

# A GENEROUS LIFE



# WORSHIP PLAYLIST

Follow along each day with a worship playlist to accompany each daily devotional.

*Scan here to  
access the playlist*



# WHAT IS A GENEROUS LIFE?

A generous life is a life marked by extreme generosity. It is the response of a heart overflowing with gratitude for what God has done. It is a commitment to freely give of your time, talent, and treasure because you realize you have everything you need in Christ. This requires an embrace of the biblical understanding of gospel-centered stewardship, which is defined by four core truths:

1. God owns everything.
2. God calls us to partner with Him and invest in His Kingdom.
3. God wants us to trust Him with everything.
4. God is the Big Giver.

As God's stewards, we demonstrate generosity as a witness to the abundance of grace that we have received in Christ. We have been given the greatest gift of all; now in return we can give everything away for the Glory of God.

Each week during the Generation to Generation Capital Campaign, take time as a family to reflect on the four core truths of gospel-centered stewardship. We have provided a brief summary, scripture, and questions for conversation. Hopefully this leads to a biblical worldview of generosity that advances the Kingdom of God.

# GOD OWNS EVERYTHING

## MONDAY | GENESIS 1

Whether the story of creation is familiar to you or not, it is something we should all remember every time we read the Bible. Genesis sets the stage for the rest of God's story. It tells us in verse one that "God created the heavens and the earth." The whole universe and everything he created belongs to God and exists to glorify him! What God forms in the first three days he fills in the remaining six days. The chapter concludes with the "creation mandate" which gives humanity the most important job of taking care of God's creation in order to spread the beauty and majesty of God's image everywhere!

### Reflection Questions:

1. What are some things that belong to God?
2. Why is it important to remember the story of Genesis 1 when we read and talk about the Bible?
3. If God owns everything, how does that change the way you view your belongings?

## TUESDAY | JOB 41:1-11

Job was a man who had everything you could want. He had enough money, lots of land and animals, a nice house with plenty of food, and a beautiful family. But the book of Job is all about trusting God in every circumstance, even the sad circumstances. One day, Job lost everything that he held dear. As you can imagine, Job and his friends had lots of questions to ask like, "Why would God allow these good things to be taken from me," and "how come bad things happen to good people?" His journey is one worth reading, but at the end of the book God answers Job's questions by reminding him of a gigantic creature called a "leviathan" that was bigger than any whale or shark you could imagine. No one was brave enough or strong enough to control the leviathan, but God answers Job by reminding him how he is in control of even the biggest, scariest creatures. After all, he made the leviathan and everything in the sea! That's why, in every circumstance – even when we don't see all the reasons – we can remember that God owns everything and that our job is to trust that he is in control of all things.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What's the biggest, mightiest creature you can think of?
2. What do you need to trust God with today?
3. How does this passage help us trust God?

## WEDNESDAY | PSALM 24

The David who wrote this Psalm was not only a gifted poet and songwriter but also a mighty king. As king, it would be easy to view your success, possessions, and servants as things that you earned or deserve. In fact, so many of the earthly kings throughout history acted as if they were the ones who owned everything. Yet, this Psalm reminds us of a powerful truth: God is the true “King of glory” Everything that exists – including earthly kings and kingdoms – are from Him.

Reflection Questions:

1. If you were king or queen for a day, what would you do?
2. What does this Psalm tell you about God?
3. What does this Psalm tell you about yourself?

## THURSDAY | HAGGAI 2:1-9

Haggai was a prophet to the people of God who had become discouraged and reluctant to rebuild the temple after returning from exile. The people said they were too poor to spend time or money fixing God’s house since they could barely take care of their own property. For 15 years, no work was done on God’s house of worship. So the Lord, through his messenger Haggai, helped change the perspective of everyone who thought they were too small to be a part of God’s big project. Haggai reminds us that “Lord of hosts” is in control of everything – not just silver and gold, but all the peoples and all the nations and all the sea and dry land and everything in heaven and on earth! No one is too small that God cannot use them to grow his Kingdom.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can you serve God by using your time, money or abilities?
2. What have you been holding back for yourself, either because you feel too small or you’ve been reluctant to trust God?
3. How does this passage or the story of Haggai change your perspective?

