



From the Overflow  
November 24 | Group Guide

### **Pre-work instructions**

For optimal group discussion, take a few moments to look over this group guide a few days prior to your group meeting. Then, choose a few of the questions below to send to your group members. Ask them to come prepared to share their thoughts on them. You may also want to alert those in your group about the prayer element in each of these group guides.

### **From the Overflow Introduction**

Throughout this sermon series, we're taking a look at what the Bible says about money, generosity, and our stewardship of the resources God has gifted to us. To that end, we'll be reading Scripture, praying together, sharing about the theme of generosity, and more.

**Read Scripture** – Read Matthew 6:19-34.

### Questions for reflection:

- Take some time to reflect on your key takeaways from the sermon. What stood out to you the most? What questions do you have? What was stirred in you as you listened?
- In his sermon, Gary gave three reasons why generosity is wise. One reason is because we reflect God when we give. How have you seen God's generosity to you lately? What ways have you tried to show God's generosity to others through your own?
- Gary also talked about how generosity helps us overcome things like materialism, greed, and selfishness. In what ways do you rely on your possessions or financial security for your sense of well-being? In what ways do you find yourself tempted to store up wealth or seek security in material things? How might God be inviting you to trust him more deeply?
- Lastly, Gary talked about how generosity is wise because it creates opportunity for great impact. How has the generosity of God's people impacted you personally? What kind of impact would you like to see with your generosity?

### Watch the 11 minute video from Gary Johnson:

Take a few moments to watch this [week's recap video from Gary Johnson](#) as he talks about the the principles and practices we need to become a more generous people.

After watching, discuss the following:

- Which principle do you need to cultivate most? Why?
- Which practice do you need to implement right now? Explain.

## Prayer:

Each week through our *From the Overflow* series, we'll take some time to pray through a portion of Scripture. We'll focus on a specific Scripture through prayer, inviting the group to pray from the passage. This week's Scripture is Proverbs 3:5-12.

As you begin, take a moment to be still and quiet before the Lord. Invite the group to settle, close their eyes, and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your prayer time.

After 2-3 minutes of silence, begin by reading Proverbs 3:5-6.

**Read:** *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

**Say:** Let's take a few moments now to pray aloud in response to this passage. Some questions to consider: Where do you need to grow in trust with the Lord? Where are you leaning on your own understanding? Where do you need to submit to him, inviting him to make your paths straight? Let's respond through prayer aloud now.

*(Leave space for praying aloud in response to these verses.)*

Lord, we turn our attention to Proverbs 3:7-8

**Read:** *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones."*

**Say:** Let's take a few moments now to pray aloud in response to this passage. Some questions to consider: Where have you been wise in your own eyes? Where do you need to shun evil? How have you seen the Lord's wisdom bring health in your life? Let's respond through prayer aloud now.

*(Leave space for praying aloud in response to these verses.)*

Lord, we turn our attention to Proverbs 3:9-10

**Read:** *"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."*

**Say:** Let's take a few moments now to pray aloud in response to this passage. Some questions to consider: Where do you need to honor the Lord with your wealth? How have you experienced the Lord's provision in your life? Let's respond through prayer aloud now.

*(Leave space for praying aloud in response to these verses.)*

Lord, we turn our attention to Proverbs 3:11-12

**Read:** *"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in."*

**Say:** Let's take a few moments now to pray aloud in response to this passage. Some questions to consider: Where do you need the Lord's discipline? How would you like to thank God for his loving discipline in your life? Let's respond through prayer aloud now.

*(Leave space for praying aloud in response to these verses.)*

### **Sermon series wrap-up reflection:**

Before you end with the generosity liturgy, spend some time reflecting on these last three weeks and consider 1-2 of the questions below:

- How has your biblical understanding of generosity grown over the last three weeks?
- What shifts do you plan to make in your life because of the teachings, reading the Scriptures, and spending time in prayer?
- What questions do you still have about what the Bible says about money?
- With whom do you want to share what you've learned?

**End with this generosity liturgy:**

Holy Father,

There is nothing I have that You have not given me.

All I have and am belong to You,

bought with the blood of Jesus.

To spend everything on myself, and to give without sacrifice, is the way of the world that You cannot abide.

But generosity is the way of those who call Christ their Lord;

who love Him with free hearts and serve Him with renewed minds. Who withstand the delusion of riches that chokes the Word;

whose hearts are in Your kingdom and not in the systems of the world.

I am determined to increase in generosity until it can be said

that there is no needy person among us.

I am determined to be trustworthy with such a little thing as money that You may trust me with true riches.

Above all, I am determined to be generous because You, Father, are generous.

It is the delight of Your daughters and sons to share Your traits, and to show what You are like to the world.

Amen.