

DAY 4

WHY is it important to give?

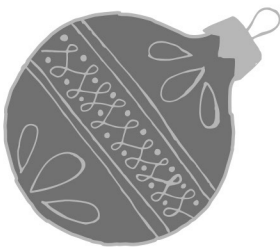
Think about someone you know who's been really generous.

Maybe your parents know a friend who donated a lot of money to help others—like for a service project or a mission trip.

Maybe you know somebody who lets other people use their extra car if theirs breaks down or maybe they let others stay at their vacation house for free. How about that teacher who puts in a lot of extra hours to help their students win in a tough subject?

Do you think those people would say they “missed out” because they didn’t use their time, their stuff, or their money for themselves? Or do you think they’re glad they did it? How do you think they would have “missed out” if they DIDN’T help?

Don’t miss out on something important that God can do in **your** life!



LIVE
FOR GOD



DAY 1

READ LUKE 12:13-21

Look again at what Jesus said to the rich young man in verse 15.

When you hear “on your guard,” you probably think of things like . . .

- a security guard protecting an important place
- a martial arts fighter taking a defensive stance
- a soccer goalkeeper guarding the net

But do we really need to be “on our guard” about our stuff?

The fact is, the more things you have, the more you end up focusing on those things. You spend all your energy on **keeping** what you have and you miss out on the chance to help the people around you.

So live generously. Stay “on your guard” so you don’t fall into the same kind of trap. Don’t miss your chance to give!

HEAR
FROM GOD

DAY 2

Have you ever heard of the phrase “tight-fisted”? It means someone who’s not willing to share what they have.

Let’s demonstrate. Find a quarter or a dollar bill. Now put it in your hand, and hold both hands out in front of you. Clench both of your hands into a fist as tight as you can.

Now try opening your hands, with the palms facing up with that money right there for everyone to see.

If you want to live generously, you’ve got to open your heart just like you opened your hands. Instead of holding on tightly to what’s “yours,” you can be open to giving it away. Tight-fisted, or open-handed; which one do YOU want to be?

**ASK GOD TO HELP YOU LIVE
WITH OPEN HANDS.**

PRAY
TO GOD

DAY 3

Have you ever thought about the people who lead at your church—why they do what they do? Think about your small group leader, the people who greet you at the door, or the people who put on the adult services.

Every single one of those people has decided that serving is important. They’ve decided to give their **time** for you, and for others like you.

It would be really easy for them to show up on Sunday and think, “OK, what am I going to get out of church today?” But they’ve found a better way. They’ve decided to focus on what they can **GIVE**, not what they can **GET**.

The next time you’re at church, talk to your leader about why they started serving. Ask them why it’s important for them to give back. Be sure to give them a big thank you hug or high-five!

TALK
ABOUT GOD