Remarkably Generous is Impact Church’s three-week, intensive church wide study of generosity. This guide will be your journal as we journey together during this part of our More Than Possible experience. For each week of our study, this guide provides you with sermon notes, scriptural references, prayer and devotion assignments, weekly readings and group discussion questions.

“Organizations that destroy the status quo, win. Whatever the status quo is, changing it gives you the opportunity to be remarkable.”

— Seth Godin

Our Goal: Be remarkably generous and witness ourselves smash not only the status quo for churches, but the status quo within our communities and around the world.

More Than Possible is our passionate pursuit of a continuing quest to do church differently. We are removing limitations and making room for remarkable futures – for ourselves and for others. As we journey together to be remarkably generous, get ready for transformation in your life. More than the change we’ll see in our lives, we journey for the expanse of Christ in the hearts and minds of people.

Let’s become remarkably generous together!
WEEK 1: MORE THAN POSSIBLE – CARE FOR IT

Prayer Notes

Pray this prayer every morning and every night during Week One.

God, as you examine my heart, examine my thoughts about the five things you are speaking to me about in this passage. Help me to hear your voice and change my direction. Show me how I can gain joy in transforming my thoughts about generosity. In areas where I am lacking, increase my knowledge, increase my understanding, and increase my ability. Allow me to change my perspective to match your purpose. This is my eternal prayer. Amen.
WEEK 1: MORE THAN POSSIBLE – CARE FOR IT

Earthly & heavenly treasures
19 “Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. 20 Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. 21 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Seeing & serving
22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. Therefore, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how terrible that darkness will be! 24 No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Worry about necessities
25 “Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are? 27 Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? 28 And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth. 29 But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these. 30 If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it’s alive today and tomorrow it’s thrown into the furnace, won’t God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? 31 Therefore, don’t worry and say, ‘What are we going to eat?’ or ‘What are we going to drink?’ or ‘What are we going to wear?’ 32 Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 Instead, desire first and foremost God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

—Matthew 6:19-34, CEB

Devotion
What are five key things God is saying to you personally in this passage?
WEEK 1: MORE THAN POSSIBLE – CARE FOR IT

Imprint Group Discussion Questions
_Pursue Individuals. Pursue Purpose. Build Environments. Build Relationships._

1. What in this life do you tend to see as valuable?

2. How does this compare to the value of eternal treasure?

3. Is it significant that 15% of Christ’s teaching deals with money and possessions? (see _The Treasure Principle_, p. 9)

4. If it is significant, why? And does this surprise you?

5. What does the author mean when he writes that your spending habits are “proof” of your spiritual condition? (see _The Treasure Principle_, p. 11)

6. What would your spending habits say about you?

7. What are some ways to store treasures in heaven? (see _The Treasure Principle_, p. 15)

8. What is meant by the phrase “deferred gratification,” and is it hard for you? (see _The Treasure Principle_, p. 16)
WEEK 1: MORE THAN POSSIBLE – CARE FOR IT

9. How do you feel when you read “you can send it on ahead”? What are ways you can begin doing that now?  
(see The Treasure Principle, p. 18)

10. What does a money manager do? What does it mean that you are God’s money manager?  
(see The Treasure Principle, p. 25)

11. What is the difference between “thinking like an owner” and “thinking like a money manager”?

12. The book, The Treasure Principle, teaches that “one of our central spiritual decisions is determining what is a reasonable amount to live on.” How much thought have you given to this “central spiritual decision”?  
(see The Treasure Principle, p. 27)

13. How should God’s grace motivate us to give? (see The Treasure Principle, p. 31)

14. What does it mean that giving is an act of worship? Do you view giving with this perspective? Why or why not?  
(see The Treasure Principle, p. 33)

15. What personal attitudes or actions would change if you viewed every ordinary moment of each day as eternally important? (see The Treasure Principle, p. 35)
WEEK 1: MORE THAN POSSIBLE – CARE FOR IT

ASSIGNMENT 1

Read
- Matthew 6:19-34
- Chapter 1 of The Treasure Principle
- Week One’s Principles for Consideration: More Than Possible

Complete
- Imprint Group Discussion Questions

Principles for Consideration: More Than Possible
We all worry about money and spend money on needless things. Money is not our idol; rather, money reveals our idols. An idol is a pseudo-salvific treasure, and we are treasuring things above God when we place our hope and faith in them.

What do you worry about and spend money on unnecessarily? Clothes to make you feel beautiful or handsome? Special types of food for every situation to prove that you are “healthy” or a “foodie”? Or do you spend money on security, because you want to have control over the future? “Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”
- Matthew 6:34, CEB

If we take hold of this passage, it will both convict and transform our thinking and our way of being. We need to take a hard look at what we are seeking above God and determine what it will take for us to seek God first. What would it take for us to believe that there is More Than Possible for our lives with Jesus as the focus and creating a space where God can be revealed on earth amongst us?

