



Overflow
CHURCH



HEART FOR THE
HARVEST



Journey
Guide

The time is now.

WWW.OVERFLOWNC.COM/HARVEST

“The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37

Table of Contents

- 3 PRAYER CALENDAR & KEY DATES
- 4 LETTER FROM PASTOR BRANDON
- 5 LETTER FROM OC YOUTH PASTOR
- 6 LETTER FROM OC KIDS PASTOR
- 7 FAMILY TIME ACTIVITIES
- 8 DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Journey Guide

This Journey Guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into the sermon topics and scriptures during the **Heart for the Harvest** Generosity Initiative. Read & pray over each scripture and ask what God is preparing your heart for during this season.

Some of our church family has prayerfully written journal entries to meditate and pray over each day. There's also weekly "Family Time" activities provided to engage the entire family. We are excited to enter this journey together and to continue to sow the seeds of harvest!

Key Dates

Mark your calendars for these important dates in our **Heart for the Harvest** Generosity Initiative.

Prayer Calendar

- **SEPTEMBER 18** Joshua 24:13-15
- **SEPTEMBER 19** 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- **SEPTEMBER 20** Deuteronomy 6:4-12
- **SEPTEMBER 21** Luke 10:2
- **SEPTEMBER 22** Psalm 78:1-9
- **SEPTEMBER 25-29** Matthew 25:14-30
- **OCTOBER 2** Matthew 6:1-4
- **OCTOBER 3** Phillipians 3:18-19
- **OCTOBER 4** John 12:1-6
- **OCTOBER 5** 1 John 3:1
- **OCTOBER 6** Proverbs 11:25
- **OCTOBER 10** Matthew 23:23-24, 27
- **OCTOBER 11** 1 Chronicles 29:1-9
- **OCTOBER 12** Mark 12:41-44
- **OCTOBER 13** 2 Corinthians 8:1-4



Overflow Family,

Years ago, God planted a dream in my Heart. I stood in the back of a church as the pastor gave an altar call and what happened next marked me. With tears in my eyes, I watched as hundreds of people made their way to the front of that church. I'll never forget the hunger for Jesus as the tangible presence of the Holy Spirit filled the room. I whispered in my heart, "this is the kind of church I want to be a part of."

From my first Sunday here as your pastor, I have believed that God wanted to build that kind of church. Six years in, the favor of God has opened doors for us to see prodigals come home, marriages restored, and the captives set free. He has filled our church and our altars week after week. It has been nothing short of an "exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could ask, think or imagine" journey. (Ephesians 3:20)

Today, as I reflect on the last 100 years of our church, I can't help but think about the faithfulness of God. I think about the seeds of faith planted in generations past that have produced a harvest for the generations that followed. Jesus said, "*the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*" (Matthew 9:37-38) I believe with all my heart God has strategically placed our church in the middle of a great harvest for such a time as this!

Now it is **OUR** time to sow. It is **OUR** time to invest in the future of our children and grandchildren. You hold in your hands a Journey Guide to direct us as we embrace this season of planting. I, along with hundreds of faithful believers in our church are on this journey with you. It is my prayer that within these pages you find encouragement, wisdom, and a clear vision as we catch a glimpse into God's **Heart For The Harvest!**

In His Presence,

Pastor Brandon

OC Youth Parents,

We are super excited about the new chapter in the life of our church - the launch of our first ever Generosity Initiative! This is a remarkable opportunity for us to come together as a youth ministry to demonstrate our commitment to the growth of our church and the expansion of God's Kingdom.

As parents, you play a big role in shaping the faith and values of your children. We encourage you to seize the moment to engage in meaningful conversation with your middle and high school students about what this means to your family, the church, and the community. It is not just about raising money for a building - it is about teaching them the importance of generosity, giving, commitment, sacrifice, and the remarkable journey that comes from building God's Kingdom here on Earth.

We believe these conversations will not only enrich your son's & daughter's understanding of faith and stewardship but also deepen their relationship with Jesus and will connect them deeper to our church and community. Let's embark on this journey together, united in faith, and dedicated to spreading God's Word and grow His Kingdom. We can't wait to see the impact this Generosity Initiative will have on the future of our church and our youth for generations to come.

Questions?

Email hugo@overflownc.com

Discussion Questions

- *How does our giving reflect the gratitude of God's blessings in our desire to support His work?*
- *What does it mean to commit to something bigger than ourselves, like the growth of our church?*
- *How can we demonstrate our commitment through our actions?*
- *What examples in the Bible show us the value of making sacrifices for God's Kingdom?*
- *How can our sacrifices today contribute to the expansion of His Kingdom?*

OC Kids Parents,

You didn't think we were going to let you have all the fun, did you?! If you're a parent you know all too well that your children want to know everything that you're doing AND help you every step of the way. Let them! Parents, we're going to overflow onto our kids during the next four weeks. God made children in the most beautiful way and we want to let their little lights shine! Together we can indulge their curiosity and helpful spirits while also teaching them generosity and kindness.

How can we do this?

Throughout the next four weeks our lessons in Overflow Kids will reflect the same teaching that you will receive in "Big Church" from Pastor Brandon. We'll also provide you with questions and fun activities so you can easily bring church into your home! These activities will be included in the later pages of this guide, labeled "**Family Time**". Then, on *October 15th*, we'll have a special "Commitment Sunday" when we'll challenge the kids to choose one friend to pray over. They'll pray over this person every day and mark off each day they prayed. We'll have a special celebration on *October 29th* for those who come back with their card full!

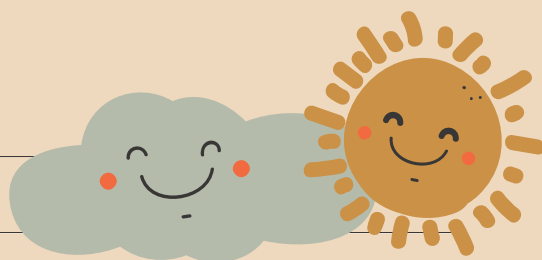
Children are our future, and we're excited to jump into the **Heart for the Harvest** generosity initiative as a family. Allow your children to learn from your example. Together we can teach the next generation what the Bible says about love, trust, generosity, sacrifice, and unity.

Questions?

Email heather@overflownc.com

Family Time

September 17



A Tough Choice



Activity

Shhhh, this activity is a secret!
Only one person will read
the directions and the
rest of the family will play.

