

# Gentagions Genterosity

God's Grace Never Stops Giving



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### How to Use this Guide

Our hope is that each week you will bring this guide with you. It's a way to dive deeper into the sermon by doing a short devotional before the sermon, taking notes and reflecting during the service, and then using the questions to discuss the sermon with your community group.

It's a way to keep your group in sync, help you unlock new riches in God's Word, and help you focus on what the Spirit may be calling you to do this week. We've also added some space for a prayer journal. Use this journal in your community group to remember and pray for your group throughout the week, or use it for other friends and family at Bethany.

As we study God's Word, our love for Christ grows greater each day. This is just another simple tool to help you study God's Word in new and God-honoring ways, as well as to connect to Scripture together with your community group.

You can also use the devotional page in this book each week to read the passage for the week before Sunday. Then answer the two questions to help you reflect on and apply the Word to your life each week.

#### Week 1

# Generosity from God We Can't Outrun God

Ephesians 1:3-14

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#### **Weekly Sermon Post**



#### Ephesians 1:3-14

What is the author saying?

How can I apply this to my life?

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#### Wk 1: Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** If you suddenly received an unexpected \$1,000 that had to be used for someone else, how would you spend it to bless them?

**Application 1:** Paul opens this letter with an explosion of praise, saying that God has "blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places." When you think about the blessings God has already given you, what comes to mind first? What are examples of the kind of spiritual blessings God has given you?

**Application 2:** Paul also says that we were chosen in Christ "before the foundation of the world." How does it affect your sense of identity to know that God wanted you before you ever had a chance to prove yourself worthy or unworthy? What might change in your view of others if you remembered that every believer was also chosen by that same grace?

**Application 3:** When you think about God's generosity toward you — His blessings, His choosing, His forgiveness, His Spirit — what emotion rises in you first: gratitude, joy, humility, or something else? How can that emotion become fuel for practical generosity toward others this week, whether through time, words, or resources?

**Application 4:** This passage ends with the repeated phrase "to the praise of His glory." What do you think it means to live a life that points back to God's glory? How can you keep a sense of awe and worship alive in the ordinary moments of your week, remembering that no matter how far you run, God's grace always runs further?

#### Week 2

## Generosity through Forgiveness

We Can't Outforgive God Luke 6:36-50

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#### **Weekly Sermon Post**



#### Luke 6:36-50

What is the author saying?

How can I apply this to my life?

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#### Wk 2: Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** What's something small that can test your patience, like someone cutting you off in traffic or forgetting to text back? How do you normally react in those moments?

**Application 1:** Jesus calls His followers to "be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." How would you define mercy? When you think about God's mercy toward you, what moments come to mind first? How would your relationships change if you treated others with that same level of mercy?

**Application 2:** The woman's love for Jesus overflowed into action — she didn't just feel thankful, she showed it through her humility and service. What are some practical ways you can express your love for Jesus because of the forgiveness you've received? How can your awareness of His mercy move you to serve others with the same kind of generosity?

**Application 3:** Simon the Pharisee struggled to see his own need for forgiveness while judging the woman's actions. Why do you think it's so easy to notice others' sins more quickly than our own? How can a deeper awareness of your own forgiveness help you become more gracious toward others? How does our own sense of forgiveness kill our pride and judgment toward others?

**Application 4:** Jesus said that "whoever is forgiven little, loves little" (Luke 7:47). What do you think He meant by that? How might remembering the depth of God's forgiveness toward you motivate you to love more freely, forgive more readily, and release bitterness that may still linger in your heart?

Week 3

### Generosity through Dedication

We Can't Outserve God Luke 18:28-30

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#### Luke 18:28-30

What is the author saying?

How can I apply this to my life?

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#### Wk3: Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** Have you ever committed to something that felt like a burden at first, but later you were thankful you stuck with it? What changed your perspective?

**Application 1:** Peter reminds Jesus that the disciples have left everything to follow Him, and Jesus responds that anyone who sacrifices for the sake of God's kingdom will receive far more in return. What types of sacrifices generally come to mind when you think of Christ's words? What things do you think of that you personally have had to give up for Jesus? How have you seen God's generosity meet you in those moments of obedience?

**Application 2:** Jesus' promise isn't just about heavenly reward — it's about the richness of life with Him now. How does living for God's kingdom make your everyday life more meaningful? In what ways has your service to Christ brought unexpected joy or deeper purpose?

**Application 3:** Serving God often requires perseverance. When have you felt weary in doing good (Gal. 6:9), and what helped you keep going? How might remembering Jesus' words here renew your motivation to keep serving faithfully even when you want to give up? What are some strategies to help us keep going in the midst of frustration or weariness?

**Application 4:** Jesus assures His followers that no one who gives up anything for Him will be left empty-handed. How can this truth reshape your attitude toward the time, energy, or possessions you invest in God's work? What's one area of your life where you sense God inviting you to trust that He can never be outgiven — or outserved?

#### Week 4

## Generosity through Investing

We Can't Outgive God 2 Corinthians 8-9

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#### 2 Corinthians 8-9

What is the author saying?

How can I apply this to my life?

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#### Wk 4: Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** If money weren't an issue, what's one cause, person, or project you'd love to invest 1 million dollars into?

**Application 1:** Paul commends the Macedonian believers for giving generously despite their own hardships. When have you seen someone give sacrificially and inspire others to do the same? What does their example teach you about trusting God with your resources rather than clinging to them?

**Application 2:** In chapter 9, Paul says that "God loves a cheerful giver" (vs. 7). Why do you think our attitude in giving matters so much to God? What do you think it looks like to be a "cheerful giver"?

