

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:

St. Francis of Assisi is a well-known saint of the church. Born into affluence, he renounced his family and inheritance and took a vow of poverty in order to serve the poor and the church. He later founded the Franciscan order of like-minded friars and become known for his compassion, care for lepers, and his care for all of creation. *He found a way to give of himself for the glory of God through a way of poverty and surrender.* But it wasn't just about giving up his money or possessions; like the rich young man, it was about the condition of the heart. It is not money or possessions that is the issue, but our attachment to them. Greed is a condition of the heart that keeps us from responding to the needs of our neighbors and realizing our deep need for God. And the best antidote to greed is generosity. How can you surrender in your financial life to grow in your trust in God to provide and to grow in your love for your neighbor?

Key Scriptures

Mark 10:19-22; Luke 11:37-41

Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. Were you familiar with the story of St. Francis of Assisi prior to the teaching? What do you appreciate about his story?
2. St. Francis took on a vow of poverty, but of course that is not required for all who choose to follow Jesus. What do you think surrender looks like in your financial life?
3. Why do you think giving financially is important to our spiritual lives and spiritual health?
4. How can/does giving to Revolution Church make you more aware of the needs of your neighbors?

Going Deeper:

Re-read Luke 11:37-52, this time reading through to the end of the woes against the Pharisees and lawyers.

- Consider reading out-loud vv 37-41 and asking, what phrases stand out to you about this encounter between Jesus and the Pharisee?
- What stands out to you about the whole passage?
- What did the Pharisee get wrong about Jesus' behavior?
- Does it make any difference that the conversation happened at the table, hosted in the Pharisee's house?
- What do you think it means to "give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you" (v. 41)? What do you need to surrender that is within your heart in order for you to more faithfully follow Jesus or be redeemed?
- Where or when do you think you are most at risk for "false piety" as Jesus accuses the Pharisee?

Commitment card:

- Review the commitment card as a group.
- Share one way you are planning to respond.
- How can your group support, encourage, and hold each other accountable to fulfilling your commitment?