## FRIDAY | COLOSSIANS 1:13-23

At the beginning of the week, we learned that since God created everything, he owns everything. If you think back again to Genesis, you’ll remember that Adam and Eve (our first parents) sinned by taking what was God’s for themselves. Because of this act of disobedience, we are all born with sin in our hearts that causes us to be selfish, disobedient, and unkind. While God is holy and just to punish sin, he does something amazing so that we don’t have to pay the penalty for our sin. God doesn’t just press “restart” like in a video game; instead, he sent his Son Jesus to make all things new. So Jesus gave up his wealth and place in heaven as God (vs. 15) and traded it for a criminal’s cross to die in our place. Just as Colossians teaches, Jesus is the “firstborn of all creation” which means that everything was made by him and for him. He’s also called “the first born from the dead” because by his death and resurrection. Jesus demonstrates his Lordship over even life and death. The Gospel is that God was willing to redeem everything he owns in the person and work of Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does verse 16 say about Jesus?
2. How does Jesus make peace between us and God?
3. How does the Gospel show us that God owns everything?

# GOD CALLS US TO PARTNER WITH HIM AND INVEST IN HIS KINGDOM

## MONDAY | MARK 10:17-31

Nothing beats a close-up look at a conversation with Jesus. In one encounter, a certain rich young man asked Jesus what he needed to do to get eternal life. The young man thought he was deserving of eternal life since he had kept all the commandments and grown up to be a good person. He was obviously looking for a simple answer, so Jesus gave him one. “Come, follow me.” God’s Kingdom isn’t made with human wealth or people who think of themselves as better than others. It’s an upside-down Kingdom in the sense that the first shall be last and the last shall be first. None of us is good enough to “impress” God into giving us eternal life. Saving ourselves by doing good things doesn’t work. But with Jesus’ righteousness as our own, we can give of all we have knowing that “all things are possible for God” (vs. 27). It won’t be easy, but God will always be there to hold you up when you fall and to provide for your needs every step of the way.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Why did the rich young man walk away sad?
2. What’s “upside-down” about the way God’s Kingdom works?
3. How is God calling you to “Come, follow me” (vs 21)?

## TUESDAY | 1 CHRONICLES 29:10-19

David didn’t get to build the temple or see it come to fruition. He did, however, play an important role in planning and preparing for its construction. Up til this point, God’s people met with him in a portable tent because they’d been wanderers since their days in Egypt. In this passage, King David offers up a beautiful prayer of dedication before God for the many blessings he has given to his people. Although David contributed large amounts gold, silver, bronze, cedar trees, stone, and willing workers to make everything possible, he humbly acknowledges that “all things come from God” and he is simply giving back to God what he’s received. As David is directed toward God’s generosity and faithfulness, his own heart is moved to partner with the Lord in making the earth reflect God’s Kingdom as it is in heaven.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Who does David pray for in this passage?
2. How can you partner with God in making earth as it is in heaven?
3. Even though this passage never mentions Jesus by name, how does it point us to Christ?

## WEDNESDAY | PROVERBS 11:24

Proverbs is a unique book of the Bible that gives us short statements of wisdom to help in everyday life. In Proverbs 11:24, we're given advice on how to be generous with our resources and not stingy. The more generously a farmer scatters his seeds, the more fruitful his crop with be! If the farmer were to be stingy with his seed-planting, his crops would not be fruitful or rewarding. The same is true of us when we give our time, talents, and treasures. We never lose when we give generously to God's work.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What happens if a farmer plants only a few seeds? How about many seeds?
2. How does this verse help encourage you to be generous?
3. How does the analogy of "scattering" apply to the Christian life and growing God's Kingdom?

## THURSDAY | 1 JOHN 3:16-18

It's easy to say, "I love you" to your parents, but much harder to demonstrate your love when they ask you to do your chores. It's pretty easy to be nice to your friends when they're nice to you, but much harder to share with someone in need. 1 John 3:16-18 tells us that not only did Jesus say he loved us, he demonstrated it by laying down his life for us. God wants us to partner with him in building his Kingdom based on love – not just by saying it, but by doing it.

### Reflection Questions:

1. If you told your parents that you loved them every day, but never did what they asked, would that be demonstrating your love to them?
2. What actions can you take today to show someone you love them?
3. How does Jesus help us to do this?

