

“Advent is the season where the whole world experiences God’s extravagant generosity through the giving of God’s own Son. It is a time of celebration, of thanksgiving, of appreciation, and of reflected selfless generosity. Join us for our Advent series on Biblical Generosity where we focus on its roots in God’s character and the example demonstrated through the radical generosity practiced by the early church. For God so loved, He gave...”

DATE	SCRIPTURE	PRAYER
11/27	“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27	“Father God, you created us in your image, made to reflect your character and generosity. You do not need us, our service or gifts, yet you desire us, you want us. You want to live with us, and through us reveal your goodness to the world. Help us live as you would have us this season. Amen.”
11/28	“Just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, [I ask] the they also may be in us.” John 17:21	“Lord Jesus, you invite us to share in the life and love of the Trinity. You desire us to join in God’s party and live in perpetual communion with you. Just as you created us from the overflow of love experienced within the Trinity, our generosity is also to be the overflow of the love experienced in our relationship with you. Amen.”
11/29	“And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17	“Lord, we do not obey you or practice generosity so that you will call us your beloved. It is precisely the opposite. You have already declared us to be your beloved children, and when the miracle of that unconditional love saturates into our being, it will propel us to obey, serve, and give. Your love comes first. Amen.”
11/30	“Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.” Luke 15:31	“Father, often we chase after your gifts, believing that in them we will find joy, peace, power and significance- all while we forget that in Christ we have already been promised all things. How foolish to spend our lives chasing that which we have already been given! Let us seek after the One in whom our joy will be complete and our deepest desires satisfied. The things of this world are to be used and not worshiped, and You are to be worshiped and not used. Remind us of this truth, O Lord. Amen.”
12/1	“Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 8:3	“King Jesus, we do not live by bread alone. We are more than our desires and the purpose of life is more than satisfying our natural longings however legitimate they may be. True life flows from you, and our deepest longings are ultimately only satisfied in union with you. In your name we pray, Amen.”
12/2	“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	“Lord, help us not to try to create a “prayer life” but help us to cultivate a life of prayer. Help us to live in ceaseless communion with you. May our prayer life help us live with you, not merely use you. Forgive us, Lord. Amen.”

DATE	SCRIPTURE	PRAYER
12/3	<i>"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord." Psalm 27:4</i>	<i>"Father, it is our desire to worship you with all that we are. We desire to not view our worship as a transaction, but a gift, an extravagant gift. True worship is generously giving to you and desiring only you in return. Center our minds on worshipping you fully. Amen."</i>
12/4	<i>"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32</i>	<i>"Lord, your joy is infectious. Its energy is uncontainable. It overflows from one person to another. There is no one more joyful than you and as we live in communion with you, we will find ourselves carried along in the current of Your pleasure. Our desire is to live a life of joyful gratitude that comes only from life lived with you. Amen."</i>
12/5	<i>"And whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17</i>	<i>"Father, it is our desire to give thanks in all that we do. Without practicing gratitude we lose sight of you, and our faith becomes a sacred, but isolated part of our lives. It doesn't overflow into the world we inhabit. Help us to be grateful people who recognize the blessing we have in you. Amen."</i>
12/6	<i>"At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God." Exodus 16:12</i>	<i>"Jesus, we get so wrapped up in the myth of the world's scarcity and the reality of abundance in your Kingdom. If we live in constant fear of not having enough, it will lead us to greed and injustice in the name of self-preservation and will short-circuit our ability to live with gratitude or practice generosity. Help us to believe your words and trust that with you there is always an abundance, then we can be set free from a self-centered posture to truly love others. We pray this in your name, Amen."</i>
12/7	<i>"Then one of the, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks." Luke 17:15-16</i>	<i>"Lord, for many of us, gratitude is a transactional practice. We worship, praise and express gratitude because we're experiencing something in return, and when no return is possible, or no further blessing is desired, we see no need to offer our thanks to you. For the leper who returned, however, giving thanks was pure. He thanked you because he was overwhelmed with gratitude, not just for the healing but for the One who healed him. Help us to be like this man. Amen."</i>
12/8	<i>"Keep your life free from love of money... for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" Hebrews 13:5</i>	<i>"Father, often our desire for safety is misplaced. We look to protect ourselves from the uncertainty of this world by seeking control but the peace we long for cannot be found in money. Our fearful instinct is to find safety in wealth rather than in you. Sin tells us to pursue control rather than gratitude. When we come to realize that control is just an illusion and embrace the promise of your never-ending presence and care, we unlock the door to a life of joyful gratitude in you. Amen."</i>

