



LIVING GENEROUSLY: OCTOBER 2017

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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WEEK 1: CELEBRATION

The first week is about celebration, specifically reflections on how God has invited us to the feast (Table) of grace. We are seeking to remind ourselves of God's abundance and faithfulness. Through cultivating gratitude we become more aware of God's faithfulness and abundance.

<i>Take a photo of...</i>	15 Gentleness	16 Joy	17 Bounty	18 Beloved Connections	19 Faithfulness	20 Refuge	21 Ordinary Pleasure
<i>Reflect on who God is...</i>	Read Isaiah 25:1-9	Refuge for the Poor	Refuge for the needy in distress	Hiding place from the storm	Shade in the heat	Prepared a rich feast for all peoples	Giver of all good
<i>Reflect on who we are...</i>	Read Philipians 4:1-9	Stand firm in the Lord	Gentle in our treatment of all people	Thanks-givers to God	Praise-ers of God	Invited to the party	Created in God's image

WEEK 2: TRUST

Prayer is conversation, a dialogue with God. It is being in the presence of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are called to pray for healing from ways we don't trust in God's abundance and generosity. This call to generosity is counter-cultural! God calls us to live as God's, and not Caesar's. How does this call to generosity inspire healing in your life?

<i>Pray for...</i>	22 Strength to make a decision	23 Reconciliation with God or another	24 Restoration of lost trust	25 Surrender of Control	26 Our leaders	27 Vulnerability	28 A spirit of generosity
<i>Reflect on...</i>	How do you find it hard to trust God's abundance?	How is this call to generosity counter-cultural?	Read Isaiah 45:1-7	Read Psalm 103	Read Matthew 22:15-22	How could the call to generosity bring healing in your life?	How could the call to generosity bring healing in our world?



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WEEK 3: ABUNDANCE

Abundance means that there is enough. Living out of abundance does not mean hoarding resources. Like the Israelites were given manna from heaven when they were in the desert, there was always enough for each day, but it isn't to be stockpiled unnecessarily. Consider and reflect on this offering prayer: "Teach us, in our abundance, not to build a higher wall, but instead, to set a longer table, where all are invited."

<i>Act</i>	29 Fast or eat vegetarian	30 Show gratitude to a service provider	31 Give to disaster relief	1 Pray with your feet: Take a walk	2 Have a thoughtful conversation	3 Buy local	4 Pay it forward
<i>Reflect on...</i>	Read Matthew 22:34-46	Read Exodus 16:1-8, 16-24	How am I setting a longer table?	Where are higher walls in my life/ church that need to be torn down?	How do I love and serve from my heart?	How do I serve from my soul?	How do I love and serve from my abundant life?

WEEK 4: COURAGE

God calls us beloved (and says again and again that we belong with God and are worthy of that love and belonging without having to do more or less -- we are enough) and has invited us all to his table (God acted first and our action is a response to God's action). Trusting in God's faithfulness, and desiring to respond to God by loving and serving God with everything we've got, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be courageously giving of ourselves.

Courage is tied to being willing to be challenged, to go outside of one's comfort zone. It is willingness to take risks and not just do the same things over and over and over. Courage is also tied to growth, being willing to grow more into little Christs -- growing and becoming more like Jesus. How does his life reflect courage in giving of his time, talent, and treasure? What did courage in generosity look like in the lives of the saints who we respect and admire? How have those saints influenced us, in our generosity?

<i>Live Generously</i>	5 Give yourself a generous break	6 Forgive your grievances	7 Take a stand for something on behalf of others	8 Give someone something that can't be bought	9 Sign-up/ Volunteer for a church activity	10 Figure out what a tithe (10%) is for you.	11 Prayfully consider your pledge to Our Redeemer's
<i>Reflect on...</i>	Read 1 John 3:1-3	Read Matthew 5:1-12	What does Jesus' courageous generosity look like?	Am I giving bravely of my time?	Am I giving bravely of my talent?	Am I giving bravely of my treasure?	Where/how can I commit to giving at Our Redeemer's?