

LIFT

TOGETHER

GRACE > GRAVITY

CHRIST CHURCH 

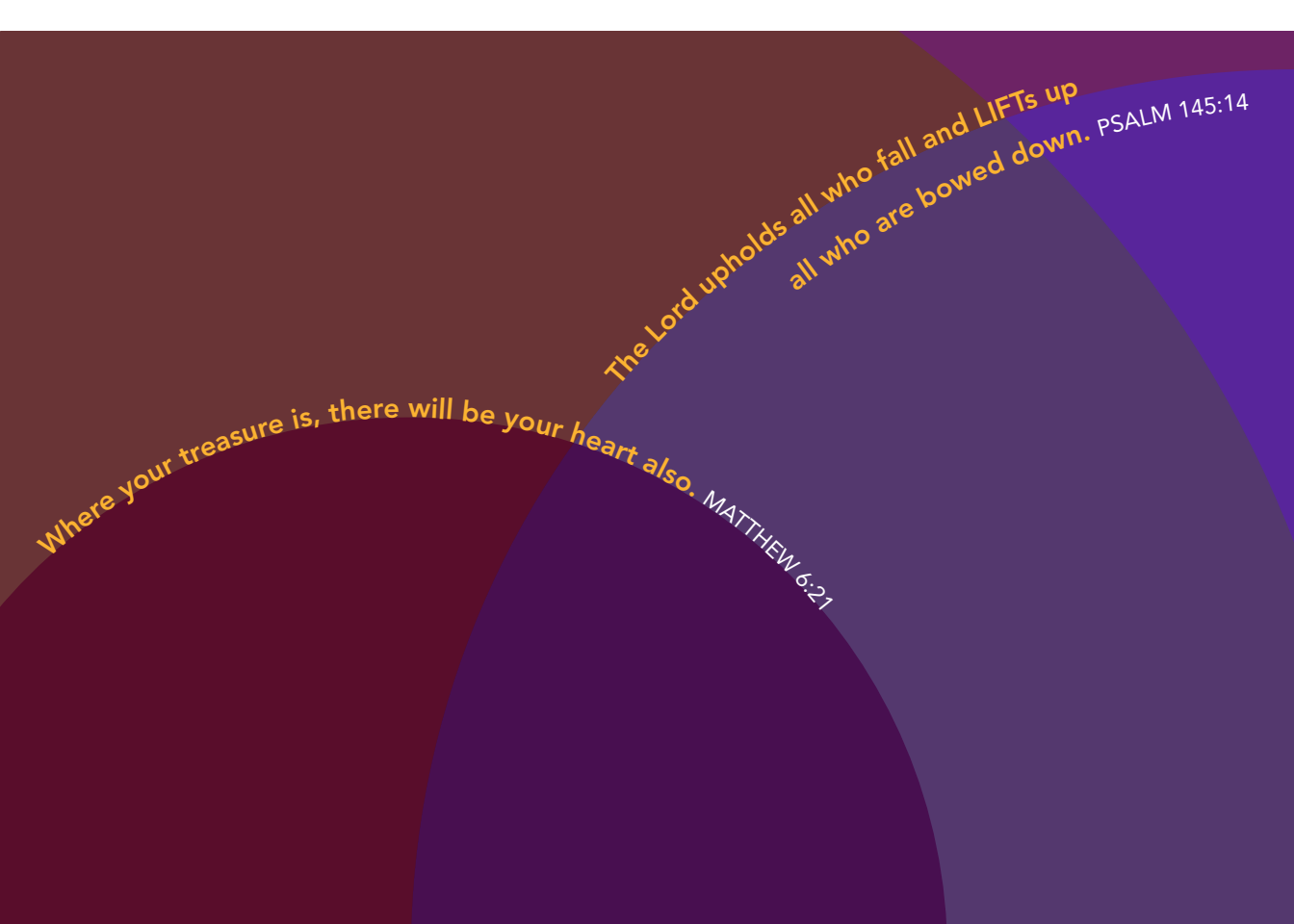
LIFT your eyes to the LORD from whom comes our help.

PSALM 121:1-2

Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened  
and I will give you rest. MATTHEW 11:28

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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. MATTHEW 6:21

The Lord upholds all who fall and LIFTs up  
all who are bowed down. PSALM 145:14

## ● DEAR CHURCH FAMILY



Throughout the Bible there are countless stories of God's people coming TOGETHER to further His Kingdom and LIFT others out of difficult and often dark circumstances they face.

