

envy or admire look at your life and tell you, ‘You’ve arrived!’?

Being generous with our possessions is also wonderfully liberating. Our lives can be dominated by the accumulation of stuff, but we free ourselves from this tyranny by choosing generosity. **Share about a time when you let go of some material possessions and consequently felt unencumbered, lighter, freer.**

Many of us hardly ever carry cash anymore, so there’s something compelling about the physicality of being generous with possessions. Of course, it’s easy to give away things we no longer want or need, but as Mary shows, true generosity is when we give away something we fiercely value and cannot replace. Mary had lost, and then found, her beloved brother. Compared to that, material possessions were insignificant to her. She generously gave away a treasured possession and, in doing so, showed her faith in Jesus. By giving away some of what we have, we can do the same. **Is a particular possession coming to mind? What do you value far more than that precious possession? How do you sense God prompting you to be generous?**

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Matthew 6:25–27. **What are you worried about at the moment? Is worry helping? How many meals have you eaten this week? Have you had something to wear every day this week? What is God revealing to you about His provision, and your freedom to be generous with what you have?**

In Matthew 10:9–10, Jesus gives His disciples specific, and quite unusual, instructions about what they should take with them on their upcoming ministry tour. **Why do you think Jesus wanted His friends to travel light?**

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’ **Brainstorm some ways you could share this verse with a group of young people, to encourage them to be generous with their possessions.**

Read Acts 20:35 and 1 John 3:17. **Who in your community is in need? Would you prefer to give them something, or get something from them? Why?**

LAST WORD

At the end of the day, things are just things. May we constantly keep in mind that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10). We serve a generous, well-resourced God, and our lives reflect His character when we are generous with our possessions, expecting nothing in return except joy.

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19 from a Bible translation you don't usually use, or write out these verses, or read them aloud. Are you rich, by the world's standards? Are you ready to share?

Write: Every day this week, prayerfully write up an inventory of possessions in a different wardrobe or drawer of room of your house. What is God nudging you to give away?

Pray: Write a crafted prayer – one you can come back to again and again to pray and re-pray – in which you surrender to God your material possessions, commit to living generously, and declare your dependence on His provision.