LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH



JOURNEY GUIDE

But whatever gain I had,
I counted as loss for the
sake of Christ. Indeed, I
count everything as loss
because of the surpassing
worth of knowing Christ
Jesus my Lord. For his
sake I have suffered the
loss of all things and count
them as rubbish, in order
that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:7-8









April 20, 2003

April 27, 2003

Jan-May 2004 14

Sept 22-24, 2006

October 3, 2010

December 12, 2010

September 11, 2011

July 17, 2011

November 6, 2013 13

April 30, 2016 16

October 15, 2017

ay 17-18, 2019

March 15, 2020 **20**

nuary 17. 2021

April 3, 2022 2

March 2, 2025

Sent out by Evergreen Baptist Church San Gabriel Valley

First Service at Magruder Middle School (Torrance, CA)

First Small Group Study "Trusting God" by Jerry Bridges

First All Church Retreat at Marriott (Ventura, CA)

Start of Lighthouse's First Generosity Initiative

Generosity Initiative Celebration Sunday at Torrance HS

Open House at 501 Van Ness

First Service at 501 Van Ness

Move to Two Services - 8:30am and 10:30am

Hosted Biblical Counseling for Japan Meetings - Christ Bible Institute

Zoe Community Church (Dallas, TX) - Opened

Start Third Service @ 5pm

First Disability Conference - "Indispensable"

First Online Service & Children's Ministry - COVID

First Outdoor Service Under the Tent - COVID

First Indoor Service - COVID

Logos Community Church (Nagoya, Japan) - Opened

Start of Lighthouse's Second Generosity Initiative

Our Story

Lighthouse Community Church started in 2003 with five elders/pastors and around fifty congregants. Even from the beginning, we didn't have big dreams and grand visions of what we hoped Lighthouse would be. We kept things intentionally simple—preach the Word and try to love people well. By God's grace, slowly the scope and size of ministry expanded, and God has grown Lighthouse from those early years of being a "church in a trailer" to something more than we could ever have imagined. Along with our growth, God has given us the resources to be involved in missions, contribute to mercy ministry, invest in young leaders, hire and support more pastors, and much more. But more than just the size, what we are most grateful for is God bringing people to faith and changing lives. Our front-row seat to God's grace is so much more than we deserve.



LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH

SPRING 2025: 26 small groups led by 70 leaders with 548 small group members

ups with bers

Lighthouse has trained and equipped **48 pastoral** interns and **10 biblical** counseling interns who are serving in San Francisco, Dallas, New York, Ohio, Canada, Japan (Saitama, Nagoya), and the South Bay

Lighthouse has sent out short term missionaries

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to Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Brazil, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, Japan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Greece, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, inner US cities, and closed countries

Lighthouse has sent out **longer term missionaries** to Nepal, China, Mexico, Japan, Thailand, Ghana, Uganda, South Sudan, and England 721 church members

since 2012, 177 baptisms

Planted on April 30, 2016

Zoe Community Church

Allen, Texas

Pastors Jesse Terasaki & Eric Lau

Two Lighthouse church plants

Planted on April 3, 2022

Logos Community Church

Nagoya, Japan

Pastors Toshi Saito & Hide Kawai

We want God's Word in the hands of people.

Lighthouse participated in Crossway
Publishers' One Million Bible Initiative
in Africa. \$65K was sent to Crossway
in order to distribute 100,000 ESV
Concise Study Bibles in Spanish.
Hundreds of ESV Global Study Bibles
were sent to the Philippines.

Lighthouse has sent Bibles and theological, pastoral, and counseling books to pastors and church leaders in Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guatemala, Philippines, and to many African countries.

Lighthouse believes in the importance of gospel centered resources, so we've helped fund the translation of multiple gospel centered books into the Arabic and Japanese languages.

Lighthouse has purchased and packed nearly 1 million meals through Feed My Starving Children

Since 2008, Lighthouse has built 17 homes for families in Tijuana and Ensenada, Mexico

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Lighthouse provided \$25K to Serve LA so they could purchase a new shower trailer that serves the homeless population.

We've given \$20K to Foster the City and the Pregnancy Help Center in Torrance to care for kids in the foster care system and the unborn, respectively.

Lighthouse has given over \$100K to Los Angeles Bible Training School so they can teach believers the Word of God in the inner city.

Over \$2.7 million has been given by Lighthouse through the Mercy Ministry and an additional \$1.8 million through the Kingdom Fund. These funds have been given with the vision of making gospel-centered disciples who exalt and proclaim Christ.

By God's grace, your generous giving has allowed our church to play a part of the gospel spreading locally and globally!



"Treasuring Christ" is a two-year generosity initiative with the goal of raising \$7 million to be used for a campus expansion, through renovating a leased site or using the funds to purchase a property. Throughout the next two years, we hope to be a people who will grow in faith, leading us to live lives that display the greatness of our God.

Our Challenge

With the many blessings of numerical growth, we also face a pressing challenge: we are running out of space. Sunday morning worship services can be crowded, the children's ministry classrooms are often very full, and other ministries such as Bridge, counseling, Friday night fellowship groups, and Equip classes are also affected. In addition, we are particularly burdened by how these challenges might be a hindrance for those who are newer or visiting our church.

Our Opportunity

We are entering a season where we are being called as a church to vision and prepare for the next chapter. We recognize that Lighthouse's growth is God's **kindness** to us, but it is also a **stewardship** that He has entrusted to us. This initiative is not about more numerical growth or Lighthouse making a name for ourselves, but about how we can be faithful in carrying out our mission statement: "to make gospel-centered disciples who exalt and proclaim Christ."

God has done amazing things through Lighthouse over the years, and now He is presenting us with even more opportunities for the gospel to spread. We believe God has a vision for Lighthouse to be an impactful church that makes more gospel-centered disciples in our community and beyond.

But it all begins with us. We are a people who have received extravagant gifts from our God, and He calls us to live lives of extravagant generosity for Him and others. We invite each and every one of you to join us on this journey of Treasuring Christ. What might your life look like if you truly believed that "giving is gain" because Christ is your greatest Treasure?

Brothers and sisters, we hope you are excited for what God will do in this season of ministry as we take a step of faith together and learn what it means to treasure Christ.

Campus Expansion

Over the past 20 years, the Lord has continued to provide a location for the Lighthouse church family to meet and worship together. From middle school cafeterias to our current space in an industrial complex, the Lord has been kind.

When we first moved into the 501 Van Ness site, we thought space would never be an issue again. Little did we know that the Lord would continue to grow us, and now we are having capacity problems – of the good kind! Finding a parking spot can get tricky, we've already had to open an overflow area for the sanctuary, and the children's ministries classrooms are getting tighter every week.

