



## WEEK 4 - GENEROSITY IN THE APOSTLES

### OVERVIEW

At this point it should be clear that the Bible speaks with a unified voice about the open-handed generosity which God calls his people to embody. The experience and letters of the apostles are no exception. In their writings we find the same call to be generous and even sacrificial with the resources God has given us. And in return, according to the apostles, that generosity will lead to a kind of blessing which brings life and abundance our way. Again, this may not be financial blessing, but when we entrust our resources to God and his purposes in the world, it is an act of trust which can help us truly come alive.

*Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop.  
But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.*  
2 Corinthians 9:6

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn about generosity as a child?
2. How would you explain to someone what it means that "God blesses us when we give"?
3. If the Israelites failed at being a generous nation and showing the world another way to live, how can we, the church, do any better?
4. How did the early church live out the generosity that Jesus taught? (for example [Acts 2:42-47](#), [Acts 4:32-35](#)) Is this kind of generosity still possible today? Why or why not?
5. What are some examples of ways to be generous? (see [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#), [1 Peter 4:9](#), [James 1:27](#), and all of [2 Corinthians 9](#))
6. Read [2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#). How does this passage illustrate the positive feedback loop that Barry described?
7. Barry asked, "when it comes to giving and generosity, who do you want to be?" How would you answer that question? What would your next step be?