

STORIES FROM THE @ONE

MIDPOINT OF FOR THE ONE

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	LETTER FROM THE PASTORS
5	WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO
7	WHAT GOD HAS DONE
9	WHERE WE'RE GOING
10	BJORN & JANELLE'S STORY
11	WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?
12	COMMITMENT CARD
13	GIFT CHART
14	GIVING DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

HOME GROUP STUDY GUIDE

16	WEEK ONE - PRIORITIES
20	WEEK TWO - POSSESSIONS
25	WEEK THREE - SURRENDER
29	WEEK FOUR - STEWARDSHIP
33	WEEK FIVE - PERSPECTIVE

Jesus taught through parables and sermons to impart

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

to his disciples.



WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES.

LET'S LEARN FROM THESE STORIES.

LET'S MOVE TOWARD JESUS TOGETHER.

IN THE FALL OF 2023, WE BEGAN A TWO-YEAR **FOR THE ONE** INITIATIVE.



Our Primary Goal has always been to have 100 percent of Grace people trust Jesus with their generosity through **For the One**. Many of you stepped up to that challenge and 742 families at Grace made commitments to **For the One**!

Our Secondary Goal was \$20 million over two years. Currently, we have received \$15.8 million in commitments and expected gifts! We are excited to share some of what God has done because of your generosity.

We love hearing stories of your personal **For the One** journey... that is the heart of this initiative! We are so grateful for the sacrificial faith our Grace family has shown so far, and we're anticipating many great things as we continue on this journey together. God is doing great things in and through the people of Grace.

The best is yet to come!

Together for Him,

Pastors Dan, Shane, and Karen

WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

THE PRIMARY GOAL IS 100% ENGAGEMENT.

We believe that God is still working in us to write the most impactful story of discipleship, surrender and growth. God is calling each of us individually to take our relationship with Him to new levels through God-honoring generosity. That means letting go of the things of this world and putting Christ first in everything we do.





THE SECONDARY GOAL: **\$20 MILLION** OVER TWO YEARS.

This money will fund everything that God calls Grace to do.

General Budget \$13 Million

We will not compromise in our day-in, day-out ministry. This number represents our ministry operating budget for two years as we pursue God, build community, support missions around the world and continue to compassionately give to our city and beyond. Additionally, we will use a portion of this funding to plan for growth for the future as God leads. The first step is leadership development and resourcing for future growth throughout the region, likely neighborhood churches or campuses.

External Focus \$7 Million

The external focus of **For the One** continues to be mental health support, including helping people who struggle as well as supporting organizations that focus on tackling this ever present problem. God has called this church to this mission, to open more conversation about the reality of mental health issues, and provide solutions for hope and healing.

WHAT GOD HAS DONE

The first priority for **For the One** was to open a place where people with mental health issues could get the help they need. On July 1, thanks to you - the people of Grace - we opened **For the One Counseling**, a place where people can meet with licensed therapists and move toward hope and healing. Since opening, therapists have helped people through hundreds of sessions.

FTO Counseling is fully staffed with therapists with a variety of specialties to cover many needs. Each person seeking treatment is carefully placed with the right clinician.



Josh Kalsbeek, LMFT; Megan Meaney, LCSW; Jazzy Okanovic, CPC-SI, Student Intern; Matt Burkhardt, LCPC; Becky Scales, MFT-I; Kelli Singleton, Executive Director; Corrie Gerbatz, MFT-SI

Additionally, since launching For the One in November 2023...



WE REACHED HUNDREDS OF YOUNG ADULTS THROUGH YA MONTHLY GATHERINGS

WE'VE BAPTIZED OVER
300
PEOPLE


OVER
100
PEOPLE EACH DAY MOVE TOWARD SOBRIETY IN HOPE HOUSES


WE HAD OVER
6,000
PEOPLE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

OVER
100
PEOPLE A DAY SERVED IN HOPE HOUSES

WE HAD OVER
800
KIDS & STUDENTS AT CAMPS

WE WORKED OVER
1,000
MAN HOURS THROUGH RENO LOVE




WE'VE GIVEN AWAY
500
COATS AND OVER
1,000
PAIRS OF SHOES


WHERE WE'RE GOING

WE WILL CONTINUE TO OPEN THE BIBLE EACH WEEK TOGETHER AND LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS, WITH OUR LOVE FOR HIM AS OUR TOP PRIORITY.