To address this, the elders have been looking for options to alleviate some of the crowding. We've considered church planting, satellite churches, and finding more office space, but we believe the best course for now would be a campus expansion. This could be moving into an entire new building or finding another site within our current complex to pair with our existing one.

For our next home, we are hoping for about 60-70k square feet of space, adequate parking, a larger sanctuary, more children's classrooms, as well as more office, counseling, and meeting spaces. An acquisition of a new space would likely involve some remodeling, as well as the purchasing of furniture, equipment, and supplies needed to do ministry.

We have looked at both the options to lease (which we are currently doing) or purchase. Leasing is less expensive, while purchasing gives us more freedom with how we want to utilize the property and greater long-term stability of staying in one location.

The financial numbers are big and best estimates at this point range from 7 million dollars for a lease that pairs with our current site to upwards of 30 million to purchase and remodel one larger site. In any of these cases, in order to move forward, we would need some money saved and ready to be used. This has led us to our generosity initiative. On a practical level, we need to have funds raised to proceed with any purchase or rebuild. On a spiritual level, we trust that this will be a blessing to each of us as we grow together in joy and generosity.



Let's Journey Together

Here is what we're asking of you...

Pray

We pray because this task is great, and we need God's help and grace. Pray that God would grow you in generosity, not just for this initiative, but in all things. Ask the Lord to unify our church in this generosity initiative and to show you how you might take part. Pray that God would multiply our efforts as a church to make gospel-centered disciples and that He would do abundantly more than we ask or imagine.

2 Prepare

Think through how God might be stretching and growing you in your stewardship of the things He has entrusted to you, and specifically how He is calling you to give to this generosity initiative. We invite you to join us for our "Treasuring Christ" sermon series on Sundays from March 2 to April 6. Learn all you can about God's heart for you and your resources. Seek to be an active, helpful, encouraging voice as you engage in the study with your brothers and sisters.

3 Praise

Allow your heart to praise Him through this journey and to be able to see all things as from the hands of a good and loving God.

4 Participate

We hope that 100% of the church family at Lighthouse will join us on this spiritual journey. We are asking you to stand side by side with your church family, to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to support this vision, and to commit to do what God asks. Imagine how God might use a people unhindered by the idol of money and who treasure Christ above all things. We trust that as each of us gives generously and sacrificially, God will bear much fruit both in our hearts and in our church.

We hope that each and every person who calls Lighthouse home will engage in this initiative to experience a life-changing encounter with God.

As you pray about how God would ask you to engage in Treasuring Christ, use this chart as a discipleship tool. Allow God to inspire and challenge you to greater generosity over the next two years (April 2025 - April 2027). This giving commitment would be in addition to your regular giving.

| GIFTS NEEDED | TWO YEAR GIFT OF | MONTHLY GIFT OF | GIFT LEVEL TOTAL |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 | 750,000 | 31,250 | 750,000 |
| 1 | 500,000 | 20,833 | 500,000 |
| 1 | 250,000 | 10,416 | 250,000 |
| 1 | 125,000 | 5,208 | 125,000 |
| 4 | 75,000 | 3,125 | 300,000 |
| 10 | 50,000 | 2,083 | 500,000 |
| 20 | 35,000 | 1,458 | 700,000 |
| 40 | 25,000 | 1,041 | 1,000,000 |
| 60 | 15,000 | 625 | 900,000 |
| 70 | 10,000 | 416 | 700,000 |
| 70 | 7,500 | 312 | 525,000 |
| 80 | 5,000 | 208 | 400,000 |
| 100 | 2,500 | 104 | 250,000 |
| Many | <2,500 | 100 | 100,000 |
| | | | 7,000,000 |



Devotionals

As we embark on this generosity initiative, our mission is "to make gospel-centered disciples who exalt and proclaim Christ." It's exciting to consider opportunities to look outward and to imagine how God might continue to use Lighthouse to multiply more gospel-centered disciples in our community and beyond. But at the same time, we also hope that this season of ministry will be an opportunity for us to look in and grow as more faithful gospel-centered disciples ourselves. More than just raising funds, we are praying that God would grow our hearts to treasure Christ more than money.

To that end, the following pages contain space for sermon notes, as well as devotionals for yourself and your family to help fuel your faith in God during this Generosity Initiative. There are three devotionals (and one family devotional) per week, and each will give you a passage(s) to read and some reflection questions to consider. Like our small group studies, these questions are based around **Word** (what does the Bible say?), **Worship** (how does this affect my heart?), and **Work** (how do I live this out?).

Along with the reflection questions, there are also some prayer prompts to guide times of prayer. In addition to praying on your own, we encourage you to find times to **pray together with others**, whether it's your own family, a friend, or other church members. We pray because this task is great, and we need **God's help and grace**.

We also invite you to join us to fast for one lunch/day during the week of March 30, leading up to the Commitment Sunday on April 6. In the Bible, God's people fasted to focus on God as they brought particular issues before Him in prayer.

As you spend time thinking about your own heart and what it means to treasure Christ, we hope that God brings clarity to how He might work through your life and resources and the next steps to take. It is exciting to think about how God will work in and through us during our time in the Word and how we can experience the joy of generosity.

FOR SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDES
SCAN QR CODE





NOTE FROM PASTOR WAYNE

Treasuring Christ Family Devotionals

Hi Lighthouse Parents!

What a great privilege we have to shepherd our kids in their love for God and others and explore together as a church family what it means to treasure Christ more than this world!

Here are a couple simple ways to introduce and frame your family devotional times. Announce to your kids how for the next 5 weeks, your family will be going on a treasure hunt together and discovering the treasures of God's Word and God's promises to us! Before your devotional time each week, write down the main point of the sermon on a piece of paper, roll it up, and hide it somewhere in the house. Also, included in each week's devotional is an opening object lesson. You can choose to place the object next to the rolled up piece of paper or in a separate location (make sure to provide a treasure map or hints for your kids!). Feel free to make the "treasures" as fancy as you'd like, even adding some extra incentives (e.g. candy, fun snack, etc.). Be creative and have fun!

As you attempt to facilitate these weekly devotionals with your kids, remember to prepare your heart to focus more on using this time to enjoy conversations with your family and getting to know what's on their hearts rather than just trying to get through the material. Even if things do not go as planned (which I'm sure never happens!), take time to pray and thank God together for these special moments that we get to experience together with our family. Our children's ministry will be following up with a recap of the devotional during the children's large group worship time the following Sunday. Enjoy going on your treasure hunts and discovering more of God's amazing love for us together!

in Christ,

Pastor Wayne

MARCH 2, 2025

SERMON NOTES

Treasuring Christ Our Worship

| our word. | ПР | | |
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FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ & Our Worship



Main Point Christ is the great treasure, not money.

