



WEEK FIVE

The Antidote

September 20



BIG IDEA

**Generosity helps us enjoy
God's gifts without being ruled
by them.**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

1 Timothy 6:17–19

Materialism rarely feels dangerous at first. Most of the time, it just feels normal. We live in a world that constantly tells us we need more, deserve more, and will finally be satisfied when we have more. Scripture does not shame us for receiving God's good gifts, but it does warn us not to place our hope in wealth. Money and possessions can be useful gifts, but they were never meant to carry the weight of our security, identity, or joy.

Generosity is one of God's gracious ways of freeing us. Giving helps loosen our attachment to more and turns our hearts toward a greater Person and a greater purpose. It teaches us to enjoy God's gifts without being ruled by them. The visible gift may be financial, but the deeper gift is freedom. What kind of freedom? A heart becoming less controlled by fear, comparison, accumulation, or the constant pull to keep more for ourselves.

PRAYER FOR YOURSELF

Lord, free my heart from the pull of more. Teach me to enjoy Your gifts without placing my hope in them. Help me practice generosity as an act of worship, surrender, and freedom. Make me rich in good works and ready to share what You have entrusted to me. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Lord, make us a church that finds our hope in You, not in what we have. Free us from materialism and form us into a generous people. Help us use what You have given us to serve others, strengthen ministry, and point people toward true life in Christ. Amen.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. True Hope: Paul invites believers to place their hope in God, who richly provides. Why do you think wealth can so quietly begin to feel like a source of security, identity, or confidence?
2. Pull of More: The desire for more can be hard to recognize because it often feels normal in the culture around us. Where do you most often feel that pull, and how does it affect your contentment?
3. Grateful Enjoyment: Scripture invites us to enjoy God's good gifts without asking them to become our hope. What is the difference between receiving those gifts with gratitude and looking to them for security?
4. Loosened Grip: Generosity can turn our attention outward and upward. How have you experienced, or seen in someone else, the way giving, serving, or sharing can bring greater freedom?
5. Ready to Share: Paul calls God's people to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. What could that look like in ordinary life, beyond a single financial gift?
6. Honest Response: A campaign season can bring a range of honest responses to the surface. As you think about generosity, what do you notice in yourself right now: freedom, resistance, fear, joy, hesitation, curiosity, or something else?
7. Reordered Hope: The goal is not to feel guilty about what you have, but to let God draw your hope more deeply into Him. What might He be inviting you to see or reframe so you can enjoy His gifts with greater freedom?
8. Concrete Obedience: Generosity often grows through one concrete act of obedience. What is one practical step you could take this week to practice generosity as freedom, worship, and trust?