

July 6/7, 2024
"God Is Generous"
Pastor Jeff Manion



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

July: Read Isaiah to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 [Psalm 104](#) | God is Generous

He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work. Psalm 104:13

God makes his generosity evident from the opening pages of Scripture. As God creates the world, he generously fills the earth and skies with beauty and wonder ([Genesis 1](#)). The psalmist also points to God's generosity through creation. He praises God for giving water that quenches thirst and grows food ([Psalm 104:13-14](#)). His praise includes crops that become bread to sustain people. He praises God for trees that provide shelter for birds ([Psalm 104:15-17](#)). Generosity is one of God's core character traits.

This week, we will learn to recognize God's generosity in creation, through Jesus and in us. We are surrounded by God's generosity through the beauty of nature and nourishing food. More deeply, we are recipients of his ultimate act of generosity. Jesus sacrificed himself on the cross so we could be reconciled to God. Understanding God's generosity should shape our identity and actions. We are not defined by our past wounds or failures but by our status as God's beloved children ([Ephesians 5:1-2](#)). This truth enables us to live generously, reflecting God's character to others.

TODAY: Ask God to open your eyes to his generosity. Pray that he will show you his great generosity this week in places you may have missed. "Father, thank you for your generosity in creation and Jesus's life, death and resurrection. Help me live secure in my identity in you, and empower me to extend your generosity to others. Amen."

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 14-16](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 2 [Psalm 65](#) | Generosity in Creation

You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. Psalm 65:10-11

Creation is the moment when God first makes his generosity public. God does not create the world because he is lonely or bored. Rather, God creates out of his generous fullness. God creates the world to share himself with people. It is through creation that God shouts: "I am here! I am creative! I am good! I am wildly generous!" The psalmist also declares that God is generous. He sees God's generosity in watering the earth to grow grain and crops that feed and sustain people ([Psalm 65:9-11](#)).

God's generosity is evident in the everyday blessings we often take for granted. We often thank God for the food he provides. But, we may miss how the goodness of the meal shows the kindness of God. When we savor a tasty meal or admire a stunning sunset, we're invited to see beyond the physical experience. We can appreciate

the generous creator behind it. This view can turn our normal moments into chances for thanks, wonder and worship. It reminds us that we serve a generous God who delights in blessing his creation. When we taste a summer salad, we taste the goodness of God. He is great, good and generous.

TODAY: Food that brightens the soul is supposed to point us toward the Creator. As you eat today, taste the goodness and generosity of God. Notice the colors and savor the flavors. Remember how he waters the earth to make food grow. Take a moment to thank him for providing you with food that nourishes your body and brings joy.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 17-19](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how God makes himself known to the nations through Jesus.

Day 3 [John 15:9-17](#) | Generosity in Christ

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

Jesus tells his disciples again that he loves them. Within hours, he will be beaten and hung on a cross. People will mock him. Jesus's closest friends—those sitting at the table with him—will deny and desert him. But in a final conversation before his death, Jesus tells them he willingly lays down his life because of God's generous love. The greatest reflection of God's generosity is seen in the self-giving love of Jesus.

One of the most familiar passages in Scripture comes a few chapters before this final conversation. The Apostle John sits at the table with Jesus. He later records, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" ([John 3:16](#)). We might see this verse written on signs at ball games. The wording may have become so familiar that the depth of meaning has become lost on us. Out of his great love for us, God sent Jesus to *die* so we could have eternal life. Jesus gave up his life. This aspect of God's generosity should change everything for us. When we respond to God's love for us through Jesus and believe in him, we have eternal life—beginning now.

TODAY: Thank God for his incredible generosity through Jesus. This same generosity invites you to join his family by believing in Jesus's death and resurrection. Join the Ada Bible Worship Team as they sing "[There is a Savior](#)." Thank God that "We are forgiven, we are redeemed. This is the good news because of Jesus." Ask God to prevent you from ever getting over the amazement of that gift.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 20-22](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how what is said about Eliakim could also point to Jesus ([Isaiah 22:20-24](#)).

Day 4 [2 Corinthians 9:6-11](#) | Generosity in You

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Corinthian church promises to send a gift to help believers during a famine in Jerusalem. When they fail to follow through, Paul writes a letter to encourage them to give as they promised. Rather than using his authority as an Apostle, Paul takes the occasion to teach generosity ([2 Corinthians 8-9](#)). Paul reminds them of Jesus's incredible generosity. God intends for his people to reflect his generosity. God loves cheerful givers because he is a cheerful giver.

When we give out of a cheerful spirit, God's character and image are reflected in us. It's not only that we have invited God into our lives through our faith in Jesus. The true wonder is that God is inviting us into *his* life. When we pursue a life of generosity, we are never making the first move. Rather, we join a conversation that has been

going on since the creation of the world. We reflect God's generosity when we give part of our income to a family in need, fund a mission hospital or support the local church. God's generosity is clear in creation, the food on our tables and in Jesus's sacrifice for us. It will also be evident in us when we live with generosity.

TODAY: Consider your attitude toward generosity. Do you give out of duty, obligation or habit? Or do you give out of a cheerful heart because of what God has done for you through Jesus? Confess any wrong attitudes. Ask God to grow in you a cheerful, giving heart that reflects his character to the world.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 23-24](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 5 [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#) | Sharing God's Generosity

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

The Apostle Paul teaches believers in the city of Corinth, reminding them of their new identity. Because of their faith in Jesus, they are a "new creation" through God's generosity ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). Their old life is gone. God has given them a new life in Christ. Then Paul tells them they have a new job. They are to share this incredible news of God's love and generosity with others.

The same is true for us today. Paul says our message is that "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them" ([2 Corinthians 5:19](#)). God generously loves all people and wants a relationship with them. He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation to tell others so they can accept Christ and be reconciled to God. We are made new in Christ, and he has given us a new purpose. Whoever we are and whatever we do, we are entrusted with this message. We represent Jesus through our godly character and words of truth. God is calling us to be ambassadors wherever we are. We are ambassadors to our friends, neighbors and even those we interact with at the coffee shop or grocery store.

TODAY: Who in your life needs to know the generosity of God through Jesus? Pray for them, asking God to work in their hearts and use you to share the gospel of Jesus with them. If you would like to learn how to share this message, check out our series "The Gospel & Your Story" on Right Now Media. Create a free account at app.rightnowmedia.org/join/adabiblechurch.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 25-26](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the banquet feast, that death is swallowed up and tears are wiped away ([Isaiah 25:6-8](#)).