

“It is **more blessed** to give than it is to receive.” *Acts 20:35*

The scarcity mindset causes us not to give .

**Scarcity mindset:** the belief there will never be enough.

“*The scarcity mindset is the mindset that says instead of believing you have enough, and there is plenty to go around, you cling to everything you **have out of fear of coming up short.***” — Grayson Bell

If we give , we lose .

How do we know we have this mindset?

1. We are envious of others.
2. We want it now; we overindulge .
3. “I’m not ; I can’t ; I don’t .”
4. We believe our situation is permanent.

“If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.” *Matthew 10:39*

The more we give , the more we live .

Everything is God’s .

The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. *Psalms 24:1*

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. *Colossians 1:15-17*

If everything is God’s, God gives in abundance !

Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. *2 Corinthians 9:11*

Give a piece of your (God’s) cake.

## One Year New Testament Devotionals

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume in January during our next 10-week group semester. Until then, use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

### Sunday, November 25: Read 1 Peter 3:13 – 4:11

#### *How to Handle Confrontation*

You’ve seen the comment on social media that hits you wrong and compels you to respond with a Christian perspective. But when we are firmly rooted in Christ, we are eager to share what Jesus has done instead of what others are doing wrong. Be mindful that your faith is reflected in not only your deeds but also your words. Be gentle and respectful. Who have you been harsh with recently and how can you reconcile with them? What can you do to ensure you speak only encouraging words today? (Ephesians 4:29)

### Monday, November 26: Read 1 Peter 4:12 – 5:14

#### *Use Your Influence*

We strive to be seen as an authority as we grow in our occupation, but we tend to shy away from this in our spiritual walk. We are all a step ahead of somebody. Spiritually, our role is to determine who that person is and lead them in their walk with Jesus. You have someone in your life you are uniquely gifted to lead. Who’s been most influential in guiding your spiritual walk and how? Who comes to mind as someone you could lead, and how could you begin supporting their spiritual walk?

### Tuesday, November 27: Read 2 Peter 1:1-21

#### *A Recipe for Life*

The first time you prepare a dish you examine the recipe like it’s a map of Disneyland. Our life is like a recipe, but there are no secret ingredients. If we want to be effective as a follower of Jesus, we must follow Peter’s recipe beginning with faith in Jesus and ending with unconditional love for others. God does not expect us to be perfect, but he does want us to grow in Christ by living a productive life by following this recipe. Which ingredient in this recipe do you need to grow in, and how will you live it out today?

### Wednesday, November 28: Read 2 Peter 2:1-22

#### *Everyone Has a Master*

Sometimes certain sins can have a grip on us. We are slaves to whatever has mastered us, and sin will never fulfill us the way Jesus can. When we allow Jesus to be the source of satisfaction, we are filled forever. Freedom from the slavery of sin can only be found in living sacrificially for Jesus. What sin is still mastering you, controlling your thoughts and actions? Who could you ask to help you say “no” to sin and “yes” to Jesus?

### Thursday, November 29: Read 2 Peter 3:1-18

#### *God Keeps His Promises*

It’s easy to experience doubt when we don’t see God working according to our schedule, but God is not limited by our idea of time. It may seem like time is slow and our situation isn’t changing, but God is doing something we simply cannot see from our perspective. God’s goal is to pull us close to Him, and His timing is always perfect. What could God be teaching you as you wait for His timing?

### Friday, November 30: Read 1 John 1:1-10

#### *Finding Joy*

Joy is an internal contentment regardless of external circumstances, and we lose out on joy when we are separated from God and others by our sin. We can remove that barrier by refusing to hide our sin by connecting with God and others. Authentic relationships with Jesus and other followers of Christ help us experience more joy than we ever could on our own. What is keeping you from having complete joy in your life, and what’s one step you need to take today to move away from sin and toward joy?

### Saturday, December 1: Read 1 John 2:1-17

#### *Preventing Sin*

Every Christian wants to know the secret to avoiding sin. John gives us three tips: keep His commands, do not love the things of this world, and remember that Jesus is our advocates. Nobody is perfect except Jesus, and He defends us with His sacrifice on the cross. When we find ourselves in need of forgiveness, ask for it wholeheartedly, then remind yourself of Jesus’ sacrifice. What’s competing against Jesus for your full devotion, and how can you suppress it?