



# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 November 12, 2023  
“On Mission”



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## OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for the generosity of the Christians in the early Church; and the example they gave to us about giving. We are so thankful that at the heart of our faith is not receiving, but giving with hands wide open. It's about nail scarred hands wide open. For you so loved the whole world that you gave something. So Lord, would you take each of us beyond giving to the place of generosity. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

### 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 (NIV)

*Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. <sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. <sup>3</sup>Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Many Christians and non-Christians alike have said or thought “the church just wants my money.” But God doesn’t need your money. When it comes to giving to the local church, God doesn’t *need something from you* he *wants something for you*.

Most people think if they buy enough stuff it will make them happy. But the result is that it leaves you discontent. Although it sounds counterintuitive, choosing a lifestyle of generosity over consumerism leads to peace. In order to live a lifestyle of generosity, you need to reorder your finances so you give first, save second, and then live on the rest.

## QUESTIONS

1. Are you a planner or do you tend to fly by the seat of your pants? How has that influenced the way you manage your finances?
2. Would you consider yourself a “3S Giver” - someone who gives spontaneously, sporadically, and sparingly? Do you agree that kind of giving gets in the way of generosity? Why or why not?
3. During the message, Pastor Eric said, “You give from a grateful heart or you give from a broken heart.” To whom or what are you grateful? What causes or problems break your heart? What would it look like to say “yes” to those organizations, charities, or people?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1–3 (on page 1). What is freeing about deciding for yourself what and where it is best to be generous? What is challenging about that kind of freedom?
5. What are some obstacles to you saving more, giving more, and spending less? What can you do to overcome those obstacles?
6. What is your best next step for making a plan to save more, give more, and spend less? How can this group support you?

## FINAL APPLICATION

This week, pray about what God is calling you to do in terms of your giving that is honoring God and making ministry possible both at Asbury Church and around the world; then fill out your pledge card (which you can find at [asburylv.org/pledgecard](http://asburylv.org/pledgecard)).