

Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. Like Melchizedek, He is a good King over His people and will one day reign supreme, uncontested and victorious. Like Jeshua, He is also our High Priest who intercedes for His people and builds a living Temple. However, our Lord Jesus Christ holds a *third* office, if you will. He is also God's tithe—the firstborn Son, the best and perfect unspotted sacrifice, the precious Lamb of God who takes away our sin (see John 1:36, John 10:17-18, 1 Peter 1:18-20, Revelation 1:5-6, 5:4-10). Ironically, these three roles are understood by wise men from eastern lands when they visit the Christ child in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:10-11).

4. How generous our LORD is! There is no one like our God. He is ever worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. All wealth and wisdom belong to Him. He deserves our attention, our affection, and our deepest reverence and worship. In the space below, write out how the Lord is calling you to live into generosity. Enter this time prayerfully. Lay aside any pre-conceived notions about generosity, tithing, and giving—and simply listen to what the Holy Spirit wants to say to you. God knows you, and God loves you already. There's nothing to prove. Just a love relationship to cherish.

Lord, for GENERATIONZ I feel like you are calling me to

Thank you for being so generous towards me. In return, I give myself to you.

One Year Bible Reading

- Mar. 8: Numbers 10:1-11:23, Mark 14:1-2, Psalm 51:1-19, Proverbs 10:31-32
- Mar. 9: Numbers 11:24-13:33, Mark 14:22-52, Psalm 52:1-9, Proverbs 11:1-3
- Mar. 10: Numbers 14:1-15:16, Mark 14:53-72, Psalm 53:1-6, Proverbs 11:4
- Mar. 11: Numbers 15:17-16:40, Mark 15:1-47, Psalm 54:1-7, Proverbs 11:5-6
- Mar. 12: Numbers 16:41-18:32, Mark 16:1-20, Psalm 55:1-23, Proverbs 11:7
- Mar. 13: Numbers 19:1-20:29, Luke 1:1-25, Psalm 56:1-13, Proverbs 11:8
- Mar. 14: Numbers 21:1-22:20, Luke 1:26-56, Psalm 57:1-11, Proverbs 11:9-11

Living a Generous Life

Text: Genesis 14: 17-20, Genesis 28: 20-22, Psalm 23: 1-6

The Plain Truth

Generosity is _____ God while fear and scarcity is _____ in _____.

WHY BE GENEROUS?

1. IT CREATES _____.
2. IT DEFEATS _____ and _____.
3. IT STRENGTHENS MY _____.
4. IT'S AN INVESTMENT IN _____.
5. IT BLESSES ME _____.
6. IT PRODUCES _____.
7. IT MAKES ME MORE _____.

March 7 & 8, 2015



Living a Generous Life

Life Group Lesson

• Week of March 8

What if we had a rearview mirror powerful enough to help us see into the past—far enough back to learn from someone like Abraham? We have that in God’s Word! Although Abraham is introduced in Genesis, the witness and impact of his faith is revisited throughout Scripture. We learn from Abraham how important tithing is and that faith opens the door for friendship with God (see Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:3, James 2:23). Abraham teaches us to believe that God can raise the dead (Romans 4:17), that God rewards those who are faithful (Genesis 15:1, Genesis 17:3-6), and that God alone grants victory over our enemies (Genesis 14:20).

Read Genesis 14:1-24

The Bible includes this story for a reason, one of which is to introduce Melchizedek. In this account, five kings of the Siddim Valley form a confederacy in defiance of four Mesopotamian kings who apparently 12 years prior had defeated these cities along the south end of the Dead Sea and subjugated them for tribute. It just so happens that Abraham’s nephew Lot had recently “moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain” (Genesis 13:12).

Once Abraham learns that his nephew Lot has been captured by Kedorlaomer of Elam and three other kings from the east, Abraham mobilizes 318 men born into his household and pursues them until he recovers Lot, all other captives, and the goods that have been taken (Genesis 14:14-16). An aged Abraham chooses to do the right thing and courageously goes after his nephew Lot. God is with his servant Abraham and gives him a remarkable victory in this rescue operation.

1. In addition to the king of Sodom (v17) who else greets Abraham upon his return and what does he bring Abraham? (v18)

Melchizedek recognizes Abraham’s faith in God Most High. How does Melchizedek honor Abraham for his faithfulness and courage—what words of blessing does he speak over Abraham? (vv19-20)

How does Abraham in turn honor Melchizedek? (v20b)

What does the king of Sodom say to Abraham? (v21)

How does Abraham respond to the king of Sodom? (vv22-24)

Before God’s law was given to Moses at Mt. Sinai, God’s law was already in place in the hearts of the faithful. Honoring God with tithes and offerings date back to the days of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:4), Noah (Genesis 8:20-21a), Abraham (Genesis 14:20), and Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22). When we trust God with the first ten percent of our income, and live generously toward others, we are truly identifying ourselves with God Most High. Becoming generous is inevitable in the hearts of men and women who believe God, who trust in His power and personal presence—who have experienced the wonder of pardon, provision, and protection.

2. Recall a time when the Lord was personally generous with you in regards to pardon, provision, or protection. In what ways were you inspired (encouraged, motivated, compelled) to live more deeply into your faith?

What effect did it have on the people around you?

An outpouring of God’s grace and generosity always affects the people around us. It especially blesses those who recognize God’s goodness and are willing to rejoice with us. Abraham teaches us that God is generous with broken people. Although Abraham made mistakes, he always turned back to the God who would never leave or forsake him. His faith has impacted the world up to this day. In fact, the Bible says not only has Abraham been promised many descendants, but God has promised “to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants” (see Romans 4:13).

3. Refer to the following Scriptures. Who are the spiritual descendants of Abraham and what promise is given to these spiritual descendants?

Romans 4:11-12

Galatians 3:6-9

Galatians 3:13-14

Romans 4:20-25

Fourteen generations after Abraham, one of his own descendants, King David, reflects upon “the order” of Melchizedek as he writes Psalm 110. “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet...You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek’” (Psalm 110: 1, 4b).

Melchizedek means “king of righteousness” and “the order” of Melchizedek refers to a unique dual office held by this servant of God—king and priest. Many scholars believe Melchizedek was a godly Jebusite king and priest. For sure, he prefigures the role of Messiah as the writer of the book of Hebrews refers to him extensively in relation to Christ our Lord (see Hebrews 7). Another place in the Old Testament this unique double-function as priest and king is mentioned in reference to Jeshua the high priest during the time of the return of exiles to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (Zechariah 6:9-15). This also points to the future Messianic Kingdom.