Jesus' plan to spread the Good News included His 12 disciples, as well as so many others whom He encountered. In Ephesians we are reminded that there is one God who has redeemed us, called us sons and daughters and invited us to be bearers of His message, grace and love. The Book of Nehemiah gives us an example of God's people coming TOGETHER to rebuild the Wall of Jerusalem—bringing hope to His people.

When we read the Bible, it's hard to miss God's call for us to experience and extend His generous grace TOGETHER.

This same model of togetherness is what established this church in 1965 when a handful of faithful families made sacrificial gifts to build the church at the corner of 31st and York. Over the years this congregation has LIFTed others using their finances, time and gifts to expand the Oak Brook campus; launch the Butterfield campus; and support ministry and missions that have changed lives over the last five decades.

When we embarked on the LIFT journey a year ago, we had a goal in our strategic plan to **LIFT 10,000 people** by the end of 2024.

I remain in awe of what God has done. Hundreds of people have committed to raise their own faith and discipleship and we are seeing ministry offerings overflowing with people walking alongside one another and learning more about God.



**We are now at the half-way point of this two-year discipleship journey, and we are excited by all God has done and eagerly anticipate what's to come.**

Over the next four weeks I hope we will all be inspired, encouraged and challenged as we seek to refresh our vision and commitment to LIFT through our series TOGETHER.

As we participate in worship, listen and share stories and engage with the study in the pages that follow, I believe we will be LIFTed by how the Holy Spirit is moving in and among us. Our faith will continue to grow and we will become a more loving and generous people.

Through the stories we will share in worship and the details in the following pages, I think you will be LIFTed by what we have seen happen over this past year as we have been stretching and growing in our faith and stewardship of our finances and serving.

None of us has it all together, but TOGETHER with Christ we have all the gifts we need to LIFT those He has placed in our path.

I pray that we will ask God to direct us, not just over these next few weeks but in the year ahead, as to how we can come TOGETHER to LIFT others toward their God-given potential.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer | Lead Pastor



## ● TOGETHER WE PRAY THAT GOD WILL MOVE TO LIFT OUR...

**Faith & Discipleship** **priceless** Raise our eyes to God and boldly follow wherever He leads. Our prayer is that we all open ourselves to Him afresh, letting Him shape our hearts and minds, so that we will be His hands of grace to lift others toward their God-given potential.

**Core Ministries** **\$26.5M** Undergird our church's vital ministries of worship, growth, care, service AND missions for two full years and continue our progress on the major strategic initiatives essential to our church's future.

**Missions Impact** **\$5M** Increase our investment in the life-changing work of more than 70 mission partners and provide better facilities for the Christ Church Food Pantry and associated mission outreach programs.

**Kids & Families** **\$3M** Restore and expand our Preschool Ministry, improve check-in and security for youth and their families, renovate our children's and student ministry spaces, and start a ministry that expands our capacity to include kids of all abilities.

**Campus Quality** **\$2M** Address many deferred maintenance, tech and infrastructure needs including roofing, painting, carpeting, parking lot resurfacing, furnishings, lighting, AV equipment and much more to keep our campuses current.

**Future Capacity** **\$2M** Provide us with resources to pay down our past building debt to very conservative levels and eventually free up hundreds of thousands for future ministry and mission.

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**Two-Year Goal**

**\$34M**

January 2023–December 2024



In the first year of LIFT we saw God deepen people's faith, as well as more people worshipping on Sunday mornings and participating in groups, gatherings and special events. We have heard story after story of how God is on the move in people's lives.

You will see evidence of this throughout the pages of this book where the Christ Church family is investing in their own spiritual growth and inviting others to **experience the grace that is greater than the gravity of life.**

If you are looking for ways to learn more about Scripture, grow closer to God and be part of a deeper community of believers, check out our monthly offerings and ways to take a next step in your faith.