**Application 3:** Paul describes generosity as "sowing seed" that God multiplies for harvest. Where do you see opportunities right now to "plant" generosity in your life? How might you trust God with the timing and results rather than trying to control the outcome?

**Application 4:** Paul concludes with the reminder that generosity leads to thanksgiving to God and strengthens the faith of others. When people see your generosity, what picture of God do they receive? How can you use what you have — money, time, skills, or encouragement — to make His generosity visible in someone's life this week?

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#### Week 5

# Generosity through Selflessness

We Can't Outlove God Philippians 2:1-4

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#### Philippians 2:1-4

What is the author saying?

How can I apply this to my life?

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#### Wk5: Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** Who's someone in your life who serves quietly in the background but makes everything better?

**Application 1:** The church is called to be "of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." When you think about your relationships with family, coworkers, or church members, what makes unity difficult to maintain? How can humility make your relationships stronger or easier?

**Application 2:** As followers of Jesus, we should "do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit." Why do you think self-interest is such a constant temptation? Are there times when you are tempted towards self-interest, even while serving others? What are some ways to focus on love rather than recognition?

**Application 3:** How can you "count others more significant than ourselves" in everyday life — at work, at home, or in ministry? How might that kind of mindset change the way you approach conversations, disagreements, or teamwork? Give some concrete examples that come to mind.

**Application 4:** Paul challenges us to look out for the interests of others, not just our own. What's one practical way you could intentionally show love or support to someone this week — especially if it doesn't directly benefit you? How does remembering God's extravagant love help you give without keeping score? When you think about God's selfless love, where do you see room to grow in reflecting that same love toward others?

#### Week 6

# Generosity through Service

We Can't Outdo God

John 13:1-17

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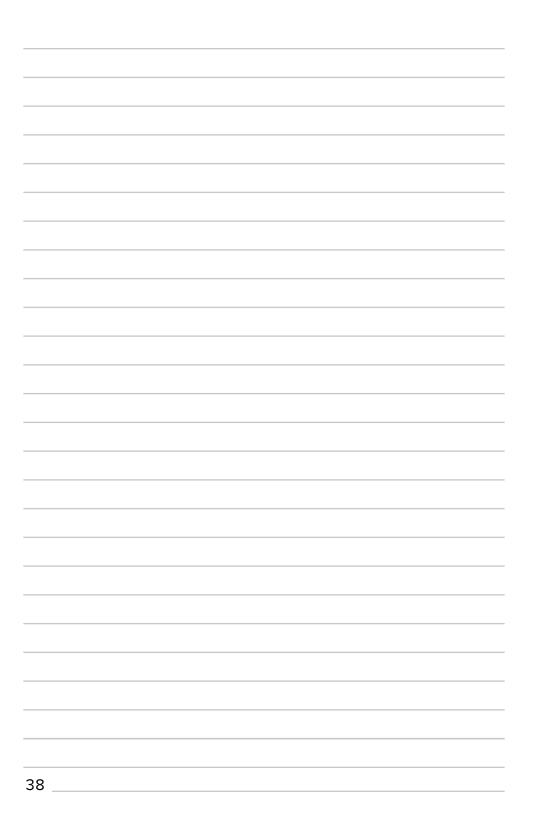


#### John 13:1-17

What is the author saying?

How can I apply this to my life?

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#### Wk 6: Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** What's something you actually enjoy doing for others that might surprise people? Why do you enjoy it?

**Application 1:** Before the Passover meal, Jesus — fully aware of His authority and identity — chose to serve by washing His disciples' feet. How does that change your view of what true strength and leadership look like? What might it mean for you to follow His example in your home, workplace, or friendships this week?

**Application 2:** Peter resisted at first, feeling uncomfortable with Jesus serving him. Why do you think it's sometimes harder to receive help than to give it? How can humility on both sides — giving and receiving — help build deeper, healthier relationships?

**Application 3:** Jesus said, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (v.14) What do you think Jesus meant by this (See Mark 10:45)? What are some "foot-washing" moments that might exist in your daily life — ways to serve that may feel beneath you or unnoticed by others? What might make serving in these moments hard for you?

**Application 4:** Jesus promised that those who follow His example will be blessed (v.17). What do you think that blessing looks like in real life? How has serving others brought unexpected joy, peace, or purpose to you personally? How can remembering that we can't outdo God inspire you to serve with open hands and a full heart? In what ways can we "claim" this promise — trusting that as we serve others with humility and love, God will bring His blessing in His time and in His way?

#### Week 7

# Generosity through Sacrifice

We Can't Outsuffer God Genesis 22:1-14

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#### Genesis 22:1-14

What is the author saying?

How can I apply this to my life?

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#### Wk 7: Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** If you could hand off one area of your life for someone else to manage perfectly for a week, what would it be and why? What might cause you to hesitate handing that over to them?

**Application 1:** Abraham's test in this passage comes after years of walking with God. How does knowing that background change the way you see his obedience here? What helps you keep trusting God when obedience feels costly or confusing? What stories of faithfulness can you tell from your journey of walking with God?

**Application 2:** As Abraham climbed the mountain, he told Isaac, "God Himself will provide the lamb." How does that statement reveal Abraham's faith, even before he saw God's provision? What would it look like for you to speak and live with the same confidence in God's faithfulness when you face uncertainty?

**Application 3:** When the ram appears in place of Isaac, God reveals Himself as Jehovah Jireh, "The Lord will provide." How has God shown Himself as your provider — physically, emotionally, or spiritually — when you've chosen to obey Him even at personal cost?

**Application 4:** Ultimately, this story points forward to the cross, where God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all (Romans 8:32). What does it mean to you that God's generosity came through suffering? How can remembering that "we can't outsuffer God" strengthen your trust when obedience feels costly or painful, knowing His provision and purpose always exceed our sacrifice?

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