

**Title:** A GENEROUS GOD

**Text:** GEN 1:1-2, PSALM 104:28, MATT 6:26-30, JOHN 3:16-17, TITUS 3:3-7

**Teacher:** TOM NELSON

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### **Our Hands Tell a Story**

What do God's "hands" tell us?

### **God's Open Hands Tell of His Outpouring Generosity**

- in creating the world (Genesis 1:1-2)
- in caring for the world (Psalm 104:28, Matthew 6:26-30)
- in redeeming the world (John 3:16-17, Titus 3:3-7)

### **Are Our Hands Open to God's Outpouring Generosity?**

- 1) What keeps us from having open hands?
- 2) Have we received the indescribable gift?
- 3) Are we experiencing His generous grace?

*We love because He first loved us. (1 John 5:19)*

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## CONVERSATION STARTER

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- Describe a time when someone was generous on your behalf. Have you ever found it difficult to receive a gift that someone has given you? If so, why? Have you ever found out that someone rejected or returned a gift you gave them? How did it make you feel?
- Read Psalm 104:1-31. What are some of the different ways that God's provision is described and illustrated in this Psalm? How does God show His control over the created order? Why might the Psalmist have highlighted God's provision and providence over the animal kingdom in this Psalm?
- Read Titus 3:3-7. Where is God's generosity highlighted in this passage (through Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)? What do you think it means that we become "heirs"? Why is God's generosity so central to the Christian gospel?
- Read the excerpt below. For Tozer, why is our conception of God important? Do you think he is right about this? Do you agree with Tozer that "we tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God"? How might this play out in our lives? What are the implications of understanding God's great generosity in creation, providence, and redemption?
- How have you seen God's grace and generosity in your life? Have you ever found it difficult to receive God's grace and mercy in your life? In what ways might you be closing your hand to something God wants to give you?

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**EXCERPT FROM:** *The Knowledge of the Holy*

**BY:** A. W. Tozer

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What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of humankind will probably show that no people has ever risen about its religion, and a person's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.

For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any person is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that compose the Church. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech. She can never escape the self-disclosure of her witness concerning God.