



FIRST THINGS FIRST

WEEK 5: BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Open-Handed Generosity

God blesses His people so His blessing can continue through His people.

SERMON REWIND

This week closes our **First Things First** series by remembering that God blesses His people so His blessing can continue through His people.

From Abraham's promise in Genesis 12 to the generosity of the early church in Acts 2 to Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians 9, Scripture shows that generosity is part of how God supplies needs, produces thanksgiving, and makes Himself known in the world.

This week, we land on trust. If we trust God with our eternity, we can learn to trust Him with our finances. God's way of handling money is different from the world's way, but His way leads to freedom, peace, joy, and purpose.

Imagine what God could do through a church where more people took their next step in generosity. More families cared for. More students disciplined. More people healed. More outreach sustained. More communities reached.

We are not generous because God needs something from us. We are generous because He is forming something in us and continuing His blessing through us.

KEY VERSES

2 Corinthians 9:6-12 (NIV)

Additional Verses: Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV) Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

Philippians 4:10-20 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Blessed to Be a Blessing

God's blessing is not meant to stop with us. It is meant to move through us.

- a. What does the phrase "blessed to be a blessing" mean to you?
- b. How have you seen God use someone's generosity to bless others?

2 Generosity That Produces Thanksgiving

Paul teaches that generosity supplies needs and leads people to give thanks to God.

- a. Why do you think generosity often points people back to God?
- b. What happens in a church family when needs are met through open-handed people?

3 Trusting God with Our Finances

If we trust God with our eternity, we can learn to trust Him with our finances.

- a. Why can it be easier to trust God spiritually than financially?
- b. Where do you want to grow in trusting God with what you have?

4 God's Way Leads to Freedom

The world often teaches us to protect, consume, and keep more for ourselves. Jesus teaches another way.

- a. How is God's way of handling money different from the world's way?
- b. How can generosity lead to freedom, peace, joy, or purpose?

5

An Open-Handed Church

Imagine what God could do through a church where more people took their next step in generosity.

- a. What kind of impact could a more generous church have on families, students, outreach, healing, and communities?
- b. What is one way you want to keep growing in generosity after this series?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Generosity is not just about what leaves our hands. It is about what God forms in our hearts.

- Where have you seen God bless you so that you could bless someone else?
- What would it look like for you to live more open-handed in the next season?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, practice open-handed generosity by:

- Thank God for one way He has provided for you.
- Look for one specific opportunity to bless someone else.
- Take one next step in generosity through giving, serving, encouraging, or meeting a need.

Ask the Holy Spirit to form you into someone who trusts God deeply and allows His blessing to flow through you to others.

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV)

Let the group close by remembering that God makes His people generous so that others may be blessed and thanksgiving may rise to Him.