

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

unbreakable

JOY

Unbreakable Joy: Finding Joy of Generosity. November 23, 2025

READ

Read the Scripture of the week: Philippians 4:10–20

You might also glance at:

- 2 Corinthians 8:1–9; 9:6–11 (generosity and grace)
- John 12:1–8 (Mary's generous worship)

DISCUSS

1. Share a time when you experienced unexpected generosity—either receiving or giving it.
 - o How did it affect your sense of joy and trust in God?
2. What one "nugget" or line from the sermon on Joy of Generosity stayed with you? Why?

COME AND SEE

Paul's closing words in Philippians show that generosity is not an obligation, but a pathway to joy. He walks us through the basis, hindrance, action, and goal of generosity.

1. The Basis of Generosity – Everything Is a Gift (vv.10, 18)

Paul rejoices that the Philippians "renewed" their concern and says, "I am amply supplied... the gifts you sent... are a fragrant offering." Their giving flows from God's prior generosity.

- How does seeing everything (time, money, talents, opportunities) as entrusted gift rather than personal possession change the way you think about giving?
- Read 1 Corinthians 4:7 and James 1:17. What do these verses add to Paul's perspective?

2. The Hindrance to Generosity – Misplaced Contentment (vv.11–13)

Paul has learned to be content in plenty and in want. The sermon noted that the opposite of generosity is not just greed, but self-sufficiency—"I can secure my own life."

- Where are you most tempted to look to income, savings, or success for security instead of Christ?
- How might Philippians 4:13 ("I can do all this through him...") speak into your financial fears or excuses?

3. The Action of Generosity – Worship Through Stewardship (vv.14–18)

Paul calls their financial support "a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." This is altar language—worship, not just philanthropy.

- In what ways have you tended to see giving more as "charity" than worship?
- Read Romans 12:1 and John 12:1–8. How do these passages deepen your sense that generosity is "pouring yourself out" to Jesus?

4. The Goal of Generosity – Joy & Christlike Character (vv.17, 19–20)

Paul doesn't just want their gift; he wants "credit to your account"—their spiritual gain. Then comes the promise: "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

- How is this not a prosperity formula but a provision promise tied to generous living?
- How have you seen generosity actually increase your joy, purpose, or freedom rather than diminish you?

FOLLOW ME

Talk together about what God might be inviting you into through this passage and sermon.

- Where is God inviting you to grow in contentment so that generosity feels less scary and more joyful?
- Students / young adults: What might it look like to “start small but start now”—with money, time, or encouragement?
- Early-career / families: What would it mean to choose a percentage and begin giving intentionally as worship, not leftovers?
- Those with significant means: Where might God be calling you to move from “safe” giving to faith-stretching generosity for kingdom impact?
- How does the statement “You were created by a generous God to become a generous person—because generosity is the pathway to joy” challenge or encourage you personally?

Have each person write down one next faithful step of generosity (financial or otherwise) they sense God prompting.

GO AND BE

This week:

1. Pray before you give.
 - o “Lord, this gift is from Your hand and for Your glory. Receive it as worship and use it for Your kingdom.”
2. Choose one concrete act of generosity:
 - o A specific financial gift (to the church, a ministry, or someone in need)
 - o A generous investment of time/service
 - o A deliberate act of encouragement or hospitality
3. Reflect at week’s end:
 - o Where did I see joy or freedom increase as I stepped into generosity?
 - o How did God meet me in my fears about giving?

Bottom line:

You’re carrying the stone for Him—not for what you get, but because He asked. And in the process, He turns generosity into joy and shapes you to look more like Jesus.