



Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. Blessed for who? This series explores the blessings that come from living the generous life. Those who trust Jesus and do what he says will learn that his words are genius!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Think of something you have given to someone else. How did it make you feel to bless another person? What long-term effects did your original blessing have on that person that you learned about later? How did that make you feel?

2 GENEROSITY IS IMPORTANT because it is not a purchase. In other words, it rewards me not from a purse, but from a purpose. **Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-11.** Rick noted, *"I need a better reason to live than to see how big a barn I can build."* Generosity gives me that reason to live. The greatest quality of life comes from knowing the generosity of Jesus and making Him known. Rick said, *"Money can only add meaning to my life when it is not the meaning of my life."* Agree or disagree? How can money add meaning to our lives?

3 IT BLESSES ME... by guarding my heart. **Read Luke 12:15.** Money mimics God more than anything else, promising to provide only what God can provide. It is generosity that pushes back against the lies that money is what blesses us the most. What are some of the promises that money makes but cannot deliver? How do you guard your heart against those lies?

4 IT BLESSES ME... by growing my faith. **Read Matthew 6:31-33.** Trust is God's love language. We need the absolute confidence that our Father will take care of us. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-3.**

How does being generous, help us learn of God's trustworthiness? Share a story of how God "came through" for someone because you were generous.

5 IT BLESSES ME... by increasing my reward. Our real reward is eternal. The "stuff" we accumulate here will decay, be burned up, or stolen. Generosity creates dividends for both now and eternity. **Read Matthew 6:19-20; Matthew 19:28-29.** Why is it so easy to think that our real rewards exist only here in this life?

6 IT BLESSES ME... by securing my joy. Rick said, *"Abundance of stuff has little to do with abundance of joy... For kingdom people joy lasts because it is based in the unending and unfailing grace of God."* **See 2 Corinthians 8:4-5.** The Corinthians gave out of an understanding of His grace. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:9.** What can you do this week to share with others your joy over receiving the grace of God?

7 GENEROSITY IS GENIUS because stories make me richer than stuff. Share a generosity story that had the biggest impact on you. Go make some good stories! Bless someone this week by picking up the tab (Ideas: Buy the drink(s) for the next person(s) in line at Starbucks. Pay for the person behind you in the drive through; Buy a load of washing for someone at a laundromat, etc.). Then ask? Who got more joy out of it?

