



“Happiness lies more in giving  
than in receiving.” - Acts 20:35



Have you ever heard someone say, “Give until it hurts”?

This advice implies that a truly generous gift should be large enough to have a negative impact on the giver. Though sometimes heard in the church, “Give until it hurts” is *not* advice from the Bible.

The Bible says, “Give until it feels good.” Jesus says, “There is more happiness in giving than in receiving” (Acts 20:35 Good News Translation). Over and over, the Bible connects generosity with happiness. Stinginess is what leads to hurting.

Think about your own giving of money and time. **Think of an instance when you made what, for you, was a very generous gift. How did it feel?** Did it hurt, or did it bring a smile to your face? As you think back on that gift, do you still have happy feelings about it?

God invites us to live generously not only because other people have needs that we can help meet, but also because God knows what is good for us — and generosity is good for us. Generosity brings us things far more valuable than whatever we have given away.

As the Rev. Michael Binder, assistant professor at Luther Seminary, rightly notes, “Generosity is what God wants for us, not from us.”



WEEK ONE

THE JOY OF GENEROSITY