DATE	SCRIPTURE	PRAYER
12/9	<i>"Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20</i>	<i>"Jesus, remind us that nothing dissipates discontent better than practicing thankfulness, even when we don't feel like it. The power of practicing thankfulness can transform greed into gratitude and worry into worship. It can move our hearts from a desire to possess to a posture of praise. Thank you, Lord, for all that you give. Amen."</i>
12/10	<i>"Give thanks in all circumstances; for the the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18</i>	<i>"Father, so often we stop giving thanks and instead allow our feelings of jealousy, despair or discontent to determine our actions. When we do this, it becomes much more difficult to recognize your presence or the hope of your redemption. Gratitude is not only the outcome of our faith in you, but it focuses us on the source. Focus our eyes on you, Lord. Amen."</i>
12/11	<i>"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:18</i>	<i>"Lord, when we come to recognize and trust in your incomprehensible love for us, we discover the courage to abandon our fears. It gives us the courage to break down the walls of selfishness and open our hearts to others. It is this trust that empowers Peter to step out of the boat, Paul to endure imprisonment, and us to give ourselves generously to others. Amen."</i>
12/12	<i>"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6</i>	<i>"Lord, Henri Nouwen says that "If we are to take risks, to be free, in the air, in life, we have to know there's a catcher. We have to know that when we come down from it all, we are going to be caught, we are going to be safe. The great hero is the least visible. Trust the catcher." May we heed these words. Amen."</i>
12/13	<i>"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you." Isaiah 43:1-2</i>	<i>"Lord, often times we try to use you to avoid reality and escape pain. That is not what mature faith looks like. Help us to accept reality and embrace pain knowing that you will meet us in the midst of it. You are ever here for us, Lord. Amen."</i>
12/14	<i>"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" Matthew 7:11</i>	<i>"Lord, we are broken creatures in desperate need of your help, but rather than asking for what we truly need, rather than desiring what you are able and generously willing to give, we settle for lesser things and when you say "no" to our misled requests and offer us more, we reject you. We turn away, cursing you under our breath. Forgive us, Father, for our foolishness. Help us to see your answer of "no" as you loving us too much to say "yes." In your name we pray, Amen."</i>
12/15	<i>"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' Or 'What shall we drink?' Or 'What shall we wear?'... your heavenly Father knows that you need them all." Matthew 6:31-32</i>	<i>"Father, when we learn to live the kind of faith where we let go of our rushing, we release our fear of not having enough, we are freed to be able to slow down, trust in you, and discover that true life is not found in what we eat, drink or wear. True peace, true life, is found only in you. Remind us of this truth. Amen."</i>

DATE	SCRIPTURE	PRAYER
12/16	<i>"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6</i>	<i>"Lord, your love and blessing cannot be demanded, it cannot be wrested from your hands. We have no status or strength to force you to do anything. We are not in control. Until we recognize and accept that fact, faith will be inaccessible to us. Faith is not merely agreeing that you exist, nor is it expecting you to obey our demands like a genie. Faith accepts that we have no ultimate control, but instead surround all things to your gracious care. May we have this type of faith. Amen."</i>
12/17	<i>"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24-25</i>	<i>"Jesus, we need the encouragement of others if we are to persevere and mature in our faith. Often we find ourselves in the dungeon of doubt, and we need the community to encourage our faith. Following Jesus takes more than faith, it takes community. Remind us that we need one another. Amen."</i>
12/18	<i>"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8</i>	<i>"Lord, often we desire to be generous only with those who we feel deserve it, but that is not how your generosity works. We are undeserving, and yet you died for us. You give because it is in your nature to do so, not because we have earned it. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others, even those who, like us, don't deserve it. Amen."</i>
12/19	<i>"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." Genesis 15:1</i>	<i>"Lord, sometimes we mistake that which you give as our reward, as our blessing. You alone are our reward. Regardless of what lack we may feel, we lack nothing because we have you. Focus our eyes on you always. Amen."</i>
12/20	<i>"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1</i>	<i>"Lord, remind us that everything is yours. Nothing we have is earned by us. You have graciously given everything we have, including our very lives. Remind us of this truth and help us to be thankful. Amen."</i>
12/21	<i>"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Genesis 2:15</i>	<i>"Lord, that which you have given us in this world, you have called us to cultivate and use as you would have us use. It is not merely for us to enjoy, but us to share, grow, and bless others with. Help us to steward well all that you have given us. Amen."</i>
12/22	<i>"The plans of the diligent lead to surplus as surely as haste leads to poverty." Proverbs 21:25</i>	<i>"Father, our beliefs that we have 'earned' what we own causes us to see to our own needs and desires before using it for your purposes. Remind us that we have not been given to merely enjoy for ourselves but to be a blessing to others in need. May we see all we have (time, talent and treasure) as yours and to be used for your Kingdom purposes. Amen."</i>
12/23	<i>"There was not a needy person among them..." Acts 4:34a</i>	<i>"Lord, help us to see those who are needy among us that we might meet whatever need we are able. Our desire is to live as you desire us to live, to give as you desire us to give and especially as we recognize just how much you have given to us. Amen."</i>