[LiftTogether.us/groups](https://LiftTogether.us/groups)



[ChristChurch.us/events](https://ChristChurch.us/events)

## FAITH & DISCIPLESHIP

### PRICELESS

**Our #1 goal is  
for each of us  
to LIFT our faith  
and discipleship.**



## CORE MINISTRIES

**\$26.5M**

**We project the  
need for modest  
budget increases  
year-over-year.**



- Each week more than **3,000** people participated in one of two expressions of worship across two campuses and online
- Our new men's gathering, Third Thursday Eats has been attracting **70+ men** each month. They build and deepen relationships and their faith over a great meal, football, games, Bible study and stories
- In the fall, **411 women** from Christ Church and churches in our surrounding neighborhoods gathered at Women of Hope to study the Book of Acts
- **23 men and women** are serving as Stephen Ministers—coming alongside to offer support and counsel to those journeying through a difficult season of life
- We shared the Gospel with more than **6,000 people** each time we hosted special holiday services
- **Thousands of people and families** have been celebrated and cared for during baptisms, weddings and funerals
- Adult small and large groups have helped **more than 1,000 people** take the next step in their faith journey







- Daily pastoral care and counseling for those in need
- Weekly support and recovery groups
- Seasonal concerts and outreach events
- All these ministries are supported by Christ Church's hospitality and food service; worship arts and communications ministry; and facility operations and maintenance teams







## MISSIONS IMPACT

**\$ .5M**

**We will make it even clearer that because of Jesus we are...**

- **For Families**
- **For Chicagoland**
- **For the World**



Since its founding, the people of Christ Church have had a passion to LIFT others and go into all the world to spread the Good News of the Gospel. Over the past **25 years** our congregation has sent almost **\$40M** to multiply disciples and churches, lift women and children, transform communities, relieve suffering, and develop leaders in partnership with more than **70 mission groups** locally and globally.

We seek to raise our annual missions giving through LIFT and invest an **additional \$500,000** in a facility to house the Food Pantry and support other needs in the surrounding communities.



- **More than 700** stepped forward to give of their time and talent to LIFT others during FOR Chicagoland in October 2023
- **21 people** stepped outside their comfort zones to serve on Global Outreach (GO) trips to Dominican Republic, Malawi and Romania in 2023
- We sent **tens of thousands of dollars** in disaster relief to Turkey, India, Malawi, Hawaii and Morocco to help LIFT others dealing with the devastation from fires, floods and earthquakes
- **1,000+ gifts** were given FOR Christmas as we asked the congregation to stretch their giving beyond the church in new ways, fulfilling specific wishes for children and supporting many of our mission partners—spreading His love and joy over the holiday season and into the new year
- **More than 100 families** were provided food and clothing each month at the Christ Church Food Pantry





## KIDS & FAMILIES

**\$3M**

**We strive to be a highly attractive and resourceful environment for families.**



**We have a desire to strengthen our ministry to children, students and families and help them grow and build a strong and lasting foundation of faith.**

We are moving forward with renovations that will give third graders more centrally located rooms. We seek to provide an expanded center for fourth and fifth graders. And, we look to give middle and high schoolers a significantly upgraded environment for small group huddles and large group gatherings. This space will also be used for some adult ministry activities and events.

- To improve security and navigation we have constructed a corridor connecting the Discovery Center to the preschool classrooms—this has created a single point of entry for our children's and student ministry areas
- Danielle Schaeffer (bottom of page 11, right) was hired as Disabilities Ministry Director to help resource our kids, parents, staff and volunteers—she is helping plan for new sensory rooms, is building a buddy system to support children and families with disabilities and has helped add headphones in services for those with sensitivity to sound



- Preschool Director Kelly Newton (below, left) has been working to re-launch the preschool program for the 2024–25 school year including researching curriculum, going through DCFS certification, and preparing to interview and hire teachers
- **947 children** and students ages 4 to 18 grew in their discipleship through camps last summer
- **21 leaders** led **72 students** on mission trips last summer to serve those experiencing homelessness, build homes and support mission programs in Nashville, Chicago and Baja, Mexico
- The new Young Families group continues to grow—**58 families** have gathered for large group events and **25 families** have connected in small groups







## CAMPUS QUALITY

**\$2M**

**Address deferred maintenance, tech and infrastructure needs at both campuses.**

Throughout 2023 we made improvements to both of our campuses. As good stewards of what God has provided we want to care for and maintain our facilities to ensure they are vital and available for years to come.

### Oak Brook Projects

- Renew fully-aged tech systems in the Sanctuary, Garden Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Discovery Center
- Replace steeple windows to fix leaks in the Sanctuary
- Resurface the parking lot and designate spaces with signage for new visitors and parents on their own with young children
- Update aged kitchen equipment
- Replace carpeting and repaint rooms

### Butterfield Projects

- Improve tech systems and update seating in the worship space
- Improve the gymnasium lighting, heating and flooring
- Resurface the parking lot and designate spaces with signage for new visitors and parents on their own with young children
- Service mechanical systems





## FUTURE CAPACITY

**\$2M**

**By reducing our debt we will free up resources for more ministry aimed at God's purposes.**

We believe being good stewards of what we have been given includes good debt management.

