



Course 1, Session 5 Student Notes: Generosity

Sowing, Reaping, and the Flow of Provision

Big Idea: Generosity is not what you do after you succeed, it is a design principle you build into the business.

How to use these notes. These are yours to study on your own, before or after the session. Read each section slowly. Under every principle there is a **Notes** space to write what stands out to you, and a **Reflect** question to answer honestly in writing. Keep your Bible nearby. Take about 30 minutes, and end in prayer. Bring your notes and questions to the group.

Open in Prayer

Before you begin, pray this simple prayer, or your own: "Father, You are the God who gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater. As I study, open my hands, and open them before I feel ready. Amen."

The Scripture for This Session

Read these slowly, out loud if you can:

- **2 Corinthians 9:6 to 7**, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."
- **Proverbs 11:25**, "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."
- **Malachi 3:10**, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse... and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts."
- **Ruth 2 and Leviticus 19:9 to 10** (Boaz and the gleaning fields, which we study below).

Reflect: When you imagine giving generously from your business, does it feel like something you will do "someday" once you are comfortable? Where does that instinct come from?

The Big Picture

What is a seed worth? A seed in your hand is worth almost nothing. A seed kept in a jar on a shelf, protected, admired, never risked, will be worth exactly nothing in ten years, because a seed was never designed to be

hoarded. Its entire value is unlocked the moment you are willing to let go of it and put it in the ground. This session is about the part of your business that works exactly like that seed. Not the money you keep. The money you are willing to release. In God's economy, the only seed that ever multiplies is the seed that leaves your hand.

Last session we learned that God watches every scale we carry and that integrity is poured in the hidden places. An honest business produces honest profit. So we ask the next question. Now that the money is clean, what is it actually for? The answer reaches all the way back to a field in Bethlehem. Over this session we will look at four truths about generosity, and then watch a landowner who engineered abundance into his daily operation.

Principle 1: Sowing and Reaping Is a Law, Not a Suggestion.

Listen to 2 Corinthians 9:6. "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." Paul is not making a clever suggestion. He is describing a law God wired into the universe, the same way He wired gravity. A farmer who is stingy with seed gets a stingy harvest, not because God is punishing him, but because that is simply how seed works. You cannot plant a teaspoon and harvest a wagon.

Here is the part most of us miss. This law runs whether you believe in it or not, and it runs in your finances exactly the way it runs in a field. The size of what comes back is connected to the size of what you were willing to let go. Proverbs 11:24 says something that sounds upside down to the natural mind: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." The scatterer increases. The hoarder, clutching tighter than is right, drifts toward lack. The open hand is the prosperous hand, and the closed fist is the poor one, no matter what the bank balance says on any given Tuesday.

Reflect: Where in your finances have you been sowing sparingly out of fear, and what might it look like to sow more bountifully on purpose?

Notes:

Principle 2: God Loves a Cheerful Giver. He Weighs the Heart.

Before we get excited about the harvest, Paul guards against turning this into a vending machine. Verse 7: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." God is not only interested in the amount that leaves your hand. He is interested in the condition of the heart it leaves from.

You can give a large check grudgingly and God is unimpressed. You can give a small gift cheerfully and God leans in, because the word there for cheerful is the word we get "hilarious" from. God loves a hilarious giver,

someone who has gotten so free from the grip of money that releasing it actually makes them glad. That kind of joy is not the result of having extra. It is the result of having broken the spell money tries to put on the heart. The goal is not just to give more, it is to become the kind of person for whom giving is a delight rather than a duty.

Reflect: When you give, is it usually cheerful or reluctant? What does your honest answer tell you about money's current grip on your heart?

Notes:

Principle 3: Generosity Breaks Money's Grip on Your Heart.

Jesus said you cannot serve both God and money, and He did not say you should not, He said you cannot, the two are rival masters. Money is a wonderful servant and a terrible god, and the way you keep it in the servant's quarters is by regularly, deliberately, telling it no and giving it away.

Every act of generosity is you loosening money's fingers from around your heart, one at a time. This is why giving is not mainly about the ministry's need for your money. It is about your heart's need to give. The reluctance you feel about releasing money is often not wisdom at all, it is money quietly asserting its grip and dressing itself up as caution. Generosity is the practical tool that breaks that grip. You do not give because you have extra to spare. You give because it is how you stay free, and freedom is worth more than the dollars it costs to keep it.

Reflect: Where is money's grip on your heart tightest right now? What specific fear does the open hand confront when you give?

