

FOR *Generosity*

What would it look like if followers of Jesus were known for their generosity? How would it change our communities, our country, our world? What if we were known for that? What if we lived open handed with our resources so that we could impact those here, near, and far?

1. Who is the most generous person that you know? How did they specifically express their generosity?
2. Talking about financial generosity often stirs up fear. Yet during a pandemic with financial fears and job loss it is even stronger. What fears do you have to responding to God's call to be financially generous?
3. Read the following verses. How do they specifically impact how we view money and how we use it for good?

"Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others." 1 Timothy 1:18

The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich... Proverbs 10:22

"If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

"Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked." Luke 6:32-35

4. From the early church on, the growth of Christianity stemmed from the radical generosity of followers of Jesus to those in need. What could that type of generosity look like for us as a church and you as an individual?
5. As you think about the Great Lakes Christmas offering, what excites you about participating in it through your generosity? What step of generosity can you take?