DATE	SCRIPTURE	PRAYER
12/24	<i>"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4</i>	<i>"Lord, we know that good fruit is not achieved by directly pursuing the fruit. Instead, it is the byproduct of pursuing a life rooted in you. Rather than focusing on our fruit, we need to pay attention to our roots. We must become people rooted in you and driving on your Spirit, then we will naturally, and even effortlessly, produce the good fruit of your Kingdom. If we abide in you, fruit takes care of itself. Help us embrace this truth today. Amen."</i>
12/25	<i>"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16</i>	<i>"Lord, thank you for the gift of your Son. Your generosity encourages us to be grateful and our gratitude partners with your Spirit to transform us into reflecting your generosity to the world around us. We love you, Lord. Amen."</i>
12/26	<i>"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27</i>	<i>"Lord, often we think that giving you our whole heart means that we cannot give ourselves in service to others. We believe it requires a monastic separation from the world. This kind of separation is unnatural to your very character. It ought to be just as unnatural to ours. The love that comes from you as Father, Son, and Spirit overflows to us and in the same way, the love, mercy, and generosity we experience in communion with our God should also overflow into our relationships with others. Remind us of this. Amen."</i>
12/27	<i>"I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you." Acts 3:6</i>	<i>"Lord, if we are to give our whole lives to you it must include the willingness to share our financial resources, but it is about much more than money- it's about all things. You have graciously given us all things, and therefore we are called to be gracious in every way. Make us like you, Lord. Amen."</i>
12/28	<i>"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." Ephesians 5:1-2</i>	<i>"Lord, Arther McGill wrote that self-giving love looks like loving people in small but tangible ways over a lifetime. He mentioned that this is a form of dying, but a slower, drip, drip rather than a big splash. Which is to say that we do not think there is something sacrificial and martyr-like in giving small gifts of love to each other. Love is an expenditure, a sacrifice. The way of Jesus is the way of self-expenditure. Help us to live like you in this way. Amen."</i>
12/29	<i>"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10</i>	<i>"Lord, our generosity to the church may seem like a means to an end, but if we look at generosity in light of the Kingdom, it is about much more than that. Generosity itself is how we display God's kingdom. It is an important way we work together to cultivate heaven right here on earth. Help us, Lord, to remember that it isn't about making ends meet, but about demonstrating the abundance of your Kingdom. Amen."</i>

DATE	SCRIPTURE	PRAYER
12/30	<i>"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compassion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7</i>	<i>"Lord, if we are to be like you, we too need to give generously and joyfully. But to do so, we need cognitive restructuring, or what your Word calls "renewing of our minds." As we live to imitate communion with you, we will undergo a transformative process in which our minds begin to think more and more like yours. We will conform more and more to your character, your will, and the kind of generosity we once found painful will instead be joyful. Transform our hearts and our minds, O Lord. Amen."</i>
12/31	<i>"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:9-10</i>	<i>"Lord, you encourage us to make the most of every opportunity to be generous with our lives, to bless those around us- both believers and non-believers. We experience whole-life generosity through communion with you, but we need eyes to see and ears to hear about opportunities for generosity around us. Help us to see as you do and to be obedient when you call us to act. Amen."</i>