

# Living Church

## Living Generosity

**Scriptures quoted:** Mark 12:41-44; Luke 6:37-38; 11:11-13; 19:1-10; John 3:16; Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35; 20:25; Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:10; 1 John 3:1; 2 Cor. 8:1-5; 9:6-7.

1. In which way does our understanding of God fundamentally shape both our character and our message?
2. What are the ways in which we can demonstrate a spirit of generosity?
3. In which way does Paul highlight generosity in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, and Jesus highlight generosity in Mark 12:41-44? What do these texts show us?
4. Read 2 Cor. 9:6. In which ways does this spiritual principle of sowing and reaping apply in our lives? Do you have a story to share of how you have 'reaped' in some way?
5. Do you think that it can be sometimes easier to part with your money than to be generous with your time?
6. The Message (Luke 6:37-38): *"Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticise their faults – unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back – given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."* Share with others in your group the ways in which you have received 'bonus and blessing' through having a generous spirit?
7. Have you ever judged 'a book by its cover'? What do you think Mark Twain meant when he referred to some people who were "Good, in the worst sense of the word"?
8. Stephen King, in a speech to college graduates, following an accident in which he was badly injured and which caused him to reassess his life, said: 'I want you to consider making your life one long gift to others.' In which way do you/do you plan making your life one long gift to others?