

WEEK 3 OF RENEW

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC: **How to be Generous**

Generosity is a reflection of God's abundant love for us. It's more than just giving; it's a lifestyle that impacts every area of our lives. Take some time during this week to reflect on this Saturday's message, in order to **get practical**, by being generous with our time, gifts, encouragement, possessions, and money. Let's discover how living generously can transform our lives and the lives of those around us.

1. BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR TIME

Practical Actions:

- **Volunteer:** Dedicate time to serve in your community or here at Gracegate.
- **Be Present:** Spend quality time with family and friends, without distractions.
- **Mentorship:** Invest time in mentoring someone, sharing your experiences and wisdom.
- **Listen:** Offer your time to listen to someone who needs to talk.
- What other action steps can you think of, to help you be generous with your time?

For Reflection:

- How can I intentionally create space in my schedule to be present with others?

- Who in my life could benefit from my time and attention this week?

- What activities could I give up or reduce, to create more time for meaningful interactions?

Reflect on these Bible Verses and what they could be saying about being generous:

"Be very careful then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

Ephesians 5:15-16

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have every opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galations 6:9-10

2. BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR GIFTS

Practical Actions:

- **Serve in your area of strength:** Use your talents and skills to bless others, whether through music, teaching, making coffees or any other ability.
- **Share knowledge:** Offer your expertise to help someone learn something new.
- **Create for others:** Use your creativity to make something special for someone, like a handmade gift or a personal letter.
- **Teach a class or workshop:** If you have a skill, consider teaching it to others, for free.
- What other action steps can you think of, to help you be generous with your gifts?

For Reflection:

- What unique gifts has God given me that I can share with others?

- How can I use my talents to serve my community or church this week?

- Am I holding back any of my gifts out of fear or insecurity? How can I overcome this?

Reflect on these Bible Verses and what they could be saying about being generous:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us... if your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Romans 12:6-8

3. BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT

Practical Actions:

- **Send an encouraging message:** Write a note, send a text or make a call to encourage someone today.
- **Affirm others publicly:** Praise someone's efforts or achievements in front of others.
- **Be an active cheerleader:** Support someone's goals and dreams, offering words of motivation and belief.
- **Pray for others:** Take time to pray for someone's specific needs and let them know you're lifting them up in prayer.
- What other action steps can you think of, to help you be generous with your encouragement?

For Reflection:

- Who in my life needs encouragement right now?

- How can I make encouragement a daily habit?

- What impact can my words have on those around me?

Reflect on these Bible Verses and what they could be saying about being generous:

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

4. BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR STUFF

Practical Actions:

- **Donate Items:** Go through your possessions and donate items you no longer use to those in need.
- **Lend Freely:** Let others borrow what they need, whether it's tools, books, or other items.
- **Share Meals:** Invite someone over for a meal or bring food to someone in need.
- **Offer a Ride:** Provide transportation to someone who doesn't have a vehicle or is unable to drive.
- What other action steps can you think of, to help you be generous with your stuff?

For Reflection:

- What items do I have that could be a blessing to someone else?

- How can I be more intentional in sharing what I own with others?

- Am I holding onto things out of a scarcity mindset? How can I cultivate a heart of generosity?

Reflect on these Bible Verses and what they could be saying about being generous:

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

1 Timothy 6:17-19

5. BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR MONEY

Practical Actions:

- **Tithe faithfully:** Set aside the first portion of your income to give to your church or a ministry to honour God.
- **Support a cause:** Donate to a charity or cause that aligns with your values.
- **Give spontaneously:** Keep some extra money aside to bless someone unexpectedly, whether it's buying a meal for a stranger or helping a friend in need.
- **Invest in others:** Financially support someone's education, business venture, or youth camps.
- What other action steps can you think of, to help you be generous with your money?

For Reflection:

- How can I use my financial resources to bless others this week?

- What causes or needs am I passionate about that I can support?

- Do I trust God with my finances, and am I willing to give generously even when it's a sacrifice?

Reflect on these Bible Verses and what they could be saying about being generous:

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Proverbs 11:25

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

At Gracegate, we've made giving easy and secure. You can support our mission through:

1. A direct bank transfer;
2. By visiting our website and giving online;
3. Using the Church Center app;
4. By contributing at our Giving Station, via cash or EFTPOS.

Every donation is an investment in the lives we touch together, and as a token of our appreciation, you'll receive a tax-deducted receipt at the end of the financial year. Your financial gift, no matter the size, helps us continue to build a thriving, supportive community. Thank you for being a vital part of this journey.



If you would like to give now, scan this QR code and you will be taken directly to giving online.

Generosity is a powerful way to reflect God's love to the world.

By being generous with our time, gifts, encouragement, stuff and money, we not only bless others but also experience the joy and fulfilment that comes from living a generous life. Let's commit to practicing these principles this week and watch how God moves in and through us.

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Pick one area of generosity to focus on each day this week. Journal your experiences, noting how this practice impacts your heart and the lives of those around you.



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42 Parkway Drive, Sunnynook



gracegatecentre