

Week 1: Love God

Overview: This message will focus on transforming and mobilizing disciples who **Love God**. True generosity starts with the heart, not the wallet. Before we give anything, we must first recognize what Jesus gave for us. This message sets the foundation: we live generously because we love and trust a generous God.

Key Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Supporting Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:7, Romans 12:1, Matt 6:21

CONTENT

Key Takeaway: We give because we've received. True generosity flows from a heart transformed by grace.

Key Points

- Generosity is a response to grace
 - The woman gave extravagantly because she knew that she had been forgiven. (v. 47)
 - Her generosity wasn't forced – it was a natural response to what Jesus had done.
 - Gratitude drives giving – not guilt or pressure.
 - 2 Cor 9:7 – God loves a cheerful giver
- Generosity starts in the heart, not the wallet
 - While others scoffed at her gift, Jesus called it beautiful. Jesus didn't applaud the value of the gift, but the love behind it.
 - Giving doesn't begin with a budget – it begins with worship. (Romans 12:1)
- Generosity reveals what we value.
 - What you're willing to give up shows what matters most to you.
 - Jesus sees the heart behind the gift.
 - He wasn't impressed by Simon's prideful religiosity, but by the woman's humility and love. Simeon demonstrated self-righteousness; the woman demonstrated devotion.
 - Generosity is about **devotion**, not **display**.
 - Matt 6:21 – "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Gospel Application: Jesus gave His life before we ever gave Him anything. The more we understand His grace, the more freely we'll give everything back to Him.

Key Question: What would it look like for you to give to God out of love this week?

APPLICATION

Activity Suggestions

- Worship night: this might be a great night for a worship night
- Testimonies: offer opportunities for students to share short stories of how they've experienced God's generosity in their lives.
- "Alabaster Jar" Moment: provide small containers to represent personal "perfume jars". Ask students to write on them what they're willing to pour out for Jesus.
- Visual offering wall: write something on a notecard you want to offer to God (time, attention, a habit, etc.) and post it anonymously on a wall.
- Letter to Jesus: write a short, honest letter to Jesus expressing what He's done in your life and what you want to give back to Him. Seal and revisit this letter at the end of the year.

Community Group Questions

- Re-read this bible story. Why do you think Jesus was so moved by the woman's generosity?
- What's the difference between giving out of guilt vs. giving out of generosity?
- What's something valuable (not just money) you've given as a response to God's love?
- What are some practical ways we can become more generous in our everyday lives?
- What's one thing God might be asking you to offer back to Him this week?