

Grateful Generosity
October 30, 2022
Youth and Adult Bible Study – Teaching Plan
Kenny Hoomes

Step 1 – Create Interest

Begin the session by asking learners to reflect back over the past year and how our church had to adapt ministries and programming following the arson attack on our facilities. Display the photo poster (**KIT, Item 2**) on the focal wall. Direct attention to the September 20, 2021, photo. Ask: What were your feelings and/or questions when you first heard about the fire in our facilities? (Allow learners to respond) Direct attention to the September 30, 2022, photo. Ask what were your feelings and emotions when you were able to finally worship in our Sanctuary following the restoration? (You may wish to pause and pray thanking God for His faithfulness.)

State: Today’s lesson reminds us of just how grateful we should be for all the LORD has done for us. This lesson is written specifically for our Stewardship Emphasis. Direct attention to the Theme Poster you have placed **IN ADVANCE** on the focal wall. Read the theme title aloud “Grateful Generosity” and the theme verse 2 Corinthians 9:11.

Say: It is for God’s glory that we enter this season of stewardship, and it is with grateful generosity that we seek to commit to Him our time, our talents, and our treasure.

Direct attention to the outline poster (**KIT, Item 1**) which you displayed on a focal wall **IN ADVANCE**. State, we will look at one passage of scripture from the Old Testament and several from the New Testament that support our stewardship theme. Read aloud the outline poster.

Step 2 – Examine and Apply

Have a volunteer read 1 Chronicles 29:14 aloud. Say, our focal passage picks up in the middle of a prayer by King David. The nation of Israel has gathered together for two reasons (1) to commit to build the temple and (2) to anoint Solomon as King. Ask: To whom does David attribute as the source of their wealth? To whom do all these things belong? Say, David is quick to acknowledge that their blessings are *from* God and that these blessings belong *to* God.

Using the background material, relate the parallels of this event of David and Solomon to that of Moses and Joshua.

Invite learners to scan 29:1-9 to discover the enormous wealth that had been accumulated for the building of the Temple. Using the background material, share the three sources that the donations will come from for the building of the Temple.

Call on the learner you have enlisted **IN ADVANCE** to read the following monologue (**KIT, Item 3**).

Grateful Generosity

Words cannot begin to describe how I felt that day. I, King David, had come to the end of my reign as King over all of Israel. Yet, it was not sadness that filled my heart but rather gratitude for God's love and care for me. There I stood before the great assembly gathered before me. We had gathered together to commit to build God's Temple. I knew I would not be able to accomplish this task, for I was a man with "blood on my hands" from the many battles. Yet, God had allowed me to plan the building and to gather the materials. It was amazing to see all the donations that were coming in from our generous people. Secondly, we had gathered to anoint my son, Solomon as King. How loving and kind God had been to me. Now my son would be King and would have the privilege of building the Temple! As I bowed before God I prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for His leadership in the past and His guidance for the future. I knew that all that we had given was God's in the first place. Everything already belonged to Him. Now we were simply returning to Him our offerings as generously as we possibly could. There is no doubt in my mind, we cannot out give God. May we serve Him through grateful generosity.

Direct attention again to 29:14. Ask: For us as members of First Baptist Church, why is it important to remember that all we have belongs to God? What should our response be to God for His generosity to us? Remind learners of Jesus' words in Luke 12:48 "To whom much is given, much is required."

Step 3

Direct attention to the outline poster (**KIT, Item 1**) on a focal wall. Say, being grateful for God's blessings, inspires us to give – Sacrificially (**Roman Numeral II**). Invite learners to turn in their Bibles to Romans 12:1-2. Call on a learner to read these verses aloud.

State: In Romans 12, Paul is moving into a discussion of living the Christian life. His theology of grace now results in a response of sacrifice and gratitude.

Ask: What does it mean to be a "living sacrifice"? How can we as sinful people be "holy"? Are our lives an "act of worship"? Why? Why not? Supplement responses using the background material.

Draw on the chalkboard or large sheet of paper two columns. Label one column "Conform" and the second column "Transform." Invite learners to respond to the following questions. . . (1) As believers, how are we guilty of "conforming" to our world? (2) What are some ways we can be "transformed" as Disciples of Christ? Allow learners to respond and record their responses in the appropriate column.

Say, in Luke 9:23, we find Jesus promoting a life of sacrifice and self-denial. Call on a learner to read aloud the verse. Ask, which word or phrase in this verse sticks out to you and why? Allow time for learners to respond.

