

ALL IN FOR JESUS

“ALL IN” LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE #1

ALL IN FOR JESUS (WEEK 1)
DEFINING GENEROSITY IN GOD’S KINGDOM
2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9; 9:6-15
3/4/2018

MAIN POINT

To live generously is God’s calling for all of us. We need to identify where we are in our journey of generosity and decide what our next step will be to excel in our journey.

OPENING QUESTIONS

Briefly review River Oak’s new mission statement again this week and ask how our month-long ALL IN emphasis might relate to the mission statement:

Living Every Day Captivated and Changed by Jesus!

What stood out to you from Pastor Heath’s sermon this week on being ALL IN that was particularly encouraging or challenging? Do you have any specific questions or concerns after the sermon about God’s expectation that we live generously?

What do you think it means to live generously?

OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR DISCUSSION

The Bible is clear in its teaching that how we think about and use our money signals where our hearts are focused. Matthew 6:21 says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Discuss what this means for us practically as we live our lives.

Life Group leaders should not delve into specific answers to the exercise below, but suggest that it is a useful and interesting exercise for group members to engage in personally this week as they consider what it means to be ALL IN → Exercise: Let’s look at our checkbooks and expenses this week and consider our priorities. Where do we spend our money? What really matters to us? Are we following God’s principles?

READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

What is Paul saying to the Colossians? What could happen if we ALL set our hearts on what God's heart is set on? What if we were ALL IN?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9; 9:6-15

How is generosity defined in God's economy? How should we give? And what do the following phrases mean practically for us today?

...out of an abundance of grace
...willingly
...at least according to our means/ability
...generously
...cheerfully
...to promote thanksgiving to God

We are called by God to be cheerful givers who "sow bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8). What does this mean for us and how can we increase in generosity?

How does generosity result in blessings to self (9:8), others (9:13), and God (9:12-13)?

River Oak's mission is to make disciples who "live every day captivated and changed by Jesus" – reaching more and more people for Christ. Our ALL IN emphasis this month is about how that can happen through our church as our current generation of attendees and members leave a spiritual legacy for future generations...

All of us, ALL IN, taking a step forward in our personal journeys – completely poured out to fulfill the mission that God has given to us!

READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

What did Paul mean when he said that he was "being poured out as a drink offering"? What implications or examples for us do you see in Paul's illustration?

APPLICATION

Pray this week that the Lord would: (1) help you to clearly see what it would mean for your life to be poured out in response to His grace for the benefit of His kingdom, and (2) help you to see what generosity looks like as a lifestyle. Thoughts?

ALL IN FOR HIS CHURCH

“ALL IN” LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE #2

ALL IN FOR HIS CHURCH (WEEK 2)
HOW DO I BECOME A GENEROUS PERSON?
HAGGAI 1:1-15
3/11/2018

MAIN POINT

To live generously requires us to honestly examine our priorities.

OPENING QUESTIONS

Briefly review River Oak’s new mission statement again this week and ask how our month-long ALL IN emphasis might relate to the mission statement:

Living Every Day Captivated and Changed by Jesus!

What stood out to you from Pastor Heath’s sermon this week on being ALL IN that was particularly encouraging or challenging? Do you have any specific questions or concerns after the sermon about God’s expectation that we live generously?

How do you think someone becomes a generous person?

OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR DISCUSSION

We all have treasure to some extent or other. The question is, does our treasure have us or do we have it? (Ken Blanchard and Truett Cathy – *The Generosity Factor*)

Money is not the easiest topic to talk about in church or a Life Group. Many churches rarely discuss the subject. But should that be the case when one-third of Jesus’ parables concerned money or material possessions? Why do you think Jesus spent so much time talking about our “stuff”?

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:10 → Paul notes that “the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil.” What do you think the verse means?

Some people take the verse to mean that money or material possessions are evil in and of themselves. However, the issue of money and possessions relates more to our heart’s desires and determines “*whether we have our treasure or our treasure has us.*”

In what ways can money or things negatively influence us?

READ HAGGAI 1:1-15

The events in the book of Haggai take place during the reign of Darius in Babylon, a general who rose to power following the death of Cyrus’ son Cambyses. You may remember some of these rulers and the historical narrative from Pastor Heath’s sermon series through the book of Ezra last spring. The specific mention of the “second year of Darius” (Hag. 1:1) places the book firmly in the year 520 B.C. and details Haggai’s challenge to Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people to consider their current economic and spiritual circumstances and to renew their efforts to complete the work of temple restoration.

What does the prophet Haggai call for the people to consider (1:1-7)?

What is his point? What is he challenging the people to do?

What does his call for repentance require the people to do (1:8-11)?

What is God’s desire in calling for the people to complete the temple (1:8)?

It is important to note that completing the campus project at River Oak by building a worship center should not be equated to the importance assigned to the Jews completion of the temple in the Old Testament. But the prophet’s call for the leaders and people to “consider their ways” and evaluate their priorities serves as a good reminder for us about the importance of making sure that we always follow God and His priorities and direction when thinking about our finances, plans, and possessions.

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

God has given us everything we have for a reason. According to these verses why does He bless us with what we have?

Yes, he's given us money and possession to enjoy, but also to do good things, to be willing to share, to be willing to give away, and to show us who is really the most important person in the world → HIM! All gifts are to point us back to Him. He gives them to us so that we can give them back to Him and say, "I'M ALL IN."

