

## **Week 3 – Priorities, October 13, 2024**

**Play Video for Week 3 Unfinished Priorities.** Share reflections from the video . Then, take to prayer before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at [thevillagechristianchurch.com/unfinished/](http://thevillagechristianchurch.com/unfinished/).

### **Opening Discussion Questions**

1. Describe a time God called you to do something that seemed crazy or impossible for you to do.
2. As God began to work through you to do the impossible, what did you find the most surprising?
3. How did this experience prepare you for the next time God calls you to do something impossible?

### **Further Discussion From Scripture**

Read the following Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the provided space before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

### **PRIORITIZING THE THINGS OF GOD REQUIRES SELFLESSNESS AND RELENTLESS COMMITMENT**

**So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. (Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the Lord again.**

**Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.)**

**Finally Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives! The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I’ll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I’ll go to the left.”**

**Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the Lord or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the Lord.**

**After Lot had gone, the Lord said to Abram, “Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.” – Genesis 13:1-17**

1. Abraham clearly had different priorities than Lot in this situation. What were Abraham’s priorities as outlined in this passage?  
...and what were Lot’s priorities?
2. here is a passage in Proverbs that states, “The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.”(Proverbs 11:24 MSG). How does this truth play out in this passage?
3. In order for Abraham to be the generous man he was in this situation, he had to stay committed to following the ways of God. Do you feel you are committed to following the ways of God in terms of generosity? In what ways are you weak, uncommitted, or wavering?
4. As you think about the priority of your generosity to building God’s kingdom, do you feel you are committed to generosity above your other financial priorities? Another way to put this might be, does your level of spending control your level of giving, or does your level of giving control your level of spending? Be as honest as you possibly can.

## **OUR RESOURCES CAN HAVE A MULTIPLICATIVE EFFECT WHEN WE PRIORITIZE GOD’S PATH AND NOT OUR OWN**

**Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You 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. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**  
**2 Corinthians 9:10-15**

5. Paul, a New Testament parallel to Abraham in many ways, impresses upon the early church at Corinth - and upon US as the Church of today - the importance of giving in such a way that we believe God will 'increase our store of seed' and will 'enlarge the harvest of our righteousness.' But focus on verse 11: *You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.* Why does God give resources to us? So that we can have more money for ourselves? So that we can feel more secure? So that we can impress others and feel significant?
6. So let's do a little soul searching and ask ourselves a question:  
If you were God, would you give more money?
7. See, we often say, "Well, if I had more resources, then I would give more." But here's the thing: If you cannot be trusted with little, why do you think God would trust you with much?

**REFLECT AND PRAY ON WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO TRULY PRIORITIZE HIM AS IT RELATES TO OUR GENEROSITY IN THIS UNFINISHED JOURNEY TOGETHER...**