

# Living Open-Handed With Our Money

## 2025 Habit Series: Open-Handedness (Session 2 of 2)

Central Peninsula Church



*Open-handedness is the habit of stewarding our time, talents, and treasures as channels through which God's abundance flows to others.*

### Opening Exercise: Fostering Gratitude Experience

**Take turns reflecting on your experience with the fostering gratitude exercise.** As you read and prayed through Psalm 23 daily, was there a verse that felt the most personal or comforting to you? Were there any particular gifts (from your time, talents, treasures) that you may have overlooked before? Was there anything that surprised you?

**Group Connection:** After individual sharing, identify any common themes or insights that emerged across different experiences.

### Study and Discussion

#### Opening Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live with an open hand, rather than a clenched fist. Invite him to guide you as you seek to use what you have been entrusted with to bless others.

#### Discussion Questions

As you move into the study portion of this discussion, take ample time to read and even re-read the passages below, slowly and aloud. As you do, ask yourselves three key questions: Why this? Why here? Why now? These questions will help you to discern the context of Jesus' words.

#### → Read Matthew 6:19-24 as a group.

- ◆ Take a moment to reflect on what you truly treasure. What are some of the things you value most, or would really hate to lose?
- ◆ Jesus reminds us that we can't serve both God and money. Have you ever caught yourself trying to do both? Why do you think this is such a hard tension for us?
- ◆ What does this passage reveal to us about greed and the dangers it presents? What are some practical ways that we can keep greed from getting a grip on our hearts?

#### → Read Luke 12:13-21 and Matthew 25:14-30 as a group.

- ◆ Compare and contrast the passages. What do they teach us about God's view of stewardship?
- ◆ How do these passages demonstrate the difference between living as owners (storing up wealth for ourselves) versus stewarding (faithfully managing) what God has given?
- ◆ How might fear keep us from being faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasures?

### Additional Discussion Questions:

- ◇ What are some of the fears or challenges that make it hard for you to let go of money? Are there ways that your past experiences with money—whether plenty or scarcity—have affected the way you think about living open-handed with money?
- ◇ How can our community group support each other in growing in open-handedness?
- ◇ Can you think of a time when letting go of something (money or things) brought more joy, growth, or trust? How has God used something he has blessed you with to bless someone else?

### Key Teaching Points:

1. **We are stewards, not owners, of all we've been given. God is the one who owns everything.**
2. **We must ruthlessly guard against greed. Greed distorts our view of God and his provision.**
3. **We cannot serve two masters - we cannot serve both God and money. Detachment from love of money frees us for greater trust in God.**
4. **Open-handedness is a way for us to reflect the very nature of God. We are not meant to be reservoirs of God's blessings, but rather channels that extend those blessings to others.**

### Take-Home Practice: From Reservoirs to Channels

The exercise this week is to identify simple, practical ways to extend the blessings God has given you to others. In this exercise, you will likely be thinking through more spontaneous acts of open-handedness, but prayerfully consider how you can also intentionally incorporate habits of generosity in your regular rhythms.

Re-visit the inventory from last week, and invite the Holy Spirit to highlight one specific area (time, talents, treasures) where he might be inviting you to live more open-handed. Then, prayerfully initiate one small/simple act of surrender with the area he reveals.

It may be helpful to spend some time now as a group brainstorming or workshopping a few ideas. Here are a few suggestions:

- Give something away that you value, yet don't really need.
- Offer your time to help a neighbor or coworker.
- Pay for someone's meal.
- Offer a practical skill/service to someone for free—childcare, gardening, grocery shopping, tutoring, cleaning, or meal prepping.
- Prayerfully set aside a designated amount of money to give away—to a friend in need, to a local non-profit organization, or to a local or global mission partner.

### Action Steps / Reflections:

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