

Cultivate Reflection Guide

Giving Up: How to Test God and Not Die December 11 & 12, 2021

If you missed this weekend's message, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

Tis' the season for giving. While we often focus on **what** we give, God focuses on **how** we give. Our generosity has much more to do with what we believe, than what we give. When we look up to God, we will be motivated to give and receive in a way that reflects and honors Him.

Use this week's Reflection Guide to start a REAL conversation in your community group or for personal bible study as you cultivate God's word into your life during the week. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond as you live out what we're learning. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Read: [Acts 5:1-11 ESV](#)

Notable Quotes: Review these notable quotes from Pastor Claude's message. Which of these encourage, instruct or challenge you and why? Was there another word, verse or point in the message that stood out to you?

- God is a better appraiser of gifts than we are.
- Generosity is the heartbeat of real faith.
- God gives first so that we can experience generosity.
- Integrity in giving is a life or death act to God.
- When we manage God's stuff, we get to see God's miracles.

Reflect & Respond:

1. Share how you've witnessed the miracle of generosity in your life. This might be an answered prayer, a met need or a way you've been blessed by someone else's generosity.
2. Generosity is not only about us receiving, but about the opportunity for others to give. As you answer the following questions, think outside the box – this could be practical and tangible, but it could also be spiritual, emotional or relational.
 - a. Is there anything you're called to give that you're holding onto?
 - b. Is there anything you're invited to receive that you're reluctant to accept?
3. Read [1 Chronicles 29:14-17 ESV](#). Generosity is a matter of the heart, and we can't hide our heart from God.
 - a. Be REAL with self. Reflect on your heart motives when you give. Do you generally give freely and joyously? Or are there sometimes strings [expectations, leverage, loyalty, validation, competition, obligation] attached to your generosity?
 - b. Be REAL with God and invite Him to search your heart. What do you need to lay down or let go of SO THAT you can give with an upright heart? Remember, God takes pleasure in our uprightness, so this is a work He does in you with grace and love.
 - c. Be REAL with others. Sometimes those to whom we give most often, receive our least cheerful giving. If God has challenged your heart, respond accordingly – confess, make amends, offer an apology or invite someone you trust to hold you accountable for your integrity in giving.

Prayer: Generosity is an act of worship and evidence that there is life in our faith. Whether you are a faithful giver or need to grow in generosity, praise God for what you have right now – thank Him for the things, people and provisions He has poured into your life. Then, ask Him how you can use those things to bring Him glory, both to worship Him and to show those around you that your faith is at work and alive.

Live it Out: God challenges us to give freely, even sacrificially, but that is a unique call on each of our lives. Sacrifice is “an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.” As you purpose to be a person of generosity, be mindful to give up what is valuable to you, be intentional about pursuing those opportunities to sacrifice and be grateful for the blessings that God will bring as a result.