In 2023 we paid that down from \$8M to \$7.5M—a conservative level by American church standards.

**Through LIFT we hope to pay off more, thereby freeing up resources for ministry.**



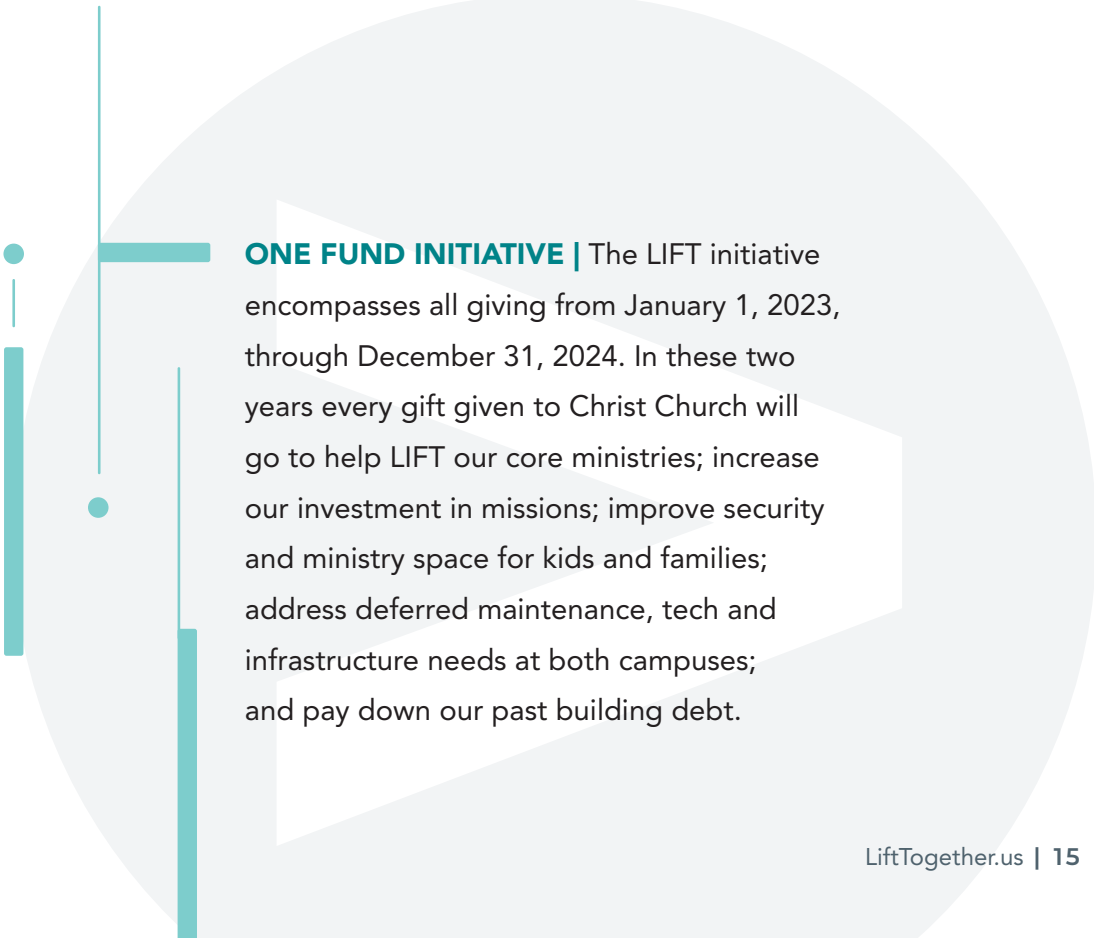
## WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

- **INSPIRE** | Whether you are new to Christ Church or you have called this place home for years, we hope you will feel **INSPIRED** to join us on this journey to **LIFT** our faith and discipleship by making a 12-month giving commitment to **LIFT**.
- **ENCOURAGE** | For those who made a commitment a year ago, we want to continue to feed and nourish your soul. We know for some this journey has been challenging, possibly more than you imagined. Maybe you stretched to a new level of giving and are still adjusting. Maybe you have been impacted by a job loss or change, medical expenses or other economic challenges. We are here to walk alongside of you, offering prayer, encouragement and counsel. We pray that you find strength in Jehovah Jireh—the God who provides—and that we can **ENCOURAGE** you as you engage in the life at Christ Church.
- **CHALLENGE** | Some of us made a commitment to **LIFT** one year ago and have experienced an increase in faith or finances. Keeping a commitment hasn't been easy because it has likely required sacrifice. But, you may be sensing the Lord stretching you to take another step of faith in your giving. We **CHALLENGE** you to pay attention to His prompting and increase your commitment. Our generosity journey is ever evolving—Our Father is always growing and shaping us. Generosity is not a one and done, but a continuous journey. Consider asking yourself: Am I still giving in a way that challenges me? Am I still **LIFTing** my own faith and discipleship? Pray and ask if He is inviting you into another step of faith with an increased commitment to **LIFT**.

