



EVERY GOOD GIFT

LIVING GENEROUSLY IN A
SELF-CENTERED WORLD

LEADER'S GUIDE



How to Study

EVERY GOOD GIFT

We are so glad you picked up this study! This six-week study guide was created for you to use on your own or in a group. Throughout the study, you will find reflection questions for your own personal time of study and you will find group questions as well. Use these to facilitate conversation within your small group and dig deeper into each week's topic.

STUDY COMPONENTS:

1. The book (or web page): This is where you will find the daily reading and reflection questions.

This can all be found in two places:

- In the study book. This is the most effective format for groups. If you need a copy, head to shoppe.ifgathering.com.
- ifequip.com. This is our web-based version of the study. Each devotional is added *daily*. If you access the study through this site, your group members will need to keep journals to write down their answers each day, so they can refer to them during group discussion.

2. Videos: The videos are a tool to help unpack the weekly topic of the study. Watch the video at the start of each week. We encourage you to watch and discuss the videos as a small group before diving into the daily reading.

Note: If you are leading a group, it can be helpful to plan an “intro” group meeting to give an overview of the study format and schedule before diving in. This also gives your group members time to get to know one another.



How to Study

CONTINUED...

TYPICAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

1. Get together with your group to watch the video. After week one, review what you learned through the daily readings from the previous week before watching the video.
2. Go over the discussion questions in the Leader's Guide with your group.
3. Do the week's reading and questions on your own (there are five days of content for each week).

HOW TO ACCESS THE WEEKLY VIDEOS:

- **Watch on RightNow Media.**
 1. Log in to your RightNow Media account and search "IF:Gathering" to find the *Every Good Gift* video series.
 2. If you do not have a RightNow Media account, go to rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering to access the videos for free through an exclusive RightNow Media and IF:Gathering resource library. After creating an account, log in and search "Every Good Gift" to watch the series.
- **Watch on ifequip.com.**

WEEK ONE

BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR HOSPITALITY

SERIES OVERVIEW

How natural is generosity to who you are? What do you do with what you have? Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about hospitality, generosity, and stewardship?

We have a cloud of witnesses globally, nationally, and locally who provide incredible testimonies of generosity. Tethered to biblical accounts of giving, this six-session series with author and speaker Ann Voskamp explores examples of offering hospitality, time, money, spiritual gifts, and empathy to the glory of God.

Everything we have is a gift. Will we hold tightly to these gifts with a scarcity mentality or will we handle them with open hands?

In this first week, we're going to look at how we can be generous by opening our homes and our lives to others with gestures of hospitality.

Access session one at rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering.



WATCH BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR
HOSPITALITY WITH ANN VOSKAMP
(15 MINUTES).



WEEK ONE



REVIEW

Ann reminded us how God is generous—and we only need to look at the Trinity to see it's true. In what ways have you experienced the generosity of God in your life? What difference does it make to you to know God is generous by nature?

In the video, Trisha shared her story of deciding to open up her home for a Bible study despite her anxieties. In what ways do you relate to Trisha? What does her story show us about hospitality?

Hospitality is about welcoming the unwelcomed. It's about loving people the way Jesus did. What stands out to you about this explanation of hospitality? In what ways does Ann's discussion of hospitality shape the way you view hospitality in your own life?



DIG IN

Read 3 John 5–10. Ann said that John sets up a contrast in these verses between two believers' approach to hospitality. What characterizes each approach? When have you been on the receiving end of generous hospitality? When have you felt unwelcomed?

Read Luke 14:12–24. What point is Jesus making in these verses? What could it look like to extend hospitality to those who can't repay you?



MAKE IT MATTER

Ann encouraged us to look outside our comfort zones for people we can love like Jesus did. What are some attitudes or fears that may hold you back from offering hospitality to someone outside your normal circles? What could it look like to overcome those feelings, thoughts, or limitations in order to practice inventive hospitality?

Identify one person this week who falls just outside your circle of friends and family and commit to offering them one small gesture of hospitality. What are some creative ways you could be hospitable toward that person this week?



REFLECT

Keep a journal this week of the hospitality you give and receive. What do you notice? Are they big or small acts? How does hospitality change your interactions with others?

Meditate on Proverbs 11:24 (msg): “The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.” In what ways are you generous now—specifically in terms of hospitality? Where do you see room for growth?

WEEK TWO

BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

REWIND AND REFLECT

In the past, has hospitality felt like something you needed to add to a to-do list or was it extended pretty naturally?

In what ways has your understanding or experience of hospitality changed this week?

In this session, we are going to learn about our spiritual gifts and discover how to glorify God with the gifts he gives us.