We will push toward growth in all areas with the focus on growing the Kingdom for the sake of Christ! We will push the limits on leadership to prepare for the future, including expanding into different areas throughout Northern Nevada in God's timing as He leads.

We will continue to fund and grow **For the One Counseling** so many can get the help they need.

We will continue strategic, high impact events to help serve the city and point people to Jesus.

We will support other agencies who are helping those with mental health needs. We will also work with those agencies to create innovative ideas to help train future thought leaders who specialize in mental health, all while helping get people the treatment they need. **We are currently working out details with the University of Nevada for an exciting new program! We'll share that vision very soon!**

BJORN & JANELLE'S STORY



Growing up, Bjorn was shown a beautiful example of what generosity looks like from his parents. They showed him what it meant to be a man of God, save, and give. He grew up attending Grace, and watched his parents give and make a Kingdom impact through Grace's past initiatives.

Janelle grew up in church and began attending Grace 10 years ago. She would come to church each weekend and leave right when service ended. She was not often involved in giving and what Grace was doing outside of Sunday services until she met Bjorn in 2018. Together, they joined a small group, and began serving and growing closer to God and His people at Grace.

Bjorn and Janelle first heard about **For the One** shortly after they were married. They had been saving to buy a house. At first, it felt like it would be a burden on them, and they would not be able to give generously to **For the One** and also be able to purchase their first home.

As they continued to pray together, they heard God saying to trust in His plan and to give more than what was comfortable. As they leaned into Him, they found God providing in ways they could not have imagined. God blessed them with the perfect first home, and they have not wavered in their giving.

When hearing about **For the One**, they knew right away that mental health was an important, rising issue in Reno. They have a family member and friends who deal with anxiety and depression, and they know the difficulties it can bring to them and their families.

Bjorn and Janelle are passionate about what God is doing through Grace to provide for the community of Reno and reach people at their lowest. Seeing the work their giving is doing has sparked a deep trust and understanding of God's plan in their lives and in the lives of the community.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