Find an empty bag or pillow case. Something that you can't see through. Inside you'll put different objects that everyone would like, such as a Hershey kiss, flair pen, favorite drink, favorite scrunchie, dollar bill, box of candy, etc. You'll need enough items for each person to choose two. Then, gather your family and have everyone choose one item from the bag without looking. They'll see that all the items they chose are good things. Now they have a choice to make: do you surrender it and choose something else or do you keep it? It can be hard to give up something that is really good when you don't know what else is available.



Lesson

God wants us to surrender everything to him so He can bless us abundantly. It's time that we put down that "candy" and ask God, "what's next?" He has something great planned for you!



Overflow Kids



Prayer

Dear God, I give my life to you. I know that I have not been living in a way that pleases you. Lord show me what areas of my life I need to surrender. Transform my heart so I may be the servant you have called me to be, and give me the guidance to lead my family to victory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DATE *September 18, 2023*AUTHOR *Bishop Randy Carter*

A Kingdom Covenant

Joshua 24:13-15

These are exciting times at Overflow Church. Souls are being saved. Lives are being changed. The community is being impacted. The church is growing. With that growth comes the need to build, the need to expand! Yes, these are exciting times at Overflow Church! With so many changes and so many new people making Overflow their home, it stands to reason that there are probably only a handful of people around who were present in the early days of the church. One thing you can know for sure is that a group of people came before you; people who prayed and gave, worked and served sacrificially for you to be able to enjoy all of this and we are forever indebted to them. In this insightful passage, God reminds Joshua and the Children of Israel that they too were enjoying the fruits of the labor of those who had gone before them. God had prepared a city for them, a place that they could call home. It was a place they had not built. He says; *"I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant."* Likewise, it is He who has prepared a place for the people of Overflow Church, a place to call home. You get to use buildings you didn't build and enjoy ministries you may not have developed. That's the blessing and the favor of a gracious God toward His people. How do you respond to that kind of blessing, that kind of favor, that kind of grace? Joshua tells them (and us) how to respond.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

Fear and Service, Sincerity and Faithfulness

"Now fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness." Joshua 24:14a

How do we respond to that kind of blessing and favor? We respond in fear and service. We develop a healthy, holy fear of God which leads to a life of willing service to Him. And we do so with a heart of sincerity and a commitment to faithfulness. How do you make that kind of commitment? Again, Joshua tells them (and us) how to make that level of commitment. It requires a decision followed by a choice.

A Decision and a Choice

The decision we must make is the decision to put God in first place in our lives. It's the decision to remove every distraction from our lives and to give God the only place He requires and deserves – first place. Here's the word of the Lord to them: *"Put away the gods that your fathers served..and serve the Lord."* The Lord challenged them to make a decision to put away all other gods, to put God first in their lives. For us that would be anything that strives for first place in our lives, the place that only God deserves. And then comes the choice. *"Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

Once we decide to remove all other gods, all lesser gods, from our lives, then we make the most important choice of our lives. We choose Him. We, along with our entire household or family, choose to serve the Lord. As we embark on this exciting and challenging journey, let us fear the Lord. Let us serve the Lord. Let us choose the Lord.

PRAYER

Lord, I acknowledge that I have enjoyed the blessings and the favor of God in my life and at times I have failed to express my gratitude to you for providing so much for me that I did not earn and do not deserve. I confess that I have not walked before you in Holy and reverent fear and I have not served you in sincerity and with faithfulness of heart. Today I am making a conscious decision to remove all lesser gods from my life and to put you first in my life. And today I am declaring, along with Joshua of old... as for me and my house, we will serve you from this day forward. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DATE *September 19, 2023*

AUTHOR *Amanda Byrd*

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

Obedience is the Correct Response

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Samuel's heart of obedience is seen by how he responds to what he thinks is a call from Eli, as well as by the way he follows Eli's instructions specifically. Samuel was positioned to hear and listen, and this would soon lead him to know the Lord. This young man had witnessed obedience in the lives of his parents and saw how their lives had been blessed. Obedience leads to generational blessings. Samuel's response carried a heavy weight in the Kingdom. Samuel was a significant leader who helped to turn a nation towards God. In fact, his name even means "heard by God."

I fully believe that we must be positioned to hear from the Lord. Six years ago, I sat with the Lord and I heard Him call me to ministry. At this time, I was working a full-time job and was diving deeper into my career. Was this really the voice of God calling me? If this was indeed Him, this would mean that our family would

have to sell our home, I would resign from my current position and I would pursue Biblical/Pastoral Counseling. After much prayer, fasting, and confirmation after confirmation, I would love to share that it **was** the voice of God and He has blessed that obedience over and over. I now have a counseling and community outreach ministry that I use to give back to the Lord. I was positioned at Overflow Church during the time of my call and was surrounded by the most supportive people and Pastors who encouraged me to answer the call. I am fortunate enough to be a part of the body of Overflow and work in our church and community together for the Kingdom. Hearing the voice of God isn't always easy - I will say I watched my mama listen for His voice during some really challenging times in our life so when it came time for me to listen, I had already experienced the blessings of obedience and knew that was the correct response to the call.

EXERCISE



- **Are you positioned to hear the voice of the Lord?**
- **Are there distractions around you that are preventing you from hearing & listening?**
- **What would obedience look like in your life/family?**

It may mean that you come consistently to His house to worship. It may mean dying to yourself and following Him completely. Take some time to journal about what He may be asking you to do to position yourself to hear and obey. If God is calling you - He already has the provision ready.

PRAYER

*Father, I want to hear your voice and follow your way. Speak, your servant is listening.
If there are any hindrances in my life preventing your will, please remove them.
Here I am- use me in my family, in my career, in my relationships and at my church.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*



○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

DATE *September 20, 2023*

AUTHOR *Sue Johnson Langdon*

A Rich Inheritance

Deuteronomy 6:4-12

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

God is not silent—He speaks and worlds are formed, both physical and spiritual, mountains are moved, and we his children are changed, comforted and energized. The LORD writes His words upon our hearts and has declared that He will be to us a God and we shall be to Him a people. We belong to Him. He does not speak without thought and purpose and His word is unchanging and eternal. But are we listening to His voice, heeding His written word, and placing our whole trust in Him? We are to walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Do we talk of Him or exemplify Him in our everyday life? This is where the “rubber meets the road” so to speak. Our family, friends, co-workers and those we associate with in life are our congregants. Take the time to look back over your life and see all the ways the Lord has led you. All those trials, heartaches, sufferings that you have endured can lead to separation from God but through the atonement of Jesus Christ and by obedience to His gospel, we are made spiritually alive.

