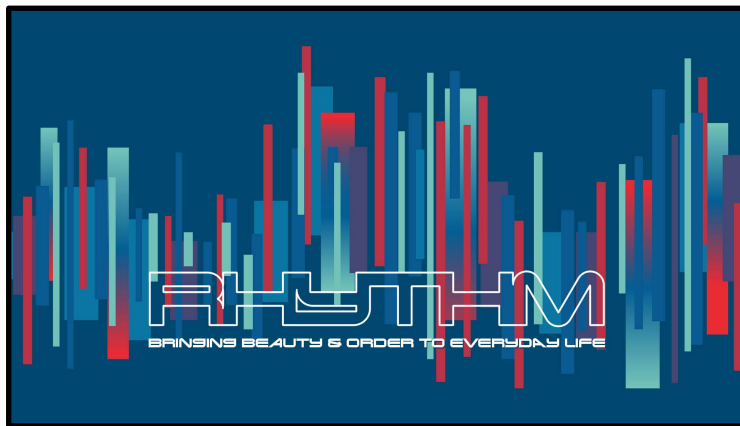




Groups

Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions beginning at the bottom of page 2.

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE for the sermon preached on November 21, 2021 from 2 Corinthians 8:1-15



Bless you if you are meeting this Thanksgiving Week. Spend some time in reflecting on what you are thankful to God today. How have you experienced the Lord's goodness this year?

In this message, Pastor Bryan gave us a bonus sermon in the "Rhythm" series and preached on the relationship between giving and receiving.

Group Discussion Questions

Q – Do you see yourself as a giver or receiver? For the givers what gifts do you find joy in giving? For the receivers, what is a gift that gave you great joy – why did it mean so much to you? For the givers who find it hard to receive, why do you find that challenging? For the receivers who find it hard to give, why do you find that challenging?

Q – It's important that we find a rhythm of giving and receiving. Let's read the passage Bryan preached from – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 and see what we can identify.

- After reading the passage a time or two, what words or teachings of the passage resonate with you most?

- Bryan made special mention of the concept of “rich generosity” in verse 2. The Greek word is “haplotes” and it describes a beautiful type of open-hearted giving. Bryan went on to say it includes the following – Generously, Freely, and Personally. Further, Bryan encouraged that this type of generosity is not limited to giving financially but also relationally. What are the forms of giving can we identify that include being generous, free, and personal?
- Let’s focus on verses 13-14 and imagine that you are a person in some form of need. What is Paul’s message here and what spiritual truth does it teach us about the goodness of receiving?

Q – We heard a very powerful ministry moment story where a man who had a successful career found himself unemployed for an extended period of time. He received support from our church’s benevolence fund and shortly after, he found gainful employment. This experience taught him quite a lot about the rhythm of giving and receiving. It’s tempting to think that there are other rhythms that we’d rather focus on but why do you think this one is just as important?

Q – Let’s consider these key questions that Bryan gave towards the end of the message:

- What has God given this person for me?
- What has God given me for this person?
- How do these questions help you in finding the rhythm of giving and receiving?

How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.