

2021

# Deep Pockets | Group Guide

## Week 2

A perspective on generosity

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### Overview

When you think of God, what adjectives come to mind? Because of the pace and stress of our modern lives, we often miss and misunderstand God. From the beginning, God has shown himself to be generous. From the extravagance of creation to the extensiveness of his plans for our lives, God's work evidences a giving heart. When we understand his generosity, we are more capable of living generously. When we give, we give from deep pockets.

### Week Two

The Bible speaks about generosity often. It tells us being generous is not only a defining characteristic of God, it should be of us as well. Too often we think only of money when we

are called to be generous. As with many things the Bible instructs us to do, it's about so much more than what we've made it. From the beginning and in many ways, God has been generous to us. And, his plan is for us to pass along a portion of those gifts to others who need them. This week we will find out just how full our pockets are.

**Big Idea:** God's generosity is for us and those around us.

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 , James 1:17 (ESV), Psalm 8:3-8 (ESV), John 15:12 (ESV), Luke 6:35 (ESV), Luke 16:10-13 (ESV),

### **Action Items & Takeaways:**

1. David Foster's example: In sharing his talent with others, he helped make them something they wouldn't have been otherwise. (writer, producer, etc)
2. In this series, Deep Pockets, we are looking at the generous nature of God and what that means for, not only our lives, but the lives of those around us.
3. The world will always assign a higher monetary value to some gifts over others. We shouldn't let this confuse us. He's given us all good and perfect gifts no matter how much the world is willing to pay us to use them.
4. There's more to being generous than the amount of money we have at the moment.
5. It is first God's generosity to us that has equipped us to accomplish our generosity to others.
6. Deep Pocket Examples: Wisdom, Finances, Compassion, Teaching - just to name a few.
7. Deep Pocket pattern: God → You → Others
8. When we are generous, we are showing others what God is like.

### **Group Guide:**

1. This series isn't a focus on monetary wealth. We are learning that each of us has abundantly more of something that others may be lacking. Examples of this were Wisdom, Finances, Compassion, Teaching - just to name a few. **What's in your pocket full of?** What's God given you an abundance of?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. The world will always assign a higher monetary value to some gifts over others. We shouldn't let this confuse us. He's given us all good and perfect gifts no matter how much the world is willing to pay us to use them. What are some gifts you "wished" God gave you that you need to leave here tonight to put aside resentment from the things you "lack"?
3. **GOD**→ You→ Others  
Read James 1:17 If you aren't acknowledging God in your life, you cut yourself off from the source, the supply. What is it that you have that is "good" and you know of/from God that you can share with others?
4. GOD→ **You**→ Others  
Read Psalm 8:3-8 That part of you that tells you you don't deserve good things needs to be acknowledged and then put to the side. The truth is you don't get to determine your value. God's already done that. How does the value you place on yourself compare to the value you believe God has placed on you?
5. GOD→ You→ **Others**  
Read John 15:12  
This pattern of generosity doesn't stop with us. We have to accept the value and love God has freely given us to extend to others.  
Also read: Luke 6:35  
Who, or what, are some "enemies" that now need to be "love targets" in your life? This is easier said than done, how can this group support you in generously loving those who have hurt you? What's your first action step to extending God's generous love to the world around you?
6. Read Luke 16:10-13 (ESV)  
What are some things in your "deep pockets" that you've been holding onto that you need to release to people around you to generously help them?

## Resources:

- There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NLT)
- Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17 (ESV)
- When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen,

and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. Psalm 8:3-8 (ESV)

- This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12 (ESV)
- But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Luke 6:35 (ESV)
- “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” Luke 16:10-13 (ESV)
- **Discernment**- you can read people and situations with ease and know what to do with them.
- **Wisdom**- you have lived long enough to separate the bone from the marrow and explain to others just exactly how to do the same.
- **Finances**- some of you could burn money in your fireplace. You could take a bath in it. You have enough to cancel the debt this church carries and make sure that Amplify has a space for teenagers to meet for the next 20 years.
- **Compassion**- you can sit in the mess someone has made with their life and you can suspend judgement in order to see them, love them, feel their pain as if their decisions didn't deserve it.
- **Teaching**- there are people in this room right now who have been listening for years when they could be teaching for the sake of those who don't know

**We are all wealthy in something. All of us have deep pockets.**