

# DEEPER/WIDER: GROUP STUDY

## PART 2: HOW DO YOU DEFINE IT?

### MESSAGE RECAP

We all have a definition of generosity. The average American views generosity as spontaneous, sporadic, and sparing. Jesus taught the opposite. His approach ensures that we don't put our trust in riches but in God who richly provides. New Testament generosity involves the premeditated, calculated, and designated emancipation of financial assets. For Jesus followers who redefine generosity this way, the result is greater impact, less worry, more joy, and more peace.

### CONNECT

Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions as a group:

- Over the past week, did an opportunity arise where you asked yourself, *What would I do in this situation if I really believed God owns it all?* If yes, how did you respond?
- Did you hesitate to even ask the question? If so, why?

### LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

*Heavenly Father, thank you for your extravagant generosity toward us. Teach us to align our hearts with you by learning what it means to be generous. Amen.*

After praying, watch the [video for Part 2](#).

### APPLY

After the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Are you a planner, or do you tend to fly by the seat of your pants? How has that influenced the way you manage your finances?
2. The average American gives spontaneously, sporadically, and sparingly. Do you agree with this statement? Does this statement reflect your giving pattern? Or are you more thoughtful and methodical?
3. Read **Matthew 6:24**.

*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*



- According to Jesus, what's the chief competitor to our devotion to God?
  - What would you have expected it to be?
  - How has that tension—that tug of war—played out in your life?
4. Why is it easier to trust God with our eternities than our wealth?
  5. Andy defined New Testament generosity as “the premeditated, calculated, designated, emancipation of financial assets.” Respond to that definition.
  6. When discussing *calculated*, Andy suggested pre-deciding a percentage rather than a *dollar amount* to give away. Is that a new concept for you?

**Something to consider:** Everyone who gives any dollar amount over the course of a year is actually giving away a percentage of their annual income. In that respect, percentage giving is unavoidable. So why not choose a percentage ahead of time and commit to it?

**Story:** If you are a percentage giver, share with the group your story of why you are and when you began that practice.

## PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer. Here's a sample prayer you can use:

*Heavenly Father, teach us to seek you first with all that we have. And when we're tempted to worry, help us remember that we can trust you to meet all our needs. Amen.*

## BEFORE NEXT TIME

Sign up at [deeperwider.com/devotions](https://deeperwider.com/devotions) for a daily reading plan throughout this study.