Are we following God’s **ABC**’s of faith?

We are to take **Action**

Based upon **Belief**

Sustained by **Confidence**

...in God’s Word and ability to perform His Word.

1 John 5:10-12 speaks of this Confidence: *“Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

Deuteronomy 6 is the hub of Moses’ sermon where he declares to the people to be diligent to remember their history if they desire to enter the promised land and enjoy the rest God is offering, to have God’s law in their mind, and love God with all their hearts. **How are we to get these words in our hearts for generations to come?**

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

PRAYER

*Lord, let your words be on our hearts. We remember who you are and all you have done. Let us pass this onto our children and grandchildren. Help us tell your story well, to all people, and share our faith with the next generation.
Let us remember our inheritance isn’t just monetary or land, it is a spiritual legacy passed down through families.
Father, let us be confident in your Word and use it as our testimony.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

DATE *September 21, 2023*AUTHOR *Barry & Jo Anne Honeycutt*

Abundant Harvest

Luke 10:2

We are blessed to live on the family farm and to still farm here. From planting to harvest, there is always work to be done. Harvest time creates urgency in the work—delaying the harvest can lead to lower quality produce or even loss of the product. Sometimes, the tasks can seem overwhelming—like there is no way to get everything done. So, when it is time to harvest, everyone in the family comes to help. We work side by side in labor to bring the crops into the storehouse or to market. Everyone uses their talents to do the necessary work—no job is insignificant and all labor is valued.

This scripture reminds us, as members of the church, that we all have work to do and that together we will have great impact on the world. God has called us all to share His love with others and to disciple them.

There are many in our community that do not know or have a relationship with God. They are the harvest that God calls us to labor for. And in our labor we should all work in our strength and gifts being grateful that we get to serve and grow His kingdom. Your labor may be in the parking lot, the children's ministry or on the stage leading worship—no role is insignificant and all laborers are welcome. As we work and serve together, we also grow closer to God as a church and community of believers.

At the end of a harvest on the farm, we may be tired but we are also thankful for the blessing of the harvest. As you labor for God, know that you are storing up blessings in heaven and that you are growing His kingdom.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

EXERCISE



We challenge you to pray for God to show you areas that you can serve in and to pray that God will continue to grow our church as we labor together for His harvest.

PRAYER

Lord, we are here to do your commands - to love you with all our heart, make disciples, and spread the gospel to all nations. Prepare us for the harvest and help us labor together to further your Kingdom.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DATE *September 22, 2023*

AUTHOR *Pastor Brandon Teachey*

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture.
once to yourself
& once out loud*

Generational Impact

Psalm 78:1-9

From Genesis to Revelation, we see the heart and hand of God working in and through every generation, preparing the way for the next. There is something powerful that happens in a relay race which is divided into 4 legs with 4 different runners. After each runner finishes his/her leg, they must pass the baton on to the next runner. This takes place in what is called the Exchange Zone. In the 2004 (Athens) and 2008 (Beijing) Olympics, the American team was disqualified for dropping the baton in the exchange zone after they were projected to win, qualifying as the fastest team represented.

Friend, for such a time as this we are not just projected to win, we are set up to win! We are a generation set in a divine race that God has marked for us. Oh, what great and marvelous things He has done! While we faithfully run, we must never forget those that are to carry on the legacy long after we're gone. Scripture compels us to pass the baton of faith on the next generation. May we run well, finish well, and have something to hand to those God has place in our Exchange Zone.

When I come to the end of my life, knowing I shared the miracles, signs and wonders of God, passing the baton of faith to the next generation, I want to hear *"well done, good and faithful servant."* Matthew 25:23



EXERCISE

Write down some of the significant things God has done in your family and in your own personal life. Recall who carried and handed the baton of faith to you. Maybe it was a grandmother, grandfather, mom, dad, uncle, or a dear family friend.



PRAYER

*Thank you God for the people who carried the baton of faith and passed it along.
Thank you God for the generations behind us that faithfully served and made sure we knew about the marvelous things you have done. Lord, show us how to pass the baton to our children and others that come after me.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*



○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

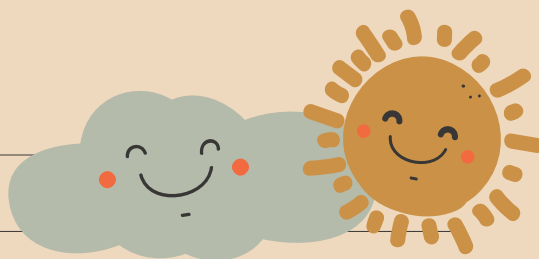
○

○

○

Family Time

September 24



What's Your Talent?



Activity

Do you have a hidden talent?
What about a funny talent?

Think of three talents that you have; it could be anything from building puzzles to baking cakes! Take turns allowing each family member to show their talents and rate them on a scale from 1-10. For added fun, make numbered cards from 1-10 and let each family member rate your talents! Are you good at a sport? You can pray for your team before the start of each game. Is your hidden talent finding the best deals while shopping? You can pay for the person's meal behind you at the drive-thru. Can you find a way to use your talent this week? First person to use their talent gets a candy bar!



Lesson

Now that you've helped each other choose your best talent, spend a few minutes talking about ways you can use your talent to glorify God.



Overflow Kids



Prayer

Thank you God for giving us individual talents. Sometimes I don't feel like I know how to talk to others about you, but I'm thankful that you've given us an easy way to share through our talents. Please help me to always remember that I am your child and you made me perfect, just the way I am. Use me as your mouthpiece, to speak to others and share the gospel. Thank you for blessing my family with their talents too. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DATE *September 25, 2023*AUTHOR *Jessica Flegel*

A Personal Parable

Matthew 25:14-30

This parable makes clear God's expectation of using the gifts and talents he has bestowed upon us. He calls us to be good and faithful servants, but what does that look like in action today and what do we often allow to get in the way of serving God fully with what he has given us? The bible speaks often of the ways in which God has gifted his creation: Romans 12:6, Ephesians 2:10, James 1:17, to name a few. As Christians we are clear that our God enables his people to do His Kingdom work. However, we get hung up in a couple of places. First, what are my gifts? Secondly, how do I use them boldly and not let fear prevent me from being faithful to what I have been given?

