

WEEK 8 - The Joy in Practice

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.

- What was it like when you learned to ride a bike?
- Tell a story about a practice that shaped you for the better.

VIDEO INTRO WEEK 8

STUDY GUIDE

Throughout this series we've discovered that generosity is much more than sharing our resources. It is a heart posture, marked by gratitude, where our response to what we've been given moves toward an open-handed life because we trust the God who has first been generous toward us. This by no means renders us frivolous or irresponsible, but it pushes against the scarcity mentality and leads our hearts to love our neighbors with invested depth.

Generosity isn't solely an economic practice, and as with most formative processes in the Christian life, our actions alone aren't God's ultimate goal. God is always after our hearts.

Sometimes generosity flows naturally from a joyful heart and our hearts easily echo, "It's more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Other times, our human hearts still resist. We cling tightly, compare ourselves to others, fear scarcity, or simply don't want to let go. Scripture reminds us that God isn't only interested in outward generosity—He wants to transform the desires underneath it.

The good news is that generosity doesn't just reveal our hearts; it also reshapes them. As we learn to release what God has entrusted to us, our hearts gradually become more invested in His kingdom, and we discover a deeper joy than holding tightly could ever provide.

Generosity is not about earning God's love. It is the response of people who have been so deeply changed by God's love that his love overflows through our actions, interactions, and transactions. And sometimes, even when our hearts aren't fully there yet, practicing generosity becomes one of the ways God gently forms us. As we invest in His kingdom, our hearts begin to follow and experience the trust of God's faithful provision and the joy of Christlike generosity.

Scripture to Read:

- Matthew 6:19–21
- Luke 19:1–10 (Zacchaeus)
- Jonah 3:10–4:11 (skim it to refresh the story in your mind)

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

1. Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Notice that Jesus doesn't simply say our treasure follows our heart. He says our heart follows our treasure. How have you experienced this to be true?
2. Compare Jonah and Zacchaeus.
Both encountered God's grace, yet their hearts responded very differently.
 - a. What do you notice about Jonah's heart?
 - b. What changed in Zacchaeus?
 - c. How did each person's heart affect their response to others?
3. What was happening beneath the surface?
Neither story is ultimately about money. They reveal something deeper.
 - a. resentment or delight?
 - b. scarcity or abundance?
 - c. self-protection or freedom?
 - d. What does that teach us about generosity?
4. Looking back over this series, where has God been working beneath the surface in your own life?
 - a. Have your actions changed?
 - b. Have your desires changed?
 - c. Where do you still sense resistance?

PRAYER

Ask God to help you see where you're storing your treasure and what your heart gravitates toward because of it.