Wisdom Nuggets: A Generous Person Will Prosper

review

If you keep up with the news, you know our world has a problem with greed. Often, people attempt to claw their way to riches, unconcerned about who gets hurt in the process. Ironically, **Proverbs 11:25** says it’s not the greedy but the generous who will ultimately prosper.

*Icebreaker: Name ways a person can be generous that do not involve money.*

raise

Paraphrased, **Ephesians 1:7-8** says God forgives our sins and generously lavishes His grace upon us. Close your eyes and think about an area in your life where God has shown generous grace and forgiveness. *If there’s time, consider playing or singing Planetshaker’s song “Covered.”*

arable

Many people think being generous is about liberally handing out money. But consider this act of generosity:

“Today, I watched a teenage boy help an elderly woman with a cane onto the city bus I was riding. He was so careful with her, assisting her every step of the way. The woman had the biggest smile on her face. They both sat directly across from me, and just as I was about to compliment her with having a wonderful grandson, the boy looked at her and said, “My name is Chris. What’s your name, ma’am?”   
  
*—From* [*“75 Day-Brightening Stories of Generosity”*](http://www.marcandangel.com/2012/05/16/day-brightening-stories-of-generosity/)

resent

*Read* ***Proverbs 11:25***.\* Generous people prosper, and those who refresh others are refreshed themselves. This isn’t a promise that if you start handing out money you’ll become rich.

*\*Bible translations such as the NKJV, NLT, and NIV may bring out this Scripture verse’s meaning best.*

Instead, it’s an observation that people with generous spirits tend to be wealthy and fulfilled in the ways that matter most—in internal, long-lasting ways.

Have you ever noticed that truly generous people are usually happy? This is no coincidence; Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (**Acts 20:35**). Being generous with your money, time, and resources blesses you just as much as it does the one receiving your kindness.

Generous people give more than what is required; they go above and beyond. For example, if you earn wages at a job or get money for your birthday, the minimum you might do is pay ten percent back to God in tithes. But if you’re generous, you’ll give more than that.

While we’re talking about money, it’s important to remember those in need. The words “poor” and “poverty” appear hundreds of times in Scripture—and many, many times in Proverbs alone. God cares deeply about the poor, and as Christians we should do the same.

If you have money, giving is important, but a truly generous person continues giving even when they don’t have a penny to their name: giving is in their nature. A few cost-free ways to practice generosity are

* complimenting others sincerely and freely,
* spending time with a lonely person,
* putting others’ needs before your own,
* going out of your way to help someone.

Remember: The Bible says those who refresh others will be refreshed, but it doesn’t promise you’ll get credit and recognition for the nice things you do. Your prosperity comes from the joy of serving others and worshiping God with your life choices, not from material things.

ractice

1. What is one way you can practice generosity every day?

2. Think of one time you were generous. How did you feel afterward?

3. Tell about a time someone was generous toward you.

4. How would the world change if everyone practiced biblical generosity? (Consider discussing this question after watching the video in the “Plus” portion of this lesson.)

ray

Jesus, You spent Your time on earth serving and loving others so they could be drawn to God. As Christ-followers, help us do the same. We want to be generous not so much for what we get from it, as for the sake of honoring You and blessing others. Help us grow in maturity until we become walking, breathing mirrors of Your love.

lus

Show the faithit video at <http://www.faithit.com/beautiful-moment-simple-act-kindness-goes-viral/>.

Wisdom Nuggets: A Generous Person Will Prosper (Handout)

review

What are some ways a person can be generous that do not involve money? Write down your group’s ideas. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Tell about an act of generosity you’ve witnessed firsthand.

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2. Think of a time you were generous. How did you feel afterward?

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3. Tell of a time someone was generous toward you.

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