



*“The fourth week of Advent is when we light the candle for Peace. The Scriptures say that we should not reluctantly seek to be generous but should be at peace with what we give. Often when we lack peace about our generosity, it is because we are being generous out of obligation or from a place that is not rooted in thankfulness, faithfulness, or joy. Generosity is a product of a transformed heart, not an obligation to gain favor from the Lord. This week we will talk about the heart behind our generosity. Those who are biblically generous experience God’s gift of peace in their generosity.”*

### **INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:**

Thankfulness Activity- how has God blessed you this week?

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

#### **1 Corinthians 9:7**

*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

#### **Proverbs 11:24-25**

*“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;  
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.  
Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,  
and one who waters will himself be watered.”*

#### **Acts 11:27-30**

*“27 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). 29 So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers[a] living in Judea. 30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.”*

#### **Matthew 6:21**

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Our tendency is to think that the Hebrews saw generosity only through their finances. Is that accurate?
2. What was the purpose of the tithe for God's people? How does that impact our view of our giving to the church?
3. If God and His desires for His people is the same today, yesterday and forever, how does this impact how we look at Hebraic law and our lives under the new Covenant through Jesus?
4. There is a lot of freedom in what and how we give according to 1 Corinthians 9:7. What is Paul getting at in this verse?

## CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.