



IMMANUEL  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

# Generosity Devotional

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We created this devotional booklet to guide you in the next steps of your discipleship to Jesus Christ in relation to your generosity. We hope you will keep this devotional to refer back to in the months ahead.

The most important financial goal we have in this campaign is to grow our culture of generosity as disciples of Jesus.



Begin with the questionnaire below. Read through the statements in each section and mark those that apply to you. If you check 3 or more boxes in a section, consider doing the devotional associated with it. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to one point of focus. Then, turn to your chosen topic and spend time in Scripture and prayer. We've provided questions to guide you - choose just one to reflect on, or ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the text.

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## Financial Discipleship Questionnaire

### TRUST

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I feel more guilt and pressure about generosity than joy and freedom.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I think we should each control the money we earn.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I have had a hurtful experience with money that impacts my generosity to this day.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I am concerned that if I give more, I won't have enough left for my own needs.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I'm on the lookout for institutions or churches that would mishandle money or manipulate people in order to get more of it than they actually need. |

### FULFILLMENT

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I often find myself daydreaming about the next purchase or "toy" that will make me happy.                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The comforts & conveniences of life are totally worth the extra cost.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | People who have more money generally have more fun.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I invest in meaningful experiences, like great food and drink, traveling adventures, or exploring nature with friends & family. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If I don't have discretionary money for spontaneous fun, I feel deprived.   |



## SECURITY

I believe that a sound financial future depends largely on my careful planning and saving.

I would rather have more money in savings or an investment than some new purchase.

If I had a certain amount saved or invested, I would breathe easier and feel more confident about the future.

I find myself preoccupied with concern about upcoming needs, outstanding bills, and financial shortfalls.

When unexpected expenses arise, I feel the stress acutely.

## STATUS

I struggle with envy or comparison when I notice that a peer has greater financial means than me.

It's nice to have things that show I have good taste and professional success.

I like to keep up with the lifestyle of people around me so I can feel like I'm doing okay.

I sometimes consider how others will view the choices I make with my money.

I take comfort in knowing my financial decisions reflect good stewardship.

## INFLUENCE

I like knowing that when I contribute financially, I can help shape decisions and values.

It feels good to have the resources to quietly help guide things in a positive direction.

I value having enough financial independence so I don't have to depend on others or feel pressured by their decisions.

I prefer to have a say in how my contributions are used, but I also trust the process and the people involved.

It's important for me to have the resources to help others, but also to guide how those resources are used.



# TRUST

*Context: the Apostle Paul is speaking to the Corinthian congregation that has had a history of being financially manipulated by celebrity "super-apostles." He's calling them to show generosity - not to him, but to a destitute congregation in Jerusalem.*

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

6 The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.

9 As it is written:

He distributed freely;  
he gave to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.

10 Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

11 You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

## Reflection Questions

In what area of your heart or history do you need God's grace to overflow to you?

What reluctance, compulsion, or pressure around generosity can you release to God?

How might God be calling you to freedom, increase and abundance in your generosity?

If you have a hurtful history around money, with whom could you share this burden?





# FULFILLMENT

## 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. 8 If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, 19 storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

## Reflection Questions

How content am I with what I currently have (vs. 8)? What areas of my life do I find myself striving for more, believing it will bring me greater fulfillment?

How have unchecked desires for possessions, wealth, or experiences actually pierced me or others with “many griefs” (vs. 10)?

What would it look like for me to be “rich in good works” and know the adventure of generosity (vs. 18)?

What does “true life” mean to me (vs. 19)? How can I focus on storing up treasures in heaven rather than on earth, so that I may live a life that is pleasing to God and fulfilling in a different way than I usually experience?





# SECURITY

## Luke 12:22-34

22 Then he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: They don’t sow or reap; they don’t have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than the birds? 25 Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? 26 If then you’re not able to do even a little thing, why worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. 28 If that’s how God clothes the grass, which is in the field today and is thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will he do for you—you of little faith? 29 Don’t strive for what you should eat and what you should drink, and don’t be anxious. 30 For the Gentile world eagerly seeks all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you.

32 Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won’t grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## Reflection Questions

What does Jesus teach us about his Father in this passage that challenges or comforts you?

What is one specific need you have that you would like to see the Father provide in a surprising way?

How has money’s promise of security kept you from generosity? From storing up treasure in heaven?





# STATUS

*Context: King David leads Israel in worship and thanksgiving after the people offer generous gifts for the construction of the temple.*

## 1 Chronicles 29:10-15

10 Then David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly. David said, “May you be blessed, LORD God of our father Israel, from eternity to eternity.

11 Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

12 Riches and honor come from you, and you are the ruler of everything. Power and might are in your hand, and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all.

13 Now therefore, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. 14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your own hand.

15 For we are aliens and temporary residents in your presence as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.

## Reflection Questions

How does recognizing that everything we have comes from God change the way you view your hard work, accomplishments, and possessions?

In what areas of your life are you tempted to take credit for success or status?

Think back on a few different seasons of your life or key moments of transition. Take a moment to bless God, even silently, for his powerful provision for you.





# INFLUENCE

*Context: after Jesus predicts his crucifixion for the 3rd time, the mother of disciples James and John proceeds to ask Jesus for seats of honor and power for them in his Kingdom.*

## Matthew 20:25-28

25 Jesus called them over and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. 26 It must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

## Reflection Questions

How does Jesus’ example of giving his life as a ransom challenge the way you use your influence or resources?

How might Jesus’ call to serve others selflessly impact your desire for personal independence?

Who is someone you know who has humbly served through their generosity?









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