

SOLID ROCK

GENEROSITY

WEEK FOUR

SERIES BIG IDEA:

God is generous and He wants me to excel in the grace of giving.

Abundance of wealth does not guarantee that someone will be generous.

¹ Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

³ "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg—⁴ I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵ "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ " 'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.'

⁷ "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' " 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

⁸ "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

¹³ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵ He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight.

Luke 16:1-15 (NIV)

When I am faithful to generously steward the little God's given me, God will trust me to be faithful to generously steward much more.

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

God gives me everything I need to be a faithful steward who excels in generosity.

Four principles to depend upon so that I can excel in generosity:

God is the supplier.

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food...

2 Corinthians 9:10 (NIV)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater.

Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)

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God is my supplier.

[He]... will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.
2 Corinthians 9:10 (NIV)

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.

Hosea 10:12 (NIV)

God has enriched me with everything I have so that I can excel in generosity.

Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 10:8 (NIV)

When we excel in generosity, people will glorify God.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

God is boundless in His generosity, and His desire is for us to excel in the grace of giving. This message is woven into scripture.

Jesus Christ teaches us to be stewards who are generous with what God has given us. The Apostle Paul emphasizes to the Corinthians that God is the ultimate supplier, akin to a generous benefactor who provides us with both the seeds to sow and the bread to eat. Paul recognizes God as the primary source of all our resources.

Building upon this, Paul elaborates that God not only supplies but also multiplies our resources. By seeking Him and living a righteous life, His blessings would shower us, enabling us to become masters of generosity. We give freely because we have freely received.

Our call to be faithful stewards has a profound impact on those around us. As we use our blessings for acts of generosity, we inspire others to acknowledge God's grace through our giving.

TALK-IT-OVER:

When have you experienced the generosity of God?

How does your life show that you are an imitator of God in generosity?

How could you love even more like God is your supplier?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Day 2) Matthew 25:31-46

Day 3) Luke 11:28

Day 4) Isaiah 58:9-11

Day 5) James 2:14-18

Day 6) James 1:16-18