

KEY SCRIPTURE:

“... You eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.” Haggai 1:6 NKJV

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us ... Ephesians 3:20 NASB

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 NASB

“One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, “My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the Lord. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves.” “What can I do to help you?” Elisha asked. “Tell me, what do you have in the house?” “Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied.” 2 Kings 4:1-2 NLT

... She replied, “This servant of yours has nothing in the house but a jug of oil.” 2 Kings 4:2 NABRE

“And Elisha said, “Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled.” So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another.” 2 Kings 4:3-5 NLT

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Malachi 3:10 NIV

“Soon every container was full to the brim! “Bring me another jar,” she said to one of her sons. “There aren’t any more!” he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing. When she told the man of God what had happened, he said to her, “Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on what is left over.”” 2 Kings 4:6-7 NLT

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ... ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11 NIV

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What’s one of the most generous things you’ve received?
- Who’s the most generous person you know? What sets their giving apart?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. What details from this account impact you most?
- Where do you see a scarcity mindset in the text? Where do you see an abundance mindset in the text?
- What do you think are the differences between the prosperity, poverty, and provision “gospels”?
Note to GC Leaders, this was not part of the sermon but would be healthy additional discussion to help people process “abundance mindset” in a deeper way. Extra prep needed if you choose to use this question.

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Do you think you have more of a scarcity mindset or an abundance mindset? How do you see that mindset affecting your life?
- Have you ever diminished what you have? What might happen if you recognize the value of what God has given you?
- Talk about the idea of tithing. Is it hard to start doing? Why? Is it worth it? Why? What does it mean to “return” the tithe?
Note to GC Leaders: this is a very personal question. Try to balance letting people share while also making room for them to keep their giving habits between themselves and God.
- How have you seen God work through someone’s faithful generosity?
- How can you fight against the scarcity mindset?
- What’s something you can start, stop, or change this week in order to live more generously?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank You for Your extravagance and generosity. Please give us the faith to trust that You will care for our needs in every circumstance. Allow that faith to lead us in following Your extravagant example as we show generosity to others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Would you like to be more generous with God and others or less generous? How will you start? Take 1 step forward in growing in your generosity and make yourself accountable to it.

ENDING THE SCARCITY CYCLE

_____ MINDSET: THERE IS NOT ENOUGH

“... You eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.” Haggai 1:6 NKJV



_____ MINDSET: THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us ... Ephesians 3:20 NASB

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 NASB

HOW DO WE INOCULATE OURSELVES AGAINST THE SCARCITY MINDSET?

“One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, “My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the Lord. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves.” “What can I do to help you?” Elisha asked. “Tell me, what do you have in the house?” “Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied.” 2 Kings 4:1-2 NLT

THREE PRINCIPLES OF PROVISION

DON'T _____ WHAT YOU HAVE.

... She replied, “This servant of yours has nothing in the house but a jug of oil.” 2 Kings 4:2 NABRE

GOD OFTEN DOES THE EXTRAVAGANT THROUGH WHAT SEEMS _____.

“And Elisha said, “Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled.” So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another.” 2 Kings 4:3-5 NLT

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GOD’S ABUNDANCE OFTEN FOLLOWS _____.

“Soon every container was full to the brim! “Bring me another jar,” she said to one of her sons. “There aren’t any more!” he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing. When she told the man of God what had happened, he said to her, “Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on what is left over.”” 2 Kings 4:6-7 NLT

I’VE GOT THE FAITH TO _____ BECAUSE I BELONG TO THE GOD OF “MORE.”

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ... ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11 NIV

REFLECTION

- How do you see abundance/scarcity mindset affecting your life?
- How have you seen God work through someone’s faithful generosity?
- How can you fight against the scarcity mindset?