St. George on Yonge
Anglican

CONNECT GROUP – SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Opening prayer

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for your abundant provision in every area of life. Thank you for unexpected gifts, countless delights, and for working constantly for our good. Encourage our own gratitude to shape us and make us more generous to others. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Reading – 2 Corinthians 9:6–15

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who
sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up
your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God
is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough
of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is written,
'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' 10 He who
supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for
sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every
way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; 12 for
the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows
with many thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by
your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your
sharing with them and with all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you because
of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his
indescribable gift!

Generosity

A key task of our apprenticeship to Jesus is discovering the joy of living a generous life.

We can view the world with an abundance mindset or a scarcity mindset. The abundance mindset sees the world as full of provision and blessing, living with gratitude towards God and generosity toward neighbors. The scarcity mindset sees the world as a place of danger, wealth as a zero-sum game, survival of the fittest as the priority.

Generosity is a practice by which we adjust our hearts and minds from a scarcity mentality to Jesus' abundance mentality, that encourages us to see wealth through the lens of stewardship, not ownership. Jesus said, "Do not worry about tomorrow"; "Freely you have received, now freely give"; "Watch out for greed! Life does not consist of an abundance of possessions".

The biblical theology of stewardship is: Everything belongs to God; God entrusts us with his resources to do good; God blesses us to give more, not just to have more.

Forms of generosity

1. **Thoughts:** Change how we think about ourselves and others by letting go of judgment, wishing others well
2. **Words:** Use speech to praise, comfort and encourage, rather than criticize
3. **Money:** Share financial resources to support people, communities, needy causes
4. **Time:** Give personal hours and presence to help or be with someone
5. **Things** (belongings)**:** Share possessions, items, home space with others
6. **Influence:** Use relationships and connections to open doors, advocate for others
7. **Attention:** Be fully focused and present with a person, with no distractions like a phone

Discussion questions

1. In your family of origin, what were the views and emotions about money? In what ways do those shape your relationship to money today?
2. What might prevent us from being generous? How could accepting that everything belongs to God free us to live more generously?
3. How would our lives be different if we were less concerned about not having enough?
4. Whether you were the giver or recipient, share about a time when you experienced the joy of generosity.
5. What is a generous act we might do this week?

Ways to consider practising generosity

1. We are invited to discern with the Spirit what stewardship and generosity look like for each of us in our particular circumstances.
2. Think subtraction, not addition. Start where we are, not where we 'should' be. Let's not 'add' generosity to already busy, full lives. Instead, let's think: How can generosity be lived out through our everyday routines and actions? Where do we need to slow down so we can pay more attention to the needs around us? **How can we further simplify our lives? (see suggestions next page).** This is about less, not more, about slowing down and focusing our lives around what matters most, i.e. being more like Jesus.
3. As we do this, simplifying our lives will enable greater generosity, giving more of our time and resources to God and to those in need. Once we live ***under*** our means rather than ***over*** our means, it opens all sorts of possibilities.
4. We get out what we put in. The more fully we give ourselves to the practice of generosity, the more life changing it will be. If we just dabble with it, the less effect it will have on our transformation to be more like Jesus.

Closing prayer

Father, Provider, you hold all things in endless, fearless supply. We ask for generous hearts. Help us to give freely of our time, resources, and love to your church and to those in need. May our generosity be a reflection of your love and kindness. Guide us to recognize the needs around us and to share our blessings. In your name, we pray. **Amen**

TO HELP WITH THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF GENEROSITY

Bible passages

It is more blessed to give than to receive – Acts 20:35

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also – Matthew 6:19

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Jesus was right: happiness is found in the opposite place than where we believe or are often told. There is more happiness in living simply and generously than in acquiring more money and possessions.

Simplifying – Less is More

1. Clothing – look at what you have, sort, decide what can be given, sold or discarded
2. 'Stuff' – same choices as clothing
3. Paper – digitize, file, recycle
4. Time – build a time budget, make time for sleep, spiritual disciplines, core relationships, health habits, work, free time
5. Money – build a money budget, **start with giving goals**, then budget all the other necessities of life, treats. Aim to live *under* your means
   - Commit to the time and money budgets for a set time, e.g., 30 days
   - At the end of the period (e.g., 30 days), see how actual time and money expenses compare with budgets.