**Throughout 2023 we have seen and experienced God on the move in us and through us!** He continues to LIFT each of us in our relationship with Him so that we can be His hands and feet to our community, our world and future generations. He has given us every reason to trust Him, knowing He is a Good Father who gives us good gifts. May we respond to His goodness and truth with our whole lives.

For all He has done to sustain us, we praise Him! We surrender all that we have. And we serve, LIFTing others in His name.

**WE ARE INVITING EVERYONE TO  
PRAYERFULLY SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION  
AND TO GIVE AS HE LEADS—COMING  
TOGETHER TO PRAISE HIS NAME**



**ONE FUND INITIATIVE** | The LIFT initiative encompasses all giving from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024. In these two years every gift given to Christ Church will go to help LIFT our core ministries; increase our investment in missions; improve security and ministry space for kids and families; address deferred maintenance, tech and infrastructure needs at both campuses; and pay down our past building debt.

Life can feel very heavy these days. We feel the weight of **FAMILY** and **WORK** expectations, the pressure of **FINANCES**, the heaviness of our **POLITICAL** and **CULTURAL** conflicts. It is hard not to become downcast over all this.

BUT THERE IS A

grace greater than  
the gravity of life.

That grace comes from the GOD who wants to lift our eyes to Him, to lift our vision for living, and to use all of us at Christ Church to lift others to their full potential.

Join us as we start the new year with a provocative message series that will, TOGETHER, give your faith and discipleship a powerful LIFT!



## 4 WEEK SERMON SERIES

**JANUARY 21–FEBRUARY 11**

One of the most beautiful words in the English language is “TOGETHER.” It suggests a common spirit, a shared adventure, a unity of purpose and an alignment of affection. Being “myself” is good, but being “TOGETHER” is an even higher order of being. When we read the Bible it’s hard to miss God’s hope that we will be together in experiencing and extending His generous grace. What does that look like or involve? How do you and I engage in that? Join us as we think together about how it might look to be LIFTed and to LIFT others through the power of generosity.

### **BIG IDEAS OF THE SERIES**

1. In the choice between consumer materialism and Christian meaning, would we rather lose our way or find the Way, TOGETHER?
2. We don’t have it all together but TOGETHER with Christ we have all the gifts we need to LIFT everyone.
3. TOGETHER, we can discover the truly rich life that comes only from generously giving to what God values deeply.
4. If we tithed TOGETHER, we could lift so many more people to their God-given potential.

## SERMON | THE HARD RIGHT TURN

In the choice between consumer materialism and Christian meaning, would we rather lose our way or find the Way, TOGETHER?

**PREPARE | Pray from the focus Scripture | Matthew 7:13–14**

Lord Jesus there are so many voices leading away from You, **TOGETHER**, may You give us ears to hear and eyes to see and a will to follow You, through the narrow gate toward a life of meaning.

## RECEIVE | Matthew 7:13–29

## SERMON NOTES

[illegible]



### **JOURNAL your response to the message**

Jesus, alone I feel \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

but TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I feel \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **RESPONDING to the message**

- TOGETHER at a meal this week | What are ways we can help one another stay on the narrow way with Jesus?
- Prepare for small group by reviewing the related questions.
- Pray this week's prayer on a regular basis.

## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

### PREPARE

- A. Pray this week's focus Scripture TOGETHER | Matthew 7:13–14

Lord Jesus there are so many voices leading away from You, TOGETHER, may You give us ears to hear and eyes to see and a will to follow You, through the narrow gate toward a life of meaning.

- B. Share how you completed the journaling prompt at the end of this weekend's worship service.
- C. Ice breaker question | How well have you dealt with peer pressure throughout your life? Any examples you are proud of or embarrassed by?