Access session two at rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering.



WATCH BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR
SPIRITUAL GIFTS WITH ANN VOSKAMP
(13 MINUTES).

WEEK TWO



REVIEW

This session explores how we can be generous with our spiritual gifts—the unique talents or gifts God has given us to love him and his church. Andrea shared her story of deciding to use her gifts to reach people through her YouTube channel. When have you seized an opportunity to use the gifts God’s given you? What did it look like?

What does it mean to live sacrificially? What could it look like to view our spiritual gifts as one way to be sacrificial with our lives?

Ann said, “It is a lie from the pit that is trying to tell you that your gifts aren’t good enough to be given.” When have you been tempted to think the gifts you have aren’t good enough?



DIG IN

Read Romans 12:1–8. In what ways could using your gifts be an act of worship? In what ways could your gifts help the body of Christ?

Read 1 Peter 4:8–11. These verses point out that love for each other and for God is at the core of using our gifts. What other motivations do we sometimes have for using our gifts? What difference does it make when we have a heart of love when we use our gifts?



MAKE IT MATTER

In the video, Ann listed off several people from the Bible who used their gifts. Who is someone in your church or small group who's used their gifts to glorify God and love the church? In what ways is that person living sacrificially?

What spiritual gift(s) have you noticed in your life? In what ways has God used your gifts to minister to others and grow you as his follower?



REFLECT

What could it look like for you to use the spiritual gifts God's given you to love the people in your church or small group this week?

In what ways can the group pray for you and your spiritual gifts?

WEEK THREE

BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR MONEY

REWIND AND REFLECT

Take a minute to consider the spiritual gifts of the people in your group. What gifts do you see in them? What could you do to encourage and affirm them in their gifts?

What gifts, if any, do you feel like you have ignored or haven't used out of fear, lack of time, or indifference? What would it look like for you to exercise those gifts?

In week three, we want to understand what the Bible says about money and how to steward it well.

Access session three at rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering.



WATCH BEING GENEROUS WITH
YOUR MONEY WITH ANN VOSKAMP
(15 MINUTES).

WEEK THREE



REVIEW

This session was all about our money. April talked about her struggle to start tithing on a tight budget and how she saw God provide for her as she gave. In what ways do you relate to April's story? What's been your attitude towards giving financially?

What thoughts or emotions did this week's video bring up when it comes to money?

Ann said, "There is nothing we have that isn't a gift to us." What difference does it make to you to know everything you have—including your money—is a gift from God?

Ann talked a lot about sacrificial giving. What does it mean to give sacrificially? When have you seen someone model sacrificial giving?



DIG IN

Read Mark 12:38–44. What differences do you see between the teachers of the law and the widow? When have you felt tempted to seek the spotlight—like the teachers of the law were doing—specifically when it comes to money?

What's Jesus's point about the widow? What's difficult for you about the type of generosity modeled by the widow? What could it look like to have her attitude toward money?



MAKE IT MATTER

What about giving money can cause stress? When can giving be a joy?

What have you been taught about money in the past and how has that teaching shaped the way you think about money?

Based on Ann's teaching in the video and what we've seen in Scripture, what does generosity with money look like for Christians? Where do you see room for growth when it comes to being generous with your money?



REFLECT

This week think about the money God has given you and your attitude towards it. Where do you spend your money? What's your approach to tithing? What could it look like to be generous with your money?

Ann challenged us to be sacrificial with our giving—to give out of love for Jesus in an extravagant way. What's one way you could sacrificially give your money this week?

WEEK FOUR

BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR TIME

REWIND AND REFLECT

What stood out to you in week three as we looked at being generous with our money?

In day 5, we looked at the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30). Which employee did you relate to the most?

Does money make you feel trapped or free? What's challenging about being generous with your money? When does it come easily?

In week four, we are going to look at how to be generous with our time—even when we feel like we don't have enough of it.

Access session four at rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering.



WATCH BEING GENEROUS WITH
YOUR TIME WITH ANN VOSKAMP
(14 MINUTES).



WEEK FOUR



REVIEW

Kelly talked about her hectic schedule and how she learned to use her time in a creative way so she could minister to people. In what ways do you relate to Kelly and her struggle with time? What do you like about your schedule? What frustrates you about it?

Ann said, “Time isn’t something you seize; it’s something you sacrifice.” She shared examples from her life of sacrificing her time for others. What examples from Ann’s stories stood out to you? What could it look like to sacrifice your time?

Ann talked about how when we’re stressed, sometimes the best way to relieve our stress is to help others. In what ways could helping another person actually help with the stress we can feel about time? When have you seen God use helping others to alleviate stress in your life?



