



A 5-Day Devotional Guide
From the series The Way of Jesus

Focus:

Generosity is not about how much we give, but about how we live. It is a reflection of who we are, people formed in the image of a generous God. This week, we explore generosity as a spiritual identity, a discipline of trust, and a visible sign of God's love flowing through us..

Weekly Challenge:

Practice one act of sacrificial generosity this week, give time, encouragement, money, or attention to someone without expecting anything in return. Let your giving reflect your identity in Christ.

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Written for the Week of July 17, 2025, by Kevin St. Martin, Pastor of The Beacon: A United Methodist Church

Day 1: Giving as Identity

Scripture

Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who's been putting money in the treasury. All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on."

— Mark 12:41–44 (CEB)

Reflection

The widow's gift was small in the world's eyes, but enormous in God's. She didn't give from surplus. Her offering came from deep trust in God and a heart formed by faith. Her generosity was a statement of identity.

Questions

- What does your giving say about what you trust?
- How can you let your generosity reflect who you are, not just what you have?

Spiritual Practice

Hold your wallet, purse, or bank app in your hand and pray, "God, everything I have belongs to You. Shape my identity through generosity, not possessions."

As you reflect, consider one way to practice small but meaningful generosity today.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for kneeling to serve even when You held all power. Teach me to serve others with that same humility and love. Amen.

Day 2: Sowing Generously

Scripture:

What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. — 2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (CEB)

Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Matthew 6:19–21 (CEB)

Reflection

Generosity flows from where our hearts are set. Paul reminds us that giving leads to spiritual abundance, not just for others, but within us. Jesus tells us to invest in what truly matters. When we let go of fear and give joyfully, we trust that God will always supply what we need.

Questions

- What fears hold you back from giving freely?
- Where is your treasure and where is your heart?

Spiritual Practice

Sit quietly. Begin with your hands clenched into fists. Feel the tension. Slowly open your hands as a sign of release and trust.

Pray: "God, open my heart and my hands. Let me give cheerfully and freely."

Breathe deeply and invite God to replace fear with joy.

Prayer

Faithful God, help me sow with joy, not fear. May my giving build the kind of life that lasts. Amen.

Day 3: We Give Because God Gave First

Scripture:

Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. — James 1:17 (CEB)

Reflection

We are not owners, we are recipients. Everything we have is a gift from God: our time, talents, resources, and even life itself. Generosity is our way of saying “thank you” to God by passing those gifts on. When we live with open hands, we reflect the nature of the Giver.

Questions

- How does remembering God as the source of every good thing change your view of giving?
- What gift have you received that you can now share with others?

Spiritual Practice

Write down five things you’ve received recently—gifts, time, kindness, provision.

Offer a brief prayer of thanksgiving for each. Then ask, “God, how can I pass on what I’ve received?”

End your time by sharing one of those gifts with someone today.

Prayer

Generous God, remind me that all I have is Yours. Let me give joyfully, as one who knows I’ve already received more than enough. Amen.

Day 4: Loving in Action

Scripture:

But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?

Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. — 1 John 3:17–18 (CEB)

Reflection

Love becomes real when it costs us something. John calls us to move from sentiment to sacrifice. Generosity isn't just about money, it's about seeing a need and choosing to meet it, even when it's inconvenient. That's what love looks like when it takes on flesh.

Questions

- Where have you felt compassion but hesitated to act?
- What might it look like to love someone through generosity this week?

Spiritual Practice

Pray, "God, interrupt me with an opportunity to love someone today."

Stay alert throughout the day for a need or moment that may require your time, help, or attention. When it comes, respond without hesitation, trusting the Holy Spirit is guiding you.

Prayer

Jesus, let my love move beyond words. Teach me to act with compassion and give where there is need. Amen.

Day 5: Created to Be Generous

Scripture:

Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives. — Ephesians 2:10 (CEB)

Reflection

We are shaped by God not just to believe but to bless. Generosity is part of our spiritual DNA. When we give our time, our presence, our gifts, we live into our true purpose. Generosity isn't something we do; it's who we're becoming.

Questions

- How does it feel to think of yourself as God's workmanship?
- What "good thing" are you being nudged to do today?

Spiritual Practice

Take a short walk in your neighborhood, workplace, or church. As you walk, pray, "God, show me one good thing I can do today."

Let your surroundings guide your response, whether it's encouragement, cleanup, checking in on someone, or another small act of service.

Prayer

Creator God, You made me for good works. Let my life be a reflection of Your generosity and grace. Amen.

Closing Prayer for the Week

God of abundance, thank You for showing me what true generosity looks like through the life of Jesus. Teach me to give with joy, to trust when it's hard, and to see the needs around me with Your eyes. May my life be shaped by generosity—not just in what I give, but in how I live. Amen.