Often our gifts show up in the things we do with ease or in the things that just come naturally. Other times, another person will reflect back to us gifting what we cannot see in ourselves quite yet. Being encouraged in this way often allows a person to finally see and embrace a talent they have had all along. Tell people what you see they are good at! You might just nudge them in the direction of their gifts!



EXERCISE

- *Where do you feel God has gifted you? If you are not sure, what comes easy to you naturally? Think about how God could use that talent to serve others.*
- *Do you know your talents but have buried them? What is preventing you from boldly using your talents to serve where God has called?*

PRAYER

God, thank you for grace and goodness and that you would choose to gift me in ways that serve your people. Help me to honor you by seeking, developing, and using my talents as you have called. Help me identify buried talents. I surrender to your will over my life and open myself for you to use me as you desire. I am the clay and you are the potter and I put all my trust in you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*



○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

DATE *September 26, 2023*

AUTHOR *Pastor Hugo Zacarias*

A Personal Parable

Matthew 25:14-30

In this parable Jesus is teaching us the importance of being faithful stewards of our God-given gifts and resources that He entrusted us with. Just like the master entrusted different amounts to his servants, God has given each of us unique and different talents, gifts and resources. The way that we utilize all of this matters. We should strive to be like the servants that multiplied what was entrusted to them. They showed faithfulness and eventually they were trusted with even more. If we don't utilize our gifts and talents, we not only suffer the consequences, but others will miss out on opportunities to be impacted because of our lack of willingness to utilize the gifts that God gave us. Let's use every gift that God has given us to expand His Kingdom! Let no gift go to waste!

In my own life I have personally experienced what it looks like to use the talents, gifts, and resources God gives you. I have learned to be faithful with the little

and watched God multiply in several areas of my life, including my career, personal finances, and in ministry! When Leslie and I first started our journey in student ministry we were blessed to have an average of 15-20 students a week, but by being faithful even when it was tough, we now see the fruit of that faithfulness as our ministry is growing tremendously and now we are averaging 150 students on Wednesday nights! While it is not all about numbers, each number represents a student, and each student represents a soul and God has trusted us to minister to many! A time I showed financial faithfulness was during a tough season in my life - my separation and divorce. I was helping support two households as well as competitive travel cheer fees for my son. It was a financially difficult time, but I placed my trust fully in God and continued to honor Him first through my tithing and He always provided more than enough for me!

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

As you read today's devotion, how is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about being a good steward of your gifts?







PRAYER

*Heavenly Father thank you for the gifts and talents you have blessed us with, may we be faithful stewards using what you have given us to bring glory to your name and make apposite impact in our community, help us overcome complacency and empower us to invest our God given gifts for the growth of your Kingdom.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

DATE *September 27, 2023*

AUTHOR *Matt & Shannon Currin*

A Hidden Danger

Matthew 25:14-30

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

Stewardship is an important part of the Christian journey and has always been a high priority in our married life. We have a shared belief in following what God calls us to do in funding His church and ministries with our finances and time. We are thankful for the opportunity to share some of our experiences with you as you grow in Christ with Overflow Church.

MATT

The importance of stewardship and giving came to me at an early age, instilled by both my parents and my grandparents, especially my grandmother. She was a special Christian lady who taught her grandchildren the importance of God in our lives and being obedient to what He asks of us. She was the first person I remember discussing specifically the amount of income that is to be provided to God for His church and ministry. I remember she explained this in a way that I could understand as a child. I had done a few chores for her around the house and she agreed to pay me a dollar to complete them. Instead of a dollar bill, she gave me ten dimes to illustrate an example of tithing. As a six-year-old, I was excited to have a dollar, which could buy a lot of candy back then! She pointed out that the Bible says we should give ten percent of our income to God. I began to understand why she gave me the ten dimes instead of a dollar bill and I gave her one of the dimes back to put into the offering plate on Sunday – she was much more capable of making sure it would get there rather than six-year-old me! She also told me that if we are fortun-

nate to be blessed with more money than we expected, and if we could afford to do so, we should give above and beyond what was required to tithe, also known as an offering. This was my first lesson in the importance of tithing and it has stuck with me for my entire life, all thanks to one devout Christian lady who wanted to make sure future generations understood the value and importance of giving to God. This sense of importance carried into my teens when I began working with my dad and uncle on the farm during the summer. I remember my pay was about \$200 per week, which was good pay for my age, but it came through some hard work on hot days. I always made sure I had a fresh \$20 bill for the offering plate on Sunday. The feeling of giving my hard-earned money to God was something that was very fulfilling and hard to describe. I was so proud that I was able to do this and I know God rewarded me for my stewardship and faithfulness to Him. I am thankful for that lesson my grandma gave me, making sure I understood I knew what God expected in our giving and not just giving what was left over.



SHANNON

Two of the most limited resources in a person's lifetime are time and money. God wants us to completely trust Him with both of these precious commodities by unselfishly giving them away. To the outside world this seems like a radical belief, but to believers we know that God blesses those who are faithful to his calling. I have been actively serving a church in some capacity since I was 13 years old. My parents never took me to church, but thankfully God had other plans for me. He put faithful servants with a heart for ministry in my path. My neighbors and other church members invited me to church, gave me rides to and from and invested their time in me. It was here that I found my true love, my savior Jesus Christ. With nothing else to give, I gave my time. I started working in the church nursery right away and grew a heart of stewardship. Since my Christian walk began, I have served in many different capacities over the years. Through different seasons of my life, God has called me to serve in many ministries. Each one provided me with exactly what I needed during that time of my life. I'm so thankful God put people in my path to direct me to Him, little do they

know the impact they have had on the greater Kingdom. My prayer is for their servant hearts to echo through me on to the next generation. The Lord has blessed us so many times over and beyond what we could have ever expected or imagined and we know this is because of our faithful giving and stewardship to Him. So as we move into this season of giving towards our goal of a new facility that will house more people, modernize and enhance the existing structure, provide more space, and open up greater opportunities for ministry, we ask that you remember just a couple of our favorite verses from the Bible. One of those verses is Luke 12:48, which says "...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." This verse has been a foundation of our approach to giving to God and generosity in our lives. This verse is not only referring to the use of money, but also our talents - if you have a talent, use it for God and his glory. The other verse is 2 Corinthians 9:7, the apostle Paul writes, "*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*"