Opening Object Illustration: Roll of String/Twine

Remember to first hide the "treasure" — the roll of string/twine — somewhere in the house for your kids to find before you begin!

Begin the time by talking to your kids about how the roll of string represents our life. Place a small piece of tape on the tip of the string/twine and explain how that part represents our short time on earth while the rest of the roll represents our time in eternity. Slowly unroll the string, asking our kids what they think is more important to focus on — our short life on this earth or our 800+ billion years of life in eternity.

Connection: Explain how God has created us to live for eternity and how the way that we live our life on this earth directly affects our life in eternity. Discuss how we can easily get caught up living for this life and forget that there is an eternity to come. Finally, start to brainstorm together as a family what it means to "store up our treasures in heaven."

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:11; Acts 24:15; Hebrews 9:27; Romans 8:18

Read the Scripture passages and talk about how "God has put eternity into our hearts." We were created to live forever and therefore have a desperate internal longing for never-ending life with God. As we consider our past, present, and future, we need to remember that only God can give us meaning and fulfillment and purpose in this world.

Helpful Questions & Applications for Discussion

What does it mean to treasure something?

What does God tell us to treasure?

What's something on earth that you think you treasure too much?

How can we help one another live for eternity?

How can we help others to know Jesus more?

Prayer

Father in heaven, thank you for giving us eternal life in Jesus. Forgive us for the ways we treasure this short life rather than eternity. Help us see how much better it is to live for You and treasures in heaven instead of living for our short lives on this earth!

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Worship

DAY

1

Our Unique Freedom to Live Selflessly

Read Philippians 2:1-11

In Philippians 2:1-11, Paul encourages believers to pursue Christlikeness by living selflessly. Jesus, perfect and divine, was the ultimate example of this when he "emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (vv. 7-8). Considering Christ's immense sacrifice should lead us to treasure Him more and pursue a life that honors Him.

Through a selfless life, God is honored, but also others are loved. Humility and considering the interests of others is good for our hearts, but it is also good for community. True community in church will flourish when we pursue others in love because of our joy and treasure in Christ. I think about all the ways that the Lighthouse church family has reflected Christ's love for me, from anonymous generous financial gifts, to meal trains when a family member passed, to treating me out to lunch.

We can often have a consumer mindset at church, seeking our own comfort and convenience. But may we have a posture that prioritizes Christ and loving, serving, and growing together. Treasuring Christ allows us to see the joy in generosity and that giving is gain. If He is our treasure, we are freed to live selflessly, moving our inward bent upward and outward.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD In addition to our passage, also read Philippians 3:7-11. How does Paul view others, generosity, and serving through the lens of Christ on the cross?

WORSHIP Consider in your life where you're tempted to treasure the world instead of Christ and how might that hinder the ways in which you are selfless?

WORK How can treasuring Christ lead you to worship and generosity as a means to love others and your church family?

PRAY

Take a moment to reflect on the immensity of Christ's sacrifice. Thank God for His redemptive story that frees you to live a life that honors Him

Ask the Lord to guide your steps in considering what the next step of selflessness may look like.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Worship

 $\frac{\text{DAY}}{2}$

"I Will Never Leave You Nor Forsake You"

Read Hebrews 13:5-6

The author of Hebrews writes to Christians who had suffered great material loss because of their faith in Christ (Heb 10:34-39). To encourage them, he writes in 13:5-6, "Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So, we can confidently say, 'The LORD is my Helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'"

Notice in verse 5 that he introduces the simple, yet significant word "for." This word expresses the reason or explanation for what was just stated and answers the question "why?" In the context of the letter, it answers the question, "Why should I be content after the loss of money and possessions?" The author answers by citing Joshua 1:5 (cf. Deut 31:6, 8), where God Himself tells believers He will never forsake them.

In other words, although we may give up money or possessions for the cause of Christ, we can be content because God is always with us and will be our better, lasting possession (cf. 10:34). Money is insignificant compared to what we already have—God Himself, who is infinitely more valuable and in whose presence there is fullness of joy (cf. Ps 16:11). That is why although we may be anxious about sacrificing money, "we can confidently say, 'The LORD is my Helper; I will not fear."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD What reason does the author give for why you can be content and unafraid when sacrificing your money for the cause of Christ?

WORSHIP How does knowing that God is your helper and greatest possession, and that He has promised to always be with you encourage you to give more freely and confidently?

WORK What are some things you could sacrifice this season to contribute more generously? Perhaps it's sacrificing upgraded features for a new car or redirecting funds from a costly, non-essential vacation toward the generosity initiative.

PRAY

Take a moment to reflect on God's faithful presence in your life. Thank Him for specific ways He has cared for you by providing for your financial and material needs.

Ask God to free you from the love of money and possessions and help you find contentment in all He has provided - both here on earth and in Christ. Pray for a deeper trust in Him and that He would become your most treasured possession.

Ask God to search your heart and reveal what you can sacrifice this season to give more generously for the cause of Christ.



DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Worship

DAY
3

The Kingdom and Seeing Surpassing Worth

Read Matthew 13:44-46

The point of these two parables is not hard to understand: the kingdom of heaven is of inestimable value. The hard part is actually expressing this truth in our lives. We can often lose sight of the supreme worth of the kingdom of heaven. In fact, later on in Matthew 19, we see a young man seeking eternal life turn away from Jesus, because he sees "his great possessions" as holding greater value and greater promise.

What makes the difference? How is it that the man who finds treasure in a field joyfully gives up all his possessions? That the merchant who finds a priceless pearl freely lets go of earthly goods and riches? By the grace of God, it is when we see Jesus for who He is in all His glory and His heart for us.

There is no law of diminishing returns with Christ. The more we learn of Him, seek to become like Him, and steadfastly trust and obey Him in various trials and circumstances, we will find that Christ is altogether worthy, satisfying, and wonderful. We will never get to a point where we are less and less amazed by His grace toward us, less enthralled by His love for us, or less excited about what He is doing in our lives and in the world. Quite the opposite.

As we see more of Christ, so our lives will reflect the greatness of the kingdom and its King – Christ our treasure of infinite worth.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD These two parables are among others in Matthew 13 describing what the kingdom of heaven is like. Why do you think Jesus draws attention to this aspect of the kingdom?

WORSHIP How do these two parables speak to what you value and why? Are they aligned with what God values?

WORK What is one way this week that you can fuel your faith in Christ as your treasure instead of your money or possessions?

PRAY

Pray for His light, that through His Word we would see more of the glory of God in Christ and enjoy Him.

Pray for His grace, that in fueling our faith in Christ as our treasure, our lives would reflect more of the wholehearted and joyful worship that is worthy of Christ.

MARCH 9, 2025

SERMON NOTES

Treasuring Christ Our Worries

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ & Our Worries

Main Point Life is about hearts.



