

Welcome!

- ✓ ***Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.***
- ✓ ***Say hello to someone you don't know.***
- ✓ ***We'll gather at 10:20am.***

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Preparing our Hearts for Worship

Psalms 145:13b-17

“The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.”



Growing in Faith

"...like a tree planted by streams of water"

- Psalm 1

“Growing in Faith” Overview

The purpose of this series is to identify practices and give encouragement to help each of us grow in faith and relationship with Jesus.

Theme Verse... Psalms 1:1-3

*“Blessed is the one... whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. **That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,** which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.”*

Ingredients for growth

1. Salvation
2. Submission
3. Spending time with God
4. Spending time with God's people
 - Giving of our time, talents & treasure
5. Sharing God's love with others
6. Suffering

Last Week

Trusting God in our Talents

- Kids
- Hospitality
- Worship
- Outreach
- Care



This Week

Growing in Faith by
Trusting God in our Treasure

Our Giving Experiences

Guilt or Pride

vs.

Gratitude and Faith

Mark 10:17-27 - The Rich Young Ruler

“As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” The disciples were amazed at his words.

But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

The Good News of Giving

The rich young ruler was trying to earn God's salvation by his own good works. When we operate in that mindset, we either experience guilt because we don't think we're giving enough or pride because we think so enamored with our own generosity. But the Good News is that, even though our hearts are greedy and selfish, we are covered in the righteousness of Christ, and our giving is a result of his generosity towards us, not an effort of our generosity towards him.

We Can't Outgive God

- **He will supply our every need.**

“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.”

- Psalms 37:25-26

We Can't Outgive God

- **He challenges us to test Him in this.**

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

- Malachi 3:10

How We Give

1. Hearts

“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

How We Give

2. Hands

“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” – Proverbs 3:9-10

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...”
- Malachi 3:10*

A few thoughts about tithing

1. Tipping = 15% Tithing = 10%
2. You don't have to have a lot to be generous.
3. God grows our faith when we give.

Giving is a response.

*“He who did not spare his own Son,
but **gave him up for us all**—how will he not also,
along with him, graciously give us all things.”*

- Romans 8:32

Giving = Trust + Submission

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:19-21*

An illustration of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a blue sash. A large brown teddy bear with a red ribbon is on his back. He is gesturing with his right hand towards a young girl with black hair in a ponytail, wearing a green shirt and a black skirt. She is holding a small brown dog. The background is a solid light blue color.

Just trust
Me.

But I love
it, God...

Start where you are.

When we give, we connect ourselves to the greatest cause this world has ever known, and we become conduits for the power and love of God to flow through us in our time, talents, and our treasures.

- *“Every human being wants to have a significant part in a significant cause.”* - R.C. Sproul

Closing Thought

When we cast off our fear and put on faith, we enter into a dimension of life, such that we encounter God in a very real way, both in our receiving, and in our giving. And when that happens, we find ourselves growing in faith.

The Blessing

May the Lord, who is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love, uphold you when you fall and lift you up when you are bowed down. May the Lord provide for all your needs, and may your mouth be filled with praise, because He is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

- from Psalm 145:8-17