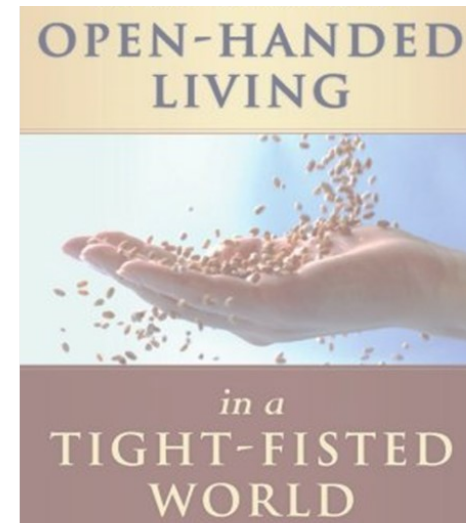


# A SMALL GROUP STUDY SUPPLEMENT

—for—



**Easter 2018**



(661)665-7713

[www.trinitybakersfield.com](http://www.trinitybakersfield.com)

 TrinityAnglicanBakersfield

Sunday Worship

8 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

11300 Campus Park Dr.

4500 Buena Vista Road



## AGES TO AGES II Standing on God's Promises

We are literally standing on God's Promises. The beautiful campus we now call home is a testimony to God's faithful provision. We truly are standing on God's Promises. But we are also standing on God's Promises as we look to our future. We have work left to do as we finish building out our campus, but more importantly, as we continue to move forward into God's mission and ministry for Trinity.

There are certainly financial goals for this campaign, but they are secondary goals. The primary goal, as always, is to grow in our relationship with Jesus. What we accomplish financially is meant to be the overflow of our relationship with our Lord, a reflection of who He is in our lives. Generosity flows from gratitude, trust, obedience, and surrender. Generosity changes us, changes others, produces joy, and brings glory to God as the work of His Kingdom goes forward.

As you work through *7 Keys to Open-Handed Living in a Tight-Fisted World*, it is our prayer that you experience transformation in your life as you taste the joy and power of generous living. These readings are not meant to be a heavy-handed attempt to guilt people into giving, but an honest exploration of Scripture and an invitation to experience the freedom of the generous life we are called to live in Christ, who generously gave Himself for our eternal life.

### How to Use the Book and Study

The devotional book has daily readings from Scripture along with stories and questions to help you reflect upon God's Word. The Sermon Series Study Supplement is for use in Small Groups and includes questions to reflect upon the Sunday Sermon in conjunction with the devotional readings. The devotional book has four weeks' worth of readings and will conclude on May 5. The final two weeks pick up on two liturgical feasts that bring Easter to its close: the Ascension (celebrated on May 10) and Pentecost (celebrated on May 20).

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared before the face of all people;  
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake  
we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

*In Easter Season, add* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The Officiant concludes with the following*

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. *Amen.*

*Or this*

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us and keep us, this night and evermore. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, illumine this night with your celestial brightness, and from the children of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Saturdays

We give you thanks, O God, for revealing your Son Jesus Christ to us by the light of his resurrection: Grant that as we sing your glory at the close of this day, our joy may abound in the morning as we celebrate the Paschal mystery; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*One of the following prayers may be added*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

*or this*

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

***Prayer requests and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.***

*If time permits, the Officiant and People say or sing the Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32) with this Antiphon*

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

## Week One God is Owner of All

### Getting Started \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What is one of the most memorable gifts you have ever received?

- 2) The sermon focused on the theme of God as the owner of all things – that everything in creation rightly belongs to Him. What two attributes did the sermon discuss as flowing from the recognition that God is the owner of all?

### Devotional Book Questions \_\_\_\_\_

Read the current day's Scripture and devotion. Spend some time discussing a few of the group questions for the week found on page 63.

### Digging Deeper \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) How do you treat the following – as something that you earned and belongs to you or as a gift from God?

Time

Skills and talents

Finances and home

Work or school accomplishments

Family

Spiritual gifts

Salvation

- 4) If there are places where you don't treat things as a gift from God, what difference would it make in how you relate to the following?

