

OCTOBER 24, 2021

WEEK 1

Stewardship Series

For Mature Audiences Only



WHY: THE GRACE OF GIVING



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Getting Started:

- Welcome to our 2021 Stewardship Series! Stewardship is the time of year when we reflect on how we use our time, money, and gifts to more fully follow Christ. Stewardship culminates with Commitment Sunday, where we have an opportunity to pledge financially as well as to explore how we might serve through St. Luke's.
- Start your time together by sharing about your week.
- Have a group member read this week's Scripture then open in prayer: God thank you for our time together today. Help us look to you as we talk about giving and let us be open to how you might lead us to live in a generous way. Amen.
- Sometimes we can feel uncomfortable talking about money (especially in church). How do you react when the subject of money comes up?

2 Cor. 7:1-8

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you[a]—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

Sermon & Scripture Discussion:

- Sometimes we can lose our desire to give, especially if we can't see the needs in our immediate surroundings. What encourages you to give? What prevents you from giving?
- In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he lifts up other churches as examples of giving even if they didn't have abundant financial resources. They found joy in their giving and it helped them look beyond their own needs. Pastor Rob says that when we help someone else, it liberates us from our own poverty. How have you experienced this to be true in your life or in someone you know?
- Ephesians 4:13 says, "We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection." What does becoming mature in faith mean to you?
- Pastor Rob reminds us that when we experience grace, we never forget it. When have you received grace? When have you given grace to someone else?
- How do grace and giving go hand in hand?
- During this Stewardship Series, what would you like to see shift or change in the way you give and relate to money?

Prayer Requests:



FORM **MATURE** **AUDIENCES ONLY**

A Stewardship Series