

Give It a Rest

Week 3: Less is More

Objective: To challenge us to learn how to trust God by practicing generosity.

Icebreaker: What is one thing you own that you thought would make life better or easier — but ended up not mattering nearly as much as you expected?

1. “How Much Is Enough?”

The sermon asked a simple but difficult question: *How much is enough?*

- How would you honestly answer that question right now?
- In what areas of life does “enough” always seem to move just out of reach?
- Why is that question so hard to answer?

2. Generosity as Sabbath Applied to Money

We used this definition: *Generosity is a regular, intentional practice of giving that declares: God is my provider and money is not my master.*

- What part of that definition stands out to you most?
- How is generosity more than just giving money away?
- How does generosity reveal what we believe about God?

3. Jesus’ Warning About Greed (Luke 12:13–21)

Jesus said, *“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”*

- Why do you think Jesus tells us to “watch out” for greed?
- Why is greed often easier to see in other people than in ourselves?
- Where can greed disguise itself as wisdom, caution, or planning?

4. When More Leaves Us With Less

The sermon said: *With greed, the more I gain the less I have.*

- How can having more money, stuff, or options actually leave a person with less peace, freedom, or trust?
- Where have you seen that play out in your own life or in the lives of others?
- What does greed tend to take from us?

5. Greed, Fear, and Faith

We heard that greed feeds fear and starves faith.

- What fears make it hard for you to let go of money, possessions, or control?
- Where are you tempted to trust your “barns” more than you trust God?
- How does generosity help retrain the heart to trust God?

6. Honoring God With What We Have

The sermon challenged us to see everything we have as belonging to God, not ultimately to us.

- How does that perspective challenge the way you normally think about money and possessions?
- What changes when you move from “this is mine” to “this is God’s, and I manage it”?
- Why does that matter spiritually?

7. Generosity Toward Others

1 John 3 says love is shown not just in words, but in actions and truth.

- Why is meeting real needs such an important expression of Christian love?
- Who around you might be carrying a need you could help meet?
- What keeps us from acting generously even when we see the need?

8. Freedom Through Less

The sermon said: *When I don't have to have my stuff, then my stuff doesn't have me.*

- What might it look like for you to become more "OK with less"?
- What would that free you from?
- How might generosity create more joy, peace, and room for God in your life?

FINAL THOUGHT

Greed always promises more, but it leaves us with less. Generosity may feel like loss at first, but it loosens fear, strengthens faith, and reminds us that life is found in God, not in accumulation. When we learn to hold what we have with open hands, we often discover we already have more than enough.

THIS WEEK – PRACTICE GENEROSITY

Choose one intentional act of generosity this week as a way of trusting God with your money or possessions.

- Give intentionally to God.
- Bless someone with something you have.
- Meet a real need in a practical way.

Before you do, write down:

- What am I afraid I might lose if I become more generous?
- What has too strong a hold on my heart right now?
- How could generosity help me trust God more deeply?

Treat generosity not as pressure to perform, but as a practice that sets you free.