



**A Generous Church**  
**Pastor Hilary Harris 03.29.2026**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

***[Philippians 4:15-20] (NLT)***

As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness. At the moment I have all I need and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen. How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me! Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.

***[Proverbs 11:24]***

The world of the generous gets larger and larger and the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

***Generosity, in the early church and today, is a response to the overwhelming, undeserving, goodness and unlimited grace of God!***

**1. Give in all circumstances**

***[2 Corinthians 8: 1-2]***

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup>They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

**2. Look for the opportunity**

***[Philippians 4:10]***

How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have an opportunity to help me!

***[2 Corinthians 8:3]***

For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.

**3. Consider the Source**

***[Philippians 4:18-19]***

But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**Key Points:**

- 1. Give in all circumstances**
- 2. Look for the opportunity**
- 3. Consider the source**

**Applications for the Week:**

Is there a step toward practical generosity like tithing, serving, or helping others in your community that you've been hesitant to take? What would it look like to obey in this area and step out in obedience this week?

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1.** What specific circumstances did the Philippians face when they gave, and how does Paul describe their gift in Philippians 4.
- 2.** According to Philippians 4, what had Paul learned that enabled him to be content in any situation?

- 3.** What does it mean for generosity to be a “fragrant offering” or “sacrifice acceptable to God,” and how does this connect to Old Testament worship?
- 4.** How does the idea that “it’s a river, not a pie” reshape our understanding of God’s economy and provision?
- 5.** In what ways does proactive generosity (seeking opportunities rather than waiting to be asked) change how we engage with others and with God’s work?
- 6.** What is one resource, talent, or margin you have “in your house” right now that you could offer to God’s purposes, even if it feels small?
- 7.** When have you found it difficult to give because of your own sense of lack or crisis? How might viewing your current situation as an opportunity for sacrifice change your perspective?