tithe and giving ten percent of my income to support the work of the church.

I am ready to take this step of faith, and I am eager to see how God will pour out his blessings in my life as he promises to do.

## RADICAL GIVER

I am no longer asking how much money I will give to the church. Rather, I am asking God how much of his money does he want me to keep.

I have chosen to give the rest to support the work of the church.

I have chosen, by faith, to take the radical step of generosity, and I am eager to see how God will use that giving to impact the lives of others.

## LEGACY GIVER

I know that generosity and stewardship require prayerful planning.

I have chosen to create a financial plan that will not only allow me to bless and care for my family after my death but will also allow me to make an investment in the kingdom of God that will support the work of the church.