## FRIDAY | MATTHEW 25:14-30

The famous "Parable of the Talents" helps us see what God's Kingdom is like. In this parable, we're told of three "investors." Investors are supposed to take care of someone else's money and cause it to grow over time. The investors in this story were given money by their master who went away for a while. The first two servants were faithful with what they'd been given and caused it to grow while the master was away. The third servant did not invest; he just buried the money in the ground. When the master returned, he dealt kindly with the first two servants but harshly with the third. Jesus' clear message is that we ought to be faithful with what God has given us. He wants us to be active helpers in growing his Kingdom as we trust him with all that he's entrusted to us.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What did the third servant do with his money?
2. What does "investing" mean?
3. How are you being faithful with what God's given you?

# GOD WANTS US TO TRUST HIM WITH EVERYTHING

## MONDAY | DEUTERONOMY 8:11-20

When you have lots of nice things, it's easy to think you earned them by your own power and might. That's why centuries later Jesus said that, "It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God" (Mark 10:25). He wasn't saying that people with lots of money aren't going to be in heaven; rather, that money and earthly possessions make it hard to remember that God is the giver of all good things. Deuteronomy 8 reminds us that it is God who gives power to great wealth. More importantly, it teaches us that the reason God gives us blessings is to "confirm his covenant" with us so that we will always trust him with everything.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What can you trust God with today?
2. How does having a lot of money or nice things sometimes cause us to forget to trust God?
3. What should God's blessings teach us to do?

## TUESDAY | MALACHI 3:6-10

Malachi is the final prophet in the Old Testament, and he was given a message to tell the people to stop "robbing" God. They had grown selfish with all that God had given them and by holding back their tithes and offerings they weren't demonstrating their trust in him. The challenge is trusting God enough to give him all that he asks for. As we've learned, God doesn't deserve just ten percent of what we have; he owns it all! The good news is that God promises to "open the windows of heaven" and pour down his blessings on those who trust him. This doesn't mean there won't be hard times or days when we don't get what we want, but it does mean that God will always provide for those who trust in him.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Why does God want us to give tithes and offerings?
2. Why did Malachi tell the people they were "robbing" God?
3. What does God promise to do for those who trust him?



## WEDNESDAY | HEBREWS 13:7-16

The writer of Hebrews encourages his audience to remember their leaders, the ones who declared and demonstrated the Gospel to them. He then goes on to teach how Jesus has done everything necessary for salvation! Instead of animal sacrifices, and trying to be good enough, Jesus was the once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin. We don't need to listen to anyone who tries to teach us that we need Jesus plus something else. Jesus is enough! The author then ends by saying that God is most pleased by the sacrifice of "acknowledging his name" and the beauty of what Jesus has done for us. When we trust and believe this, we can't help but to do good and share what we have because we know that God has given us all that we need in Jesus!

### Reflection Questions:

1. What's something good you can do today?
2. Do we share and do nice things for people so that God will look at us and say, "Okay, now you're good enough to be a part of my Kingdom"?
3. How does this passage help us to trust God?

## THURSDAY | ACTS 4:32-37

In the book of Acts, we're told of the special mission that Jesus gave his followers. He told them to be "the Church" – not a building with stained glass, but to be people of God, advancing his Kingdom and telling everyone about Jesus. In this passage, the people of the early church sold everything they had so that they could share the money with those in need. They knew, that because Jesus was alive, all God's promises were true! There was nothing that could separate them from God's love and protection, even if they sold their house and land and gave it to the poor! What a powerful reminder that because of Jesus, we really can trust God with everything.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Why did the people sell their houses and land?
2. What are some ways that you can give up what you have in order to help those in need?
3. How does this story give you strength to trust God today?

## FRIDAY | 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-10

Paul was close with his younger friend Timothy. He wrote two letters to him about how to lead the church. One of the things he said over and over to Timothy was, "Don't listen to false teaching." Paul basically says, "You shouldn't try to be good just because you want to get rewarded for being good." We should remember that we didn't bring anything into the world and we can't take anything out either. Holding onto our money and possessions too tightly can be a slippery slope that causes us to love those things more than God. More than anything, we should remember that Jesus came into the world with nothing so that he could win us back from sin and death in order to give us eternal life with God. For that, we must trust him with everything!

### Reflection Questions:

1. What's your favorite possession or activity?
2. How do you keep from loving those things more than God?
3. Why should we trust God with everything?

