

your influence

READ: EPHESIANS 2|8-10 (NirV)

God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it. We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.

questions for reflection

- Who has shown me what it looks like to be generous? This could be a teacher, a friend, a parent, a family member, your small group leader, someone from church, or someone famous.
- Do I believe that my choices can affect others? How have my choices affected people for the better? (Ex: Sitting with the new kid at lunch which resulted in others inviting them to play at recess.) How have my choices affected people for the worse? (Ex: Taking candy without asking, then my sibling followed my example and did the same thing.)
- How might I try to look more like Jesus and point others to Him?

your lifestyle

READ: HEBREWS 13|16 (NirV)

‘Don’t forget to do good. Don’t forget to share with others. God is pleased with those kinds of offerings.’

questions for reflection

- Are my talents, time, and treasures something I keep and use for myself? Or are they things that I use for others around me and for God?
- What are my talents? And what do I do with my talents?
- What do I do with my time?
- What are my treasures and what do I do with them?
- How would I feel if someone asked me why I give my time or treasures to other people?
- Some choices we make come with big sacrifices and some with small. Is there something you feel keeps you from giving your time, talent, or treasures? What is God asking you to do about it? (Ex: I sacrifice playing in every soccer game because I want to go to church every Sunday. Or I sacrifice part of my lunch because my friend forgot theirs.)

your generosity

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 9|10-15 (Nirv)

'God supplies seed for the person who plants. He supplies bread for food. God will also supply and increase the amount of your seed. He will increase the results of your good works. You will be made rich in every way. Then you can always give freely. We will take your many gifts to the people who need them. And they will give thanks to God. Your gifts meet the needs of the Lord's people. And that's not all. Your gifts also cause many people to thank God. You have shown yourselves to be worthy by what you have given. So other people will praise God because you obey him. That proves that you really believe the good news about Christ. They will also praise God because you share freely with them and with everyone else. Their hearts will be filled with love for you when they pray for you. God has given you grace that is better than anything. Let us give thanks to God for his gift. It is so great that no one can tell how wonderful it really is!'

questions for reflection

- How does giving help me to be closer to God?
- What does it mean for me to 'give freely'?
- Why do people give money?
- What do I have to give?
- Have I talked about giving with my family? Have I talked about giving with my friends? How can talking about it impact my giving?

your legacy

READ: 1 TIMOTHY 6|17b-19 (NirV)

‘Command those who are rich to put their hope in God. He richly provides us with everything to enjoy. Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share. In this way, they will store up true riches for themselves. It will provide a firm basis for the next life. Then they will take hold of the life that really is life.’

questions for reflection

- What does it mean to have a legacy?
- Who do you know that is always giving their time, talents, or treasures?
- When one person gives a small amount to help someone, it makes an impact. Has someone ever given something to you? How does it make you feel? Do you ever give because someone else gave to you?
- If a bunch of people all give a little bit to the church and the church uses all that to help in big ways, it can start a movement. How would you want to be a part of the movement of the church?
- If you earn money, what can you start today to help you live as responsibly and generously as you can? (Three jars: saving, spending, giving; what will you choose to do with that money?)