

ANNOUNCEMENTS - May 29, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S. 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110
www.zionharrisburg.org / office@zionharrisburg.org / 717-234-4064

WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm

April 24 – June 12 (Wednesdays) 12:10pm WOW Series: “Organic Discipleship”

Based on the Book:

Organic Disciples: Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually & Naturally Share Jesus
by Kevin G. Harney & Sherry Harney

April 24: Foundations

May 1: Bible Engagement

May 8: Passionate Prayer

May 15: Wholehearted Worship

May 22: Humble Service

May 29: Joyful Generosity

June 5: Consistent Community

June 12: Organic Outreach

Notes on Today’s Service Theme: “Joyful Generosity:

How Sharing Our Time, Resources, and Abilities Captures the Attention of the World”

Key Scripture Verses:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 *English Standard Version*

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Philippians 2:1-11 *English Standard Version*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with

God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Timothy 6:10 *English Standard Version*

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Matthew 6:24 *English Standard Version*

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Mark 12:41-44 *English Standard Version*

⁴¹ And *Jesus* sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Excerpts from Organic Disciples (pp 171-202):

What More Could He Give?

Jesus gave up his eternal home and moved into our neighborhood.

Jesus gave up angelic praise for human mocking.

Jesus gave up omnipresent being for the confines of a young girl’s womb.

Jesus gave up omnipotent power for reliance on a newlywed couple.

Jesus gave up perfect wholeness for fractured brokenness.

Jesus gave up the light of heaven for the darkness of death and the tomb.

Jesus endured the cross for you. Your Savior is joyfully generous, and what he has given should overflow from grateful disciples to the ends of the earth.

Giving as a Lifestyle

Jesus had a generous heart like the Father. (Luke 15:11-32)

Jesus gave people what they needed. (Matt. 6:11; 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14)

Jesus was generous with his time. (Luke 8:40-56)

Our Savior affirmed generous giving. (John 12:1-8)

Jesus commended proportional giving. (Mark 12:41-44)

Warnings about Money, Stuff, and Being Rich

Don't be a hoarder. (Luke 12:13-21)

Don't let money be your master. (Matt. 6:24)

Don't love money and the stuff it can buy. (1 Tim. 6:10)

Don't make wealth your life's goal. (Matt. 19:16-30)

Don't say, "Mine, mine, mine!" (James 1:17; Ps. 24:1)

Beware of the power of debt. (Romans 13:8; Prov. 22:7)

Steps into Joyful Generosity

Give to God first.

Respond to divine promptings.

Invest in eternity (Matt. 6:19-20)

Check your heart. (Matt. 6:21)

Enjoy and celebrate what God has given you. (Eccl. 5:19; 1 Tim. 6:17)

Grow in contentment. (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

Develop a habit of giving stuff away.

Generational Challenge (2 Timothy 2:2)

As we grow in generosity, we should always take the hand of someone who inspires and challenges us in the area of giving. We can let them disciple us and help us look more like Jesus in how we relate to material stuff. At the same time, we should lock hands with someone who needs to grow in this area. We can invite the Spirit of God to use us to help them grow more generous and joyful. We can even teach that person to do the same with someone else.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday (Communion & Healing Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays and Festivals)

9:00am **Sunday School** (in-person only); 9:45am **Fellowship** (in-person only)

10:15am **Worship Service** (in-person & online)

Wednesday (Communion on the 1st Wednesday)

12:10pm **WOW, Worship On Wednesday** (in-person & online); 12:35pm **Lunch Fellowship**