Remind learners that to affirm our allegiance to Christ requires we deny ourselves. Ask, how does giving sacrificially relate to denying ourselves?

Share with learners the two Bonhoeffer quotes used in the background material. Allow learners to ponder these quotes.

Step 4

Direct attention to the outline poster (**KIT, Item 1**) on the focal wall. Say, being grateful for God's blessings inspires us to give - Cheerfully (**Roman Numeral III**). Invite learners to turn in their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. Call on a learner to read these verses aloud.

State: In 2 Corinthians 9:1-15, Paul is dealing with the collection of an offering for the poor in the church in Jerusalem. Use the background material to describe the significance of this offering.

Ask: In verse 6, what is Paul's point in relating giving to farming? How is one's attitude important in giving?

Say, in verse 7, Paul states we should not give reluctantly or under compulsion but rather joyfully. Using the background material relate the meaning of the word "cheerful" used in the Greek. Ask, rhetorically, is your giving a laugh out loud attitude? Stress to learners the importance of giving from a joyful heart to help us grow as disciples of Christ.

Step 5

Direct attention to the outline poster (**KIT, Item 1**) on the focal wall. Say, being grateful for God's blessings, inspires us to give - Completely (**Roman Numeral IV**). Invite learners to turn in their Bibles to Colossians 3:17.

Call on a learner to read aloud Colossians 3:17. Stress to the class the fact that Paul is emphasizing total commitment to Jesus Christ. This total commitment was to include all areas of one's life. Draw from the Bible background material and stress the emphasis on the *here* and *now*, not just the hereafter.

Use the example of Bill Bright from the background material and stress the eternal difference that faithfulness to God can make in one's life.

Step 6 - Application

Display a commitment card and privacy envelope before the group (you should have received this in the mail). State: Our commitment card is an important part of our stewardship emphasis. "Grateful Generosity," is our theme, and we are asking that you prayerfully consider how God would have you respond. Notice that in addition to making a commitment to the budget, we are asking that you also prayerfully consider your time and your talent as well. In the coming days we ask that you prayerfully consider how you will respond.

Distribute copies of “Time, Talent, and Treasure” (**KIT, Item 4**) which you have photocopied **IN ADVANCE** to each learner. Allow time for learners to pray and meditate on their answers silently.

Close the session with a time of prayer asking for God’s strength to assist learners in committing their time, talents, and treasure to Jesus.

Grateful Generosity

October 30, 2022

**Youth and Adult Bible Study Mark Bethea and
Kenny Hoomes**

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” – Colossians 3:17

Background Passages

1 Chronicles 29:1-20; Romans 12:1-8; Luke 9:18-27; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15;
Colossians 3:17

Focal Bible Passage

1 Chronicles 29:14; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7;
Colossians 3:17

Central Bible Truth

Making our Stewardship Emphasis a reality requires us to be available to God’s instruction and willing to give sacrificially of our Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Teaching Aim

To help learners become better disciples of Jesus Christ and to identify ways they can personally be involved in making our Stewardship Emphasis a success.

Teaching Outline

Being Grateful for God’s Blessings, Inspires Us to Give ...

- **Generously 1 Chronicles 29:14**
- **Sacrificially Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23**
- **Cheerfully 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**
- **Completely Colossians 3:17**

Grateful Generosity
Youth/Adult Bible Fellowship Lesson
October 30, 2022
Mark Bethea and Kenny Hoomes

Introduction

When we think back over the past thirty months, we are reminded of what God has brought us through. COVID has had an unprecedented impact on our lives and our world. Then, after only three weeks of a return to full programming at our church, the arson attack occurred on September 30, 2021. For much of the next year, we spent time cleaning, restoring, reassembling, and reprogramming our meeting times and spaces. Yet, during these daunting days, let me ask, is there a better time for us to be grateful? Are you grateful for what didn't happen?

Today here at First Baptist Church, we are beginning our 2022 Stewardship Emphasis. Our theme is very fitting for what we have experienced over these past months ... *Grateful Generosity*. Grateful generosity should spill over into all avenues of our hearts and lives. And so, as we enter into this stewardship season, we want to thank God for His steadfast love that continues from generation to generation. That's our heart, that's our hope, that's our goal, that we will live a life of grateful generosity and that all that is done is for His glory!

With this attitude in mind let's spend a few minutes together studying God's Word. Together we will discover some characteristics of our heart and how God teaches us to express grateful generosity with all He has entrusted to us.