NEW COMMITMENT

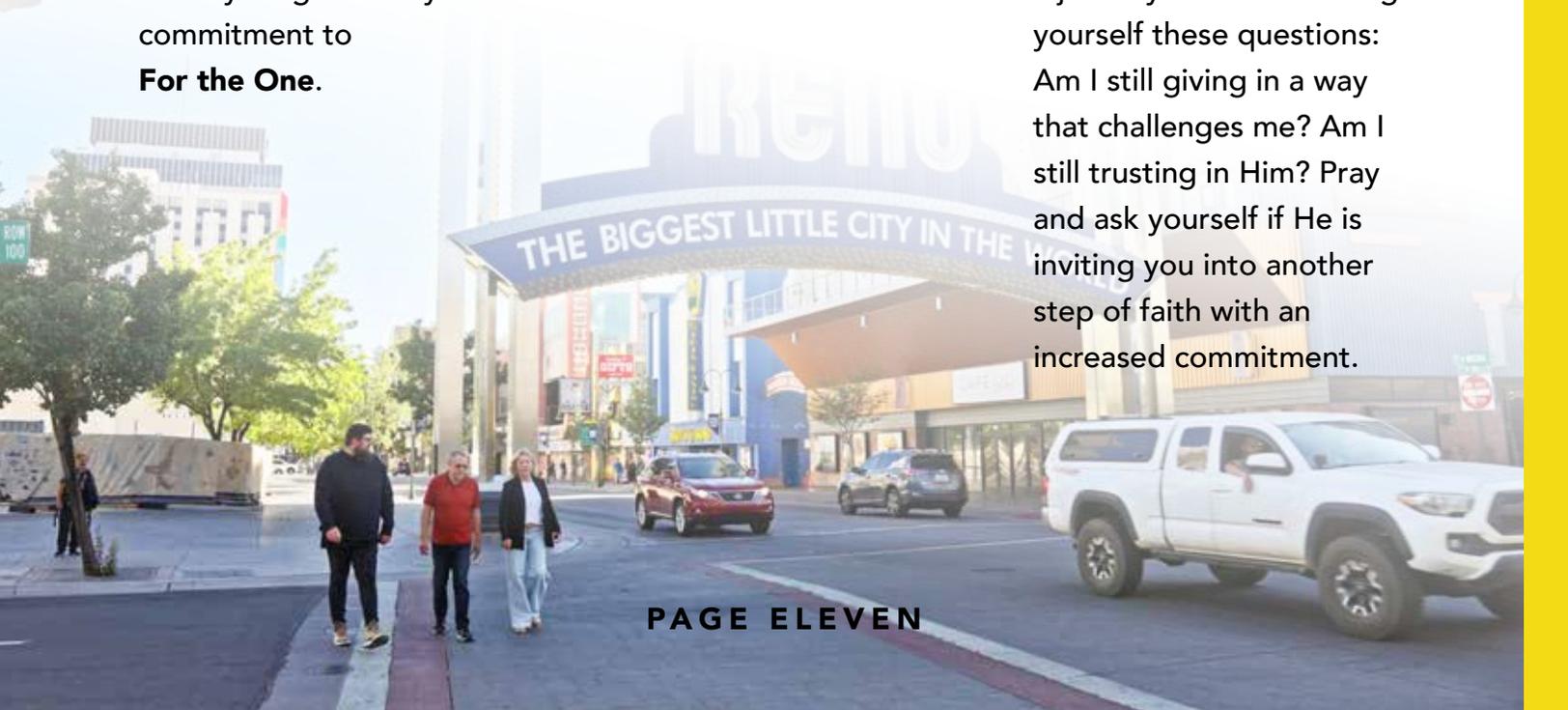
You recently started attending Grace Church and are wondering, “What is the **For the One** initiative, and how do I become a part of it?” **For the One** is for anyone who calls Grace home. Our hope is that everyone at Grace will live and give in a way that stretches us to take our faith to a whole new level of generosity. God is doing amazing things, and we can’t wait to see what He’ll do next! We invite you to prayerfully consider making a one year generosity commitment to **For the One**.

FINISH STRONG

Others made a commitment one year ago and perhaps for some of us, this journey has been more difficult than we had envisioned. Maybe you went to a completely new level in your generosity and are still adjusting your life to your commitment. Maybe you have experienced job loss, job change or unexpected financial stress. Commit to finish strong on the journey you began! We’re praying for you!

INCREASE

Some of us made our **For the One** commitment one year ago, and it’s possible that we had an increase in faith or finances. Keeping that commitment hasn’t been easy and has likely required a lot of sacrifice. Maybe you feel like God is encouraging you to take an additional step of faith in your generosity. We challenge those of you to respond to His generosity by increasing your commitment. Generosity is not a one-time event, it is a journey. Consider asking yourself these questions: Am I still giving in a way that challenges me? Am I still trusting in Him? Pray and ask yourself if He is inviting you into another step of faith with an increased commitment.



COMMITMENT CARD

We've included an example so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God as we approach the midpoint of **For the One**. Please take time to think and pray through this, and we will provide a new hard copy on Midpoint Commitment Sunday, November 17.

I AM NEW TO FOR THE ONE

- I would like to make a one year commitment to For the One in the amount of:

This includes your regular giving over the next 12 months, as well as your expanded giving and stored resources.

\$

December 2024 - December 2025

I AM ALREADY COMMITTED TO FOR THE ONE

My current two-year commitment is:

\$

December 2023 - December 2025

At the midpoint of For the One, I would like to:

- Confirm my commitment to finish strong
- Increase my two-year commitment.