Opening Object Illustration: Trash

Prepare some snacks for your family time. Put all of the trash/packing inside a nicely decorated gift box and place it in a nicely decorated bag or box. Hide the bag/box and have your kids find it before you begin your time and open it.

Connection: Take time to first talk about the blessings of the things that we purchase (food, toys, appliances, clothing) and how God is a creative and generous God who loves to bless us with gifts. Transition to discuss how in time, so many of the things that we treasure for a moment will end up in a junkyard or landfill. (You can choose to show some pictures or videos of landfills.) Reflect together on how we can live as if life were about stuff and how we can take these earthly gifts and make them gods. Discuss how we often treasure stuff that will not last (e.g. Christmas toys, new sports equipment, video games) but God wants us to treasure what lasts for eternity and for our joy!

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

Read Matthew 6:19-21 together. If you know the song "Treasure" by Seeds Family Worship (search YouTube), you can also sing it together! Talk about examples of things that "moth and rust destroy" or things that thieves can "break in and steal."

Helpful Questions & Applications for Discussion

Our generous God gives us blessings to point us back to Him. What is a simple way that you can give thanks to God for the things that you have?

What's a thing that you absolutely loved for a short time, but then quickly forgot about?

How do we store up treasure in heaven? What does that even look like?

Who is one person that you can be praying for to know Jesus?

Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us too much to let us waste our lives by treasuring stuff. We thank you for all that You give to us, but help us treasure You most! Help us to store up treasures for eternity by loving You and loving others above loving ourselves and our stuff.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Worries

DAY
1

Antidote to Worry: Resting in God's **Much-More** Care for You

Read Luke 12:22-34, Romans 5:8-10

Have you ever stopped to consider—and marvel at!—the amazing intricacy of God's design that allows a hummingbird to get the food it needs to survive? It is not only the unique characteristics of the bird—its ability to hover in midair, its long beak and tongue, its attraction to bright colors—but also God's intentional design of the tube-shaped flowers whose nectar they sip, and the fact that those same flowers also attract the tiny insects which the hummingbird needs as part of its diet. It is fascinating to discover how many factors come into play simply for this one species of bird to receive its sustenance!

So when Jesus pointed to birds and flowers as living pictures of God's care, he didn't just say, "God feeds birds, so come on, stop worrying, he'll take care of you too." No, he invited his followers — including us — to consider how he cares for the birds, and then, in light of those amazing realities, to ask ourselves, "If that is how he feeds birds — small, short-lived, seemingly insignificant birds! — how much more will he take care of me?"

We who belong to Christ as his chosen and beloved ones are far more valuable than birds (Luke 12:24). Since God's care for birds is so intricate, our hearts can rest in knowing his care for us is so **much more** than that! In fact, through Christ's death, God has demonstrated the depth of his **much-more** love for us (Romans 5:8-10).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD As you study this passage in Luke 12, what is the connection between verses 22-31 (don't be anxious) and verses 32-34 (which speaks of generosity)?

WORSHIP If worry or anxiety about daily needs is present in your heart, what does that indicate you are (functionally) believing about God? How does this truth of God's **much-more** love serve as an antidote to your worry?

WORK How will you choose to be generous this week in ways that demonstrate your trust in God's deep love and careful provision for you?

PRAY

The next time you notice birds feeding, take a moment to marvel at all that God has put in place to allow that simple thing to happen. Then thank him for his bountiful and gracious care for your daily needs.

The next time you notice worry creeping into your thoughts, consider what that worry is indicating about your heart's belief of God's character. Confess your wrong perceptions of God and ask him to deepen your faith in his perfect love and provision for you.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Worries

DAY
2

A Heart Set on God

Read Psalm 62

When was the last time you received a financial gift? Maybe it was money to celebrate the new year, a bonus at work, or profits from a successful investment. In Psalm 62:10, David states, "Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them". Here David is warning us to recognize the dangers that come with a heart set on financial gain. The reality in our world today is that money can make a difference. More money means that we can buy that home, afford that vacation, or support your children's education. Because of this reality, our hearts are prone to setting our hopes on financial gain. We begin to believe that when our finances increase, so does the likelihood of our deepest hopes and dreams coming true. If I just had more money, then I'd finally be able to do _____.

The joy that we have as Christians is that our hope is not ultimately in our bank accounts, but on God who alone is our rock, our salvation, our fortress, our refuge, so that even in seasons of financial turmoil, we may find rest in our loving Savior. Today, ask God to guard your heart from trusting in the allure of financial gain and to instead trust in His steadfast and sovereign love.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD How might you be tempted into trusting and hoping in your finances? What area of your life do you often think, "If I just had more money, then I'd be able to do this"?

WORSHIP In recognition of Matthew 6:24 where Jesus says we cannot serve both God and money, how have you seen the pursuit of financial gain compete with your devotion to the Lord? (e.g. working overtime causing you to spend less time with the Lord, spending major parts of your day researching the best financial hustles while neglecting your prayer life)

WORK What financial pursuits might you need to stop in order to be more faithful in your worship of God? In your relationships? In your marriage? In your parenting? Who could you invite into your life to help check your heart on financial gains you may be experiencing?

PRAY

Pray that God would help you to see what areas of your life need reevaluation in light of the false hope offered in finances

Pray that God would help you to set your heart on Him instead of on the increase of finances and that you would find practical ways to put these truths into practice.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Worries

DAY
3

Kingdom Ambitions

Read Matthew 6:31-33, Romans 15:20-21

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus says to not be anxious, but rather, to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." When he uses the word "first," he doesn't mean chronologically, as much as he's saying to make this your singular aim and the central concern of your life. If anxiety causes you to shrink down what life is all about to temporary things like food, drink, and clothing, Jesus reminds us in this verse that we have a much greater ambition and purpose.

Maybe it sounds strange to you to talk about ambition, especially in relation to anxiety. We can tend to think that too much ambition leads to anxiety (and there might be some truth to that). But Jesus says one reason why we get anxious is because we concern ourselves with earthly ambitions rather than kingdom ambitions.

God's kingdom purposes totally reorient our view of life and the things that we consider important. In Romans 15:19-20, Paul says that it is his "ambition" to go and bring the gospel to places where it hasn't reached yet. He could have just settled in a church in his local community and ministered faithfully (and there's nothing wrong with that), but he was driven by a holy ambition and passion for the expansion of the gospel and God's glory. What might it look like for you to desire and pursue great things for God?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD Ambition can sometimes be tricky to think through as Christians. Perhaps you've wondered if it's a good or bad thing. How have you thought about it? How have you seen it connect to how you think about your own money and resources?

WORSHIP What are some of the main concerns and ambitions that you think about? How have some of these led to anxiety because they are more focused on your own kingdom rather than God's kingdom?

