

Bible Class Discussion Guide

Following the Way – Week 6

Generosity in Action (Acts 2:42-47)

Icebreaker Question

What's something in your life that keeps you grounded when everything else feels uncertain?

Scripture Reading Prompt

This week we're focusing on how the early church responded to the resurrection of Jesus with radical generosity. What they gave—and how they gave it—wasn't about pressure or obligation. It was about trust, hope, and the condition of their hearts. What can we learn from their open-handed living?

1. Generosity as a Faith Step

Read Acts 2:44–45

- What stands out to you in Luke's description of this early Christian community?
 - Why do you think the early believers were so willing to sell property and possessions to help others?
 - How is generosity an act of faith—not just finances?
 - Read Matthew 6:24 – What tension does Jesus name here? Why do you think money can compete for our hearts?
 - What would it look like today to say, "I trust You more than I trust my stuff"?
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2. Generosity as a Hope Step

Read Matthew 6:19-21

- How does this passage connect treasure and the heart?
 - How does a secure hope in Christ's kingdom loosen our grip on earthly things?
 - Why is it easier to give when we believe something better is coming?
 - **Read Acts 2:32, 36** - How does Peter's resurrection announcement shape the rest of the passage?
 - What role does eternal perspective play in how we use our money, time, and resources?
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3. Generosity as a Heart Step

Read Luke 21:1–4

- What impressed Jesus about the widow's gift? Why does He say she gave more than the rest?
- What do these passages reveal about the connection between giving and the heart?
- How is generosity more about posture than amount?

- How does giving shape us spiritually?

4. Generosity that Advances the Mission

Read Acts 2:46–47 and Acts 4:32–35

- What kind of community do these passages describe? How was it perceived by outsiders?
 - How did the early church’s generosity meet practical needs and point people to Jesus?
 - Why do you think Luke pairs generosity with phrases like “God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all” (Acts 4:33)?
 - Share a time when someone’s generosity (yours or another’s) opened doors for mission or drew someone closer to Jesus.
 - How might generosity shape the kind of church others want to be part of?
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Reflection and Application

- Which “step” is most challenging for you right now: faith, hope, heart, or mission?
- What’s one way you can practice open-handed living this week?
- How can we, as a church, reflect God’s generous heart in the way we give, serve, and live?

Optional Study

Romans 12:1-2

Use the Formed by the Word framework:

Jesus at the Center – What does this passage reveal about Jesus or His kingdom values?

Context is Key – What details around the text help us understand it better?

Read with the Church – How might this passage encourage or challenge our community?

Read for Formation – How is God inviting you to be changed through this passage?