

Life Group Leader Guide
Week 6| Chapters 12-13

Week 6: Give Radically

Scripture: Proverbs 11:24–25; Mark 6:30–44; Mark 12:41–44; Luke 10:25–37; Genesis 12:1–2; Acts 20:35
Big idea: I am radically generous. God blesses me so I can be a blessing — He wants to increase our level of giving, not necessarily our level of living.

Opener (optional): Who's the most generous person you've ever known personally? What did they actually do that made you say that?

Leader tip: if the group goes quiet, resist filling the silence. Count to ten. The best answers in a group like this usually come after the pause.

- Open with prayer and have someone read **Ephesians 2:1–10** out loud, slowly. Consider having a second person read verses 8–10 again at the end.
- Hayford's conclusion is that the key is shaped like the cross: everything was *given*, everything was *finished*, everything can be *started*. If anyone in the group is on the edge of a first step toward Christ, this is the night to make room for it — the series has been building here the whole time.
- Warm-up question to get everyone talking: *"What's the hardest thing you've ever had to let go of and did you let go willingly or did it get pried loose?"*

- Suggested timing: Talk It Out (20 min) · Work It Out (25 min) · Live It Out (20 min) ·Prayer (10 min). These times are suggested and not rigid. You know your group and flow best.
- You won't get through every question. Pick the two in each section that fit your group and let the conversation breathe.

1. Talk It Out

- Sunday's three examples were a kid, a widow, and an enemy — not one of them the person you'd pick to teach a class on generosity. Why do you think Jesus kept pointing to people with the least to give?
- Pastor Jack says, "There is too much of a tendency to have a poverty mentality in today's church…our outlook is too small, but that smallness can be shaken off in answer to our Lord Jesus, who has called us to be a big people." Where do you see that smallness, in the church generally or in your own thinking?
- In chapter 13 Hayford is in a conference offering he'd already paid for, asks God what to give, and hears, "Give it all… When you give everything, it doesn't make any difference what the total is. It's everything." He admits he didn't even want to ask. Have you ever hesitated to ask God what to give for fear of what He might say?

2. Work It Out

1. Chapter 12 opens with Ed the organist, who had a gift and simply said, "I don't show people those things." Hayford calls that clutchiness, and names it covetousness — "having it, but only for myself" — and says it applies to any gift we hold back, not just money. What are you holding in reserve: a skill, a connection, a recipe, a hard-won lesson?
2. "The issue isn't *what you have* but *what has you*? Better yet, *who*?" The rich young ruler's money wasn't his problem — his mind-set was; his possessions possessed him. What's the honest test for telling the difference between owning something and being owned by it?
3. Hayford frames the whole thing as one decision: "Will I live my life in relationship to my Creator's endless resources, or will I keep restricting myself to the limits of my own resources?" He also warns that the need to *have* "gradually will crowd Him out completely." Which of the two are you actually living out of right now?
4. The Good Samaritan was generous with five things: emotion, care, time, resource, and finance — and Hayford notes the early church's sharing in Acts 4 was voluntary, never commanded, because "forced ways never work because that's not how God does things." Which of those five is easiest for you to give, and which one costs you the most?

3. Live It Out

- Pastor Cody's heart for the group was three steps: hear from the Lord, believe what you heard, obey what He spoke. Which of the three is where you usually stall out, and why?
- "God wants to bless us so we can increase our level of giving, not necessarily our level of living." Name one recent increase in your life — a raise, a gift, a windfall, extra time. Did it raise your giving or your living? What would it look like to redirect the next one?
- The One Day Challenge is October 25. Walk through Hayford's own practice as a group: ask God specifically what to give rather than deciding first and praying after. What's He saying, and what's your next step on it?

Close: This is the last week of the series, so close by tracing the whole arc. Hayford summarizes the entire book this way — the Key to Everything centers on giving: on forgiving because we've been forgiven, on letting go because we've been set free, on giving up because nothing's ever gained by holding back, and on giving freely because God has charged us nothing for all He's done for us or given to us. Then read John 3:16 and Romans 8:32 aloud and end with the staff prayer blessing.