WORK What are some kingdom ambitions that you would love to see happen in your own life? What would you love to see happen in the life of our church for God's glory?

PRAY

Pray that God would reveal and clarify any earthly ambitions you may be living for, and ask him to give you a greater vision of his kingdom purposes.

Pick one kingdom ambition that you have for our Lighthouse church family and pray boldly that God would cause it to happen.

MARCH 16, 2025

SERMON NOTES

Treasuring Christ Our Stewardship

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ & Our Stewardship



Main Point Life is about stewardship, not ownership.

Opening Object Illustration: Crowns

Obtain a toy crown or print one out and hide it. After your kids find it, talk about what a crown represents and who wears a crown.

Search fun YouTube clips of Prince John from Disney's Robin Hood (1973). (You can also use Scar from Lion King or even Denethor from The Lord of the Rings if you have older kids.) Explain how these characters were not the real king but wanted to take the place of the real king. Ask your kids why these characters did what they did. Finally explain how when these characters attempted to steal the throne, they reaped the stress, anxiety, and destruction their rebellion deserved.

Connection: When we choose to live our own way instead of God's way, we are just like these characters. We live and act as if we are the king/queen of our lives and pretend that there is not a real King in existence. Living as if we are in charge of everything does not bring joy but despair as that is not how God created us to be.

Scripture: James 1:17; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 4:7

Read the Scripture passages and talk about how all things come from God — our possessions, abilities, time, energy, and entire lives. Discuss the differences of living as a steward/manager compared to living as an owner of our lives. Ask your kids to imagine what the world would be like if everyone recognized that all things belonged to God.

Helpful Questions & Applications for Discussion

What do you have that is truly and only yours? (Hint: Nothing!)

What is something you really don't like to share? If it all belongs to God, what can you tell yourself the next time you struggle to share it?

Why is it so much more freeing and joyful to live as a steward instead of as an owner? If everything belongs ultimately to God, how can you use His stuff to do what He wants?

Prayer

Father in heaven, You have given us so much: our lives, our families, our every blessing. It's all from You, and You want us to use it for You. Help us to remember who the real King and Owner is — You. Help us to use Your things to do what You want us to do and love people more than we love our things.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Stewardship

Stewardship in Light of Eternity

Read Luke 16:1-15

DAY

In the parable of the dishonest manager, we read something strange in verse 8, "The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness." Why would Jesus use a parable where a dishonest manager is commended? At first glance, this might be confusing, but Jesus is not commending the character of the manager, but his action.

Jesus continues in the rest of verse 8, "For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light." People in this world are dealing strategically with each other in order to gain for themselves in this world.

But Jesus is teaching His disciples to steward their material resources in light of eternity, beyond the here and now. Jesus tells his disciples in verse 9, "Make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth (your worldly resources), so that when it fails (meaning when it comes to an end) they may receive you into the eternal dwelling (or that God would welcome you into His presence)."

Jesus is teaching His disciples to think about their current possessions in light of eternity. Be a wise investor by investing in others' lives. There is a connection between how you use your worldly resources now and how that impacts the kingdom of God for eternity.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD How can you be faithful with all the material and immaterial resources God has entrusted to you?

WORSHIP Jesus is simultaneously teaching His disciples and rebuking the Pharisees with this parable about the stewardship of money. The Pharisees were not being faithful to God in their stewardship of worldly resources because they were "lovers of money" (v. 14). What are some things that make the faithful stewardship of your worldly resources difficult for you? What does this reveal about your heart's primary love and affection?

WORK Jesus teaches that a key aspect to being faithful with much is first being faithful with very little. What is one area God is helping you be His faithful money manager?

PRAY

Take some time to confess any area of unfaithfulness as God's money manager. Also, take time to praise God for the steadfast love and faithfulness of Christ despite our own unfaithfulness.

Thank God for ways He has helped you be a faithful steward of your material wealth.

Ask the Lord to help you identify one step of faithful stewardship of your worldly resources.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Stewardship

DAY 2

This Is My Father's World

Read **Psalm 24:1-2**

We easily resonate with this hymn as we look at the created world around us. The wonders of the expansive firmament filled with stars above and the abundance of life that covers the earth express the power and lordship of the one true God. But do we look at our money the same way? "This is my Father's world. But this is my money."

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seasHis hand the wonders wrought.

In Psalm 24, King David speaks against such thinking: the earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord (v. 1). Why? Because he made it all (v. 2). In the words of Abraham Kuyper, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ... does not cry, Mine!"

In 1 Corinthians 10:26, the Apostle Paul quotes from Psalm 24, following it with, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (v. 31). The Lord's absolute ownership over all things means that everything we have and do is to be stewarded unto the glory of God.

This is our Father's world. And just like the music of the spheres that rings all around us, the way we steward God's money can also sing the song of God's glory.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD Looking at the Father changes the way we look at our finances. The rest of Psalm 24 offers such needed insight into the character and works of God. What details stand out to you? For example, we might note that the God who owns everything is still accessible; Yahweh is both the King of glory (v. 7) and the God of salvation (v. 5).

WORSHIP How do these details fuel your worship?

WORK When you consider all that is in your possession, what are you most tempted to cling to and cry, "mine"?

PRAY

Praise God that He is the sovereign creator, the one who carefully crafted all nature, us, and even our money, all of which sings of His glory.

Pray that seeing Him as such a wondrous God who is both glorious (v.10) and near (3-6) would cause you to see the material riches He has provided you as a stewardship to use, not a treasure to own.

Pray for a heart that sings and joyfully affirms, "This is my Father's world."

Pray that God would help you to set your heart on Him instead of on the increase of finances and that you would find practical ways to put these truths into practice.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Stewardship

DAY
3

Enter Into the Joy of Your Master

Read Matthew 25:14-30

This parable vividly illustrates our call to be faithful stewards. Christ is our master, and he has given us everything we possess that we might be able to make eternal investments for his glory. Oh, that we might be found faithful on that final day!

One fascinating promise that emerges from this parable is that our faithfulness will result in reward (see vv. 21, 23, 28). Those rewards are somewhat mysterious; we may not know fully what exactly they look like. But the crown jewel that we receive in our faithfulness is promised to the two faithful servants: "Enter into the joy of your master" (vv. 21, 23). The greatest reward a servant can receive is to participate fully in the life, riches, satisfaction, and joy of his master.

The call to stewardship can feel like a call to sacrifice. But Jesus' point in this story is that stewardship is actually an invitation to joy. Giving really is gain.

Isn't it amazing that the most joyful people we know are often the most generous? They say that correlation doesn't always indicate causation, but in this case, Jesus says it's true. Our faithful stewardship will lead to our joy—and not just a fleeting joy, but entering into the eternal, infinite, never-ending joy of our Master.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD How does Jesus describe what the faithful servants will be rewarded with for their stewardship?

