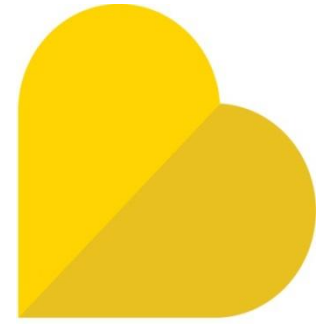


# The Single Thing

## Cultivating a Character of Generous Love.



**BAPTIST  
WORLD AID  
AUSTRALIA**  
Be love. End poverty.

WEEK 3

## **Simple Definition of *character***

The way someone thinks, feels, and behaves : someone's personality

## **Simple Definition of *generosity***

The quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish,  
the quality of being generous; *especially* :  
willingness to give money and other valuable things to  
others

## Mark 10:17-27

**17**As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

**18**“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. **19**But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’<sup>e</sup>”

**20**“Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

**21**Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

**22**At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

**23**Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” **24**This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard<sup>f</sup> to enter the Kingdom of God. **25**In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

**26**The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

**27**Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”

## Matthew 6:1-4

**1**“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. **2**When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. **3**But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. **4**Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

## John 5:1-8

**1**Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. **2**Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda,<sup>a</sup> with five covered porches. **3**Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches.<sup>b</sup> **5**One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. **6**When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

**7**“I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

**8**Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

1. **Gratitude** : Recognising generosity.

We need to take time to appreciate what God has done

2. **Presence** : Space and time for generosity

3. **Compassion** : A heart of generosity

(The ability to sense another person's need and have the desire to do something to resolve it.)

4. **Wisdom** : Effective generosity

5. **Humility** : Giving ourselves generously

## Our Challenge:

Select one of the habits described

\*Write your selected habit and the actions you will take to cultivate it.

\*Take a moment at the beginning and end of each day to read the note and reflect on how you are starting to implement your actions.