

WEEK 1 - Genesis of Generosity

Canopy Guide // Fall Focus 2026

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use the questions below to kickstart a community building, all-play conversation that connects to our weekly topic. If your group meets for dinner, these might be great questions to share around a table.

- When you think of the word generous, does someone's face pop into your mind? If yes, share a little bit about why that person came to mind.

STUDY GUIDE

During our study series this fall we're giving a good look at generosity. As we begin our study together, we want to recognize that generosity itself is not something we simply work on as an attribute of a good life. It is part of who we were created to be as children of God, because generosity itself originates with God.

From the initial story of Creation (Genesis 1-2) we encounter abundance and creativity. Creation itself isn't merely perfunctory or designed for basic efficiency - it's full of wonder, creativity, beauty, and delight. The creation narrative abounds with light, texture, creatures, and symphonies of zoological praise of God's goodness. There's not just one species of food - it's a banquet of flavors, colors, and nutrients. God was generous, and we might even argue playful in his design with abundance, beauty, variety, and fullness that overflows in his creation. Generosity is woven into the fabric of creation because it is within the very nature of its Creator.

Scripture tells us that we are God's children and, even more significantly, that we are created in his image (Genesis 1:27). As image-bearers, we are called to reflect God's character in the world. If generosity is part of God's nature, then generosity is meant to be part of ours as well. The image we bear and reflect will always have an element of creative goodness, blessing, and generosity.

The story of Scripture only deepens this truth. God's generosity reaches its fullest expression in Jesus, "Emmanuel—God with us." In Christ, God entered our world, gave himself for us, and demonstrated the depth of his love. As Paul writes, "God proves his

own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The cross is the ultimate act of generosity.

Since we have been created in God's image and made new through the grace of Christ, generosity becomes both our identity and our response. Despite this, we often find ourselves turning these blessings and this intended nature into selfishness and egocentrism. Thus the crux of our conversation: as we continue to grow as Christ followers and image bearers of God, we must talk about generosity because it is a vital component of the reflection we bear in the world around us. We need to talk about and be challenged to view generosity in a fresh way so that we can let it shine forth more clearly and practically in every way.

Jesus consistently raised the bar on what generosity looks like. He taught us to love our enemies, lend without expecting repayment, and invite those who cannot repay us to our tables (Luke 6:35–36; 14:12–14). His vision of generosity goes beyond returning favors or giving when it is convenient. It is proactive, sacrificial, and rooted in the character of God.

If we have been made new through faith in Christ, how could generosity not become part of our lives? The Father freely gave his Son. The Son willingly gave himself for us. The Spirit continually guides, comforts, and sustains us. We live every day as recipients of God's generosity. As his children, we are invited to become generous people ourselves.

Over the next eight weeks we will be looking at Generosity from varied perspectives, not as something we have to invent or create, but as something God is forming within us. May this series help us rediscover generosity as part of our identity, allowing God's abundant life to overflow through us into the lives of others.

Scripture to Read:

- Genesis 1:27
- Romans 5:8
- Luke 6:35-36
- Luke 14:12-14

Discussion Questions: *(feel free to pick & choose the questions your group wants to tackle together)*

- Where do you see generosity in the creation story in Genesis?
- How do you understand the implication of generosity as humans created in God's image? Does it seem built into human design or something that requires practice?
- Do you see creation as abundant or overflowing with generosity? Has it changed?

PRAYER

Take some time to invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation together this fall. Ask for the Spirit to draw your eye toward generosity in action around you, and for opportunities to live as an image bearer who reflects God's creative, playful, abundant generosity in the world around you.

EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH

- Bible Project - Generosity: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/generosity/>
- Holy Post Podcast: ["Was God Bored Before Creation?"](#) (start at 8:52 if pressed for time)
- Book: [*Art and Faith: A Theology of Making*](#), by Makoto Fujimura