

Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: The Way, Living like a Saint

It is that time of year we all love; the leaves are changing, the weather is crisp and cool, the kids are picking and carving pumpkins. And it's time to talk church finances!!!! It may also be that time of year we like to avoid or turn the radio station when the giving campaign comes on. That's right; the money talk. But what if this year, when we talk about stewardship, we talk about it with the saints? What if we look back to our shared church history to some faith leaders who patterned their life in such a way that their gratitude, generosity, and joy simply overflowed? What can they teach us today about our own generosity?

Join us for this October as we celebrate the witness of the saints and discover how a few we may not know lived their lives with joyful obedience and generosity. And may we be inspired to "go and do likewise."

Message description:

For our offering to become a holy and living sacrifice, it must come in response to God's goodness toward us first- his love, grace, salvation, and even generosity. Because of God's mighty acts of salvation in Jesus Christ, we respond by offering ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice; all that we have through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. How generous is God for all that God has provided, redeemed, and sustained in our lives! Our generosity of time and talents in just another way to offer what we have for the furtherance of God's mission and to respond to the needs of others around us.

Key Scriptures

Psalm 65; Matthew 6:1-4

For Further Study:

To learn more about St. Nicholas, check-out: <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas>

Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. When you think of the power of generosity, who do you think of and why?
2. Were you familiar with the story of St. Nicholas prior to the teaching? What do you appreciate about his story? How could we more faithfully remember his witness and legacy during Advent?
3. What keeps you from being more generous with your time, money, and service?
4. Why do you think giving financially is important to our spiritual lives and spiritual health?
5. How can/does giving to Revolution Church make you more aware of the needs of your neighbors?

Going Deeper:

Re-read Matthew 6:1-4

- What stands out to you about this teaching from Jesus?
- Why do you think it is so easy to fall into the temptation to give for recognition or adoration?
- How does this relate to our passage last week from Luke 11:37-52 regarding the Pharisees and the ritual of washing externally before dinner but failing to cleanse the greed and wickedness from within?
- How does this relate to the teaching of Jesus earlier in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:16? How is it similar or different to Jesus' instructions on giving here?
- How can we be sure we are giving with the right intent when we do it?

On Psalms:

For a reflection on the power of the psalms and patterns of orientation, disorientation, and re-orientation, consider: <https://spiritualleadership.com/disorientation-to-reorientation/>

For a list of orientation, disorientation, and re-orientation psalms, check-out:

<https://stjamestheapostleregina.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/psalms-and-rhythm-of-life.pdf>

- Consider reading one of each type of psalm. How do you experience them differently?
- Consider reading on of the other Psalms of re-orientation. How does it re-orient you to the presence, faithfulness, and goodness of God?

Examples of Psalms of Re-orientation:

Community Thanksgiving: Psalms 65, 67, 75, 107, 124, 136

Individual Thanksgiving: Psalms 18, 21, 30, 32, 34, 40:1-11, 66:13-20, 92, 108, 116, 118, 138

Hymns of Praise – in which we praise God for who God is, Psalms 8, 19:1-6, 33, 66:1-12, 67, 95, 100, 103, 104, 111, 113, 114, 117, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

Songs of Zion – in which we praise God for His presence in the ancient city of Jerusalem, and the way it points to His presence at the center of the Kingdom of God. [Psalms 46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 122]

Royal/Enthronement Psalms – in which we consider the role of Kings in Ancient Israel. [Psalms 2, 18, 20, 21, 29, 45, 47, 72, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 110, 144]

Covenant Renewal – in which we renew our relationship with God. [Psalms 50, 78, 81, 89, 132]

Commitment card:

- Share one way you are planning to respond.
- Have you turned your card in yet? Why or why not?
- How can your group support, encourage, and hold each other accountable to fulfilling your commitment?