



Session Three: First Things First

INTRODUCTION

You know how to give. Everyone gives something somewhere. We define our generosity by our random acts of goodness. But generosity is more than that. Generosity is the premeditated, calculated, designated emancipation of personal financial assets. When you become generous, you give more, save more, and consume less. It can free you from the Great American Insanity Cycle of spending more than we make, accumulating debt, having no financial margin, worrying about money, and spending money we don't have in order to distract ourselves from worry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you a planner or do you tend to y by the seat of your pants? How has that influenced the way you manage your finances?
2. Would you consider yourself a “3S Giver”—someone who gives spontaneously, sporadically, and sparingly? Do you agree that kind of giving gets in the way of generosity? Why or why not?
3. During the message, Matt said, *“You give from a grateful heart or you give from a broken heart.”* To whom or what are you grateful? What causes or problems break your heart? What would it look like to say “yes” to those organizations, charities, or people?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1–3. What is freeing about deciding for yourself what and where it is best to be generous? What is challenging about that kind of freedom?
5. What are some obstacles to you saving more, giving more, and spending less? What can you do to overcome those obstacles?
6. What is your best next step for making a plan to save more, give more, and spend less? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Being radically generous may seem crazy, but Jesus said the alternative is crazier. It reduces you to an owner and a consumer. It leaves you discontented. And no matter what you choose, you will eventually lose possession of your stuff anyway. So choose your crazy. But remember: happy is the person whose life is ordered around giving rather than receiving.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21