Time

Skills and talents

Finances and home

Work or school accomplishments

Family

Spiritual gifts

Salvation

***Bible Study occurs at this time.***

*If time is short after Bible Study, consider taking prayer requests, praying for one another, and closing with one of the collects on page 6 or 7.*

*Officiant* Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

*People* For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

*Officiant* Keep me as the apple of your eye;

*People* Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Lord, have mercy [upon us].

*Christ, have mercy [upon us].*

Lord, have mercy [upon us].

***Officiant and People***

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Officiant* O Lord, hear our prayer;

*People* And let our cry come to you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects. Other appropriate Collects may also be used.*

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord; and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, \*  
and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, \*  
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, \*  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent  
under your feet.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him; \*  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; \*  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, \*  
and show him my salvation.

**Psalm 134** *Ecce nunc*

- 1 Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, \*  
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord; \*  
the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

## Week Two

### We are Stewards, Not Owners

#### Getting Started \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Have you ever cared for something precious that belonged to someone else? If so, what was it and what was it like to care for it?

- 2) The sermon focused on the theme of being stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. How is stewardship the privilege of responsibility?

#### Devotional Book Questions \_\_\_\_\_

Read the current day's Scripture and devotion. Spend some time discussing a few of the group questions for the week found on page 64.

#### Digging Deeper \_\_\_\_\_

Being a steward means that we have the privilege of being entrusted with things that belong to God. We are meant to use what we have been entrusted with for His purposes, not our own. While this can sound like it puts a damper on our enjoyment of life, it is actually meant to produce freedom and joy as we faithfully serve wherever God puts us.

- 3) How does being a steward, not an owner, produce contentment and gratitude in the way you see your time, talent and treasure?

4) How does being a steward help us see our work and ministry as a gift?

- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of truth.

**Psalm 91** Qui habitat

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 He shall say to the Lord,  
“You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
my God in whom I put my trust.”
- 3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter \*  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,  
and you shall find refuge under his wings; \*  
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, \*  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, \*  
but it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold \*  
to see the reward of the wicked.

*One or more of the following Psalms are sung or said.*

**Psalm 4** *Cum invocarem*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*  
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory? \*  
how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?”
- 3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; \*  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
Speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 Many are saying,  
“Oh, that we might see better times!” \*  
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*  
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**Psalm 31:1-5** In te, Domine, speravi

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame: \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.

## Week Three

### We are Blessed to Bless Others

**Getting Started**\_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What is one of the most memorable gifts you have ever given? What was it like to give it?

- 2) The sermon focused on the theme of being blessed by God in order to be a blessing to others. How does using our lives to bless others reflect God’s life?

**Devotional Book Questions**\_\_\_\_\_

Read the current day’s Scripture and devotion. Spend some time discussing a few of the group questions for the week found on page 65.

**Digging Deeper**\_\_\_\_\_

God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. This is a fundamentally different way of living than what the world holds out. Instead of asking what’s in it for us, we ask how we can make someone else’s life better. This is what a life of love is all about! Our God is Love, and so the more we live as a blessing to others, the more we share in His life and experience the joy and freedom for which we were created.

- 3) How does living to be a blessing change the environments of the following?

Family/marriage

Friendships

Church

Workplace/school

4) What are some ways that you would like to be a blessing to others?

## Compline

*The Officiant begins*

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

*People*

The maker of heaven and earth.

*The Officiant continues*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept. The Officiant and People then say*

Almighty God and Father, we confess to you,  
to one another, and to the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned, through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.

For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins,  
and by the power of your Holy Spirit  
raise us up to serve you in newness of life,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Officiant alone says*

May Almighty God grant us forgiveness of our sins,  
and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*Officiant*

O God, make speed to save us.

*People*

O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

*People*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*Except in Lent, add Alleluia.*



### Digging Deeper

God calls us as individuals, and as the congregation of Trinity, to faithfully follow Him in the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations. We cannot do this in our own strength, but only in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- 7) Where is Jesus calling you to understand the power and work of the Holy Spirit more deeply in your life?

