



**The Salvation Army**

Jack McDowell School for Leadership Development

Evangeline Booth College, Atlanta, GA

[www.missionmover.org](http://www.missionmover.org)

In cooperation with  
**EQUIP's** Million Leaders Mandate  
Series Two ~ Notebook One  
The Salvation Army Edition

# Managing My Generosity, Values and Growth

## Lesson 1: Managing My Generosity

### *The Big Idea:*

*“... For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”  
Philippians 4:11-13*

In our world today, so much emphasis is placed on living longer and cramming more into our lives. We seem to be interested more in quantity than quality. Jesus didn't model that value. He taught us that it is not the duration of our lives that counts, but the donation! Isn't about what we get out of it, but what we put into it.

Consider these questions:

- When I die, what will I leave behind for others?
- Will I leave more than an inheritance?
- Will I leave a legacy?

In these lessons, we will focus on three important items to manage in our lives:

**Our Generosity**  
**Our Values**  
**Our Personal Growth**

### *A Question to Consider:*

*Why does accumulating more resources fail to lead to generosity?*



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### Our Generosity: My Generosity Today Gives Me Significance

If your income doubled overnight, how much money would you give away? How about if your net worth was suddenly more than you could count? What if you became the richest person in the world?

Yes, those are just dreams, but God asks us a real stewardship question every day of our lives. Our response communicates how much He can trust us with more resources: What are we going to do with what we have? The question isn't what we'll do if we somehow obtain a lot of money someday. The issue is: what are we doing with our resources now?

### Biblical Case Study: The Rich Man (Luke 12:15-21)

*<sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."  
<sup>16</sup> And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'  
<sup>18</sup> "Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."  
<sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"  
<sup>21</sup> "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

In this famous story, Jesus introduces us to a rich man who illustrates what happens when our lives center on ourselves instead of others. Note the truths in this passage:

1. He was faced with a \_\_\_\_\_ on what to do with the surplus he had (v. 16-17).
2. He chose to store up his surplus and \_\_\_\_\_ it all himself (v. 18).
3. He was shocked when his life ended and God found him \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19-20).
4. He failed in life because he never developed a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit (v. 21).



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## Why Generosity Matters Today

What about us as leaders? How should we approach giving? Why should we be generous? There are many reasons, but let's look at three of them below:

### 1. Giving Turns Your \_\_\_\_\_ Outward.

Jesus said: *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* (Matthew 6:21). He didn't say it was the other way around. He said to put your money somewhere, and your heart will follow. Giving turns your focus outward, instead of on yourself. Generosity is changing one's focus from self to others.

### 2. Giving Adds \_\_\_\_\_ to Others.

Anyone who is generous is valuable. Proverbs 11:24-25 reminds us: *"There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered."* When you add value to others, you do not take anything from yourself. In fact, the greater the giving, the greater you're living.

### 3. Giving \_\_\_\_\_ the Giver.

When you are generous to others, you cannot help but benefit yourself. It's the way God set up His Kingdom. Jesus teaches us: *"Give and it shall be given to you. Good measure pressed down shaken together and running over shall men give unto you."* (Luke 6:38).

## Making the Decision to Model Generosity

Follow these rules of adding value:

1. **Value people:** Treat everyone with respect.
2. **Know what people value:** Listen and understand them.
3. **Make yourself more valuable:** Grow in relevant ways.
4. **Do things that God values:** Since He loves unconditionally, so must we.



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Here are some tips to living a more generous life:

1. Don't keep score.  
*Give others your resources without keeping track of your gift.*
2. Give others yourself, not just your money.  
*Offer your time and energy sacrificially.*
3. Don't wait for prosperity to become generous.  
*Manage what you have now.*
4. Find reasons to give every day.  
*Look for excuses to give generously to others.*
5. Find people every day to whom you can add value.  
*Be proactive in looing for people to invest in.*

### *A Thought to Ponder:*

*What prevents you from being more generous?*

### *What Difference Would It Make:*

*What is one step you should take today to model generosity?*

*What difference would it make if you took that step?*



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# Managing My Generosity, Values and Growth

## Lesson 2: Managing My Values

### *The Big Idea:*

*“ . . . For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*  
*Philippians 4:11-13*

### **Our Values: My Values Give Me Direction**

Over the last five years, global companies in the marketplace have faced lawsuits because of moral and financial crimes. In churches, ministers and priests have also faced criminal charges because of their failure to live a list of integrity. Professional athletes share the same story - somehow they believe they can do whatever they want off of the field. They feel exempt from the “rules” of society.

What do all of these stories have in common? VALUES. Every story reflects the incredible damage that can be done when individuals lose direction as they forget to practice values. Values give us a moral compass. We need them to make good and wise decisions, especially when we face tempting circumstances.

