

Unit III. Fulfilling Our Obligations to God and Society L12/May 17, 2026

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Exodus 1:8-14; 20:17; Deuteronomy 24:14-15;
Amos 5:6-15; Zechariah 8:16-17; Matthew 20:1-16; Mark 12:1-9;
Luke 3:14; Ephesians 6:1-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

PRINT PASSAGES: Deuteronomy 24:14-22; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Cultivating Generosity



WAKE UP!

sometimes, all they need is a kind word or a hug. Cole did a presentation to his class about his experience. He shared with the class how angry he was because he did not want to feed the farmers. He detested them! Then he saw how strangers were caring for his uncle, and this caused him to have a change of heart. One of the boys in his class, Tyrese, was not very receptive to the presentation. “How can you be kind and generous to people who are to blame for tearing down our country? How do you know that they won’t vote the same way tomorrow? I say let them figure it out



AFTER THAT EXPERIENCE AT THE “SOUP’S ON” PACIFIC AVENUE SOUP KITCHEN, COLE NOW FOUND IT EASY TO BE KIND TO EVERYONE. He realized that he does not know what people are going through on a regular basis. Some-

times, all they need is a kind word or a hug. Cole did a presentation to his class about his experience. He shared with the class how angry he was because he did not want to feed the farmers. He detested them! Then he saw how strangers were caring for his uncle, and this caused him to have a change of heart. One of the boys in his class, Tyrese, was not very receptive to the presentation. “How can you be kind and generous to people who are to blame for tearing down our country? How do you know that they won’t vote the same way tomorrow? I say let them figure it out themselves and maybe they will get it right next time,” Tyrese blurted out. “How they vote is not that important to me anymore. I just want to be able to feed them when they are hungry,” Cole explained. “Man, that’s being too generous,” Tyrese responded.

Tyrese decided to visit “Soup’s On” with Cole one weekend. He was met with the same hospitality as Cole. Tyrese spent some time with Uncle Jason. He was amazed at the people’s generosity and kindness. Afterward, Tyrese went to Cole’s mom’s soup kitchen/pantry. He saw how needy the people were and forgot who they were or how they voted. It was obvious that they only needed help to get back on their feet. He served with Cole that day.

Doing good can be contagious because it makes you feel good to help someone. We cultivate generosity when we change the hearts of others to be generous.

WORD UP

**Deuteronomy 24:14-22;
Ephesians 6:5-9;
1 Timothy 6:17-19**

14 Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. **15** Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin. **16** Parents are not to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin. **17** Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. **18** Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. **19** When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. **20** When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. **21** When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. **22** Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

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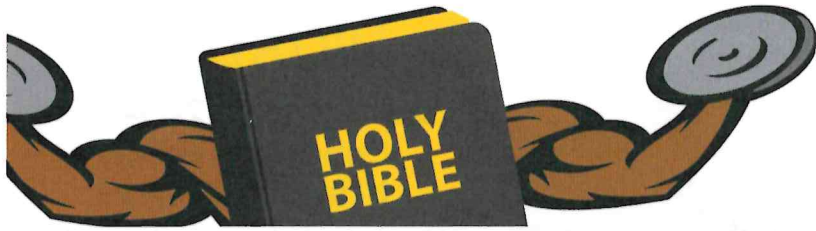
5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. **6** Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. **7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, **8** because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. **9** And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

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17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. **18** Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **19** In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

KEY VERSE:

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. (Deuteronomy 24:19)



WORK OUT

WHAT IS THIS LESSON ABOUT? This lesson is about caring for the needs of those who are poor, widowed, fatherless—anyone who is powerless and needs help. Despite what some may think, many people who need help are not lazy and are not seeking a handout. They have fallen on hard times and need our help and generosity to get back on their feet.

When reading Deuteronomy 24:19-22 from today's lesson, Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz come to mind. Both Naomi and Ruth were poor widows, having no one to care for them. Ruth said to Naomi one day, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor" (Ruth 2:2).

The following verses highlight Boaz's generosity: "As she got up to glean, Boaz [a respected rich man] gave orders to his men, 'Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her'" (Ruth 2:15-16).

God blesses those who are generous. Boaz and Ruth were married, and they had a child: "And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David" (Ruth 4:17b). The Lord blessed Ruth in all the work of her hands. This demonstrates continued spiritual blessings because Ruth's family line would continue through Obed.

INSIDE OUT



In **Ephesians 6:5-9**, you can replace the word *slaves* with "subordinates" and the word *masters* with "supervisors." The point is, whether you are working on a job or doing chores at home, you are to do your best because hard work pays off. If you have mastered a specific subject and someone else is struggling, let that person know that you can help. This is generous. You may need his or her help next time.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Unfortunately, we live in a society where the motto is "I got mine; you get yours." The phrase "I got mine; you get yours" can be interpreted as a selfish statement. It suggests prioritizing personal gain above all else, potentially neglecting the needs and well-being of others. While it's natural to focus on one's own needs and goals, it's also important to consider the needs of others and strive for a more collaborative and empathetic approach. If there are students in your class who appear to need a winter coat, socks, or a meal, reach out to them. Be generous. Your actions can cause others to be generous as well.



"Pay it forward." This phrase became popular from the 2000 movie *Pay It Forward*. People still show their generosity by paying it forward. The moral is that if someone shows you kindness and generosity, you should turn around and do the same for someone else (not the person who was nice to you). Keep pushing generosity farther. This approach spreads and cultivates generosity. Watch the movie.



STEPPING OUT!

These are your challenges for the week:

- Create a list of all the things that you love and appreciate about yourself. God sees all these things and even more. They are precious.
- Look at the printed Scriptures. Name some ways that God wants us to treat one another.



Media Mission



Find songs or poems related to today's lesson; for example, listen to the song "Helping Hand" by Amy Grant, found at the site listed below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fx-92K08sc>



Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message. Each tile is used only once. Use spacing, punctuation, and common words to find adjacent tiles. Some words may be split into two lines.