- 8) How do the principles of stewardship (God is owner of all; we are stewards, not owners; we are blessed to be a blessing) continue to apply to our surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us?

## Week Four

### The Power of Prayer and Commitment

#### Getting Started

- 1) Has God ever used you to do something that stretched you? If so, what was it?

- 2) The sermon focused on the theme of commitment to God and the power of prayer. According to the sermon, how are commitment and trust related to each other?

#### Devotional Book Questions

Read the current day's Scripture and devotion. Spend some time discussing a few of the group questions for the week found on page 66.

#### Digging Deeper

When we commit ourselves to God, we trust Him to provide everything we need to do what He has called us to do. We begin, then, not by asking what *we* can do, but prayerfully asking what *God* is calling us to do. We respond to God's call with our faithful obedience, boldly stepping out and following so that we can then experience God's faithful provision.

- 3) How do you sense God calling you to use your time, talent, and treasure for the work of His Kingdom?

Time

Talent

Treasure

- 4) Is there something you dream that God will do in and through you?

- 5) What might be causing you to hesitate in your commitment to step out in faith? How can you pray for God to help you?

Read Acts 2:1-21

- 3) Jesus told the disciples they would be witnesses to Him (Acts 1). How did the Holy Spirit enable them to be witnesses on Pentecost?

- 4) Sometimes God provides for us to do miraculous things, sometimes He simply enables us to meet people where they are in need. How do you see both happening in the upper room?

- 5) By the time Peter finished preaching, three thousand people put their faith in Jesus. How do you see the firstfruits of Easter being fulfilled at Pentecost?

- 6) How are God's people being used as a blessing to the nations at Pentecost?

## Week Six Pentecost

### Getting Started \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) If you could ask God to give you one thing, what would it be?

- 2) What struck you from the sermon? Why?

### Into the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

On May 20, the Church will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, when Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit upon the disciples gathered in the upper room and enabled them to powerfully serve as witnesses to Jesus in a way that brought three thousand people to a salvation. Originally, Pentecost was a Jewish feast coming fifty days after Passover and celebrating the wheat harvest as well as the giving of the Law to Moses.

At Passover, the early wheat harvest was brought into the Temple and waved before the Lord in gratitude for the beginning of the harvest and in trust that the full harvest would be brought in. At Pentecost, loaves of bread, the fruition of the wheat harvest, was brought before the Lord. Pentecost was thus also known as the Feast of Firstfruits.

Pentecost also celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. Through the prophets, God told His people that the day was coming when the Holy Spirit would write the Law on the hearts of all His people (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:26). In that day, the Kingdom of God would be established and God's people would finally become the blessing to the nations that they were always meant to be (Genesis 12:1-3).

## Week Five The Ascension

### Getting Started \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What has God done in your life this past week for which you are thankful?

- 2) According to the sermon, how does grateful praise change our lives and further the work of God's Kingdom?

### Into the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

This week, on May 10, the Church will celebrate the Ascension of Jesus. After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to the small band of apostles and to the larger band of disciples to teach them over the course of forty days. At that time, Jesus ascended to the Father and told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 1:1-11

- 3) What will the Holy Spirit enable Jesus' disciples to do?

4) How would you have responded to this job description?

5) Jesus' calls them to be witnesses in Jerusalem (among those they know), Judea (among those they understand), Samaria (among those they do not like), and to the ends of the earth (among those they do not know or understand). Where do you find your:

Jerusalem

Judea

Samaria

Ends of the Earth

6) Jesus places us in different spheres (eg. family, work, organizations) where we can serve as faithful witnesses. How should the knowledge that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father impact our ability and desire to be His witnesses?

### Digging Deeper

The resurrection and ascension of Jesus opened the way to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, He is Lord of All and He gives us everything we need to faithfully follow Him. This means that we can confidently and gratefully offer Him the whole of our lives knowing that He will provide for us as we commit ourselves to His purposes.

7) Where do you need to cultivate more gratitude in your life?

8) Where is Jesus calling you to be a faithful witness?