As the Heart for the Harvest generosity initiative kicks off, remember what God asks of us in providing ten percent of our income back to Him. If you have more than ten percent to offer and God lays it upon your heart to cheerfully give, do it and it will certainly be pleasing to God.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to be good stewards of your blessings. You have provided us with ways to grow your Kingdom. Remind us to give without reservation because you gave first. Use our gifts and talents for your Glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DATE September 28, 2023

AUTHOR Taylor Roberts

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

A Hidden Danger Part 2

Matthew 25:14-30

As members of the body of Christ at Overflow Church and in our community we are trusted with talents to build God's kingdom. We may be like the first servant in the parable who was given the most, five talents, the biggest bag of gold and ran with it to double it for the master. We may be like the second servant, the one given two talents of gold who chose to do the same. The second servant was given less than the first, but still chose to invest what he had, he did not see lack, he

did not compare or complain, he invested and was deemed faithful. Or we may be like the third servant, the one given a single talent of gold, who in fear buried it in the ground and did nothing with it. We are all trusted over LITTLE; our gifts, our resources and our abilities. May we be good stewards of what we have to bring glory to our Master and He will set us over MUCH.

EXERCISE



In ancient times it was common practice to bury valuables, hiding them to protect them from others, but that is not what we are called to do with our talents (1 Peter 4:10). Write a list of the gifts and resources the Master has given you. Are they invested or are they buried? What are some ways you can invest them today?

MY GIFTS & RESOURCES

-
-
-
-

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

PRAYER

*Lord, thank you for the talents and resources you have given me, lead me in using them to build your Kingdom.
I want to hear you say "Well done, good and faithful servant."
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

DATE *September 29, 2023*AUTHOR *Katie Fisher*

No Matter What

Matthew 25:14-30

This parable is a great illustration of stewardship for what God has given us. In this parable, we must first recognize the bags are a gift from the Master. Your talents are a gift. What are you really good at? What comes natural to you? To take it a step further, what are you better at than your peers? These gifts are not due to practice or strength, but from the blessing of God. Each servant is given a different number of bags. Ever wanted the neighbor's house, your boss' job, or the luxurious car? It says the talents are awarded based on ability. Let's trust what God has given us instead of coveting the gifts of someone else. While all of our talents look different, and may come in different quantities, we all have a talent from God.

The servants who invested their money doubled their original amount. I love the promise God gives us in this scripture! Stewardship of our blessings and talents

leads to a multiplication. Look how the return was doubled. The master did not increase by 10%, 15%, or 25%, but by 100%! The one thing that stood in the way from the third servant multiplying their talent was fear. The enemy knows fear can silence, stagnate, and paralyze us from the calling over our lives and multiplication of God's blessing. Have faith over fear to invest those talents.

Lastly, the investment resulted in the master's happiness. After the first two servants displayed their returns, the master says to, "enter into the joy of your master." You know, it brings the Lord joy to see us succeed. It makes God happy when we are good stewards of the God-given talent and resources we've been blessed with. We all want to hear the words, "*well done, good and faithful servant.*"

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

EXERCISE



Reread Matthew 25:14-30. Replace the word master in this parable with God, and replace the word servant with your name.

PRAYER

*Father, thank you for trusting me with the talents you have blessed me with.
Thank you for the skills I excel in. I praise you for your ability to multiply my talents for your glory.
Give me strength to overcome my fear in the areas of my life I am burying my talent.
Build my faith to trust You as I invest the God-given abilities you have given me.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*



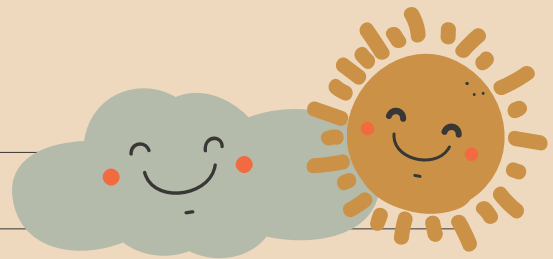
What talents has God given you? What do you do better than anyone else?

**What talents are you investing for the Kingdom of God right now?
(volunteering in ministries, serving others, your career)**

What talents are you hiding? What is holding you back?

Family Time

October 1



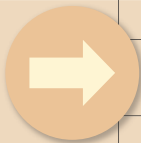
Give or Take



Activity

How generous of a person do you think you are? Very generous, somewhat generous or not generous?

Write each family member's name on a piece of paper or dry erase board. Throughout the week, every time you're generous you'll add 1 point below your name. BUT every time you're not generous, the family member who catches you gets to take away 2 points! The family member with the most points at the end of the week, wins!! Here's a few suggestions: giving away gently used toys, writing a thank-you note, texting words of encouragement or a prayer to a friend, or...brace yourself...letting your brother or sister have the last Oreo or first turn in the shower!

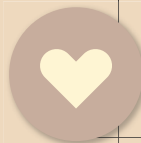


Lesson

We should give with the right intentions. Give from a place of love and not superiority. Give from a place of generosity, not pride.



Overflow Kids



Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to be a more generous and giving person. Help me to be more like your son Jesus who gave the ultimate gift, his life for our sins. We make mistakes every day and you continue to give us grace and forgive us for our sins. Thank you, God, for being a perfect example of generosity and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DATE *October 2, 2023*AUTHOR *Heather Sides*

Generosity is Noticeable

Matthew 6:1-4

In this passage, Jesus isn't saying that you need to put on your spy gear and be generous under the cover of darkness. He's saying that you should give with the right intentions. Giving from a place of love and not superiority. Giving from a place of generosity, not pride. Jesus gave us an example in Matthew 8:4 when he healed a man from leprosy, then said, "*see that you don't tell anyone.*" Then again in Matthew 17:9, after Jesus transfigured on the mountain, he said, "*don't tell anyone about the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.*" There was something special about Jesus. He didn't have to shout from the rooftops that He was righteous. He had the joy of the Holy Spirit that

poured out from him and everyone around him could feel it.

When you give sacrificially, you have that same joy pouring out of you. A joy that comes only from God! When my husband and I got married, my best friend's dad surprised us with an arbor to stand under. To him it was a small gift, but to me it was so much more. His generosity brought a vibrant joy to our wedding day and our hearts were filled with happiness. You never know how much your generosity could affect someone else!

