

Hilton Head Island Community Church



Going Deeper

Group and Individual Study Guide

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ALL IN - Session 1

What Does It Mean to Be ALL IN?

Theme

As a church, the linchpin that links our mission to our vision is generosity.

Introduction

How would you define the words mission and vision?

What are some of the common characteristics to the most “on mission” person or organization that you have ever seen?

What are some of the resources it takes for a person or an organization to realize their vision?

Scripture Reading

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:6-8 (ESV)

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. - Acts 2:41(ESV)

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. - Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. - Acts 4:4 (ESV)

14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, - Acts 5:14 (ESV)

Main Ideas

- 1 - God has given Hilton Head Island Community Church a clear mission and vision.
- 2 - One of the characteristics of a healthy church is that everyone who is a part is personally living out that God-given mission and supportive of that God-given vision.
- 3 - The linchpin that links our God-given mission to our God-given vision is generosity.

Illustration

Pastor and Author Lynn Anderson relays the story of some of the first American settlers.

“About 350 years ago a shipload of travelers landed on the northeast coast of America. The first year they established a town site. The next year they elected a town government. The third year the town government planned to build a road five miles westward into the wilderness.

In the fourth year the people tried to impeach their town government because they thought it was a waste of public funds to build a road five miles westward into a wilderness. Who needed to go there anyway?

Here were people who had the vision to see three thousand miles across an ocean and overcome great hardships to get there. But in just a few years they were not able to see even five miles out of town. They had lost their pioneering vision. With a clear vision of what we can become in Christ, no ocean of difficulty is too great. Without it, we rarely move beyond our current boundaries.”

Discussion Questions

1 - Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:6-8. What are some common themes in these two passages?

2 - From these passages what would you say is the mission of the church?

3 - In Acts 2:41-47 we read about the very first church. Make a list of the many things the church did together.

4 - In Acts 2:41, 2:47, 4:4 & 5:14 what was the result of the commitment that the early Christians had to the mission of the church?

5 - Why is mission and vision so important in the life of a church? Why is it important that the people who are a part of the church support the mission and vision of the church?

6 - Vision is something that grows with time, but can suddenly disappear. What are some reasons why vision can so quickly disappear?

7 - Why do you think that generosity is such an important part of a church accomplishing its mission to the fullest and seeing its vision fully realized?

8 - How can having a better understand of what the Bible says about generosity help you in your own spiritual journey and help with your own financial life?

9 - What can you and/or your group do to help support the ALL IN Generosity Initiative at Hilton Head Island Community Church?

ALL IN - Session 2

It's All Mine, Right?

Theme

God owns everything. I'm his money manager (Treasure Principle Key 1).

Introduction

What are some things that you own?

How does being an owner of those things make you feel?

Does being an owner of those items impact how others view you? Do you consider this when making a purchase?

What is our culture's view of ownership?

Scripture Reading

11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. - 1 Chronicles 29:11 (ESV)

11 Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine. - Job 41:11 (ESV)

1 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. - Psalm 24:1-2 (ESV)

8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. - Haggai 2:8 (ESV)

You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. - 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20 (ESV)

Main Ideas

1 - The reason for God's ownership: He is our creator.

2 - The extent of God's ownership: He owns everything.

3 - The implication of God's ownership: We are only money managers.

Illustration

Once, a distraught man rode his horse up to John Wesley, shouting, "Mr. Wesley, something terrible happened! Your house burned to the ground!" Wesley weighed the news, then calmly replied, "No, the Lord's house burned to the ground. That means one less responsibility for me" (The Treasure Principle, p. 25).

Discussion Questions

1 - Who actually owns your house? Your bank account? Your skills? Your body?

2 - If God is the owner, then what is your role? Do you have any rights? What are your responsibilities?

3 - How does the fact that you are not ultimately an owner of anything make you feel?

4 - Do you fall into the trap of "tipping" God a little each month? If you tithe faithfully, what are your responsibilities with the remaining 90 percent of your income?

5 - In what ways should you behave differently as a manager from the way you behave if you are an owner?

6 - How would the owner evaluate your current performance as His money manager?

ALL IN - Session 3

I Really Need More Than I Have

Theme

Heaven, not earth, is my home (Treasure Principle Key 3).

Introduction

What do you think about when you think of home?

What makes a place home?

How is your attitude toward home different from your attitude toward other places?

Where do you call home?

Scripture Reading

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, - Ephesians 2:6 (ESV)

23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. - Philippians 1:23 (ESV)

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, - Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

13 ...they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. - Hebrews 11:13b-16 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. - Revelation 21:1-2 (ESV)

Main Ideas

1 - What is home? Home is “where the heart is,” where we belong, where our allegiance lies.

2 - Where is home? For Christians, home is wherever Jesus is (in heaven now, then in the new earth).

3 - What do you keep at home? Your “treasures”: money and other things you value.

Illustration

Suppose your home is in France and you’re visiting America for three months, living in a hotel. You’re told that you can’t bring anything back to France on your flight home. But you can earn money and mail deposits to your bank in France. Would you fill your hotel room with expensive furniture and wall hangings? Of course not. You’d send your money where your home is. You would spend only what you needed on the temporary residence, sending your treasures ahead so they’d be waiting for you when you got home (The Treasure Principle, p. 45).

