

DEEPER/WIDER: GROUP STUDY

PART 4: WHAT GETS IN THE WAY?

MESSAGE RECAP

At some point, all of us will face obstacles to generosity. At the root of these obstacles are three powerful forces: fear, appetite, and ego. And when you feed them, they grow. The way to stop them from taking over is to learn contentment.

The apostle Paul taught that true wealth isn't found in accumulation but in godliness with contentment. He urges followers of Jesus to place their hope not in riches but in God who richly provides. And he defines living generously as being rich in good deeds and willing to share.

CONNECT

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

- Which word below best describes your current relationship with money?

Stressed	Jealous
Content	Fearful
Powerless	Anxious
Proud	Peaceful
Depressed	Vulnerable
Optimistic	Disciplined
Unfocused	Insecure
Confident	Thankful

- Why did you choose that word?

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, money can be an emotion-filled subject. Help us to see what holds us back from being generous and to leverage what you have entrusted to us. Amen.

After praying, watch the [video for Part 4](#).

APPLY

1. When you think about giving away a percentage of money, which of the following financial obstacles surfaces for you? Or is it something else? Identify one to share with the group.
 - What if something happens and I need that money?
 - It will take me longer to save (for a house, car, retirement, etc.).
 - That money belongs to me. I worked hard for it.
 - It will take me longer to pay off my debt.
 - I might not have enough to give some away.
 - I will give later (e.g., after I get that promotion or pay off my student loan).
 - I already give enough of my money away.
 - I have other things I want to do with my extra money.
 - I need everything I have just to make ends meet.

2. When you consider the obstacle you identified above, what's beneath it—a fear, an appetite, or your ego? How would you respond to this statement?

With fear, we try to save our way to security. With appetites, we try to spend our way to satisfaction. With ego, we try to accumulate our way to significance.

3. When it comes to money, why do you think it's hard to choose contentment?
4. Read **1 Timothy 6:17–19** aloud.

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.

- Have you ever experienced a time when you felt financially insecure? Did that impact your trust in God? If so, how?
 - Being rich in good deeds and being generous are commands, not just suggestions. What are some practical ways we can live out those commands in our daily lives?
5. What we often view as a money issue is ultimately a trust issue. What could it look like for you to transfer your trust in money to trust in God?

PRAY

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

Heavenly Father, help us to surrender any obstacles that prevent us from fully trusting in you. Show us what it looks like to be people who are rich in good deeds, generous, and willing to share. Amen.