WORSHIP In what ways are you tempted to believe that stewardship will cost you? What are you afraid you will lose or miss out on?

WORK Using sanctified imagination, what would your life look like if you lived "in the joy of your master?"

PRAY

Confess your fears and worries to the Lord, sharing with him what you are afraid of missing out on if you are a faithful steward.

Ask to experience increasing joy as you faithfully steward what has been entrusted to you.

MARCH 23, 2025

SERMON NOTES

Treasuring Christ Our Joy

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ & Our Joy



Main Point Generosity is about delight, not duty.

Opening Object Illustration: Glasses

Hide all types of "glasses" around your home: sunglasses, blue light blocking glasses, reading glasses, magnifying glasses, migraine glasses. You can even include binoculars, goggles (swimming, snow, lab), periscopes, etc. Talk about what these different glasses and lenses do.

Connection: Each of these glasses and lenses help us see the world differently. Some of these glasses make things bigger or smaller or change the color of our sight. All of us naturally see the world a certain way. We view certain things as more valuable (e.g. house/cars, accomplishments, popularity) and other things as not as valuable (e.g. loving people, praying, evangelizing). As Christians, we must ask God to give us "God glasses" so that we can see the way God sees and value what God values, even if it's the opposite of what this world values.

Scripture: Luke 18:35-43; Philippians 1:21; 1 John 2:15-17

Read the Scripture passages and ask your kids what are the things that this world values and loves. Discuss why these things seem to be valuable. Talk about how God's Word shows us that Jesus is worth more than anything and how He brings the most joy and fulfillment to us and those around us. Explain that we need God's Word and God's Spirit for us to see Jesus as more valuable than this world.

Helpful Questions & Applications for Discussion

Parents, share examples of when you had to choose between loving Christ and loving the world. How was loving Christ better?

What's the opposite of a cheerful giver? Why do you think the Bible says "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7)?

How can we help each other put on our "God glasses" and see the way God sees and value what God values?

How does delight (joy) lead to generosity? How does generosity lead to joy?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are our greatest treasure. Help us to see that the greatest joy we can experience is found in knowing You. Teach us that it is not necessarily about how much we give, but the attitude we give with. Change and shape our hearts to love what you love. Help us to be most happy in You, so that we can be cheerfully generous with all that You have given us.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Joy

DAY

1

Unshakeable Faith

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-22

This past Sunday we gathered together and heard from God. He spoke to us through 1 Chronicles 29. In this passage, we come to the end of King David's life. Through life's ups and downs, David's relationship with God has solidified. There is a deep, personal trust in God. David can personally testify that God has never left him, even when the painful circumstances seemed like it. David knew God was always leading, protecting, and providing for him.

Would you say you have that deep, unshakeable relationship with God? Can you say like David, "my God" (1 Chron. 29:3)? From David's life, we see an important truth about generosity. Generosity flows from a heart that is close to God's heart. David's closeness is seen in how he speaks to God. Verses 10-19 captures David's prayer.

If you were listening to David's prayer, what would stand out to you? How might you be encouraged to follow in David's generous footsteps? What do you think you'd be feeling?

May we have an unshakeable faith because we are so close to God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD Slowly read through David's prayer in verses 10-19. How does David describe God? What do those characteristics say about God?

WORSHIP How does David's descriptions of God describe the kind of relationship he has with God? How do those characteristics allow David to be sacrificial and joyful in his giving?

WORK What might be things in your heart that block you from being generous? Meditate on verses 17-18. Remember that closeness with God will always result in joy.

PRAY

Pray that you will respond to God beckoning to you because He loves you.

Pray that you and the church family will give willingly (v. 5).

Pray that God will be gracious in allowing us to tell stories of God's amazing provision as we willingly and joyfully give of our finances and ourselves.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Joy

DAY
2

Giving is the Good Life

Read **Acts 20:32-35**

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "the good life"? Acts 20:32-35 concludes Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders as he heads to Jerusalem, knowing he will face suffering and perhaps even death (Acts 20:22-23, 38). Yet, for Paul, a full life is not about self-preservation, but one spent for the glory of Christ (Acts 20:24). The good life comes not from seeking blessings but from being a blessing, not from receiving but from giving.

Paul reminds us in verse 35 that generosity is a divine calling: "We must help the weak." The greatest commandments – to love God and others (Matt 22:36-40) – show that we were made to live outwardly, not inwardly. But these commands are not given to diminish our joy, but for our joy. Giving is not a denial of the good life; it is the good life. This is why Jesus says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The word "blessed" can be translated as "happy." We might put it this way: "We are more happy when we give than when we receive."

We were created to reflect a generous God. Sin turns us inward, but in Christ, we are freed from selfishness to live generously, just as He gave Himself for us. True happiness is found in conforming to our Savior, who reminds us that the good life is found in Christ-like generosity.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD How does the fact that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" help us to understand God's heart behind His commands to be generous?

WORSHIP Think of a time when you were generous - how was that a grace to you in your walk with Christ and how did that encourage you to grow in loving others more?

WORK With your family or roommates, get together and think of one way you can be generous and talk about how you can pursue it together, but also how it might encourage your hearts!

PRAY

Pray for a greater longing to become more like Christ who joyfully gave of Himself to us.

Pray for your heart to not believe the lies that the good life is measured by what we accumulate.

Pray for that you wouldn't be guilted into the drudgery of generosity, but that God would allure you to the delight and good life of generosity.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Joy

DAY
3

Seated at the King's Table: Delighting in God's Generosity

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13

2 Samuel 9 beautifully illustrates how true generosity flows from delighting in the kindness we have received. When David became king, tradition dictated that any surviving members of the previous royal family be eliminated to secure his rule. Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, had been hidden away since childhood, living in obscurity and likely fearful for his life. Yet, remembering the great kindness that Jonathan had shown him, David made a covenant to care for Jonathan's family. He asks, "Is there anyone left of the house of Saul that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

When David met Jonathan's son, his generosity went beyond what Mephibosheth could ever have imagined. Instead of punishment, he received restoration. David returned his grandfather's land, assigned servants to care for him, and welcomed him to dine at the king's table as one of his own sons. A moment that could have been filled with fear became a moment of lavish love.

David's kindness foreshadows the generosity we receive in Christ. Just as Mephibosheth was helpless and undeserving, we too were spiritually destitute, yet lavished with God's mercy. Ephesians 2:5-7 says that God has shown us "the surpassing riches of his kindness" by making us alive, raising us up, and seating us with Christ. When we grasp how God has welcomed us into His family, our hearts are freed to extend that same generosity so that others might experience the unsearchable riches of his kindness in the gospel.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD How does David's kindness to Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9 reflect God's kindness to us in Christ, as described in Ephesians 2:5-7?