In verse 17, the author uses the word "wealth" or "riches" – how would you define wealth? Who is wealthy? What does it say in verse 17 not to do when it comes to riches? Can you think of some examples of people who put their hope in riches? Why is it dangerous to put our hope in riches?

What does Paul write to Timothy in verses 18-19 concerning how wealth is to be used? What does he give as a reason for why his audience ought to share their wealth?

How does giving back to God some of what He's given to us through our church allow us to participate in serving God in our city, region, and world?

APPLICATION

Pray this week that the Lord will help you to follow His calling to be a person/family that is ALL IN for Him. And pray that He will show you how you/your family can specifically commit to being ALL IN at River Oak so that together we can more effectively reach our community and world with the Gospel.

Pray that God will help you to always love Him more than your wealth! Then assess your current priorities, and ask God to show you how you/your family can serve Him more faithfully by living and giving more generously.

ALL IN FOR OUR CITY

“ALL IN” LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE #3

**ALL IN FOR OUR CITY (WEEK 3)
EXPLORING THE OPTIONS & DISCERNING MY CALL
MATTHEW 9:35-38
3/18/2018**

MAIN POINT

To live generously is to embrace the example of Jesus and to love Chesapeake and all of Hampton Roads as He does!

OPENING QUESTIONS

Briefly review River Oak’s new mission statement again this week and ask how our month-long ALL IN emphasis might relate to the mission statement:

Living Every Day Captivated and Changed by Jesus!

What stood out to you from Pastor Heath’s sermon this week on being ALL IN that was particularly encouraging or challenging? Do you have any specific questions or concerns after the sermon about God’s expectation that we live generously?

Before continuing with the Bible Study this week, have a time of thanks with your Life Group. Share some experiences that you’ve had at River Oak for which you are particularly thankful. Then as you reflect on many of the great moments that you’ve had with your church friends and family, consider how you can encourage others in your neighborhood, family, school, job, or even sports team or other activity by inviting them to come to church with you at River Oak.

Share some ideas within your Life Group. How can we encourage and help each other to more effectively reach our community with the Gospel?

OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR DISCUSSION

READ MATTHEW 9:35-38

What does Jesus observe about the crowds (9:36)?

How are “the crowds” similar to people in our community today? Can you give any examples from your friends or family?

How does Jesus feel about the crowds (9:36)?

How does Jesus serve as an example for us?

How can we better see and feel like Jesus sees and feels? How do we become more Christlike and observant?

What does Jesus say and do in response to what He sees and feels (9:37-38)?

We can readily see how *living generously* like Jesus lived can positively influence our community, but how might the *giving generously* aspect of being ALL IN at River Oak have an impact for the Gospel in Chesapeake and beyond?

APPLICATION

Pick an area of your neighborhood or community that you and/or your family can stand in front of and pray for this week. As you travel (walk or drive) to this location, pray for the people who live or play in these locations and for God’s blessing on them.

Continue praying that God will help you to always love Him more than your money! And continue assessing your priorities and God’s calling to live generously. Ask God to show you specifically how you can serve Him by committing financially to ALL IN.

ALL IN FOR THE WORLD

“ALL IN” LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE #4

ALL IN FOR THE WORLD (WEEK 4)
GOING INTO ALL THE WORLD
MATTHEW 28:16-20; ACTS 1:8
3/25/2018

MAIN POINT

To live generously we must obey the final words of Jesus → to make disciples of all nations!

OPENING QUESTIONS

Briefly review River Oak’s new mission statement again this week and ask how our month-long ALL IN emphasis might relate to the mission statement:

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What stood out to you from Pastor Heath’s sermon this week on being ALL IN that was particularly encouraging or challenging? Do you have any specific questions or concerns after the sermon about God’s expectation that we live generously

As you think about God’s call for us to be ALL IN for our Community and the World, what might be some Next Steps for you on your spiritual journey?

OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR DISCUSSION

READ LUKE 9:23-25

Think back to Pastor Heath’s two sermons on this passage in early February when He was introducing the church’s new mission statement. What does it mean that discipleship is costly? What is expected if a person wants to “come after” Jesus?

Discuss: “*Salvation is free...but discipleship will cost you your life*” (Bonhoeffer)

READ MATTHEW 28:16-20 & ACTS 1:8

Who gave the command in Matthew 28? What was the basis of His authority?

What practical difference does it make to you that Jesus possessed “all authority”?

What specifically did Jesus command His disciples to do in Matthew 28?

Why did He command His disciples to do these things?

When did Jesus issue his marching orders (commands) to His disciples?

In Acts 1, where did He tell his disciples to go as His witnesses?

What is the significance of the Holy Spirit coming upon them (living within us)?

How could *giving generously* as part of the ALL IN emphasis at River Oak help our church to more effectively carry out Jesus’ command to make disciples of all nations?

APPLICATION

What is God calling you to do? If you have not already turned in your ALL IN commitment, pray that the Lord will show you specifically how you can be ALL IN for Him by living and giving generously at River Oak and within your sphere of influence.

As you conclude these four weeks of Life Group studies, we encourage you to consider an act of great sacrifice and generosity to join with your River Oak family on our journey of generosity. Each of us is at a different place in our journey, and it will look differently for each of us to go ALL IN. ***What have you leaned over these four weeks and what conclusions and commitments have you arrived at for how you will live generously for the Lord from this point on?***