# GOD IS THE BIG GIVER

## MONDAY | JAMES 1:2-4, 17

There are lots of people who do good things for others. For example, people donate money to charities, spend their time volunteering, give gifts to family and friends, and lots more. What the book of James goes on to tell us, is that every good thing – even the good that other people do – is because God is the Big Giver. He goes a step further to say that even the hard trials and suffering that we may face are good gifts from God. How can that be? Although we don't often realize it, God uses the hardships we face to strengthen our faith and cause us to rely on him. Just like the sun never turns off, God's goodness never turns off. We know this to be true because of Jesus, who through his gruesome death made a way for everlasting life.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What are some good gifts God has given you?
2. If God never changes, does he ever stop being good?
3. How could a tough trial be a gift from God?

## TUESDAY | GENESIS 22:1-14

It's really hard to give up something you love. There's no doubt that Abraham had a hard time when God asked him to give up his son Isaac. It wasn't that God was trying to be mean or hurt Abraham ... he wanted Abraham to know what true sacrifice and provision felt like. God was asking Abraham to trust him in order to teach him what it would feel like to give up your only son. In fact, that's exactly what God did thousands of years later with Jesus. He provided Jesus to die in our place just like he provided a ram for Abraham so that Isaac wouldn't have to die. If you ever doubt or forget God's goodness, all you need to do is read the Bible and ask him to show you how he's the Big Giver who has truly provided everything you need in Jesus.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What's something you would have a hard time giving up?
2. Why did God ask Abraham to give up his son Isaac?
3. How has God provided for you today?

## WEDNESDAY | PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13, 19-20

Philippians 4:13 is one of those Bible verses that gets printed on T-shirts, football cleats, basketball shoes, and lots of other things. It's such a popular verse, but often not fully understood. Sometimes we think that this verse means "I can dunk a basketball, through Christ who strengthens me." While that may be true for some, the deeper meaning is explained in verse 12 and 19-20. Even when we are brought low, hungry, or in need, this passage reminds us that in every kind of circumstance our strength is from Jesus. Because this is true, God will supply all of your needs. He will always take care of you and help you to endure. He's the Big Giver! Whatever you face, you can know God's biggest gift is Jesus.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What's God's biggest gift?
2. How can you accept this gift?
3. What do you need to ask Jesus for strength for today?

## THURSDAY | 2 KINGS 4:1-7

Elisha was a prophet at a challenging time in Israel's history. When Elisha took over for Elijah, he asked for twice as much of God's Spirit, which was a lot! The Lord graciously allowed Elisha to perform many amazing miracles that helped people trust in God and his provision. One of those special miracles involved a woman and her two sons. Since the woman's husband had passed away, she didn't have a way to make money or take care of her property, so the landlord was going to take away her two sons as payment. Things looked pretty bad, but God instructed Elisha and the woman to take what little oil she had and pour it into as many jars as her sons could find. Miraculously, the oil didn't run out! It kept pouring until all the jars were full so that she could sell the oil and make enough money to keep her house and her sons. God works in amazing ways to show us that he really is the Big Giver who takes care of us no matter what.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What was going to happen to the woman's sons?
2. Is it easier to trust God with a lot or a little? Explain why.
3. How was God the Big Giver in this story?

## FRIDAY | REVELATION 22:16-21

We started this devotional journey in the first book of the Bible. Now, we're ending in the last book of the Bible, Revelation. Whether it was a story about trusting God, partnering with him, or seeing that everything belongs to him, you can always remember that Jesus is not dead, he's alive. He is risen and reigning as King in heaven right now. He's not scrambling to figure out how everything's going to be made right – he knows and he is working even now to make earth as it is in heaven. More than any Bible character, Jesus is the "bright and morning star" who shines the light of salvation into the world and into our hearts. God has given us everything we need in Jesus. He wants us to turn away from sin and come to him. The same Jesus who says, "Surely, I'm coming soon" says to us, "Come!" We can stop rushing and hurrying and worrying about ourselves, and simply come to Jesus for peace and rest.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Is Jesus coming back?
2. What sin do you need to turn away from as you come to Jesus?
3. How does this passage give us hope and help for today?

WWW.CRPC.ORG  
**CORAL RIDGE** PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH