



## STUDY GUIDE

January 23, 2022

**Message Series:**

**SELFLESS**

**Message Title:**

Extravagant Generosity

**Teaching Pastor:**

Brian Hughes

### Warm-up/Icebreaker:

What's a saying or cliché that you use very frequently? Where did it originate?

### Pray:

Dear Lord, we come before You now, knowing that You are here and ready to teach us. Help us to sit in quiet surrender. We can be close-fisted without even realizing it. We open our hands and hearts in this moment, eager to let You transform us. We ask for Your power and peace within us as we read Your Word and learn from one another. It's through Your son Jesus that we pray. Amen.

### Get Started:

- Name a time someone was generous to you and share how it was impactful to your life.

“We look in the mirror - having accumulated the greatest wealth of any people in the history of mankind, and we only see what we do not have. It's never enough. And that perception that we have of ourselves produces chronic selfishness. But it doesn't have to be this way. In fact, God gave us a mechanism - a tool - a single habit with a double blessing. Blessing 1 from this sacred act is that I become increasingly selfless and Blessing 2 from this sacred act is that I actually get to be a part of shaping people's lives for the better. That tool is generosity. Giving.”

-Pastor Brian Hughes

### Read Matthew 6:19-21 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

- What stands out to you the most in any of the above? What challenges or surprises you? What can you apply to your own life from these verses?

### Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 13:40 min.)

“We don't often think about the fact that we're on sacred ground when we give. But every time you click the button to give online, or drop an offering in a box, you should treat it as a sacred moment. You are NOT paying a bill. God doesn't need your donation or a percentage of your income. But He does require your entire life. If you are a follower of Jesus, 100% of your life belongs to Him. All of it. When I give, I am acknowledging that I trust Him. It feels dangerous to even say it, but I promise you this: when you step up, make a complete commitment of your life to God - including trusting him with your finances with generous giving, you will experience His presence in your life in a way you simply cannot by holding tightly to your money. So make room. Because His way is better. His way makes room for lavish generosity that makes us more selfless, makes the world better, and points people towards God.”

-Pastor Brian Hughes

**Read 1 John 3:16-18, Acts 20:35, and Hebrews 13:16.**

**Mechanisms for Giving:**

Local church

Causes/Charities

Help people in need

- Have you been intentional to give in this way, in these categories? Share a way in which you give that makes you cheerful.
- Does treating giving as sacred, something done after Jesus' own model, shift your perspective at all, and if so, how? If you already incorporated this principle in your own life, share when you learned this.
- What is a significant part of the verses or quote above that you want to intentionally remember when you next give? Write it down.

**Reflect and Commit:**

"Giving can be done begrudgingly and devoid of love. But true generosity is always initiated by love... as our hearts become molded in [God's] likeness, we will naturally move toward a life of greater generosity." -Gordon McDonald

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.**

- We often think of money when we think of being generous. What are other areas that we can be generous in? Do you consider these a substitute for financial generosity?
- What is one practical step you will take this week to expand your generosity?

**Pray:**

Dear Lord, You have made everything and everything is Yours. Wealth and honor come from You. We ask that You reveal to us, ways in which You call us to give. Help us to be cheerful and generous on every occasion, and through that generosity we learn to be more grateful and selfless than ever. We pray all this in Your Son's name, Jesus. Amen.