

WEEKLY GAME PLAN

From Greed To Generosity

Read Luke 12:15, Colossians 3:5, Ephesians 5:5, 1 John 5:21 NLT, Proverbs 15:27 NIV, 1 Timothy 6:10 NKJV

Context: Scripture warns us again and again to guard ourselves against the sin of greed. Greed is the excessive desire to acquire more than one needs. In fact, not being greedy is very strongly worded in all these verses. It's not just a pleasant suggestion. It's a command. Guard against, put to death, greedy person will not enter the Kingdom of God, greed brings grief (not sadness, but grief). Greed is putting our faith and hope for a good tomorrow in created things, not in the Creator of all things.

Reflection Question: What are you relying on for your security for tomorrow? What are you greedy for in your life right now? How do these verses impact how you view greed? What do you think about how God views greed?

Read Mark 8:36 NKJV, Proverbs 28:25, Acts 20:35, Proverbs 11:24, Luke 6:38 NLT, 2 Corinthians 8:9 MSG

Context: In these verses we find the cure for the plague of greed. It's generosity. Jesus tells us that it's more blessed to give than to receive. We either believe He's telling us the truth, or we don't. Oftentimes, our obedience to what He's telling us to do has to come before our heart *feels like* doing what He's told us to do. Meaning, it might take several times of being generous first, before we feel like leading with generosity. It takes several times of going to the gym when we don't feel like it *before* we see the results of going to the gym.

Reflection Question: Jesus led by example in generosity. Who do you want to be an example for in generosity? What fear is preventing you from being as generous as you think God is desiring you to be? How can you talk to God about this today?

Read 1 Chronicles 29:14 GNT, Luke 19:1-9 NLT

Context: Whatever we have, even if we have worked really hard for it, has been given to us by God. There is nothing that He has not provided for us, even the breath in our lungs to be alive to get it. When we use those things to give to others what has been given to us, God blesses that. Parents understand this practically. When we see our kids sharing with someone else, our hearts swell with pride. We have taught them well. That's how God looks at us when we give to others. He's like a proud Father who has taught His child a great lesson.

Reflection Question: How has God blessed you in your life so far? What is something you can share with those around you this week? Your time, your education, your cooking, your laughter, your encouragement, your strength? We all have something we can share with someone else.

Read Philippians 4:19 GNT, Psalm 119:36-38, 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 NLT

Context: Let's talk about five ways we can destroy greed. We can daily spend time in God's word. We can pray for God to show us how He's provided for us all our lives. We can determine to trust God daily. Each day wake up and tell Him that today you trust Him. We can give sacrificially and spontaneously on a regular basis. Trying to be like Christ is a sacrificial life, even in giving. Listen to the Holy Spirit when He tells you to give. And lastly, we can choose to use all the ways in which God has blessed us to bless others.

Reflection Question: Why do you think God has given you all that He has? What do you think He wants you to do with what He's given you?

Read Romans 12:1, Luke 12:15-21 NLT

Context: As much as we would like to, we have no idea how long we will be on this earth. We spend a lot of time preparing for our futures, with little regard for how we're sharing the love of God in the present. This is futile if tomorrow did not come. We should plan and prepare, especially if we care for others, but we should also be generous with our wealth now. If our getting now hinders our rich relationship with God, that's not worth it.

Reflection Question: For whom are you spending your days toiling? How can you show God you trust Him for your daily provision?

End in prayer. Moving from greed to generosity takes faith in God's love and provision. Pray for God to increase your faith.