Discussion Questions

1 - Where do you really consider your home?

2 - How can heaven be our home if we live here on earth?

3 - Are you more attached to the things of this world or to the things of God’s kingdom? Where would others say you consider home based on your actions?

4 - As God’s steward, are you sinking His money into temporal things, or are you sending it on ahead, using it to advance His kingdom?

5 - Does the way in which you live your life, spend your time, and handle your money point others to Christ? If no, how do you need to change your actions?

ALL IN - Session 4

I Can't Afford to Be Generous

Theme

Giving is the only antidote to materialism (Treasure Principle Key 5).

Introduction

What is materialism?

What are some of your thoughts about it?

In what areas do you struggle being materialistic?

Would other people say you are materialistic?

What might one do to become less materialistic?

Scripture Reading

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. 11 When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? 12 Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

13 There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, 14 and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. 15 As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand.

- Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 (ESV)

17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. - 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV)

Main Ideas

- 1 - The symptoms: worry, trouble sleeping, hunger for more.
- 2 - The diagnosis: loving money, hoping in money (i.e., materialism).
- 3 - The treatment: start giving it away.

Illustration

At the airport, Hugh Maclellan, Jr., saw an acquaintance who looked troubled. "What's the matter?" Hugh asked. The man sighed. "I thought I was finally going to have a weekend to myself. But now I have to go supervise repairs on my house in Florida." Dejected, he sat waiting to take off in his private jet. Here's a man with everything he needs, with what most people dream of; yet he couldn't even enjoy his weekend. He was enslaved by his possessions. We think we own our possessions, but too often they own us (The Treasure Principle, p. 51).

"The care of \$2 million is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it." - W .H. Vanderbilt

"I am the most miserable man on earth." - John Jacob Astor

"I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness." - John D. Rockefeller Sr.

"Millionaires seldom smile." - Andrew Carnegie

"I was happier when I was doing a mechanic's job." - Henry Ford

Discussion Questions

- 1 - Have you ever felt the sort of sadness described here? Do you feel that way now?
- 2 - Is it possible that you had the disease of materialism and just didn't know it or are you currently suffering from it?
- 3 - Have money and possessions created greater faith or caused greater fear in your life?
- 4 - Are your possessions competing with your giving?
- 5 - If materialism is a disease, then what is the cure?

6 - Which is really most important to you, “building bigger barns” (Luke 12:16-21) or “storing up treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:19-21)?

7 - What practical steps can you take to chip away at your materialism?

ALL IN - Session 5

What Happen When We Are Generous?

Theme

Robust generosity among Christ-followers ultimately leads to the growth of the gospel message.

Introduction

What were characteristics of the most generous person you know?

Do you think that the only people who can practice generosity are the wealthy? Why or why not?

When you have had the opportunity to personally practice generosity how did it benefit the recipient of your generosity? How did it benefit you?

Scripture Reading

1 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, 2 and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. 3 And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. 4 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." - Luke 21:1-4 (ESV)

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. - Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. - Acts 4:32-37 (ESV)

14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, - Acts 5:14 (ESV)

8 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you — see that you excel in this act of grace also. 8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. 11 So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. 12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. 13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 15 As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.” - 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 (ESV)

Main Ideas

- 1 - Both the wealthy and the poor have the opportunity to practice generosity.
- 2 - The practice of generosity will lead to greater gospel impact and church growth.
- 3 - Examples of generosity should inspire and encourages our generosity.

Illustration

The story is told that one day a beggar by the roadside asked for alms from Alexander the Great as he passed by. The man was poor and wretched and had no claim upon the ruler, no right even to lift a solicitous hand. Yet the Emperor threw him several gold coins. A courtier was astonished at his generosity and commented, "Sir, copper coins would adequately meet a beggar's need. Why give him gold?" Alexander responded in royal fashion, "Copper coins would suit the beggar's need, but gold coins suit Alexander's giving." - Author Unknown

Discussion Questions

- 1 - What does the story of Alexander the Great's generosity tell us about our level of generosity?

2 - Read Luke 21:1-4. Why is the story of the widow's gift so important? In what ways could her small gift have made a difference? Was her gift better or worse than the contribution of the rich?

3 - How can we move beyond the mindset that "my contribution won't really matter" toward practicing generosity anyway?

4 - Read Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37 & 5:14. What is the common practice in the first two passages? What was the result?

5 - Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. How does Paul define the Macedonia "act" of generosity?

6 - In 2 Corinthians 8: 8 Pauls says that generosity is not a "command", yet tithing is a part of the Old Testament Law (Malachi 3:9-10) and is affirmed by Jesus (Luke 11:42) as part of our role as his followers. So what about generosity does 2 Corinthians 8:8 highlight?

7 - Read 2 Corinthians 8:10. How does generosity benefit the one being generous?

8 - Read 2 Corinthians 8:11-15. What standard does Paul set on the level of our generosity?

9 - Make it personal: Is your level of giving commensurate with the level you have been given in life or is there a "gap" that you need to consider?