



Sunday Recap Guide

Message Title: Gratitude = Generosity

E — Encouragement (Group Check-In)

Start your group by reconnecting relationally and setting the tone with gratitude.

Check-In Questions:

- What was a high and a low from your week?
- Where did you see God's goodness show up in unexpected ways?
- What's one thing you're thankful for today — big or small?

S — Scripture (Deep Dive & Discussion)

Key Theme:

Gratitude fuels generosity. When we recognize all that God has given us — life, salvation, provision — our natural response is to give back.

Psalm 116:12 (NCV) — A Heart Response

"What can I give the Lord for all the good things he has given to me?"

Context:

Psalm 116 is a song of thanksgiving after deliverance from death. The psalmist isn't paying God back — he's responding in worship. Gratitude births generosity because we realize we *owe everything* to God.

Discussion:

- What are some "good things" God has given you that you may overlook?

- How does gratitude change your attitude toward giving or serving?

Romans 12:1 (NLT) — Worship Through Surrender

“...Give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you... Let them be a living and holy sacrifice... This is truly the way to worship him.”

Context:

Paul calls believers to total devotion. In response to God’s mercy (Romans 1–11), we offer our whole lives back to Him. Worship isn’t just songs — it’s surrender.

Key Point:

Generosity is not just financial — it’s the offering of our time, gifts, and lives to God.

Discussion:

- What does it look like to live as a “living sacrifice” in your day-to-day life?
- Where do you feel God inviting you to surrender something out of gratitude?

John 3:16 (NKJV) — The Model of Generosity

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”

Context:

The foundation of all giving is love. God *gave* out of love, not obligation. Our generosity mirrors His heart when it flows from love, not guilt.

Discussion:

- How does God’s example of giving redefine the way we think about generosity?
- When you give — time, energy, finances — what motivates you most?

Proverbs 3:9–10 (GW) — Honor in the First and Best

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first and best part of all your income. Then your barns will be full, and your vats will overflow with fresh wine.”

Context:

In ancient Israel, giving the “firstfruits” was an act of worship. It acknowledged that *everything* belongs to God. When we put God first, it opens the door for His blessing.

Discussion:

- Why do you think God asks for our “first and best”?
- How does giving first honor God differently than giving leftovers?

📖 **Malachi 3:8–11 & Galatians 3:13 — Law vs. Grace**

Malachi’s challenge: *“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse.”*

Galatians reminds us: *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.”*

Context:

The tithe (10%) was an Old Testament standard. Under grace, we aren’t bound by law — but grace lifts the standard. We give not from fear, but from freedom and gratitude.

Key Truth:

Grace doesn’t lower generosity — it expands it.

Discussion:

- How does viewing generosity through grace (not guilt) change your heart posture?
- What’s the difference between giving out of obligation and giving out of overflow?

2 Corinthians 8:1–5, 7; 9:6–8 — The Macedonian Model

“They gave as much as they were able, and even more... They first gave themselves to the Lord...” (8:3,5)

“God loves a cheerful giver.” (9:7)

Context:

The Macedonian believers were poor and persecuted — yet *overflowed* in generosity. Paul uses them as an example of grace-filled giving. Their secret? Gratitude.

Principles of Grace-Giving:

1. **Starts with Surrender:** “They first gave themselves to the Lord.”
2. **Is Spirit-Led:** They gave joyfully, not under pressure.
3. **Produces Overflow:** God provides seed to the sower (9:10).

Discussion:

- What stands out to you about the Macedonian church’s generosity?

- How does gratitude practically lead to generosity in your own life?
- Where is God calling you to “plant generously” right now?

P — Prayer (Pray Over Each Other)

Prayer Prompts:

- Thank God for His extravagant generosity — for life, salvation, and every good gift.
- Ask God to reveal areas where you can live more open-handedly.
- Pray for provision — that God would pour out “blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10).
- Pray for Lakeside Church to be known for *grateful generosity* — a people who give because they’ve been given so much.

Encourage group members to share any needs or financial faith steps they’re taking, and pray over one another’s trust and obedience.

N — Next Steps (Church + Personal)

Church Steps:

- Participate in giving at Lakeside — whether through tithes, offerings, or serving.
- Look for opportunities to bless others this week — buy someone lunch, give anonymously, or meet a need.

Personal Steps:

- Write down three things you’re grateful for each day this week — and one way you can *give back* in response.
- Ask: “God, what’s one area of my life where You’re calling me to trust You first?”
- Live this truth: *Gratitude = Generosity*.