



6 WEEK SERMON SERIES

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to be entering into this significant sermon and study series with you. I believe you'll find this to be a deeply meaningful "reset" for your Christian experience or, perhaps, the framework you've been seeking to make your discipleship truly central and transforming in your life. Please do all that you can to be present for every one of these messages. Ask God to show you His heart and shape your heart and mine to be more like His. Pray that the LORD will give me words that are truly helpful to YOU.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer | Lead Pastor

THE FIVE FINGERS OF FAITH

Like the five fingers of a hand, there are five movements of faith that God seeks to inspire in us, so that He can use us to LIFT others. Each finger of faith is important.

1. **Following** God where He leads us
2. **Trusting** God's promises with all that we are
3. **Prioritizing** God and His Kingdom above everything
4. **Surrendering** our possessions for the sake of God and His service
5. **Committing** to God's vision and power regardless of our circumstances

JOURNAL your response to the message

Jesus, I feel

about

because

RESPONDING to the message

- TABLE TALK | At a meal this week, discuss this question with those around the table: **What most surprised you about the Macedonian church?**
- Text, email or post to your small group or social media sites one big idea from this week's message that has stayed with you.
- Prepare for your small group by reviewing the related questions.
- Pray this week's breath prayer every day.

● GROUP DISCUSSION

PREPARE

A. Pray together this week's breath prayer.

INHALE | May We Surrender **EXHALE | So You Can LIFT**

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

C. Ice Breaker question: Describe the most generous person you know. What is it about them that makes them generous?

RECEIVE

Slowly and prayerfully read or listen to 2 Corinthians 8:1–12 twice.

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 three things did the Macedonian followers of Jesus do that impressed the Apostle Paul? What does that reveal about their faith?

2. "...for your sake [Jesus] became poor." How does Jesus model surrender for His people? How does Jesus' surrender show us God's passion to lift us up?

3. In verse 7, Paul uses the words “excel in the grace of giving.”
What do you think Paul means by using grace in relation to giving?

4. How does giving of ourselves (e.g., with our time, energies, skills and finances) embody surrendering to God?

5. What do you think Paul meant when he wrote, “They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us?” Restate this in your own words. Perhaps read different translations for insight.

● GROUP DISCUSSION

6. What might that mean for us in how we go about giving?

7. What is Paul getting at when he encourages the Corinthians to “finish the work” by linking willingness with completion?

8. What do you feel as you read verses 8–9? Guilt? Excitement? Anger? Joy? Hope? Motivated? Explain your feelings.

REFOCUS

Pray the following based on the classic prayer of St. Francis. One person prays out the light text, the group prays out the bold together.

Lord, make us a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, **let us bring Your love;**
Where there is injury, **Your pardon;**
Where there is doubt, **true faith in You.**
Where there is despair in life, **let us bring hope;**
Where there is darkness, **only light;**
Where there is sadness, **ever joy.**
Grant that we may never cease so much
to be consoled as to console;
To be understood, **as to understand,**
To be loved, **as to love with all our soul.**
It is in pardoning, **that we are pardoned,**
In giving **to all that we receive,**
and in dying that **we are born to eternal life.**
In the name of Jesus we pray and follow,
Amen.

RESPOND throughout this week by SURRENDERING

- Take 5 minutes to sit with God in silence with this request: "God show me how I can surrender my life, my time, my talents and my resources to You to LIFT others." And then journal what you hear.

- This week, choose one new way to surrender your time, talents or resources in order to partner with God to LIFT someone around you. Journal about it and then share with your group about your experience.
- Pray this week's breath prayer every day.

INHALE | May I Surrender

EXHALE | So You Can LIFT

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.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFT

LiftTogether.us

IMPORTANT DATES

Advance Commitment Night

Friday, January 27 | Oak Brook

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, February 12

CHRIST CHURCH 

OAK BROOK | 501 Oak Brook Rd., Oak Brook | 630.654.1882

BUTTERFIELD | 25361 Glen Park Rd., Lombard | 630.654.1884

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