

Trail Guide
October 5, 2020
“Defying Gravity: Break Free from the Culture of More”

Yesterday (Sunday), we begin our 2020 stewardship program called “Defying Gravity.” Over a four-week period we’ll examine the generous life—what it is and why it can be hard to experience. We’ll be exploring the topic of generosity in the scriptures, sharing insights from experts, and hear from some of our many church members who have invested and are investing in what God is doing at LUMC. You’ll better understand why generosity brings people joy, and what forces work against it. For instance, many long to experience generosity but feel trapped by past decisions, or ensnared by a society that lures us with messages that weigh us down with wanting more and better.

The good news is that Jesus offers us a way to “defy gravity” and break free from the culture of more. Jesus said to those who believed in him and were becoming disciples: “If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for the truth for yourselves, and the truth will free you” (John 8:31-32 The Message).

Our Trail Guide each week will focus on scripture that coincides with our Sunday messages. And, you’ll find a reminder (or, reminders) about the weekly (daily) “Clean-Out Challenge.” This week – bring your excess and unwanted paper for shredding to Tuscarora High School, Saturday, October 10, 9AM-1PM, for secure shredding.

Last, pray daily for God to open our hearts to receive, and to share, God’s generous love and grace in whatever ways we can. Generosity is not measured by how much, but by how freely, we give.

Monday 10/5 - [John 13:17](#) - Could this verse be the basis for the adage, “actions speak louder than words”? Perhaps. Pay attention today to what your actions, your words, and your attitude communicate. What do you hope to “say”?

Tuesday 10/6 - [Matthew 19:22](#) – To me, his is one of the most disheartening words of scripture. This man turns his back on Jesus; he walks away from the offer of eternal life. Will we walk away?

Wednesday 10/7 - [Mark 4:18-20](#) – In a parable retold by Matthew and Luke, Mark records Jesus’ analysis of a life weighed down by stuff: “worries... deceitfulness of wealth... desires (wants) .“ Are you feeling the weight of any of these?

Thursday 10/8 - [Psalms 42:5](#) – We experience the weight of financial gravity in our emotions and anxieties. When we place our hope and satisfaction in stuff, we eventually become dissatisfied and even disheartened. Time for a refocus... what does it mean for you to “Hope in God...”? What do you need to stop hoping in? Longing for?

Friday 10/9 - [Matthew 6:19-20](#) – What does it mean to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven”? From this, it seems that God doesn’t mind us having “treasures,” God just doesn’t want our treasures to have us.

Saturday 10/10 - [*Luke 4:18*](#) – Jesus makes it clear that one facet of the messianic mission is to set free those who are oppressed. This includes the oppression of debt and financial worry. How can Jesus help set you free?

Remember the “Clean-Out Challenge”.