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

EXERCISE



Generosity looks different for every stage of life. Write about a time when you were generous at a younger age. Then, write about a time when you were generous at your current age. Was it important for you to give in secret during both times in your life?

PRAYER

*Thank you, God, for blessing my family.
Help me to open my heart to be a more generous giver with my time, money, and talents.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*



○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

DATE *October 3, 2023*

AUTHOR *Janet Parker*

Generosity Has An Enemy

Phillipians 3:18-19

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

In Phillipians, Paul uses the church in Philippi as an example of generosity. He writes a thank you letter to the congregation (while he is in prison, no less) to thank them for supporting him and his ministry. In the letter, he praises them for their generosity, but at the same time, warns them about some people in their congregation who are Judaizers (those who are too legalistic in their beliefs) and the Libertines (those who believe that they have a get-out-of-sin free card just because they are believers). Paul refers to those hypocritical church members as “enemies of the cross of Christ.” Paul even weeps as he thinks about such church members “whose end is destruction” because their god is their “stomach”—their sight is set on earthly things.

So while the letter to the Phillipians reminds us to be generous, it also warns us about being too self-righteous and judgmental and about being too lax in our behavior. It also reminds us to keep our focus on heavenly things—not earthly treasures “*where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.*” (Matthew 6:19)

Let us here at Overflow continue to be a church known for its generosity, kindness, and fellowship—traits in which our Pastors often point out.

EXERCISE



Let us reflect on where our priorities lie. What is first place in our lives? Do we allow the things of the world to dominate our thoughts and actions or do we focus on eternal things—on “the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,” as Paul did. (Phillipians 3:14, KJV)

PRAYER

*Lord, may we at Overflow Church imitate Paul to become more like Christ.
Please keep us humble, kind, and generous as you pour out your blessings upon us unto overflowing.
Help us to continue to share your many blessings with others.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

DATE *October 4, 2023*AUTHOR *Pastor Jonathon Hoefler*

Generosity is Extravagant

John 12:1-6

In this passage we dive into this idea of extravagant giving and heart posture. John tells us, *“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.”* This action was not only fantastically expensive, but also fantastically humble. How so? Well, John says Mary didn't anoint His head but His feet. To attend to one's feet in this day was the duty of the lowliest of slaves. This act is more striking because in this day a Jewish woman wouldn't normally let down their hair in public, to do so was seen as a mark of loose morals. Recall that John the Baptist once said he was unworthy to even untie the sandals on Jesus' feet. That Mary attended to Christ's feet and wiped them off with her own hair, was her own way of saying the same thing, and it indicated that she was gladly willing to not only freely give to Him what was very costly to her, she was also willing to do the lowliest of tasks for the sake of Christ.

Then we have Judas, who asked “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” On the surface of things this could be interpreted as a good question, one that shows a true heart to care and provide for the poor in their commu-

nity. But we have already seen where John told us Judas was a traitor; that gives a dark shade to anything Judas will say. *“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.”* Judas's heart and “love” was selfish. Mary's love for Christ was extravagant and her actions remind us that it is always appropriate for an extravagant display of devotion to Christ.

Church, what could you and I possibly do that would be too extravagant in honoring Jesus, too extravagant in praising Him, too extravagant in giving Him glory? Is there an offering too big? Is there a song too loud? Is there a study too deep? Is there a heart too happy? No! What are you, right now, giving to Christ that shows your love for Him? What could you, right now, give to Christ that shows your love for Him? Is it extravagant? Is it costly? Is it sacrificial?

When it comes down to it, if we know Jesus we'll recognize that in Him we have more than any earthly possession could ever give us. This frees us to give extravagantly, not only to one another, but back to God as well.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

PRAYER

*Father, shape us and mold us to love You extravagantly and out of that to love others the same!
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

DATE *October 5, 2023*AUTHOR *Tori Carnes*

Generosity Flows from Gratitude

1 John 3:1

There is nothing you can do that will make God love you any less, and there is nothing you can do that will make Him love you any more! God's love is extravagant, generous and unconditional. You are the dearest, most precious being to Him. (Matthew 6:26) He died so you might be Free in Him. (Romans 5:8; John 8:36)

God's unfailing love was something I experienced when my husband was struggling with his drug addiction. My husband had abandoned me, our children and his responsibilities at home. But he was still God's son and God loved Him. I was filled with bitterness and anger. But God never left me nor forsake me. I was His daughter, and He loved me. As we started working our recovery, God's healing love poured out over us, which overflowed into our marriage and into our family, bringing reconciliation and forgiveness.

We have a saying in recovery, "You can't keep it, unless you give it away." This is the 12th step, the last step.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

When God blesses you and pours His love, favor, generosity over you and you receive that sweet precious gift, you can not help but want everyone else to experience it too.

The gratitude you have in your heart and soul transforms how you love and serve those around you. Generosity flows from this gratitude. You worship the Savior from a place of humility and thankfulness. You give more to your spouse, family, job, church, and to your community, because you want to see people healed too. You want other families to be restored. You want the brokenness from one's childhood trauma to be mended and released. You want guilt, shame, bitterness, anger and depression to be bound through the power of Jesus Christ.

When you encounter the generosity of God's extravagant love, you want to go over and beyond so others can experience it too!

EXERCISE



*How can you give deeper to God, your family and Overflow Church?
How have you seen God's extravagant love in your life?
What are you doing to show others that love?*

PRAYER

*God, thank you for the outpouring of Your love and for healing our brokenness.
You are the Father to the fatherless and You cherish us as Your children.
May we overflow with generosity so we show the world Your extravagant love.
In Jesus name, Amen.*



○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

DATE *October 6, 2023*AUTHOR *Crystal Fry*

Generosity is Rewarded

Proverbs 11:25

Generosity falls in line with stewarding well the things God has given us. When we are generous there is growth within us. Generosity does a work inside our hearts that will then overflow onto others. Our heart posture is something we should continuously be checking and through a generous heart we also see a grateful heart.

As a single mom one year when both my children were young, I lacked the funds to provide any gifts to go under our Christmas tree. I knew that wasn't the meaning of Christmas, but there was a part of me that still felt in some ways a failure. A friend of mine who didn't know our situation reached out to let me know her mom's work family wanted to bless us. I have never

forgotten how their generous heart poured into mine. I can remember that Christmas morning better than any others because of the overwhelming gratitude that filled my heart. I speak of this often years later because their generosity not only changed one morning for my family, but it also refreshed a heart that was broken.