WORSHIP How does meditating on God's generosity shape your view of possessions and how you love others with what you've been given?

WORK In what specific ways can you reflect God's generosity this week—especially toward someone who may feel overlooked, undeserving, or in need?

PRAY

Take time to reflect on the abundant generosity God has shown you in Christ. Thank him for any specific examples of that kindness that you've seen and experienced this week.

Ask God to guard your heart from turning away from His generous love and seeking life in earthly riches.

Pray that God's kindness would stir a deep love for His kingdom within you, leading you to love and serve others with the generosity of Christ.

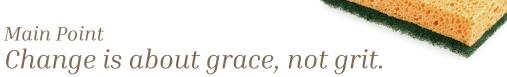
MARCH 30, 2025

SERMON NOTES

Treasuring Christ Our Transformation

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ & Our Transformation



Opening Object Illustration: Sponges

Hide a dry sponge. After your kids find it, bring out an empty cup. Ask your kids about what a sponge does. Tell the kids to fill a cup by squeezing the dry sponge. Have them try their hardest to squeeze the sponge!

Now bring out a bowl filled with water. Instruct your kids to first soak only a small part of the sponge to be squeezed out to fill the cup. Then soak the entire sponge. Make the connection that the more time you let the sponge sit in the water, the more water it will soak up. Point out that what matters more is not how hard you squeeze, but what is already inside the sponge.

Connection: The water represents the things of God (e.g. God's love, gospel truths, God's promises). When we are spiritually dry, and not filled up with the things of God, no matter how hard we try (i.e., grit) we will not be able to do what God says. But when we are soaked with the things of God (i.e., the water) everything we do is an overflow of what God has already given us.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-5; Philippians 2:17

Read the Scripture passages and talk about how God desires us to change by His grace. Grace is God's gift to us, not something we earn. Only when we are affected and transformed by grace can we give grace to others. This is why we need to spend time daily meditating on the things of God and reflecting on how amazing His love for us truly is!

Helpful Questions & Applications for Discussion

What is one way that you desire to grow?

Becoming more like Jesus is not just hard — it's impossible for us on our own! What are ways that you can remind yourself that you need God's grace to change?

What are ways that you can "soak" yourself in the things of God? Think of one simple way that you want to grow this week in placing yourself in pathways of grace (e.g. reading the Bible or good Christian books, praying, listening to Christian music, being with friends who are encouraging and help you grow).

Praye

Heavenly Father, thank You for saving us from our sin because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. Thank You for all the ways that You are working in our lives and making us more like Jesus. Help us to remember our need for You and Your grace and that we would run to You whenever we need help.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Transformation

DAY

1

Self-Denial for Something Better

Read Proverbs 23:4-5

Have you ever been in a season where you felt like you needed more money? If so, maybe the considerations included finding a better paying job, adding a second job, or even launching into an entirely different field of work that offers a higher pay scale. In these verses, Solomon is teaching us to check our hearts. Are we toiling to acquire wealth? Do we constantly feel like we're running 100 miles per hour in our work and pace of life because our lifestyle demands it? If life feels like a constant toil and it's centered and rooted in money, could you be headed on this trajectory?

In these verses, Solomon is not teaching us to be lazy or irresponsible, but he is warning our hearts against being set on the fleeting nature of money. He helps us imagine money sprouting wings like a bird and flying away and dissipating into the atmosphere the moment we set ourselves upon it. Wealth is like a vapor that goes up into the air and disappears.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD At Lighthouse we often say, "Money makes a great gift, but a terrible god." Read Psalm 107:8-9. While money runs out, God never will. What is God's heart for you according to these verses?

WORSHIP What is one past example of where you resisted the idol of money to prioritize your devotion to Christ? How was God ministering and satisfying your heart?

WORK In what areas of your finances is God calling you to trust in Him today and in this season? May we declare that Jesus is better than anything this world could ever offer us, and infinitely bigger than anything our own hands can ever produce.

PRAY

Take some time to confess any areas where the pursuit of wealth eclipses your devotion to Christ.

Thank God for any specific ways that He has grown you in this area of your life and examples of when He helped you to turn away from the toiling after financial wealth in order to have utmost devotion to Christ.

Ask God to help you find your satisfaction in Christ alone. Pray that this would be true for you today in the depth of your soul and core of your being.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Transformation

DAY
2

Meditating on the True Hope of Christ

Read Malachi 3:8-10, Ephesians 4:17-32, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

Don't steal. It seems fairly obvious, and you might even think that it should go without saying. However, have you considered that when we don't give to God what He is due, we are stealing from God? Malachi 3:8-10 says that in our lack of generosity, we aren't doing any better than a thief who robs a home.

Now, we could lean into that idea and lay on a pretty heavy guilt trip, but that isn't actually the point of the devotional. The reality is, most of us struggle with generosity towards God, and so most of us struggle with stealing. So how do we overcome that? How do we grow in generosity? By the grace of the gospel.

In Ephesians 4:28, Paul tells us, "Let the thief no longer steal..." While the application is clear, we need to understand that this command doesn't come in isolation. It's not something we just try harder to do. Right before this in vv. 22-24, Paul says to "be renewed in the spirit of your minds." As God changes our faith and worship, we are transformed. What then becomes important is that we make sure we have gospel truths to dwell on. For example, as we meditate on truths such as, "the love of money is dangerous" (1 Timothy 6:10), or "money doesn't provide true security" (1 Timothy 6:17), or "we should hope in God, not money (1 Timothy 6:17), they not only encourage us to believe rightly, but to worship rightly.

May we meditate on the true hope of Christ much more than we meditate on the false hopes of money.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What are some other truths you can meditate on to encourage a generous heart (other than the ones listed above)?

WORSHIP Our worship and faithful are fueled by what we think about and set our minds on (Colossians 3:2). When do you catch yourself meditating on the wrong things concerning money? How does that affect your heart?

WORK Spend time meditating on the truths you listed above and journal a few sentences of how that encouraged your heart.

PRAY

Pray that God, by His Spirit, would allow you to know and trust in what His Word says about the false hopes of money and the true hope of Christ.

Pray that our church family would be able to encourage one another with gospel truths, especially when it comes to the riches of knowing Christ.

DEVOTIONS

Treasuring Christ Our Transformation

DAY
3

Finishing the Task

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-11

When Paul was encouraging the church in Corinth to give in order to help their brethren in Jerusalem, he made it clear that it was purely voluntary. It was not a command. Rather, it was an invitation for them to respond out of love and hearts that have been changed by the gospel.