### RECEIVE

**Slowly and prayerfully read Matthew 7:13–29 twice.**

Have one person read the passage out loud. After each reading, have a few moments of silence during which you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into knowing and living what you are to receive from today's study.

### REFLECT

1. What makes going through the narrow gate difficult? Why does it seem difficult to find?

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2. Why do so many people choose the broad road?

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3. What is Jesus telling us about being His disciple, student, follower?

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4. As followers of Jesus, if generosity is a key aspect of the narrow road, what is the wide road? How does it look to live each road?

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5. In verses 15–29 Jesus gives us three vignettes. Compare and contrast each one.

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6. Focusing on the spiritual practice of generosity, how would you describe generosity...

a. good fruit?

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b. living obediently?

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c. building on a firm foundation?

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## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

7. With generosity in mind, what specific actions can you take to stay on the narrow road, following the way of Jesus?

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8. Read Matthew 7:13–14 in The Message paraphrase of the Scriptures. Restate it with a life of generosity in mind.

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### RESPOND TOGETHER

- Take five minutes and brainstorm practical ways you can live into the narrow way of living generously. What are some small and large actions you can incorporate into your personal life, your family life, small group or church community?
- TOGETHER with your small group and family, encourage one another to be among the few who find this path to Christian meaning. Make a first-time commitment to our LIFT initiative or follow through on the one you've made, or maybe even deepen your commitment.
- As you wrap up your group time this week, go around and pray for the person on your right that TOGETHER, empowered by the Holy Spirit, they would have the faith to consistently choose the narrow way leading to a life of meaning with Jesus.

## SERMON | HOW FAR WILL THEY GO?

We don't have it all together but TOGETHER with Christ we have all the gifts we need to lift everyone.

**PREPARE | Pray from the focus Scripture | John 6:9**

Lord Jesus, just like the boy in this story may we, TOGETHER, freely release to You what we have and in faith-filled wonder watch You transform our gifts to meet the needs of all.

## RECEIVE | John 6:1–15

## SERMON NOTES

[illegible]

## JOURNAL your response to the message

Jesus, alone I feel \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

but TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I feel \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## RESPONDING to the message

- TOGETHER at a meal this week | What is our bread and fish that we can offer to Jesus in our daily life, family, work and church?
- Prepare for small group by reviewing the related questions.
- Pray this week's prayer on a regular basis.



## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

### PREPARE

- A. Pray this week's focus Scripture TOGETHER | John 6:9  
Lord Jesus, just like the boy in this story may we, TOGETHER, freely release to You what we have and in faith-filled wonder watch You transform our gifts to meet the needs of all.
- B. Share how you completed the journaling prompt at the end of this weekend's worship service.
- C. Ice breaker question | What's something you worry you will run out of, therefore you make sure you don't?

### RECEIVE

**Slowly and prayerfully read John 6:1–15 twice.** Have one person read the passage out loud. After each reading, have a few moments of silence during which you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into knowing and living what you are to receive from today's study.

### REFLECT

- 1. What is the point of Jesus testing Philip?  

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- 2. How does it relate to our conversation today? How are we tested in the same way?  

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## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

3. Where was Philip's focus and what was the result?

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4. How does this compare and contrast to what Andrew did?

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5. How do you think the boy felt when he saw what happened after he gave what he had to Jesus?

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6. Why do you think John pointed out how they took and ate as much as they wanted?

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7. How much bread was left over? What was Jesus trying to tell the disciples?

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8. In your own words, state how through this passage Jesus challenges us to move from a scarcity mindset to living with a sense of sufficiency with Him? What are the key elements needed to do so?

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### RESPOND TOGETHER

- Take a few minutes and brainstorm places where a scarcity mindset tends to show up in our lives. Then suggest practical ways to move toward sufficiency with Jesus.
- A few times this week, take five minutes to sit TOGETHER with God in silence with this request: God show me where I am living with a scarcity mindset and move me to one of surrender.
- Actively look for opportunities to trust God to be your sufficiency and when nudged, surrender to His purposes what you can. TOGETHER, share in your group when this happens.

## SERMON | THAT'S REALLY LIVING

TOGETHER, we can discover the truly rich life that comes only from generous giving.

### PREPARE | Pray from the focus Scripture | 1 Timothy 6:17–19

Lord Jesus compared to 99% of the world we are rich. May this act of blessing and grace from You inspire us, TOGETHER, to be generous far and wide so we may truly live a life that is good as viewed by You.