Weekly Treasure Principle
You can’t take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.
WEEK 1: MORE THAN POSSIBLE – CARE FOR IT

ASSIGNMENT 2

Read

• Matthew 25:14-30
• Chapter 2 of The Treasure Principle
• Week One’s Principles for Consideration: Care for It

Complete

Imprint Group Discussion Questions

Principles for Consideration: Care for It
We are stewards of everything, owners of nothing. What we have is not our own. We are merely managers of the resources God is entrusting to us. However, our attitudes and actions toward money often reflect the opposite belief. We often have a difficult time when asked to give, saying things like, “Don’t they know how hard I worked for this money?” or “Didn’t they just ask us for something last week?” These questions not only reveal our inability to recognize who really owns our resources, they also demonstrate our lack of understanding of what it means to further God’s work in the world through our generosity. We’re praying for the Lord to grow us into faithful stewards, who use Jesus’ resources for Jesus’ purposes.

Weekly Treasure Principle
God owns everything; I am God’s money manager.
WEEK 2 : THE MATERIALISM ANTIDOTE

Sermon Notes

Prayer
Pray this prayer every morning and every night during Week Two.

God, you are the best practice for giving. A divine majesty, you took on an earthly body and entered into poverty so that we can have eternity. As I journey to be a more remarkable giver, help me to reflect on your example. Help me to remember your sacrificial offering. Help me to be committed and pattern my giving life after your goal in my creation. Through your grace, help me to be the gift on earth and within humanity, as you purposed. This is my eternal prayer. Amen.
### WEEK 2 : THE MATERIALISM ANTIDOTE

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<td><strong>Brothers and sisters, we want to let you know about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia.</strong> 2 While they were being tested by many problems, their extra amount of happiness and their extreme poverty resulted in a surplus of rich generosity. 3 I assure you that they gave what they could afford and even more than they could afford, and they did it voluntarily. 4 They urgently begged us for the privilege of sharing in this service for the saints. 5 They even exceeded our expectations, because they gave themselves to the Lord first and to us, consistent with God’s will. 6 As a result, we challenged Titus to finish this work of grace with you the way he had started it. 7 Be the best in this work of grace in the same way that you are the best in everything, such as faith, speech, knowledge, total commitment, and the love we inspired in you. 8 I’m not giving an order, but by mentioning the commitment of others, I’m trying to prove the authenticity of your love also. 9 You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although he was rich, he became poor for our sakes, so that you could become rich through his poverty.</td>
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—2 Corinthians 8:1-9, CEB

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WEEK 2 : THE MATERIALISM ANTIDOTE

ASSIGNMENT 1

Read
• 2 Corinthians 8:1-9
• Chapters 3-5 of The Treasure Principle
• Week Two’s Principles for Consideration: The Materialism Antidote

Complete
Imprint Group Discussion Questions

Principles for Consideration: The Materialism Antidote
Remove ALL excuses when God calls us to give. The Macedonian churches were in several trials, seasons of anything except abundance. And yet, they gave generously - even beyond their ability. What an example! With the Macedonian churches in mind, examine your own heart. Imagine the Lord inviting you to deeper, and more sacrificial, generosity. How often does your heart initially react by providing God (or others) with all of the reasons why you cannot give at this time? The Macedonian churches actually begged Paul for the opportunity to give, even during a time when they felt they could not. As you think through 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, let the Macedonian churches encourage you. The grace of Jesus (2 Corinthians 8:9) can make our hearts more like theirs. Let’s learn together what it means to give sacrificially, regardless of circumstances.

Weekly Treasure Principle
Heaven, not earth is my home. I should live not for the dot, but for the line. Giving is the only antidote to materialism. God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.
Imprint Group Discussion Questions

1. When asked (by Jesus or others) to give sacrificially, have you ever excluded yourself because of your circumstances? How does 2 Corinthians 8 address that?

2. The primary goal of this generosity journey is 100% participation from all persons in the church (regardless of amount). We want everyone within our faith community to lean in on generosity as a principle for life, not just this moment in time. What barriers or excuses might God be asking you to remove so that you can be part of the mission to create a safe sacred space for all within the community and the world?

3. If you woke up tomorrow morning and prayed, “Lord, help me to live for the line instead of the dot today,” how would your day be different? (see The Treasure Principle, p. 50)

4. What are some practical things you will do this week to live for the line, not the dot? (see The Treasure Principle, p. 50)

5. Respond to the following statement: “Nothing makes a journey more difficult than a backpack filled with nice, but not unnecessary things. Pilgrims travel light.” What does it mean to be a pilgrim and to travel lightly? What are steps you can take to lighten your load? (see The Treasure Principle, p. 53)

6. Have you ever encountered a person whose possessions “own them”? What did this look like, especially in terms of their energy and attention? (see The Treasure Principle, p. 54)

7. What things would change if God truly got your first, not your last? (see The Treasure Principle, p. 62)
WEEK 2 : THE MATERIALISM ANTIDOTE

8. Take money off the table for a moment. Think of the other resources you have: your home, your clothes, your electronics, your season tickets, etc. Do you honor God with these resources by giving them over to God? Do you use your home as a resource for God? How could you better do that? Do you lend (or give) your extra car to those in need? When you have extra tickets, do you try to sell them, or do you bless a teenager who has wanted to see a performer for her entire life, and may never have the opportunity to go to a concert? Are you honoring the Lord with all that you have?