Their church excelled in many ways: "in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness," but most importantly, they knew "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (v. 9). In light of this gospel, Paul asked them to give—not out of compulsion—but out of an opportunity to reflect the Savior's heart.

Today, we too are encouraged by the same gospel to give in a way that honors our Lord: "So now finish doing it well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WORD Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Paul used the Macedonian churches as an example of joyful giving. What lessons can we learn from the Macedonians?

WORSHIP Take some time to reflect and list some of the spiritual blessings that you have in Christ. How does your heart respond to such grace? In what ways have you grown in your faith and love through our study in giving?

WORK How is the Lord calling you to finish the task? Beyond our giving initiative, what are other ways that you can sacrificially give of yourself to help meet the needs of others?

PRAY

Pray that you would respond earnestly to God's grace and give in a way that honors Christ and the gospel

Pray that as a church family, we would finish the task well and it would result in the expansion of the gospel and the kingdom for God's glory

Frequently Asked Questions...

Why are we embarking on this Generosity Initiative now?

God has been so gracious to us as a church, and as we have experienced significant growth over the past few years, we believe that the best way to prepare for the next chapter is to raise funds to be applied towards a larger new facility.

We believe that moving into a larger facility will allow us to more faithfully carry out our mission to make gospel-centered disciples who exalt and proclaim Christ. By undertaking this Generosity Initiative, we hope to have the financial resources to pursue a future property.

What will this money be used for?

We hope to use this money for leasing or purchasing a larger new facility.

How much money are we trying to raise? What happens if we don't meet that goal? What happens if we exceed that goal?

We are praying that God provides \$7 million through this Initiative.

We joyfully trust that God will provide as he sees fit, and whatever he provides will be no more and no less than what he has deemed to be sufficient for us. If we don't meet our goal, we will trust God with his provision and rejoice at what has been given! We will continue to steward our existing facility, our finances, and our flock as wisely as we can. We may consider future Generosity Initiatives to continue to financially prepare for future ministry.

If we exceed our goal, we will still trust God with his provision and rejoice at what has been given! Receiving more than our goal would be a tremendous grace, and it would allow for greater flexibility and opportunity in our pursuit of a new facility.

How long will I have to fulfill my commitment?

Your commitment will be fulfilled over a two-year period (April 2025 to April 2027).

When should I start giving towards my commitment?

After you submit your Commitment Card on April 6, you can begin to make contributions on Sunday, April 27. In order to allow more time for God to grow and transform your heart throughout the Initiative, please refrain from making contributions until then. However, you should continue to make your regular offering contributions.

Can I make changes to my commitment in the future?

Yes! If the Lord is calling you to give differently over the course of the next two years, you can let us know at bills@lighthousesouthbay.org.

Is my commitment in the place of my regular offering? Or is it separate?

The Generosity Initiative contributions are being made in addition to your regular offering.

What is the best way to make my contribution payments?

You can make your contributions through Planning Center Giving.

If donating by check or cash, indicate "Generosity Initiative" in the memo line of the check and on the Offering Card.

How do I donate appreciated assets (e.g. stocks, real estate, life insurance, etc.)?

You can contact our finance team at bills@lighthousesouthbay.org

Are those who are not part of Lighthouse allowed to contribute to this Initiative?

Yes! We welcome the generosity of anyone who wants to be a part of what God is doing at Lighthouse!

How will the money be held once collected? What safeguards are in place to make sure that it is managed appropriately?

The collected funds will be securely held in low-risk financial instruments, such as savings accounts and certificates of deposit (CDs), to ensure both safety and accessibility. Additionally, we have safeguards in place, including regular oversight, transparent reporting, and adherence to established financial policies, to ensure the funds are managed responsibly and in alignment with their intended purposes.

Will my giving commitment be made public in any way? Who will know what I've committed?

We will not make anyone's giving commitment public. Only a select few individuals will have access to the Commitment Cards in order to calculate our churchwide Giving Total. Our standard policy is that giving information is only available to our Controller, and our deacon of finance, and select administrators for systems maintenance. All giving information is anonymized when being evaluated by church leaders.

What kind of facility are we looking for?

We are hoping to find a location in Torrance that includes 60-70k square feet of usable space, which would accommodate a larger sanctuary, more children's classrooms, office, counseling, and meeting spaces. The site would also need to include sufficient parking spaces. An acquisition of a new space would likely involve significant remodeling, as well as the purchasing of furniture, equipment, and supplies needed to do ministry.

What happens if we cannot find a new facility?

If we cannot find a new facility, we will continue to trust the Lord and be faithful to what he has called us to! We will continue to maximize the use of our current resources, while trusting that God will provide for our future.

The money collected from the Generosity Initiative will be held until an opportunity arises.

What is the current status of our search for a new facility?

As of now, there is not a specific location that we are actively pursuing as our next church home.

When we first moved into our current building in 2011, our realtor semi-seriously said to us on our first Sunday, "It's too small." In God's kindness, he was right! Since then, we have retained our realtor to actively monitor the real estate market for possible future locations. While various options have emerged throughout the years, we have not found anything suitable for our needs.

In the latter half of 2024, there was a possibility of leasing another building in our current business park (529 Van Ness Avenue), and while we initially had favorable meetings with the landlord and even a verbal agreement, the owners never offered a formal contract, and our realtor has concluded that the likelihood of us getting that building is very slim.

We are continuing to monitor the South Bay market for a property that will meet our needs.

Is pursuing a new facility the best option for our church? Have we considered other ways to steward our growth (e.g. church planting, satellite church campuses, offsite office space, capping attendance)?

The church elders have considered these possibilities, but each seems to not fully address our issue - either holistically or for the long-term. For example, even a sizable church plant of 100 members would only minimally and temporarily relieve growth pressures and artificially capping our attendance would also mean capping what we believe God is doing through Lighthouse.

Who do I talk to if I have questions?

As there are so many aspects to this generosity initiative, we encourage you to contact the church office at info@lighthousesouthbay.org or call us at (310) 212-0320 so we can connect you with the right person to answer your specific questions.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

| "Treasuring Christ" Sermon Series begins | March 2 |
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| Finance Seminar Learning to have a biblical understanding of finances. | March 16 |
| Prayer Gathering A time for the church family to pray for the Generosity Initiative. | March 29 |
| Financial Pacesetters Gathering | March 30 |
| Fasting and Prayer Join us in prayer and fasting for one lunch/day during this week together | March 30 |
| Commitment Sunday We will formally make our giving commitments together as a church and turn in our Commitment Cards | April 6 |
| Palm Sunday | April 13 |
| Easter Sunday | April 20 |
| Anniversary Sunday - Giving Reveal & First Fruits Offering We will reveal the final commitment total and officially begin to make our financial contributions to the Initiative. | April 27 |

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH