

November 19 & 20, 2023
Message: Pastor Doyle Jackson
Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

Lead With Faith: Invest

I. Reminders

- **This Weekend** – worship services **Saturday @ 5pm** and **Sunday @ 9:20 and 11am**. You can listen in your car by tuning your radio to 95.3 FM or watch the livestream on Facebook or [thechurchnextdoor.org](https://www.thechurchnextdoor.org). **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – the **Your Next Step** radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am** on **The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website [yournextstepnow.com](https://www.yournextstepnow.com) as well as all podcasting services.
- **Please continue to pray for Israel**. We received an email from an old friend from the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. He asks us to pray, he has 4 family members that are being held as hostages by Hamas in Gaza. We need God's supernatural help and wisdom.
- **Carol Sing** – Meet with us **Friday, December 1 at 7pm** for an evening of traditional Christmas carols. It is a great way to start the season!
- **Christmas Food Boxes** – we are collecting items for Christmas food boxes. Please bring in your items from the list by **December 10**.

II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. What about Thanksgiving do you love? What about it do you not care for?
2. What creative gift (writing, painting, dancing, etc.) do you wish you had? What would you do with that gift?

III. Bible Study

Read **Matthew 19:23—24** (NIV)

Jesus and the rich young man... **23** Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

1. Why does Jesus say it is hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom? How have we experienced that difficulty ourselves?

Read **2 Corinthians 9:7** (NIV)

7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2. Why does God want us to not just give but give “cheerfully”? What does this tell us about God's attitude toward our giving?

Read **Matthew 6:2-3** (NIV)

2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

3. How are Jesus’ instructions about giving in this passage similar to the 2 Corinthians teaching about a “cheerful giver”? What here shows us Jesus’ expects us to give? How do you think God will reward us for giving?

Read **2 Corinthians 8:7** (NIV)

7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

4. When have you experienced the ability to give as a “grace” (literally, “gift”)? What would it look like for us to “excel” in this grace?

Read **Philippians 4:14-16** (NIV)

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. **15** Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; **16** for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

5. How do you imagine the Philippians felt when Paul praised them here for their giving? How and when do you think God will similarly praise us for giving as they did?

Read **Psalms 20:3-4** (NIV)

3 May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. **4** May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

6. What is “the desire of your heart”? (Hint: this will be different for every person.) Have you received it or are you still waiting for it? What part does giving to the Kingdom play in your desire? Can we speak this blessing over each other right now?