

The Walk: Five Essential Practices for the Christian Life  
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Session 4  
Give: Where Your Treasure Is...  
Study/Discussion Guide

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

Review

Essential Practice #1: Worship (weekly) and Prayer (daily); 5 components of prayer  
Essential Practice #2: Study (5 verses a day, moving toward 5 chapters a week, or more)  
Essential Practice #3: Serve (find 5 ways to serve or help someone every week)

Checking In

- Were you able to find 5 ways to help someone over the last week?
- Did you experience any frustrations as you practiced the discipline of service?
- Did you do something for someone you had never done before?
- Did your service bring you joy?

Prayer

Holy and generous God, we thank you for your abundant blessings and your amazing generosity toward us. We stand in awe of your gifts of overflowing grace, mercy, and love. Open our hearts that we may respond to your love with generosity toward others. Amen.

Listen to the Audio Recording for Session 4

Questions Related to the Recording

- In the recording Adam describes the Bible and his wallet as being in conflict. How do you experience this conflict in your own life?
- Do you agree that our tax returns and our checkbooks reflect our priorities and values?
- What does extraordinary generosity mean to you? How does that kind of generosity shape your perspectives on life and your walk with Christ?

Considering the Key Bible Verse

Matthew 6:19-21 (printed above)

- Have you ever had the experience of losing an earthly treasure to rust or breakage or theft? If so, how did you feel afterwards?
- What do you think are the “treasures in heaven” that Jesus mentions?

- Where is your treasure? Where is your heart?

### Book Study and Discussion

Jesus says: “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Luke 12:15

Hamilton says that we live in a society where every voice around us is telling us just the opposite: that our lives, in fact, do revolve around an abundance of stuff we own.

- When have you acted on the belief that you would find happiness and fulfillment if you owned a certain item? What happened?

### Keys to the “Good Life”

- Gratitude
- Living purposefully
- Generosity

### Gratitude

- Can you think of a possession that still serves its purpose, but with which you are dissatisfied for some reason, and would like to replace?
- Consider saying to yourself, regularly: “I really like my \_\_\_\_\_. I’m so grateful for it.”
- Reread Matthew 6:19-21 (printed above).

### Living Purposefully

Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. Matthew 22:37-39

- How do loving God and neighbor give our lives purpose?
- How is this kind of love related to generosity?

### Generosity

“Because we were created in the image of a generous God, we were created for generosity to be the regular rhythm of our lives.” *The Walk*, p. 103

- What’s the rhythm of your own life when it comes to generosity?
- Do you give generously to someone in need?
- Do you resent being asked for money, by your church or anyone?
- Or do you look forward to being asked and having the opportunity to give?

- How does the practice of generosity help us grow deeper in our faith?
- In what ministries of generosity have you participated? How do you feel about your participation?
- Have you ever been the recipient of someone's generosity?
- Does practicing the spiritual discipline of generosity bring you joy? What does that feel like?

### Continuing the Essential Practices (Spiritual Disciplines)

1. Continue to practice the disciplines of Worship (weekly) and Prayer (5 times daily); remember the five elements of prayer (p. 37)
2. Continue to practice the discipline of Study (5 verses of scripture per day; grow to 5 chapters per week, or more)
3. Practice the discipline of Service: find ways to help someone, or to serve in another way, 5 times each week
4. Practice the discipline of Giving: commit to 5 acts of extravagant generosity over the next month

### Prayer

Thank you, God, for everything I have. I recognize that all of life is a gift from you. Please help me to become more generous, more willing to share with others. Help me to live beneath my means so that I might have enough margin to give. Help me to be generous toward you and others, remembering your unending generosity toward me. Amen.

### John Wesley's Covenant Prayer (Contemporary Version)

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed by you, or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you, or brought low by you;  
let me be full, let me be empty,  
let me have all things, let me have nothing:  
I freely and fully yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be confirmed in heaven. Amen.