Generously (1 Chronicles 29:14)

“But who am I and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

How should a person demonstrate his faith in God – by what he believes or what he does? In 1 Chronicles chapters 28 and 29 we find David doing both. A great assembly has been called together for the purpose of committing to build the Temple and to anoint Solomon as the new king. Already David had privately charged Solomon with the task of building the Temple (22:6ff). Now he is doing so publicly.

In 28:20-21, David speaks to Solomon and charges him with the same words Moses had used with Joshua (Deuteronomy 31:8). Now David, the new Moses,

speaks to Solomon the new Joshua, who is to accomplish the dream denied his father.

In 29:1-9, we find David turning his attention to the nation and presenting a challenge to the assembly. David called upon the nation to give generously for the building of the Temple. Again, the words of Moses echo as he had addressed Israel to build the tabernacle (Exodus 35:4ff). The basic difference was that Moses had very little wealth to contribute, whereas David had acquired a fortune.

The gifts to be used for the construction of the Temple were to come from three sources. First, those items that had been saved for this purpose. In the years preceding this occasion, David and the nation of Israel had conquered nations and gathered much wealth to use for the construction of the Temple. These items are listed first (29:1-2). Secondly, David makes a generous donation from his own personal wealth. So generous are the items listed (29:3-5) that many Bible scholars believe that in today's dollars David's donation would exceed \$60,000,000! (BBC page 359). Thirdly, the nation gathered is asked to contribute to the cause and does so liberally (29:6-9).

In 29:10-19, we find David's prayer of thanksgiving. Many have stated that this prayer is one of the most beautiful prayers in the Bible. David praised the Lord, which literally means to "bend the knee." Before this great assembly, the King of Israel has bowed to the King of the Universe to give his appropriate response of worship. He again demonstrates his faith in God both by what he believes and by what he does.

Our focal passage is taken from 29:14. For us today as members of First Baptist Church, Montgomery, it is important to remember that all we have belongs to God. David gave generously, because his gifts were simply returning to God what was rightfully His. All that we have, all that we are, and all we ever hope to be is a gift from God Himself. Our proper response is to give generously to the One who has entrusted His gifts to us in the first place.

When an individual raises their hand and makes a fist, it is a universal sight of defiance and anger. It shows a sense of entitlement. "That's mine, you will not take it from me." However, when that same hand is raised and opened as "a wave", it is an act of friendship. This act says, "welcome, friendship or inclusion". The call of God to us is not a closed fist of defiance but rather an open hand of compliance. We approach Him with open hands of generosity.

The New Testament has many references to giving generously (Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-37; 1 Timothy 6:17-19). In 2 Corinthians Chapter 8, we find Paul encouraging the believers at Corinth to give liberally. He does so by reminding them of the example of the Macedonian churches (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea). The generosity of the Macedonian Christians was a product of grace. Paul admonished the believers at Corinth to also give generously. For us today, the

command is the same. We must remember the words of our Lord, “to whom much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48).

Sacrificially (Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2 NIV

Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23 NIV

Of all of Paul’s letters, Romans comes nearest to a theological treatise. He has a deep love for his readers and a deep desire to go and visit these believers in Rome. Because of the depth of the epistle to the Romans, Dale Moody stated, “There will never be a definitive commentary on Romans, for the well is too deep to run dry, so all may still come to this fountain to renew faith.”

In Romans 12, we find Paul moving into a discussion of living the Christian life. Paul’s theology of grace will now result in a response of sacrifice and gratitude.

Verse 1 gives an urgent appeal from Paul. The King James Version states “I Beseech Ye” the NIV, “I urge you.” Because of the righteousness of God and His grace to believers, we are to be “set apart” as different from the world.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to be a living sacrifice. The statement sounds like a contradiction however, Paul is referring to our new life of sacrificial love created by the Spirit (8:13; 15:16). Just as in the Old Testament, the sacrifice of dead animals was a pleasing aroma to God, so our very lives are to be a sweet aroma to our Heavenly Father.

We are to be Holy, “set apart” for a particular purpose. The Sabbath was a “Holy” day, set apart for a particular purpose. The Temple was a “Holy” place, set apart for a particular purpose. Our lives are to be “Holy” lives, set apart for a particular purpose. This then, is pleasing to God.

The life of sacrifice is a form of “spiritual worship” that embraces the whole self and the whole of life.

In verse 2, Paul challenges his readers to not be “conformed” to this world but rather to transform to the image of Christ. The Phillips version states, “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within.”

Transformation by the Holy Spirit makes one more and more into the image of Christ, and this is His new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). The closer we are to Christ, the greater our understanding of His good and perfect will.