**RECEIVE** | Luke 12:13–21, 2 Corinthians 8:1–9, 2 Corinthians 9:6–15, 1 Timothy 6:17–19

### SERMON NOTES

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## JOURNAL your response to the message

Jesus, alone I feel \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

but TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I feel \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## RESPONDING to the message

- TOGETHER at a meal this week | Who is the most generous person you know? Describe what they are like and what inspires you.
- Prepare for small group by reviewing the related questions.
- Pray this week's prayer on a regular basis.

## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

### PREPARE

- A. Pray this week's focus Scripture TOGETHER | 1 Timothy 6:17–19.

Lord Jesus compared to 99% of the world we are rich. May this act of blessing and grace from You inspire us, TOGETHER, to be generous far and wide so we may truly live a life that is good as viewed by You.

- B. Share how you completed the journaling prompt at the end of this weekend's worship service.

- C. Ice breaker question | Who is the most generous person you know? Describe what they are like and what inspires you?

### RECEIVE

**Slowly and prayerfully have different people read Luke 12:13–21, 2 Corinthians 8:1–9, 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 and 1 Timothy 6:17–19.**

Begin and end each reading with a few moments of silence. In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, TOGETHER, into knowing and living what you are to receive from these passages of Scripture.

### REFLECT

1. What types of greed do you see around you?

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2. According to the parable of Jesus, what should the man have done with his surplus? What would have been the result of him doing so?

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3. When in our lives do we do the same as what we read in Luke 12:18–19?

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4. When do these types of actions become a concern to God?

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5. What parts of the parable in Luke 12 make you uncomfortable?

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6. Why was Paul so inspired by the Macedonian churches? Be specific and reflect on the adjectives and verbs. (2 Cor. 8:1–9)

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7. Taking those specific reasons, compare and contrast with your life. What do you discover?

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## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

8. What does it mean to give yourself first to the Lord? (2 Cor. 8:5)

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9. Why is it important to God that you be a cheerful giver, not a duty-bound or guilt-driven giver? As long as you give, why does your attitude matter?

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10. Who is the cause and what is the result of us being rich toward God? (2 Cor. 9:10–11)

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### RESPOND TOGETHER

- Take five minutes each day this week to memorize 2 Corinthians 9:6–8.  
Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.
- Throughout this week, text one another parts of 1 Timothy 6:17–19, as a way to prayerfully, encourage living the good life from God's perspective.



SERMON | TITHE & THRIVE

If we tithed TOGETHER, we could lift so many more people.

**PREPARE | Pray from the focus Scripture | Malachi 3:10**

Lord Jesus, TOGETHER, may we have the faith and resolve to give back to You what is Yours in the first place. May we trust You beyond the tenth and be wildly generous, inviting You to provide for us even more. Blessing us to be a blessing to others and a living declaration of Your goodness and generosity.

RECEIVE | Proverbs 3:9–10; Malachi 3:7–12

## SERMON NOTES

[illegible]

**JOURNAL your response to the message**

Jesus, alone I feel \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

but TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I feel \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONDING to the message**

- TOGETHER at a meal this week | What did you learn about tithing that challenged you?
- Journal your response to the message.
- Prepare for small group by reviewing the related questions.

## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

### PREPARE

- A. Pray this week's focus Scripture TOGETHER | Malachi 3:10.

Lord Jesus, TOGETHER, may we have the faith and resolve to give back to You what is Yours in the first place. May we trust You beyond the tenth and be wildly generous, inviting You to provide for us even more. Blessing us to be a blessing to others and a living declaration of Your goodness and generosity.

- B. Share how you completed the journaling prompt at the end of this weekend's worship service.
- C. Ice breaker question | What did you learn about tithing that challenged you?

### RECEIVE

**Slowly and prayerfully read Proverbs 3:9–10 and Malachi 3:7–12.**

Begin and end each reading with a few moments of silence. In the quiet, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into knowing and living what you are to receive from this passage of Scripture.

### REFLECT

1. What in these two passages captures your attention? What questions come up for you?

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2. In 2024, what does it look like to honor God with our "first fruits?"

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## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

3. Why does God give us something just so that we will give some of it back to Him again?

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4. How can we rob God? What does this principle teach us about God's view of generosity?

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5. Remember last week's truths from 2 Corinthians 9:6–7. What does this tell us about generosity as followers of Jesus?

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6. How do these passages align with your current view of money?

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7. Do you know what percentage of your income you give to God?

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8. What do we lose by being fearful stewards of God's money?

