

Life-Giving Generosity

An Adventure of Grace



NOVEMBER 10-12, 2018



A Loving Challenge

A Message from Special Guest John Cortines

For more info about John, visit godandmoney.net/about.

This weekend on our adventure of grace, we will dive into the story of the rich man who sought eternal life and went away discouraged at how much he felt he had to lose when really, he had everything to gain.

Is it wrong to make money? Absolutely not. But Jesus brings to us a loving challenge: to organize our lives around the mission of giving money away, a challenge we can only respond to through His divine intervention and miraculous strength.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Mark 10:17 (NIV)

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Costly grace [has been] turned into cheap grace without discipleship. ... I can therefore cling to my bourgeois secular existence, and remain as I was before, but with the added assurance that the grace of God will cover me. It is under the influence of this kind of "grace" that the world has been made "Christian," but at the cost of secularizing the Christian religion as never before. ... The only man who has the right to say that he is justified by grace alone is the man who has left all to follow Christ. Such a man knows that the call to discipleship is a gift of grace, and that the call is inseparable from the grace.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "The Cost of Discipleship"

Cost of Generosity

This week we're learning about the price of generosity and how God's grace is what enables us to embrace the cost of true generosity.

WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Studies

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- What's something that's hard to give up?
- When has someone sacrificed something for your benefit?

Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ MARK 10:17-31 (NIV) & READ 1 JOHN 2:3-6 (NLT)

- What did Jesus tell the rich young ruler he'd need to do to receive eternal life?
- When the disciples asked who could be saved, how did Jesus answer?
- According to 1 John, how should we live our lives? What are some specific ways?
- The rich young ruler let his wealth come between himself and God. Where does money sit in your life?
- What are some things in your life that sit between you and God?
- How would the generosity that Jesus called the rich young ruler to practice change where money fit in his life?
- How would generosity adjust your perspective on money? How would generosity affect your perspective on those other areas in life that sit between you and God?
- What costs are you willing to accept to follow Jesus? What costs would seem too high?

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses, and try paraphrasing them, writing them in your own words. If you'd like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

As much as the story of the gospel is a story of love, it's also a story of cost. Over and over, Jesus paid a price so that He could restore and redeem the people around Him. He gave up His time, His privacy, His power, His prerogative, and eventually Jesus even gave up His life. In each of those moments, the price Jesus was willing to pay was directly related to the cost required to love. Love always carries a cost. Paying a price may not always be an act of love. But it's hard – if not impossible – to truly practice love without also paying a price for whomever you're loving.

READ JOHN 15:9-17 (NLT)

- When has someone laid down his or her life for you?
- When have you seen someone pay a price to love you generously?
- Who in your life needs you to lay down your life for him or her? How can you sacrificially love that person in a way that your generous love brings about restoration in the person's life?

READ LUKE 21:1-4 (NLT)

- What was the cost of the widow's gift? What was the cost of the gift of the rich?
- Which kind of giving is God calling us to? Where is God calling you to be generous like the widow?
- How can you develop that sort of generosity? Who in your life practices that sort of generosity already? How could he or she help you practice a more generous life?

This week's study is also available on Northland's apps or at NorthlandChurch.net/Studies.

What's Current

Get info and sign up at NorthlandChurch.net, or ask a connection team member for assistance.

Christmas Eve Worship Times

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 | 5 P.M. |

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 | 9 A.M. | 11 A.M. |

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 1 P.M. | 3 P.M. | 5 P.M. |

northlandchurch.net/christmas

High School Turkey Bowl 2018

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 6:30-8:30 P.M. | NORTHLAND FIELD | northlandchurch.net/turkeybowl

Advent Workshop

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 7-9 P.M. | THE HUB | Search: [advent workshop](#)

Embark: Discover a Life of Biblical Generosity

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 | 9 A.M.-2 P.M. | THE HUB | Search: [embark](#)

Deck the Halls

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | 10:30 A.M.-4 P.M. | THE FOYER | Search: [deck the halls](#)

New Giving System

In the coming weeks, we'll be migrating to a new giving system which will make giving easier, more convenient and more secure. Before we do that, we need your help. First, we need you to create an account in our new giving system. Once you create a new account, we will transfer your information over to the new system. So once you set up your new profile, you won't ever need to log back into your old one. Get set up on the new giving system at northlandchurch.net/give. Questions? Contact our Finance Team at financeteam@northlandchurch.net

Stewardship Report

Week ending October 29, 2018

\$204,500	\$233,799	\$518,156*	\$662,956
AMOUNT EXPECTED	AMOUNT RECEIVED	BUDGET DEFICIT YEAR-TO-DATE	DEBT PAID YEAR-TO-DATE

**We have reduced this deficit by spending \$322,168 less than budget during the first nine months of 2018. The current shortage is being covered by our beginning cash balances.*

How to Give – There are three ways to give tithes and offerings:

- At the kiosks in the foyer (electronically or by cash/check).
- Online at NorthlandChurch.net/Give.
- Mobile via text. Text the word "northland," followed by the amount to 77977. (e.g. northland 5)