Scripture calls us to love (John 13:34) and love can be demonstrated through a generous heart. God demonstrated that love by giving us Jesus and though that is the most rewarding and generous gift we could ever be given our giving can reflect the Lord's work within our own hearts.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

EXERCISE



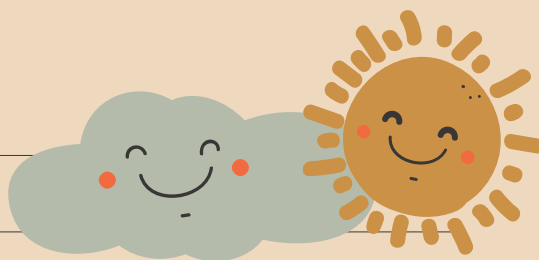
Can you remember a time that someone's generosity filled your heart with love, or you filled someone's heart with love through your own willingness to give? Take some time to sit and write about all the ways it made you feel. How being generous not only rewarded you on the inside, but how in return had an overflow affect onto others. Why or why not?

PRAYER

*God, thank You for giving me the most generous gift of all through Jesus. Help me to reflect that generous Spirit in all I do while refreshing my heart and the hearts of others.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Family Time

October 8



What Can I Give Up for God?



Activity

What is something that you're putting in front of God? It may be a favorite toy, game system, book, social media site...

On the count of three, go and find that item...one, two, THREE! As a family, tell each other what that favorite thing is and set it on the table.

- How many times a day do you think about or use this item?
- Is that more than you talk to God or spend time in His Word each day?
- Next, decide how long you can go without that item – one day, two days, three days?

Challenge each other to surrender it to God and go without for _____ days.



Lesson

Pray this prayer together as a family and encourage one another to put God first and make Him the priority over every thing else!



Overflow Kids



Prayer

Dear God, we love you. We stand before you as a family prepared to sacrifice the things that we've put in front of you. Please forgive us for our wrongdoing. We want you to be number one in our lives. Please give us strength as we fast these simple things and protect our family from the tricks of the devil as we draw closer to you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DATE *October 9, 2023*AUTHOR *Jenna & Landon Adams*

God Notices Your Giving

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus is teaching an important lesson in this passage. He is teaching the disciples that it is not the amount of money you give that is important, but instead the sacrifice you make while giving that offering. In this story, the wealthy people were giving because they had the money to give. Whereas the poor widow did not have a lot of money to spare, but it was the posture of her heart and her sacrifice that stood out to Jesus. Jesus noticed her over the wealthy people because she was giving out of obedience.

We relate to this story on a personal level. In 2022, we experienced financial struggles that not many people know about. We were both "stuck" in jobs that we were not happy with, and experienced extreme burn out (personally, professionally, and financially). There were many times where we could not financially afford to tithe/give but we chose to be obedient and that often meant pulling money out of our savings account to contribute our tithes each month to the church. In the Fall of 2022, things started looking up

for Landon - he received a promotion that provided more stability in pay and a better work schedule. I continued to feel "stuck" and burned out in all areas of life. I accepted a contract position thinking this would alleviate some of the financial burdens we had been facing over the last several months. Despite the extra money from the contract position, that was still not enough to cover the extra medical and personal bills we were facing. On March 12, 2023, I had an encounter with the Holy Spirit, and I was told to quit my part-time job. Come that Monday morning, I quit that job. One week after surrendering, I was blessed with a new job that offered a significant pay increase. Both of our job promotions have allowed our family to become more financially stable and we are almost out of debt. We are living proof that God notices your giving - no matter the amount. We chose to be obedient and give, even though most of the time we could honestly not afford to give.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

EXERCISE



Over the next week, reflect on your giving. Ask yourself is there anything holding you back from giving because you feel like you cannot give a certain dollar amount. Remember God notices all giving - big or small.

PRAYER

*Dear Lord, thank you for your favor over my life. I pray that you will use my giving, no matter the amount, to bless your kingdom. We praise you and thank you for all that you are doing at Overflowchurch. Please bless my giving and use it to your glory.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

DATE *October 10, 2023*AUTHOR *Leslie Zacarias*

Giving Can Be Routine or Sacrificial

Matthew 23:23-24, 27

Ever found yourself in a place where things are pleasant between people, everyone is having fun, and then out of no where things quickly change? One of your children say something disrespectful to you? Or you're at the office and a coworker takes things too far with a joke? Or maybe you're at school watching a football game and two players continue the physicality a little too long after the play is over? The atmosphere can change in these situations very quickly, can't they?

In this passage, we see a slight change in the temperature of the interactions between Jesus and the religious leaders of the day. At this point, Jesus seems to have reached the point where He's heard enough and He's about to turn up the heat, so to speak. He's going to bring accusations against the scribes and Pharisees that will paint a picture of how He really feels about them.

Matthew 23 is a difficult text. It's not difficult to understand, as most people can grasp what Jesus is getting at in this passage. It is however difficult in that its

message is especially penetrating and convicting. As we look deeper into this scripture, let's take these warnings from Jesus and use them for the personal preservation and spiritual health of our own hearts, minds, and lives. Jesus' correction should serve as a warning to all Christians to focus on the internal, not the external. Take off your religious mask. Be real. Don't pretend. Measure your spirituality in terms of character and conviction, not artificial piety and religious traditions. Put off pride, prejudice, and partiality. And put on kindness, humility, and meekness. Seek sacrificial service instead of selfish ambition. Serve God's purpose instead of your personal agenda. Exalt truth instead of tradition. Be loyal to Jesus Christ instead of church custom.

Here we can feel the righteous anger of Jesus delivered with a broken heart for people who had lost their way and forgotten God. Then we can reflectively and honestly examine our own hearts and ask, "Lord, is it I?"

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

EXERCISE



It's easy to read a text like this and immediately think of others to whom it might apply, but we must first apply it to our own hearts (see Matthew 7:3-5). How can we seek to apply this text to our own hearts so that we can root out hypocrisy and man-pleasing from our own lives?

