



# REIMAGINE

## WEEK 3 - GENEROUSLY SUPPLIED OVERVIEW

One of the clearest distinctives of the Philippian church to Paul was their constant and overwhelming generosity. From opening their homes to opening their wallets (coin pouches?), this community was dedicated to sharing their resources to see the mission of God continue. In fact, the likely occasion for this letter was Paul's gratitude for the gifts the Philippian church had just sent with Epaphroditus to care for Paul in prison (4:18). In his thanksgiving, Paul reminds the Philippians that their generosity is more than just a tangible contribution; it is a sweet-smelling offering to God.

At Grace we dream of finding new ways to use our building to reach our community. We have ideas of new ministry expressions which will help our church family reach their "ones" with the love of Christ. And we would love to make our space more welcoming to all who are longing for community. With the Reimagine Initiative we have an opportunity to share generously of our resources to do just that, and to celebrate the joy of seeing what God can do with our humble offerings, just as he did with the Philippians'.

*This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches,  
which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*

***Philippians 4:19***

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe friendship today, compared to Aristotle's levels of friendship (useful, pleasant, good), as Barry explained? What kinds of friends do you have? What kind of friend are you?
2. Read [Philippians 4:10-14](#).
  - a. Why do you think Paul doesn't say thank you, but does choose to write this letter to the church in Philippi?
  - b. Why would Paul tell them he didn't really need this gift?
3. Read [Philippians 4:15-17](#) and [2 Corinthians 8:1-3](#). What are the differences between giving out of obligation, for services rendered, or out of overflowing love? Does the reason you give really matter? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever given a gift to someone who felt the need to then reciprocate? Share what happened.
5. Read [Philippians 4:18-19](#) and [Matthew 6:19-21](#).
  - a. What is the three-way relationship that Barry refers to?
6. What does it mean to be generous with our own gifts and resources today? How can we apply Paul's wisdom about gifts to how we give?