

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 description:

In Scripture, Paul prays that the church in Ephesus would be rooted and grounded in love so that they may be filled with the fullness of God. What does it mean to be rooted and grounded? How can we continue to bear fruit for the Kingdom that will last? And what are the marks of a fruitful community of faith?

Join us for this new teaching series as we consider the values of Revolution Church and find inspiration to be rooted together in love toward a future with Christ.

***This is a great opportunity for newcomers to learn more about our church and mission! Invite a friend and we will see you there!*

Message description:

There isn't much we can control in this world- circumstances, the choices of others, the unexpected diagnosis... but we can control how we respond. The discipleship journey is a response of sorts; in response to the love and sacrifice of Christ and to the invitation to follow him, we respond by offering all that we have, our whole lives, for the furtherance of God's Kingdom here. To be all in, surrendering to Christ and his will, means offering our very lives as holy and living sacrifices. At Revolution Church we do this by offering our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to the mission and purpose of our church community as we partner together to share the gospel. Another way to describe this response is extravagant generosity. We give back in response to what God has first given to us. As we sow generously with our time, talents, and service, God promises to provide, multiply, and bless us in return. It is all in how we respond.

Key Scriptures

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. When you hear the word generosity at church, what is the first thing you think of? Have you considered generosity as a practice or term that could be more encompassing of the whole discipleship journey?
2. How can you make the values of REVEAL, RESURRECT, RELEASE priorities in your life so that we may continue our collective and unified witness at Revolution?
3. What prayers, presence, service, gifts, and witness might you offer?
4. Our core value statement says, *"You...are...God's...revolution! We need your help, because you are the revolution of God in the world. God has given you special talents, gifts, opportunities, and relationships to make a difference in the lives of others. Ask yourself: "When, where, how, and to whom can I be God's revolution?"*
 - a. What gifts do you have that you could offer the mission of the church?
 - b. How will you answer the call of Jesus to follow him more intentionally?

Going Deeper, from companion guide for *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase

Extravagant Generosity

Vibrant, fruitful, growing churches thrive because of the extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving of their members out of love for God and neighbor. Extravagant Generosity describes practices of sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures. It describes lavish sharing, sacrifice, and giving in service to God and neighbor. Every scriptural example of giving is extravagant, and churches that practice Extravagant Generosity teach, preach, and practice the tithe. Such churches teach and preach giving that focuses on the abundance of God's grace and that emphasizes the Christian's need to give rather than on the church's need for money. Tithing helps the followers of Jesus understand that all things belong to God and that, during their days on earth, followers are entrusted as stewards to use all they have and all they are in ways that glorify God. What Christians earn belongs to God. What Christians spend belongs to God. What they save belongs to God. What Christians give belongs to God and they need to give generously, extravagantly, and conscientiously in ways that strengthen the Body of Christ.

Ideas From Other Congregations Who Practice Extravagant Generosity:

- Pastors express appreciation to people who give by thanking members collectively and personally; give God thanks for increases in giving; send personal notes of appreciation for special gifts and for unexpected increases in giving/pledging.
- Address the challenge of growing in giving to long-term members as well as to adults who are new to the faith.
- Invite young adults into leadership and planning – allowing for a contrast of patterns in earning, spending and giving between the generations.
- Offer seminars, workshops and retreats that help people deal with excessive debt, financial/estate planning, or preparing wills as well as offer support groups for those struggling with bankruptcy, compulsive gambling or unemployment.
- Pastoral and lay leadership attend workshops, read the literature, use consultants, study Scripture, learn about social trends and patterns of giving, and collaborate with other churches so that they constantly learn and adapt and improve their communication about giving.

Questions to Ponder:

- What's the most fun you've ever had giving money? What made the experience meaningful, memorable and delightful? How do you feel about giving money to Revolution Church?
- How do you feel about how Revolution teaches about money? What values/themes guide our efforts to encourage giving and tithing?