9. This may be painful, but it will provide evidence. Please pull your last month’s bank statement, including all of your debit card transactions. (You do NOT have to show this to anyone.) Get your calculator and take a hard look at where you have placed value. You want to pay attention to one-time payments, items that are not essential for living.

Add up how much you spent on the following:

Entertainment................................................................................................................... $ ________________________
(cable, concerts, movies, show tickets, etc.)

Personal Beauty............................................................................................................... $ ________________________
(non-essential products, includes manicures, fill-ins, and pedicures, etc.)

Dining/Eating Out............................................................................................................ $ ________________________
(restaurants/eateries, fast food, etc.)

Clothing/Shoes................................................................................................................ $ ________________________
(non-essential for work/life)

Gifts.................................................................................................................................... $ ________________________
(for others or self)

Other Discretionary........................................................................................................ $ ________________________
(other funds spent doing things you like)

GRAND TOTAL........................................................................................................... $ ________________________
(Considering this amount, how much of your total expenditures helped advance God’s work on earth?)
Pray this prayer every morning and every night during Week Three.

God, despite my income, despite my current giving, despite my service, I offer to you only a sacrifice that will cost me something to give. I actively determine in my heart and in my soul to be generous with my time, with my talents, with my finances, and with every great gift you have bestowed upon me. I am intentional in my decision and determination to see plagues lifted from society as a result of my commitment to be remarkably generous. This is my eternal prayer. Amen.
WEEK 3: ACTIVELY GENEROUS

Scriptural Reference

18 That same day Gad came to David and told him, “Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah from Jebus.” 19 So David went up, following Gad’s instructions, just as the Lord had commanded. 20 Araunah looked up and saw the king and his servants approaching him. Araunah rushed out and bowed low before the king, his nose to the ground. 21 Araunah said, “Why has my master and king come to his servant?” David said, “To buy this threshing floor from you to build an altar to the Lord, so the plague among the people may come to an end.” 22 Then Araunah said to David, “Take it for yourself, and may my master the king do what he thinks is best. Here are oxen for the entirely burned offering, and here are threshing boards and oxen yokes for wood. 23 All this, Your Majesty, Araunah gives to the king.” Then he added, “May the Lord your God respond favorably to you!” 24 “No,” the king said to Araunah. “I will buy them from you at a fair price. I won’t offer up to the Lord my God entirely burned offerings that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 David built an altar there for the Lord and offered entirely burned offerings and well-being sacrifices. The Lord responded to the prayers for the land, and the plague against Israel came to an end.

–2 Samuel 24:18-25, CEB

Devotion

What are five key things God is saying to you personally in this passage?
WEEK 3 : ACTIVELY GENEROUS

ASSIGNMENT 1

Read

• 2 Samuel 24:18-25
• Chapter 6 of The Treasure Principle
• Week Three’s Principles for Consideration: Actively Generous

Complete

Imprint Group Discussion Questions

Principles for Consideration: Actively Generous
As David is building the altar for the Lord, he knows that the sacrifice won’t mean anything if it doesn’t cost him something. He knows that a costless sacrifice won’t honor the Lord. When we give to the Lord, often only we know whether it required faith and is sacrificial. A person can give a very large amount and it not be honoring to God, if it didn’t really cost them anything. So let’s examine our giving. Is it requiring faith and sacrifice? God wants us to give in a way that changes us, changes communities, and honors God.

Weekly Treasure Principle
My heart always goes where I put God’s money.
WEEK 3: ACTIVELY GENEROUS

Imprint Group Discussion Questions

1. Are you currently giving in such a way that is changing you, that is sacrificial and requiring faith? If so, celebrate that work of grace in your heart. If not, what’s holding you back?

2. What is one gift you have given that was incredibly fun to give? Why was it such a significant experience for you? *(see The Treasure Principle, p. 39)*

3. This week’s Treasure Principle reads, “My heart always goes where I put God’s money.” How has this been true in your life? *(see The Treasure Principle, p. 43)*

4. Take a look at the giving journey on pages 27-31 of The Treasure Principle. Where would you currently find yourself on this journey? Where might God be challenging you to move?

5. List the financial commitments you currently have, especially those that go beyond a one-time payment, but that have a time duration. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child’s tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.

6. Now list the commitment you are planning to make for *More Than Possible (MTP)*. Where does it fall in the priority of those other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments to be able to manage well and complete your MTP commitment? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a sacrificial giving commitment?

7. If someone who didn’t know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you value?
WEEK 3: ACTIVELY GENEROUS

8. Would the above value statement be true about you? Or is there something that needs to be explained or modified?

9. Choose to make your giving to God the type of priority you want it to be. What will that mean for your MTP commitment?

10. If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what type of spiritual change will that cause in you?

11. How will you leverage this change to influence others such as your children, your co-workers, your friends, your family, and others in your circles of influence?
Remarkably generous!