DIG IN

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–8. Ann pointed out that this passage shows us that there’s “a right time for everything that will matter beyond time.” In what ways does this passage shape the way you think about time?

Ann reminded us that in Christ, our time isn’t running out. We’re racing toward eternity and we’ve been given time on this earth to love God and others. What does it look like to have an eternal perspective about your time? When have you seen someone think of their time in light of eternity?



MAKE IT MATTER

When have you experienced someone sacrificing their time for you? What impact did his or her actions have on you?

What concerns do you have about being generous with your time? In what ways could you benefit by being generous with your time?



REFLECT

Ann shared how she spends time at the end of each day writing down what she's grateful for and evaluating how she gave of herself that day. What could it look like for you to model her example this week?

What's one small way you could sacrifice your time for someone in your life this week?

WEEK FIVE

BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR EMPATHY

REWIND AND REFLECT

Think about someone in your life who is generous with their time. What impact does that person's generosity have on you?

What ideas have come to mind this week on how to be generous with your time?

Do you feel like you have a hard time being present with people? If so, what's distracting you?

This week, we want to spend some time unpacking what it means to be generous with our empathy and compassion.

Access session five at rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering.



WATCH BEING GENEROUS WITH
YOUR EMPATHY WITH ANN VOSKAMP
(15 MINUTES).



WEEK FIVE



REVIEW

Brooke spoke about how difficult it was for her to learn to be empathetic toward others. What’s been your experience with empathy? Does it come naturally to you or is it something you have to work toward? In what ways does Brooke’s story help shape how you understand and share the feelings of others?

Ann explained that empathy often means entering into someone else’s pain—to co-suffer with people. What could it look like practically to co-suffer with someone you know? Why do you think we can sometimes shy away from entering into people’s pain?

Ann said, “Empathy asks, ‘What if that were me?’” What do you see as potential benefits of asking that question?



DIG IN

Read Matthew 9:35–36. What example does Jesus set for us in terms of empathy? What difference does it make to you to know that Jesus was full of compassion toward people?

Read Ephesians 4:1–3. What does this passage say about how we should act towards other believers? Why do you think it’s important for us to maintain unity? In what ways could empathy—or “bearing with one another in love”—help keep Christians unified?



MAKE IT MATTER

What's an example of someone empathizing with you? What impact did that person's actions have on you?

What barriers can make empathizing with someone difficult for you? What could it look like to work through those barriers to empathize with someone?

What does it mean to find balance between empathizing with someone while also taking care of yourself?



REFLECT

Think about the people you encounter on a day-to-day basis. In what ways could asking the question, "What if that were me?" change the way you approach the people in your life?

Consider someone who might need your empathy this week. What could it look like for you to empathize—or co-suffer—with that person this week?

WEEK SIX

NOW, GIVE IT AWAY

REWIND AND REFLECT

Does empathy come easily to you? What ideas came to mind as you read this week's lessons on empathy?

In what ways has someone else's empathy or compassion impacted you?

In the final week we want to look back at all the ways we have learned to be generous and explore practical ways to start giving our gifts away.

Access session six at rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering.



WATCH NOW, GIVE IT AWAY

WITH ANN VOSKAMP

(14 MINUTES).

WEEK SIX



REVIEW

What inspired you from Melissa's story? In what ways do you see the eternal impact of generosity in her ministry to teen moms?

Ann reminded us of the grace we've received from God. In light of his grace, we're able to extend generosity to others. What has God's grace meant to you throughout your walk with him? In what ways does his grace remind you to be generous?

Ann also talked about how our gratitude can motivate our generosity. What are you grateful for? What do you do to build gratitude into your life?



DIG IN

Read Matthew 6:19–21. What does it mean to store up treasures on earth? In what ways is that different from storing up treasures in heaven?

Why do you think Jesus encourages us to focus on what will last? What difference could it make to our lives today to treasure what's eternal instead of what's temporary?

Who is someone in your life who focuses on eternity? What does his or her life look like? What impact have they had on you and your faith?



MAKE IT MATTER

What are some things that can keep us from being others-centered? What could it look like to overcome those obstacles in order to focus on other people?

Ann gave several practical examples of what it could mean to live a lifestyle of generosity. What other examples of generosity have you seen or experienced? What impact did those generous acts have on you? What would it take to imitate that kind of generosity in your life?



REFLECT

After hearing Ann's teaching and going through this study, in what areas of your life do you see opportunities to be more generous? What's one practical way you could take a step forward in being generous this week?

What do you hope to remember from this study? What could you do to remind yourself of that truth in the coming weeks?