



New Testament Believers are Generous

Pastor Joseph Zwanziger 09.28.2025

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.

[Matthew 6:21] ESV

"Where your treasure is, your heart is also"

[Acts 2:42-45] NLT

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

[Acts 4:34–35] ESV

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

[Acts 2:46–47] ESV

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

The natural byproduct of an encounter with God is GENEROSITY!

New Testament Believers live lives of Obedience, Encounter, and Generosity

1) Obedience (to God's word)

[Malachi 3:10–12] ESV

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

"Tithe" = *maser*... "a tenth"
"Storehouse" = the place you're spiritually fed... which is your church

[John 14:15] NLT

"If you love me, obey my commandments."

2) Encounter (His Presence and Power)

[2 Chronicles 7:14] ESV

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

3) Generosity (Toward God and Others)

[Proverbs 11:24-25] MSG

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

The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

Practically:

The tithe is God's: 10%

Practically:

The tithe is God's: 10%

Generosity starts at 11%

[2 Cor. 9:6–8] ESV

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

It's easy to be a cheerful giver when you simply look back to your last encounter with God. "God, You can have it all!"

Religion = give to GET in God's good graces
Jesus = give BECAUSE God's grace is so good!

[John 3:16–17] ESV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Key Points:

- 1. Obedience to God's word**
- 2. Encounter his presence and power**
- 3. Generosity toward God and others**

Applications for the Week:

The early church shared what they had so that "there were no needy among them." Is there a need in the church or community that you feel prompted to help meet? What would it look like to respond?

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the early church's generosity was described as a "voluntary, Spirit-led response" rather than something forced? How does this shape our understanding of giving today?
2. The sermon says, "Obedience is the starting point." Why is obedience to God's word, especially in the area of finances, so foundational for experiencing God's blessing?

3. The message mentioned that God's blessings are often conditional on our response ("if-then" statements). How does this challenge or encourage your view of God's promises?

4. The sermon emphasized that generosity is not about the amount, but about the heart and sacrifice. How does this perspective change the way we think about giving, especially when we feel like we don't have much?