PRAYER

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. I do not want to live my life as the Pharisees did, hypocritical and appearing righteous and loving only on the outside. I want to have a heart that is full of kindness, humility, sacrificial serving and giving, and not one that is filled with greed, selfish ambition, wickedness or self-indulgence.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DATE *October 11, 2023*AUTHOR *John & Danne Thompson*

Sacrificial Giving Reveals a Depth of Relationship with God that is Beyond Routine

1 Chronicles 29:1-9

Some of us sit in homes that have been passed down through the generations. Others of us live in homes that have a rich history. Yet there are others that live in a place where they are the first inhabitants. In all of these places someone had a dream to build it for themselves and for those to come after them.

King David had a dream to build God's temple, yet that was not for him to do. His son, Solomon was to build the temple. Instead of becoming upset that God would not fulfill David's dream he did everything possible so Solomon could achieve the dream. King David took from his kingdom and gave lavishly to the building project. Not only did David take from the kingdom, he took from his private wealth. David loved

the LORD so much and wanted His temple to be the most beautiful thing so he gave. King David also challenged those around him to give to the building of the temple for the LORD.

Those around King David, including him, knew that this temple wasn't just for the present people. Even though they would greatly benefit from it. They were setting up the future generations to know and experience their LORD God. They gave willingly and with a joy filled heart because they understood the implications of seeing the temple of God. They understood that what they gave now would fulfill dreams and prayers for generations to come.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

EXERCISE

What dreams/goals do you have for the future generations that will call Overflow Church home? How can you give lavishly and with a joyful heart to set up the future for success in these dreams/goals?



PRAYER

*LORD God, give me Your dreams for Your people at Overflow Church and beyond.
Show me how I can give in ways that impact the now and the future to come.
In Jesus name, Amen.*



○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

DATE *October 12, 2023*

AUTHOR *Carol Dobbs*

The Amount of Your Sacrifice is Determined by the Pool of Your Resources

Mark 12:41-44

As a poor widow, this woman was low on the social scale, struggling financially to feed, clothe and house herself, yet she knew how important giving back to God was. Her meek offerings were not from lavish wealth, as others who paraded in and approached the collection box, but of quiet faith and necessity to honor her Lord.

Just as the widow exemplified, we must sacrifice beyond what we are comfortable with. We are to give from not only our finances, but our time, talents and resources. Just as Jesus sacrificed for us on the cross at Calvary, we are to sacrifice, and in our giving, glorify God, not ourselves.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

EXERCISE



We must ask ourselves; do we give to just give or do we give to the point it costs us something? Do we give until it hurts? We give generously out of our abundance when we are blessed with a surplus, but what about the times we are faced with hardship, as the widow was? Are we faithful in our giving when no one is watching but God?

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

PRAYER

*God, thank You for giving me the most generous gift of all through Jesus. Help me to reflect that generous Spirit in all I do while refreshing my heart and the hearts of others.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

DATE October 13, 2023

AUTHOR Katie Carroll

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

*Read the scripture,
once to yourself
& once out loud*

Plan Your Commitment to Heart for the Harvest

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

Here we see the churches of Macedonia giving in spite of their difficult circumstances. They did not give because they had a bunch of excess laying around, they gave even though they had “a severe test of affliction” and “extreme poverty.” Generosity never happens if we first evaluate what we have and then give what’s left. Giving is not limited by what we have. It sounds counterintuitive but this is the point Paul is making about what these Christians did. They did not have anything to give. But they gave and they gave beyond what they could give. If we look for excess in our lives, we will never give. We always think we need every dollar we have. But the point is not only that these Christians gave in spite of their own unfortunate circumstances, but their giving was done with joy. Their giving was done from an *abundance* of joy. These Christians gave *voluntarily*. They “*pleaded for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.*” It was from their own heart and their own will that they gave beyond their means. These Christians saw giving as a grace. Giving is a grace of God that we are able to enjoy and experience. These Christians begged to participate in this grace and favor. “*They gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.*” Generosity

comes from giving ourselves to the Lord. When we give our life to God then giving and generosity will overflow. When we grasp that our lives are not our own, then we will also see that our wealth and possessions are not our own. When we give ourselves to God first, then we will give everything else that we have also.

When our family first came to this church, we immediately felt like it was home. The love of Jesus poured out through the people. We saw generations worshipping together, people selflessly serving and grace being offered to everyone in need. The more we committed to serving and giving, the more of Jesus we saw in every aspect of our life. It was pure joy to serve and give to our church - His Kingdom. We have seen growth beyond measure, change beyond recognition, and revival beyond expectation, not just physical, but within the hearts of God’s people. We want to offer that same experience to everyone who walks through the doors of Overflow Church and to all who enter for generations to come.

EXERCISE



Sit for a moment in prayer and consider the questions on the next page.

PRAYER

Lord, our lives are yours to do your will. Help us to seek you first and pull down any barriers we may have in order to fully submit to you and your Kingdom. Give us a heart for Your Harvest.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.



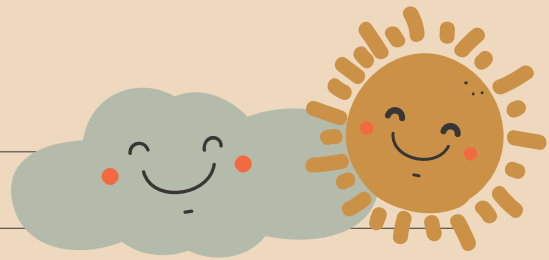
Where does this heart & joy for generosity come from and how can we have it?

What spiritual journey have you been through at Overflow Church?

How can we offer a similar experience to the next generation?

Family Time

October 15



Building Together



Activity



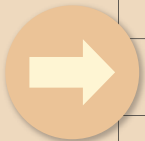
How many years has your family been together?



For this activity you'll need the number of building blocks (or you can use cups or pillows...anything that stacks!) that your family has been together.

Think back to the first year that your family began. One person will share their favorite memory from that year and add a block (or cup or pillow) to the stack. Then, another family member will share their favorite memory from the 2nd year and add another block.

Continue sharing one memory for each year that your family has been together.

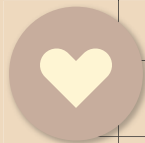


Lesson

Wow! Look at that large stack of blessings that God has given your family! God is so good to us and is there through all the good times and tough times!



Overflow Kids



Prayer

Dear God, you never leave us, not once. You provide for us, you give us good health, and lay out a path that's perfect for this family. You give us a firm foundation to build a life and a family as one accord. Help us to remain committed to encouraging one another in the fun times and hold each other up during the hard times. We ask that you continue to write our family story and lead us along the narrow path. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Overflow
CHURCH

www.overflownc.com/harvest