

# Practice

## Exercise: Be generous to the poor.

Our exercise for this week is to share your resources with someone in need. **You can give to an organization doing good work serving the poor, either globally or locally.**

### Around the world

Here are two great organizations that serve the poor around the world:

- [Compassion International](#)
  - Through Compassion's signature "Sponsor a Child" program, gifts of around \$50 per month connect children in the developing world to the church, education, nutrition, mentoring, and medical care.
- [Hope International](#)
  - Hope International disburses small loans (microloans) to help marginalized people around the world. Through savings group communities, Hope shares biblical truth and practical wisdom. Recipients repay the funds 98 percent of the time, allowing gifts to flow to more and more people in need. Consider sending \$25 per month, which would invest in the dreams of one micro-entrepreneur each month.

### In your community

Many churches have ways to jump in and connect with those in your local community. If your church doesn't have that, here are two faithful organizations to check out that may be working in your community:

- [Citygate Network](#)
  - Citygate is a network of rescue missions that point people toward Jesus. If you're in North America, see if there's a place for you to consider both giving financially and getting involved personally.
- [The Salvation Army](#)
  - Operating in 130 countries through thousands of local offices, Salvation Army meets the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of people in need through social services, disaster relief, and more.

**Or you can give to someone you know in need in your relational circle.** This could be a member of your extended family, someone in your community or church, or just someone you know of in your circle of reach.

If you give directly to someone you know, you could buy someone groceries, send cash to help pay bills, purchase an item they need, or drop off money or necessary items at their home anonymously.

**If you don't know what to do, pray for God to illuminate an idea in your heart and direct your steps into what is pleasing to him.**

# Practice

## Reach Exercise: Give not just your money but your time.

If you see a need, meet it yourself.

This could look like serving dinner at your local rescue mission, or mowing an elderly neighbor's lawn, or mentoring a kid in your local school, or having a meal with someone on the margins. There are a thousand ways to express the love of Jesus.

The goal is to blur the lines between giver and receiver; to become kin and family of God.

# Go Deeper

## Read

*Giving Is the Good Life* by Randy Alcorn

Chapters 13-18 (pages 167-261)

## Listen

Rule of Life Podcast on Generosity

Episode 04

## Reflect

Before your next time together with the group for the Bonus Session, take five to ten minutes to journal out your answers to the following three questions.

- 01 Where did I feel resistance or overwhelm?
- 02 What aspects of this exercise felt natural or unnatural to me?
- 03 What did I sense God doing in me as I gave?

May you be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and may your generosity result in thanksgiving to God.