MY NEW TOTAL: \$

December 2023 - December 2025

FOR THE ONE GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Let it be something that inspires and challenges you toward greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom as we seek to give it all for the One.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ONE YEAR GIFT LEVEL	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$83,333	\$2,000,000
1	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$1,000,000
2	\$750,000	\$375,000	\$31,250	\$1,500,000
3	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$1,500,000
4	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,000,000
5	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$750,000
8	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$800,000
12	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$900,000
15	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$975,000
25	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$1,250,000
35	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$1,225,000
50	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$1,250,000
75	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$1,125,000
125	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$1,250,000
175	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$1,312,500
250	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$1,250,000
MANY	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$912,500
TOTAL GIFT GOAL				\$20,000,000

Stories from the One Series Begins
October 20

Midpoint Commitment Weekend
November 17

Midpoint Celebration & Big Give
December 8

If you have any questions, reach out!

Email fortheone@gracechurchreno.org or call the church office at 775.747.9000.

GIVING DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

We are For the One people. God is never finished shaping us into His likeness as we give. Use this journey as a guide as you determine the next steps in generosity God might have for you.

AN INITIAL GIVER

is someone who decides to give for the first time out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who chooses to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift. They experience the initial joy of putting Jesus' words into action. (Matthew 7:24)

A CONSISTENT GIVER

is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, someone who chooses to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the joy of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well; it just requires more discipline. They experience the joy of excelling in this grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7)

A SURRENDERED GIVER

is someone who recognizes that Christ surrendered His whole self for us, and therefore we desire to surrender our entire selves to Him, in love (Ephesians 5:1-2). This giver would say, "My giving is not just changing my spending and saving. It's also changing me!" They also look at what they're not giving away and ask, "Is it surrendered too?" This informs how they use everything they've been blessed and entrusted with – whether through direct monetary giving or through a God-honoring use of an existing resource (i.e., honoring God with the use of your home, etc.).

A PRIORITY GIVER

is someone who understands the pre-eminence of Christ and that He is before all things – that all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him, and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving. They experience the freedom of serving "one master" and declaring Jesus is first. (Matthew 6:19- 24; Colossians 1:15-20)

AN ETERNAL GIVER

is someone who views the eternal impact of their giving on themselves and others, not just the immediate programs and ministries it helps accomplish. This giver has been captivated by the knowledge that the more they are led to "do good, to be generous and ready to share," the more they "take hold of that which is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:19). This encourages them to keep growing! They make all decisions (big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, areas of service) in light of how it will affect their eternal impact.

STORIES FROM THE @ONE

HOME GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK ONE
PRIORITIES

WEEK TWO
POSSESSIONS

WEEK THREE
SURRENDER

WEEK FOUR
STEWARDSHIP

WEEK FIVE
PERSPECTIVE

PRIORITIES



Play the teaching video by heading to fortheone.co/homegroups or scan the QR code. Share reflections and dive into discussion.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do you worry about most in your life currently?

What do you feel is the root of most worry in our lives? What is yours?

READ MATTHEW 6:25-34

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field,

which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Jesus tell us is the antidote to worry? Why is this so important?

2. Jesus says to seek first the kingdom of God. If you are honest, what are some of the things you often seek above God?

3. When you think about your financial priorities, what are the things that drive other financial priorities in your life? Your mortgage? Your car? Your kids? Your retirement account?

4. What might God be asking you to do in order to reorient your priorities toward a "Seek Him First" lifestyle?



FOR THE ONE

POSSESSIONS



Play the teaching video by heading to fortheone.co/homegroups or scan the QR code. Share reflections and dive into discussion.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Are you more like the person who has endless boxes of stuff in storage “just in case” you might need it someday, or the person who is constantly lamenting “the thing you threw out that you probably shouldn’t have...”?

What would be the one earthly possession that, if asked to give it up, would be difficult for you to give up?

READ LUKE 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’”

And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus tells us to "be on guard" against all covetousness?

