

DEEPER/WIDER: GROUP STUDY

PART 1: WHOSE IS IT ANYWAY?

MESSAGE RECAP

Biblical generosity is informed and fueled by the acknowledgment that *God owns it all*. We are simply managers. When we adopt that posture, we view everything we “own” as a potential tool to further the agenda of our King. We will give first and adjust our lifestyle accordingly. Christians who adopt this perspective as the organizing principle for their personal finances find it easier to surrender the other components of their life as well. As Jesus made clear, the number one competitor for our devotion to God is our devotion to more. More money and more things.

CONNECT

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

How has the generosity of others influenced your faith journey?

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, we recognize that the earth and everything in it is yours.

Help us to see what generosity in your kingdom really looks like. Amen.

After praying, watch the [video for Part 1](#).

APPLY

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

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word generosity?
2. How was money handled in your house growing up?
3. What was modeled in the past concerning money often influences the assumptions you hold about money today. Let’s identify what some of those may be.
 - a. Individually, take a few minutes to mark how you feel about each of the following statements. Note: These are not necessarily right or wrong, good or bad. The goal is simply to uncover some of the things you’ve come to believe about money.
1. The details of my finances should be kept private from family and friends.



2. If I work hard, I have the right to play hard.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5
3. My salary and my stuff are an indication of my success.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5
4. The more money I have in savings, the more secure I feel.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5
5. Some kinds of debt are okay.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5
6. Once I have everything I need, I should be generous with what I have left.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5
7. Financial success or failure has a lot to do with luck.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5
8. I can get myself out of a financial mess if I need to.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5
9. Money is meant to be spent because I can't take it with me when I die.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5
10. I know enough to confidently manage my money.
 I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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 -5 0 5

11. Carrying a balance on my credit card(s) is okay.
I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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-5 0 5

12. I should not need financial assistance from anyone else.
I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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-5 0 5

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN...

13. Providing financially for my family is one of my most important responsibilities.
I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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-5 0 5

14. I want to give my children more than I had growing up.
I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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-5 0 5

15. It's important that my children have the same things and opportunities as their peers.
I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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-5 0 5

16. Children should be told the details of our family finances.
I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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-5 0 5

17. Giving my kids nice things is one way I show them I love them.
I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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-5 0 5

18. Once my children are old enough to earn their own money, they'll be expected to cover some of their expenses.
I strongly disagree. I strongly agree.
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-5 0 5

b. As a group, discuss these questions:

- Which statements did you strongly agree or strongly disagree with? What might have influenced your answers?
- Which statements (if any) made you feel conflicted?

4. Read **1 Chronicles 29:11–12**.

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength.

What's your reaction to the idea that you are managing money that God entrusted to you? Does that match what you've thought about money before now?

5. Do your answers on the spectrums above represent more of an owner or a manager mindset?
6. If you truly embraced the idea that God owns it all and saw yourself as a manager, how might that impact your giving, saving, and spending habits?

APPLICATION

Let's adopt the manager mindset for one week. No action required. For the next seven days ask yourself, *What would I do in this situation if I really believed God owns it all?*

PRAY

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

Heavenly Father, thank you for your incredible generosity toward us. Help us to be wise stewards of all you have entrusted to us. Amen.

BEFORE NEXT TIME

Sign up at deeperwider.com/devotions for a daily reading plan throughout this study.