



Groups

Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group.

NEW THIS YEAR:

As we enter this new season at Grace Chapel in search for the next Senior Pastor, we invite you to consider the significance of this moment and to incorporate a time of prayer for the search.

Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. Prayer for Senior Pastor Search
- IV. The Journey Resources
- V. Support for the Leader

How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

If your group meets over Zoom:

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
- If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) or [Grace Lee](#) from the Group Life team.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for Sermon given on November 26, 2023
Celebrating 75th Anniversary of Grace Chapel
by Pastor Bryan Wilkerson

MORE THAN ENOUGH – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15



I. Introduction

Welcome to the final message in our short series, *Seeds of Grace*, and also Grace Chapel's 75th Anniversary celebration! We began two weeks ago with the parable of the Sower and the Seeds. We said that gospel words, gospel deeds, and gospel gifts, were like seeds of grace. And that when we sow those seeds generously – like the sower in the parable – they bear fruit abundantly – 30, 60, or 100-fold. Today we're concluding the series by celebrating the fruitfulness of 75 years of seed sowing, and by challenging ourselves to sow generously for the next chapter of Grace Chapel's story.

Questions: What happens when we make a deliberate decision to give generously?

Bottom Line: When we give generously, it's good for us, good for the world, and good for God!

Let's begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

Main Scripture Readings:2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

II. **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Pastor Bryan began the sermon by thanking everyone who has sown gospel seeds through Grace Chapel over the years. If you have been giving and/ or serving at Grace Chapel, share with your small group one of the ways you have volunteered or contributed to various ministries that has been very meaningful and/or significant in your faith journey.
2. Pastor Bryan reviewed a long list of how many thousands of lives have been touched and changed over the years by the ministries at Grace Chapel.

Take a few minutes to consider how being part of Grace Chapel has impacted you, your family, and friends. Which pastor/elder/staff disciplined you and had the most impact in providing spiritual care for you? Give each member of your small group a turn, describing specific examples.

3. Grace Chapel is a living example of how seeds sown generously bear fruit abundantly. A ministry that began with 10 people in a living room, now reaches 3500 people every Sunday all across greater Boston, with nearly 6000 YouTube subscribers and 8000 Facebook followers! Not to mention the thousands we're reaching through our regional and global partners!

Imagine what would happen if every person listening to the message took one step toward a more generous life? Take a moment to dream together as a group how generosity could change the trajectory of Grace Chapel for decades to come, not just locally, but also regionally and globally.

4. At the conclusions of the worship service, we were asked to make a decision and mark the moment by completing the commitment card and dropping it in the offering plate. If any members of your small group are comfortable sharing where they are in their generosity journey and how they would like to move forward, feel free to allow that time of sharing. How can the group support and provide accountability? After someone shares, take time to pray for that person.
5. The final question Pastor Bryan asked former pastors Pastor Gordon MacDonald and Richard Rhodes in his brief interview was, "What are you feeling especially grateful for?" What are you especially grateful for?

Take Home Message:

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Let's Pray

III. Prayer for Senior Pastor Search

During this next ministry year as we navigate transitions, we invite you to secure time during your life group to pray over the search process. Click [here](#) to access the full resource of the prayer guide.

Prayers for Preparation of the heart

- Pray for God to reveal to you the condition of your soul or the work of God's Spirit within you, as you consider your feelings about the Senior Pastor search process.
- Prayer is not just an opportunity to make requests from God, but to listen to what God might want for us during this season of transition. Pause and listen for any invitation from God that he is asking you to enter into.

Prayers for the Purposes of God

- Pray that God will use the people of Grace Chapel in the fulfilling of his mission to further the Gospel message and for us to be people of peace and healing in a broken world.

Prayers for the People of Grace

- Pray that Grace Chapel will seek the Lord as we continue our vision to be a vibrant, growing, multicultural community of seekers and believers, discovering life with God for the good of the world. Pray that we will continue with our mission to make and mobilize more disciples for Jesus Christ in Greater Boston and beyond.

Prayers for the Person God's calling

- Pray that they will have a passion to continue the work the Lord is doing at Grace Chapel and that they will be excited about the opportunities here.
- Pray that the new pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of Grace Chapel and the surrounding community.

Prayers for Discernment

- Pray for God's clear direction in how resumes are examined and interviews conducted.
- Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the committee.
- Pray for the Search Committee to have God's wisdom in all the questions and information they share with the prospective pastor.

IV. The Journey



We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines;
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

Launching by the end of September: The newly, revised Discipleship Planning Tool

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.

V. **Support for the Leader**

These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and opportunities in the life of our church.

Teaching Points:

- The Law of the Harvest: Whoever sows generously will also reap generously
- Giving is a personal decision, to be arrived at freely, but also thoughtfully, intentionally
- The Generosity Journey:
 - New giving
 - Regular giving
 - Proportional giving
 - Abundant giving
- Paul is not preaching a health and wealth gospel; promising material riches for those who give generously. But he is promising spiritual riches for those who give generously – joy, and contentment, and fulfillment, and freedom
- You can't outgive God. The more you give, the more HE gives.
- When we give generously, it's good for us. It's good for our souls. It's good for our mental health. It's good for our relationships. And by some strange heavenly algorithm, it's even good for our bank account. There's something about making an intentional decision about what to give, and then setting it aside on regular basis, that brings order, beauty, and freedom to every aspect of our lives
- Our financial gifts, faithfully and generously given, make a spiritual and material difference in the lives of people near and far. Every gift, like a mustard seed, has the potential to change a life, or many lives
- Every dollar given to God's work through Grace Chapel has contributed to a harvest of righteousness in the lives of tens of thousands of people in New England and around the world
- When people see us giving generously, or when they are recipients of that giving, it points them toward God. They can't help but recognize that something good is happening; something unexpected, and powerful. And it prompts them to acknowledge and thank and even praise God, who's the Giver of all good gifts. And God delights in that praise – not because he needs it, but because it draws people closer to Him, and to each other