2. How difficult is it for humans to resist the temptation to build bigger barns? In what ways might this be personally impacting your ability to be generous and willing to share?

3. What are you being convicted by personally in this parable of the rich fool? How is this translating to your current life situation?

READ MATTHEW 6:19-24

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. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. What do you feel the phrase "store up for yourselves" means?

5. Why do you think your heart follows your treasure?

6. Why is it impossible to serve both God and money?

7. What is the benefit of following Jesus' invitation to invest your money with an eternal perspective?

SURRENDER



Play the teaching video by heading to fortheone.co/homegroups or scan the QR code. Share reflections and dive into discussion.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share a time when you gave up something that was difficult to let go of. Why did you do it?

Do you ever compare what you have to what God has given others? How does this impact your relationship with God and His provision in your life?

READ MARK 12:41-44

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus used this moment as a teaching moment? What was it about this story that was so important for the disciples to hear?

2. If you are honest, do you feel you give primarily out of abundance, or do you resonate more with the widow's sacrifice in this story? Only share what you feel comfortable sharing, and there is no need to share any amounts as you discuss.

3. This story of the widow giving all she had is a story that convicts and challenges many of us. How specifically does this impact you and the For the One commitment you plan to make in a few weeks?

READ MARK 12:28-31

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel:

The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. Can you truly say you love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? If not, how does this For the One season inspire you to stretch and grow for the sake of a closer relationship with Jesus?

5. God's love compels us to live generous lives. Does your love for God and others express itself through financial generosity in the way you desire?

STEWARDSHIP



Play the teaching video by heading to fortheone.co/homegroups or scan the QR code. Share reflections and dive into discussion.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever felt that what you had to offer was so small that you wondered if it was worth offering at all? Don't necessarily limit yourself to monetary offerings only. Any type of non-monetary item is relevant as well.

When is a time when you have offered something up to God that seemed small, and you saw Him multiply it far beyond what you would've imagined?

READ JOHN 6:1-15

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said

this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. While not much is said about the boy in this passage, you can infer his willingness to respond to Jesus' call by the fact that his five loaves and two fish were distributed amongst literally thousands of people. How does this challenge you in your personal generosity and in what God can do with a willing heart?

2. Jesus performed this miracle not simply to feed these hungry followers but also to demonstrate His power to them. How have you seen Jesus do this in your own life?

3. The promise of God’s provision is a huge, needle-moving truth that often helps us trust Him in greater ways, especially in stewardship and generosity. How does this story of Jesus feeding the five thousand impact your personal generosity in this next season at Grace?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. The Apostle Paul shares that we should not give “under compulsion” because God loves a cheerful giver. Often we interpret this to mean that if we don’t “feel” cheerful, then God wouldn’t want us to give. Have you ever heard that before? What do you think this really means?

5. God doesn’t desire for us to give out of compulsion but rather that we give “at the ready.” The Greek word used there for “cheerful” is also translated in many other places as “at the ready.” Do you feel “at the ready” to give? Is it your heart’s desire? Do you live in such a way that you are prepared and able when the opportunities arise?

PERSPECTIVE



Play the teaching video by heading to fortheone.co/homegroups or scan the QR code. Share reflections and dive into discussion.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How has the Lord changed your perspective on generosity during this For the One season?

From the start of For the One until now, how have you seen the Lord challenge and grow you in the area of generosity?

READ JOHN 12:1-11

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray

him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you inspired by Mary's abundant generosity in this passage?

2. Have you ever found yourself being more like Judas regarding money? Why do you think our hearts are prone to this kind of cynicism?

3. Are there any parts of your life that you feel you're withholding from the Lord? How do you want the Lord to grow your heart of extravagant generosity?

READ ACTS 20:35

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. What are the blessings you've experienced by giving?

5. Share with your group a time when you experienced the blessing of giving rather than receiving. How has the Lord blessed you during this For the One season at Grace?

Offer to pray for one another.

**FOR
THE
ONE**

FORTHEONE.CO

