



Text us at **833-271-8805**.
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.
Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



What is this? – Normally this section includes questions and a study for our Life Groups. If you're not in one, you should sign up in the Commons, let us know on a Connect Card (pew rack or in the app), or contact the church office! Most groups break for the holidays, but others will continue and use this for their study time together. Instead of our normal study guide, this is a smaller study and some questions for you to reflect/journal on throughout the week. Look for sign-ups for new groups this month!

If you treasure what **LASTS**

Jesus assumes we'll treasure things

it reveals our heart

you'll be **GENEROUS** with what doesn't

↑ toward God

↔ toward others

and increase your **JOY!**

generosity increases joy Acts 20:35; John 3:16; Hebrews 12:2

generosity pays off Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Deuteronomy 15:10; Psalm 112:5-6; Proverbs 11:25

practicing the good life.

A spontaneous act of generosity

- Set aside a specific amount of money. It can be a little or a lot, whatever you decide.
- But before you name an amount, pause and open your heart to God and see if a number comes to mind.
- Take cash out of an ATM to carry with you, or earmark the amount in your debit account to have ready when the right opportunity comes.
- Ask God to give you an opportunity to bless someone.
- Then, just keep your eyes open.

Note: We're not trying to solve global poverty or be heroic in this practice, but to tap into the outflow of the Trinity's generous love to all.

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

Food for Thought...

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

The Western world in which we live, with its consumerist mindset, is designed to make us reach for more, tighten our grips on what we have, and "look out for number one." In this series we hope to expose not just the force of this cultural current, but the illusion of where it leads: not to a good and wide life, but to a smaller one filled with fear, greed, and discontentment.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Paul shows how the upside-down Kingdom has an economy much different from our own. To give is not to lose, but to gain. And to live with open hands is to discover a fuller life under a loving Father who is more generous than we can imagine.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, then answer the questions that follow.

1. Which portion of this passage stands out most to you? Why?

2. In **verse 6** Paul likens giving to "sowing." In what ways is generosity like sowing a seed and reaping a harvest?






(Food for Thought continues on back panel...)

WELCOME TO **WAWAWSEE**

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

This is who we hope you grow to become at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

- 
1 | Receiving From God. Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 
2 | Responding To God. How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 
3 | Receiving From Others. Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 
4 | Moving Toward Others. How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 
5 | Going to those Far from God. How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

WORD FIND IN THE **WORD**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Matthew 6:19-24 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves **treasures** on **earth**, where **moth** and **rust** **destroy** and where **thieves break** in and **steal**,²⁰ but lay up for yourselves **treasures** in **heaven**, where **neither moth** nor **rust destroys** and where **thieves** do not **break** in and **steal**.

²¹ For where your **treasure** is, **there** your **heart** will be **also**.²² "The eye is the **lamp** of the **body**. So, if your eye is **healthy**, your **whole body** will be **full of light**,²³ but if your eye is bad, your **whole body** will be **full of darkness**. If **then** the **light** in you is **darkness**, how **great** is the **darkness!**

²⁴ "No one can **serve** two **masters**, for **either** he will **hate** the one and love the **other**, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the **other**. You cannot **serve** God and money.

N S T E A L S O I B R
 T L A M P M E D G O U
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 E H P D E S T R O Y T
 R A S H I T H K T L H
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 L L H Y P N G R E A T
 E O K L I G H T M K P



Food for Thought *(continued)*

- Verse 7** contains three attitudes around giving: reluctance, compulsion, or joy. Which do you most experience when giving, and how so?

- Pay attention to the "alls" in verse 8: If we believed this about God, how would it impact how we relate to our finances and possessions? How do you think our view of God impacts our generosity?

Practicing the Good Life...

Review the "Practicing the Good Life" section from the Message Notes. After you've done it, reflect on the questions below...

- As you set aside money to give this week, did you experience reluctance or excitement initially? Why?
- How did you use the money to bless someone?
- How did the person you helped respond, and how did their reaction affect you?
- After this week's practice, how did you personally experience the connection between "sowing generously" and "reaping generously" from **2 Corinthians 9**?

This week's Food for Thought is adapted from "The Generosity Practice" (pages 26-27) published for free by Practicing the Way. Learn more at practictheway.org.



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Wawasee Community Bible Church

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the good life.

Sunday, January 5, 2025

PART 1

Generous Joy

MATTHEW 6:19-24



We're Glad You're Here Today!

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<https://wawasee.today>