

GROWTH **guide**

**"This Is Why We Do
What We Do"**

November 26, 2017



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Mark 4:26-32, ACTS 20:32-38,
2 Corinthians 8:1-15, Luke 10:35,
Isaiah 32:8, Mark 12:41-44

DAY 1

Read [Mark 4:26-32](#)

- **What is it the man does with the seed in this parable?**
- **As the seed is scattered, what is God's role in the process?**
- **What does the man in the parable note as the result from his scattering seed and God's response?**
- **What does this say to you about your role in the Kingdom's purpose?**

DAY 2

Read [ACTS 20:32-38](#)

- **What does the text say about the kind of generosity Paul used in accomplishing God's work?**
- **Paul reminds us the importance of hard work and the results that come. How does doing our work for God and not for ourselves differ? What does**

our life reflect when we adopt God's giving spirit?

- **Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." What does this mean to you? How are you living this commandment out in your life?**

DAY 3

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

- **As you read this text, what do you learn about the people who were from the church in Macedonia?**
- **What did they do that made Paul's heart warm towards them?**

Take note of the attitude of the people of this poor church in verses 3-5.

- **What can you tell about their character? What were they able to do with so little and what was the impetus behind their desire?**

Sacrificial generosity was their gift. Even though they did not have much, they gave to God's work sacrificially.

- **How does this reflect your own life? Do you give to God "sacrificially"?**

The scripture states that Macedonian people "urgently pleaded for the privilege of sharing in the gift of giving."

- **What made them so joyful in doing this? When it comes to giving to God's work in the local church, are you joyful? Why? Why not? If not, what can you do to become more like the people of Macedonia?**

Sometimes we convince ourselves we can't give because we will go without. Pastor Bob shared that this is what is called a "scarcity mindset."

- **What steps can you take to move away from this kind of thinking and more towards a life filled with abundance?**

DAY 4

Pastor Bob said Sunday there are three ways Christians give towards God's work:

1. *Give Spontaneously*

You see an immediate need and you react to provide a solution. A natural disaster comes, a neighbor can't pay their rent, a co-worker needs money for a family emergency. This is the most common type of giving.

- **How you are being a spontaneous giver?**

2. *Give Strategically*

Strategic givers plan for the resources to be given. This type of giving moves you into putting God first in your life. Instead of giving to God last, you give to God first. It means honoring God with the first fruits of the blessings given you. When you plan your giving strategically, it allows you to be a consistent part of God's work and make more of a difference.

- **How are you a strategic giver?**

3. *Give Sacrificially*

A sacrificial giver is one whose giving is at the center of God's heart. Not only do they give regularly and honor God by putting God first, they create a space in their heart for God to move them at any moment into giving more. Sacrificial givers understand what they have is not their own, but God's alone.

- **How are you a sacrificial giver?**

DAY 5

Read [Luke 10:35](#), [Isaiah 32:8](#), [Mark 12:41-44](#)

Each of the above stories says something specific about giving. Reflect on what you observe from the text on each.

- **Why did the Samaritan decide to give?**
- **What was the difference between the widow and the rich people as they put their monies into the temple treasury?**
- **What did Jesus say about the widow's gift and faith?**
- **What does this say to those who have little? Are all to participate in God's plan of giving? Why? Why not?**

DAY 6

Today is a day of reflection and prayer. Take time to think through how you will live into a mindset of generosity. Ask God to help you let go of any fears you have from the "scarcity mindset." Thank God for his blessings, and ask him to help you discern how he is asking you to use what he has given you.

If you are having trouble viewing this email, you can download the Growth Guide as a PDF by [clicking here](#).



St. Paul United Methodist Church
1199 Highland Ave. | Largo, FL 33770
727-584-8165 | church@stpaulumc.org

www.stpaulumc.org



St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1199 Highland Avenue, Largo, FL 33770