In Luke 9:23, we see Jesus promoting a life of sacrifice and self-denial. A disciple (Mathēthēs) signifies an apprentice or learner. This definition may be fine for a rabbi or a Greek philosopher, however, it falls short of describing a disciple of Jesus Christ.

To affirm allegiance to Christ requires a person to deny himself. To take up one's cross was the ultimate humiliation. But for the Christian it is to be a joyous and willing choice. The cross is to be a part of our "daily" offering up of ourselves to God's will.

Two quotes from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic The Cost of Discipleship relate to Jesus' teaching of sacrifice. (1) "Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes." (2) "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

Cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:1-15 deals with the collection of an offering for the poor in the church at Jerusalem. The idea of a collection from Gentile Christians for Jewish Christians in Palestine was a priority for Paul. It helped to remind the Gentile Christians of their debt to Jewish Christians and demonstrated to Jewish believers the love of Gentile Christians for them. To Paul, this was a "win-win" situation.

In chapter 9, Paul makes an appeal for the believers at Corinth to be ready to give and to give generously.

In verse 6ff Paul lays out his reason for giving. First, he says giving is like sowing seed and produces a harvest. If a farmer sowed a few seeds, his harvest would be very poor. Likewise, to give little is to reap little.

Secondly, one's attitude in giving is important. Giving is not to be done reluctantly or under compulsion. In fact, giving is to be a joyful experience. God loves a cheerful giver.

The word "cheerful" is the word hilasterion (GK) from which we get our word "hilarious." The verse literally states, "God loves a hilarious giver!"

For us today, when we give our attitude should be very much as it would be when our favorite football team has scored a touchdown. Not that we would jump up and down when the offering plates are passed, but we ought to feel like doing it.

Completely (Colossians 3:17)

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

About thirteen years ago, I had decided to ask Brittany to marry me. She was the girl of my dreams and we had dated for seven years. As I searched for an engagement ring, I discovered they were expensive! Now, I’ve also been somewhat of an investor and particularly in the world of technology. At the time I had purchased stock in NVIDA, a small up and coming company. I went to my broker, and without hesitation sold the stock to purchase the engagement ring. Some months ago, I went online and looked, that particular stock had risen 1200% since I sold it. But, in my heart of hearts, I would do it all over again because I know Brittany was worth every one of those dollars that I was giving up! Even then, I didn’t sell reluctantly, or because she was telling me it was time after seven years of dating. NO! It was a joy filled transaction to sell that stock. I was then and am today hers and she is mine, completely.

In Colossians 3:17, we find Paul presenting his readers with a challenge. His vision for his readers then as well as for us today is for life here and now, completely. Everything belongs to God, therefore, “Whatever we do, speaking or acting, doing all on behalf of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father (Colossians 3:17, PAR). In everything we do we are permitted to do His work. What we are aiming for in this vision is to live fully in the kingdom of God and as fully as possible *now* and *here*, not just hereafter (Willard, pg. 87).

It is imperative that a steward be trustworthy or faithful. It is his responsibility to remember that his master’s things are not his; his things are his master’s. The steward is to be trustworthy, dependable, and faithful.

So, we find ourselves as God’s steward today. Everything we do . . . with everything we have, is His and we are entrusted with its good and faithful care.

Bill Bright understood this concept. He was a successful businessman in California when he embraced Christ and surrendered to God’s Will. Bill and his wife Vonette knew that God had a special plan for their lives. They sat down with a legal pad and drew up a contract between themselves and God. The contract was a total surrender of all their resources to the Lord. Through God’s divine plan they were led to begin a ministry called, “Campus Crusade for Christ.” Through this ministry millions of college students have come to know Christ. Not only that, but they funded the creation and distribution of the “Jesus Film.” Because Bill and

Vonette reprioritized the use of God's resources, a great multitude of people have come to Christ.

One last thought is that a tangible way we can practice grateful generosity is by participating in our Stewardship Emphasis here at First Baptist Church. For our 2022-2023 Stewardship Emphasis, prayerful planning began months ago. Now after much prayer, thought, and counting the cost, our church has approved our 2023 budget of \$6,950,000.

For many, if not most, a commitment card feels uncomfortable. Yet, it is simply one small way we can count the cost of discipleship and commit our time, talent, and treasure to the One who has given *to* us and all *for* us. For our Stewardship Emphasis to be a success, prayerful planning must proceed to the next right step of obedience, rather than our natural inclinations. Remember the words of scripture, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God," - 2 Corinthians 9:11.