

30 days of generosity



30 days of generosity is a four-week devotional and small group discussion piece that will give your congregation an opportunity to explore God's abundance as a community. Too often, congregations plan for an isolated emphasis on stewardship and generosity when we find ourselves slipping behind in the budget. This study invites us to dream beyond the budget and envision God's larger call to generous living.

One of the best things about *30 days of generosity* is that it begins where Christian life begins – with commitment. This study allows participants to immerse themselves in a journey of learning how to take seriously God's call to be faithful stewards. If you engage in the daily readings and the prayer guides, you will strengthen your calling as a steward of God. And if you make this study the focus of your small group time as well, amazing things can happen!

This is not a course about money management. It can, however, impact how you manage your money as well as your time, talent, health and relationships. In other words, this is a course on holistic stewardship. We live in a culture that worships the material – where it becomes impossible to see the connections between what one thinks about God and what one does in daily life.

30 days of generosity brings that all together so God is indeed honored by the daily stewardship choices you make. May the words from I Peter 4:10 take on greater meaning and clarity as a result of this teaching on generosity:

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (NRSV)

Beryl Jantzi
Everence Stewardship Education director

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– 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)



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It's about commitment

It's about commitment on the part of individuals, families and entire congregations to new ways of thinking about our money, our possessions and our priorities. We begin with a time of commitment, focusing our hearts, minds and conversations on right attitudes about the resources God has entrusted to us. As you read the scripture passages and pray, listen carefully to what God has to say and then commit yourself to full involvement in this experience.

Personal prayer guide – As you prepare for the coming month-long holistic stewardship emphasis on living a generous life, read through this brief study and pray about your commitment to *30 days of generosity*. This brief devotional will prepare your heart for what God wants to say to you through *30 days of generosity*.

Read Hebrews 13:15-21 – By Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, a door was opened that allows us to enter into God's presence boldly, without fear, knowing our sins are forgiven not because of our own worth, but because of Christ's love. In creating us as his children, God has equipped us with all we need to live humbly before him and serve him. If God has equipped us with all we need to serve him, we ought to be a good steward of those resources. And knowing that each of us is singularly gifted by God ought to unify us and make us true partners in the work of the Gospel.

Next, read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 – Through God, we have everything we need to enjoy life in this world, as well as the next. God has supplied us with more than enough so that we can also know the enjoyment of blessing others. What a joy to know my life already consists of much more than anything this present age can offer! God will grant you the wisdom and strength to be generous in every way and to fully invest yourself in God's Kingdom.

Then read Ephesians 1:11-17 – God reigns over every physical dimension of this universe and nothing is able to confine him. Yet, God chose to enter time and space in order to open the door for us to the realm of light. Ask God to help you use your limited time on Earth wisely. Ask God to help you be a good and faithful steward. Ask him to keep you focused on the eternal rather than the temporary.

Consider the lesson of Luke 12:13-21 – God has given us all we have. He is our true source and supply and we are only God's servants – but what a blessing that is! What would we be without God's abundant grace and generosity? Ask God to open your eyes so that you can see yourself as God sees you. Remember, God is your security – not the things of this Earth that you acquire. Live by faith and trust God more today than you did yesterday. Grow in your generosity toward others.

Finally, see the lesson in 1 Corinthians 3:18-4:2 – We should not lose sight of the fact that God has entrusted us with things that are more valuable than anything this world offers. And repaying God's generosity is impossible! In response we can only ask for more of God's wisdom – more understanding of God's truth – especially the truth that all we have, far beyond only our time and money, are resources God has entrusted to our stewardship. Strive to be faithful in prayer, sharing freely and generously of all your spiritual gifts in order to bring God honor and glory.

All Scripture quotations are from the New International Version unless otherwise stated.



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Everence helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches.

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