### *A Question to Consider:*

*What is one of your top values that you try to live by?*



## Biblical Case Study: David and Saul (1 Samuel 24:1-22)

*After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi."*

*<sup>2</sup> So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. <sup>3</sup> He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.*

*<sup>4</sup> The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish."*

*Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.*

*<sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.*

*<sup>6</sup> He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD."<sup>7</sup> With these words*

*David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul.*

*And Saul left the cave and went his way.*

*<sup>8</sup> Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!"*

*When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.*

*<sup>9</sup> He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?*

*<sup>10</sup> This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the LORD's anointed.'<sup>11</sup> See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to*

*indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD judge between you and me.*

*And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.*

*<sup>13</sup> As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.*

*<sup>14</sup> "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?"<sup>15</sup> May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."*

*<sup>16</sup> When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?"*

*And he wept aloud. <sup>17</sup> "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. <sup>18</sup> You have just now told me about the good you did to me;*

*the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. <sup>19</sup> When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today.*

*<sup>20</sup> I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands.*

*<sup>21</sup> Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."*

*<sup>22</sup> So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.*



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### Biblical Case Study: David and Saul (1 Samuel 24:1-22)

In this story, David is a leader who lives by his values; he demonstrates that he's a better man than King Saul. You remember the story . . . Saul has chosen to hunt for and kill David, because he feel threatened by David's popularity and strength. When Saul enters a cave where David and his men are hiding, David has a perfect opportunity to kill his enemy and assume his promised role as king. But he doesn't. Why? It's all a matter of values.

#### Saul's Values Caused Him . . .

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ those who threaten him.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ rage, jealousy and envy.
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ in behavior.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ God in the little things.
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ integrity by covering his sin.

#### David's Values Caused Him . . .

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ no one.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ with himself and God.
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ and righteous.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ God in the little things.
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ integrity by respecting Saul.



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### Where to Start with Values

1. Create a list of \_\_\_\_\_.

List words that describe your core values. (No more than six words).

2. Make a \_\_\_\_\_ to embrace those values daily, regardless of your feelings.

How will you do this?

3. \_\_\_\_\_ your values to others.

Who will you share them with?

4. Compare your values to your \_\_\_\_\_ each day.

Where are you strong? Where are you weak?

5. \_\_\_\_\_ each day in light of your values.

List the ways that you implemented your core values.





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### Why Values Matter Today

Here are three word pictures that describe why values are so valuable!

1. Values are your \_\_\_\_\_.

*They can hold you in place during the storms of life when everyone else is wavering.*

2. Values are your faithful \_\_\_\_\_.

*They remind you of your intentions and hold you accountable to do what's right.*

3. Values are your \_\_\_\_\_.

*They guide you when your future is unfamiliar and uncertain.*

### *A Thought to Ponder:*

*Our values are proven by our actions.*

*What do your actions say about your values?*

*Do people know what you value most  
by the way you act and set your priorities?*

### *What Difference Would It Make:*

*What difference would it make  
if you intentionally lived out of your values every day?*



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# Managing My Generosity, Values and Growth

## Lesson 3: Managing My Growth

### The Big Idea:

*“ . . . For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”  
Philippians 4:11-13*

### **Our Growth: My Growth Gives Me Potential**

This third issue may be the most important one. If you are still growing in any area, there is hope for you. The truth is - it's not so much where you are, but what direction you're going that matters.

Robert Louis Stevenson said, *“To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.”*

One Pulitzer Prize winning composer said it this way, *“Hell begins on that day when God grants us a clear vision of all that we might have achieved, of all the gifts we wasted, of all that we might have done that we did not do.”* A life that is positively changing is the proper measure as to whether information is making a difference in one's life.

### A Question to Consider:

*What hinders you from continuing to grow personally?*



## **Biblical Case Study: The Apostle Paul (Philippians 3:12-14)**

*<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ he wasn't where he wanted to be (v. 12).

Paul admitted he wasn't perfect and that he still needed to grow as a person.

2. He \_\_\_\_\_ what he wanted (v.12).

Paul figured out exactly what it was that was worth working for and growing toward.

3. He \_\_\_\_\_ what hindered him (v.13).

Paul uncovered exactly what it was that would prevent him from reaching his goal.

4. He \_\_\_\_\_ how to get it (v. 14).

Paul learned the steps he needed to take to gain the outcome he was pursuing.

## **Misconceptions About Growth**

1. Growth is Automatic: \_\_\_\_\_

*Many grow older without growing up or growing wiser.*

2. Growth comes from information: \_\_\_\_\_

*Knowledge without application means little.*

3. Growth comes with experience: \_\_\_\_\_

*Experience is only good if it improves us.*

4. Growth is unnecessary for me: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you plan to lead, you must keep growing.*



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### Steps for Personal Growth

Here are some practical steps to ensure personal growth in your life.

1. Make a \_\_\_\_\_ to grow in some way every day.
2. Establish \_\_\_\_\_ for growth in key areas of your life.
3. Put yourself in a \_\_\_\_\_ environment.
4. Learn to enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_: learn all you can from each person, resource and opportunity.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ what you learn in a place where you can find it when you need it.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ what you learn.

#### *A Thought to Ponder:*

*Think about what would happen if you never grew intellectually, spiritually or emotionally any more for the rest of your life.*

*What would it cost you?*

#### *What Difference Would It Make:*

*What difference would it make if you were intentional about growing in some way every day for the rest of your life?*