Notes:

Principle 4: Build Giving In, Do Not Bolt It On.

Here is the practical heart of this session, so write it down. Build the giving in. Do not bolt it on. Most people treat generosity as something they will get to once the business is comfortable, once the debt is gone, once there is margin. That day never arrives, because expenses grow to fill whatever you make.

The answer is to decide your giving before the money comes, as a fixed percentage off the top, so it is automatic and not a monthly act of willpower you have to win all over again. At Crown Revenue we have built our own covenant into the model: at least twenty percent of what comes in goes to missions, off the top, no negotiation. That is not a number reached down to after everything else is handled. It is the first check,

because the first check tells the truth about who you actually serve. And do not miss the promise that surrounds all of this. Proverbs 11:25 says the one who waters gets watered. You cannot out-give God. Provision comes to you on its way through you. You are meant to be a riverbed, not a reservoir.

Reflect: What percentage, off the top, could you commit to giving before the money ever arrives? What "once I" excuse has kept your giving in the future until now?

Notes:

The Story: Boaz and the Gleaning Fields (Ruth 2; Leviticus 19:9 to 10)

Begin with the law that stands behind the story, Leviticus 19:9 to 10. God commanded landowners to deliberately harvest less than they could. Leave the corners. Do not pick the field clean. Do not go back for what you dropped. The margin you could have squeezed out belongs, by God's design, to the poor and the stranger who had no field of their own. This was not charity given out of leftover. It was generosity built directly into the business model of an agricultural economy.

Now watch Boaz, a wealthy landowner, go far past the minimum. Ruth, a destitute foreign widow, comes to glean in his field, which the law already permits. But Boaz does not stop at compliance. In verses 15 and 16 he privately instructs his workers, "Let her glean even among the sheaves... And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her." Underline "of purpose." He tells his workers to deliberately drop extra grain so Ruth will find it, and to make it look like ordinary gleaning so she keeps her dignity. His generosity was not a one-time grand gesture. It was woven into how he ran the daily operation, and it protected the person, not just provided the product.

Here is what the room must feel. Boaz was not dropping grain to get a return. He was simply a generous man obeying a generous God. But that foreign widow became his wife, and their son Obed became the grandfather of King David, placing Boaz directly in the bloodline of Jesus Christ Himself. The man who scattered grain on purpose reaped a harvest that ran a thousand years into the future and touched the salvation of the world. He could never have planned that return. He just kept his hand open, and God did the multiplying. Pair him with the Macedonian churches (2 Corinthians 8:1 to 5), who gave generously "out of their deep poverty" because they "first gave their own selves to the Lord." Boaz proves generosity can be structural and abundant. The Macedonians prove it is a posture of the heart, not a function of surplus.

Reflect: Boaz told his workers to drop grain "of purpose." Where could you build a deliberate, planned generosity into how your business actually operates, instead of waiting to give from whatever is left over?

Notes:

Put It Into Practice

1. Decide your giving structure. We are not asking “can I afford to give,” we are deciding “what is my giving structure” before the affordability question ever comes up. Write a specific percentage, off the top, that you will commit to, and name exactly where it goes: a ministry, a missions fund, a person, a cause. A number without a destination stays theoretical.

2. This week's assignment. Give something this week before you feel ready, money, time, or real value delivered to someone for free, and do it on purpose the way Boaz dropped grain on purpose. Then take the percentage you wrote down and actually set it up, a recurring gift, a transfer, a line in your books, so it becomes structural and not a monthly battle of willpower. Write one sentence about what it felt like to give before you felt ready.

What I will give this week, when, and to whom:

What it felt like to give before I felt ready:

Go Deeper (Optional)

- **Read:** *Fields of Gold* by Andy Stanley.
 - **Listen:** the *Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast*, episodes on giving and abundance.
 - **Study:** 2 Corinthians 9:6 to 11; Proverbs 11:24 to 25; Malachi 3:10; Leviticus 19:9 to 10; Ruth 2; 2 Corinthians 8:1 to 5.
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Close in Prayer

“Father, You give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, and You have never once run out. Forgive me for the times I clutched what was meant to flow through me, and for calling my fear by the name of wisdom. Teach me to give cheerfully, to build generosity into the bones of my business, and to take You at Your word in the one place You told me to test You. Make me like Boaz, deliberate in my abundance and tender with people's dignity, and like the Macedonians, free enough to give out of my need. Open my hands, and open the windows of heaven, for Your glory and Your mission. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

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