



# HEART OF GOLD

Week 3

## BREAKING THE ICE

Who is the most generous person you've known in your life? What makes them so generous?

What is the hardest thing for you to be generous with - your finances or your time?

## MAIN CONTENT

This week we heard from Jeff Henderson about being generous. He talked about the difference between spontaneous generosity and planned generosity. It's okay to be spontaneously generous - that's great! However, our default isn't usually to be generous, so unless we have a plan for generosity we'll veer toward selfishness instead.

1. Do you have a plan for being generous? If so, tell your group what that plan looks like for you.
2. If you don't have a plan yet, what are one or two things you can do this week to change that? Ask your group for ideas that have worked for them.

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus speaks to his disciples about living a life that isn't consumed by worry and the cares of this world. He tells us that God takes care of the birds of the air and the flowers of the field - yet He cares for us SO MUCH more! Won't He then take care of all the needs He knows we have?

Yet we often allow fear of not having enough to keep us from being generous and trusting God. It requires faith to believe what Jesus says - "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

3. What fears do you feel when you consider giving more? Can you identify why you feel those fears?
4. How is Jesus asking you to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness..." in your life today?

Jeff Henderson discussed something he called the "Generosity Principle". Basically, the principle is that we give our first and best to God and He will pour out blessings in our life.

It's based on Malachi 3:7-8 where God confronts the Israelites for not bringing their tithes and offerings to him. He says if they bring their full tithe (10% of their first earnings) to His temple they will see how much he pours out generosity and blessing on them.

5. How have you seen God pour out blessings in your life in response to trusting Him with your finances and generosity?

6. We know that God doesn't ask us to give "tithes and offerings" because He needs our money (everything we have is His to begin with!). So then, why do you think God asks us to be faithful in giving generously to Him and His kingdom?

We've probably all heard the saying "If I made more money, I would give more money." You've maybe said it before too. Jeff Henderson showed us empirically this is not true. The more income people make, statistically the less money they give.

Using the illustration of slicing a pie, he showed us two different approaches to our budget. We could take out all the expenses first that we have (e.g. mortgage, utilities, Netflix, groceries, vacations, etc.) then give whatever is left over to God. Or, we could set aside a percentage of our income to give first, and trust God to provide for our needs with the rest. God is not content with our leftovers, He wants us to trust Him first in everything we do, especially when it comes to our money.

7. Do you believe if you made room for giving first in your budget, that God would provide enough with what remains? Why or why not?

8. What do you need to do this week to make margin in your budget for giving first?

## CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, help us to trust that you are our true provider, knowing that you will be more than enough. Father, will you teach us to be as generous as you are, believing that you will be abundantly more than enough in our lives. Holy Spirit, give us the capacity to give with joyful, faithful hearts. Amen.

## ACTION STEP

- Make a plan for being generous this week. Take a look at your budget and figure out what it would take to make room in your budget in order to give first.
- Consider helping to feed Sudanese refugees in Egypt as part of our Heart of Gold giving opportunities. Go to <https://crosspoint.tv/heartofgold> to learn more. Anything given financially to Cross Point in November with the designation "Missions" will be sent directly to our global partner Operation Mobilization in Egypt.
- Help set your heart on God's kingdom first by checking out our BEHOLD Advent Devotional that is starting November 27 for free at [crosspoint.tv/ behold](https://crosspoint.tv/ behold) and on the Cross Point App.