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9. When you consider increasing your generosity, how do you feel?  
What "what ifs" come to mind?

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10. How do you believe growing in the spiritual practice of tithing will  
affect your relationship with God?

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### RESPOND together

- Take a few minutes and share reasons people might not engage in the spiritual practice of tithing. Together think of responses to those excuses.
- A few times this week, take five minutes to sit TOGETHER with God in silence with this request: God how may I demonstrate my trust in You through the spiritual practice of tithing? Each time after praying this, journal God's response or your thoughts and feelings.
- Take active, faith-filled steps this year to grow in the spiritual practice of tithing. Or, if you are already doing so, move beyond the "tenth."

**What are you asking me to do in this initiative?**

First and foremost, we are asking that you pray and seek God's leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says. Join a small group. Talk with a trusted friend or, if you're married and have children, talk together about what this commitment will mean for this next season. We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment so we can LIFT others through our generosity.

**How long is my commitment?**

LIFT is a two-year initiative. The fulfillment period is January 1, 2023-December 31, 2024. At this halfway point we are encouraging people who made a commitment a year ago to persevere and finish strong in the journey. If you are new to Christ Church or have not made a commitment, we hope you will be inspired to be a part of LIFTing your faith and discipleship as well as others in need by making a 12-month giving commitment.

**What if I am brand new to Christ Church?**

LIFT is about the vision God has for our church family. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give toward and we would really love for you to make Christ Church your home. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your church. We need you!

**What if I have not been a regular giver to Christ Church before?**

If you have never before or only occasionally given financially to Christ Church, LIFT was crafted as a wonderful opportunity to see how God will use your gifts for Kingdom impact and how your obedience will transform you. LIFT is a whole-church generosity initiative and is a call to radical, sacrificial giving for absolutely everyone at Christ Church.

### **In addition to cash, are there other ways I can give more to the LIFT initiative?**

Be prayerful and creative as you explore ways you can give to the initiative. You might have stock, property or other items of value. You may have stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He is calling you to give out of during this time.

Please contact Lana Ferren at [lferren@ChristChurch.us](mailto:lferren@ChristChurch.us), 630.321.6752 or visit the Ways to Give page on our website to give or learn more about non-cash gifts.

### **I am uncomfortable when we focus so much attention on money. Can you help me?**

Jesus spoke about generosity more than any other topic in Scripture. Not only does Jesus talk about giving, He instructs us how much to give. Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Generosity is about more than just money. It is about our heart posture and living a life clearly committed to Christ.

### **In addition to a financial commitment, how else can I participate in LIFT?**

We want everyone at Christ Church to engage on a transformative spiritual journey through LIFT by praying, studying Scripture, participating in small group life and engaging others on the journey. Join or lead a group. Serve faithfully or for the first time. Consider sharing your story with others—we'd love to hear how God is moving in your life. Email Jody Paige, Director of Stewardship and Development, at [jpaige@ChristChurch.us](mailto:jpaige@ChristChurch.us).

Take the next step in your journey of discipleship and see what God does.

### **Additional questions?**

For more information, visit [LiftTogether.us](http://LiftTogether.us). You may also feel free to reach out to Dave Melvin, Executive Director of Ministry Resources, who will be available to answer any further questions you may have. He can be reached at 630.321.6785 and [dmelvin@ChristChurch.us](mailto:dmelvin@ChristChurch.us).

## HEAVENLY FATHER,

We praise Your holy name, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!  
You offer us unfailing faithfulness, perfect love and unending grace.  
You are worthy of our adoration and praise!  
Thank You for the ultimate gift in Jesus Christ, who through His life,  
death and resurrection LIFTed us out of our sin and shame,  
offering us a grace greater than the gravity of life.  
Father, this world is aching, confused and seemingly hopeless.

We seek Your will, Father.  
We lift our eyes to You, Lord, for You are our helper and provider.  
You raise the poor from the dust and lift the needy from the  
ash heap.  
Ignite in us an insatiable hunger to LIFT those who are hurting  
or in need of hope in Jesus' holy and powerful name.  
Thank You for this church, Your body at work.  
You have trusted us with much.

Grant us the courage to respond boldly to Your call to invest the  
gifts of time, talent and treasure You've given us to LIFT others  
who so desperately need You, both locally and globally.  
Gracious Lord, we ask You to take Your rightful place on the  
throne of our lives and make us a remarkably generous,  
kingdom-impacting people.

All glory and honor and praise to You, our good and faithful Father!

Amen.





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