



## 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

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about

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because

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**RESPONDING to the message**

- TABLE TALK | At a meal this week, discuss this question with those around the table: **How do you think it felt to be part of the Acts 2 church we heard about in Sunday’s message? Why?**
- Journal your response to the message.
- 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 | Lord We Dedicate Ourselves**    **EXHALE | To LIFTing Others**

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

C. Ice breaker questions: What's something you have that you enjoy sharing with others? What's something you have that is hard for you to share? Why do you feel differently about the two?

## RECEIVE

**Slowly and prayerfully read or listen to Acts 2:42–47 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 excites you about being part of a flourishing church community?

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2. In today's passage, the early church is brand new and they are vibrant! Why is generosity and selfless giving associated with this season of blessing?

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3. Do you think there was a correlation between the various spiritual practices they engaged with and their generosity? Why or why not?

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4. What is God doing that frees these first Christ-followers to be so generous?

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5. In the past 5 weeks, we looked at following, trusting, prioritizing, surrendering, and committing. We also reflected on various Bible passages to help us understand how these priorities relate to our relationship with God. Do you notice these priorities illustrated in today's passage? If so, where and how?

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6. Where is money or material wealth in the life of the early church? What is their relationship to their money? How do we see wealth used?

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## ● GROUP DISCUSSION

7. In light of this passage, how could we use our current material wealth to LIFT others?

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### REFOCUS

Close your group this week by praying together this prayer from Henri Nouwen.

Dear God,  
I am so afraid to open my clenched fists!  
Who will I be when I have nothing left to hold on to?  
Who will I be when I stand before You with empty hands?  
Please help me to gradually open my hands  
and to discover that I am not what I own,  
but what You want to give me.

Henri J. M. Nouwen

*The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*



# 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](https://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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