DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

NOVEMBER 1 - 7

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

As disciples, we're called not just to be informed but to be transformed into people who look more like Jesus—in our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. This guide helps you apply what we're learning at Lakepointe to your weekly rhythms. Use it to engage in daily Bible reading, have meaningful conversations with your group, and take clear next steps in following Jesus.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

As we continue our series, Into the Breach, we are reminded that restoring what is broken in our lives begins with putting God first. This changes how we live and what we prioritize. Scripture teaches us that God is before all things and above all things. He demonstrated His incredible generosity toward us by giving His first and best, Jesus Christ, so that we could experience forgiveness and new life. Because God IS first and best and He GAVE His first and best, our first and best BELONGS to Him.

One way we put this truth into practice is through the rhythm of generosity. Tithing is more than giving a portion of what we have. It is an act of worship and obedience that acknowledges God as first in our lives and recognizes that everything we have comes from Him. As we seek God's kingdom, we are challenged to examine our priorities, surrender what competes for our hearts, and take faithful steps of obedience.

RESOURCES:

- Sermon: **Into The Breach | October 31 - November 1 | Pastor Josh Howerton**
- Daily Bible Reading: *Follow along with our 21 Days of Prayer Devotional in the Lakepointe App*
- Podcast: **The 4 BIGGEST LIES About Money That Christians Believe | Live Free Ep. 100**

KEY VERSE:

"For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

— Matthew 6:33-34

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONVERSATION STARTER:
When is a time that someone was generous towards you in a way that blessed and encouraged you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What has God shown you this week in your **daily devotions**?
- **Read Matthew 6:25-34.** What everyday worries and concerns can distract us from seeking God? What would it look like to seek the kingdom first in your daily decisions?
- **Read Romans 5:6-8.** What does God's willingness to give His Son while we were still sinners reveal about His character? How has God's generosity toward you changed your life?
- **Read Matthew 6:19-21.** Jesus teaches that where our treasure is, our heart will be also. How have you seen your heart follow where you invest your time and money? Where is God calling you to turn back to Jesus and give Him your whole heart?
- **Read Leviticus 27:30 and Proverbs 3:9-10.** If you have taken the step of tithing, what has God taught you through this step of obedience? How is God calling you to grow in the rhythm of generosity?
- **Read Mark 12:41-44.** What can we learn from the widow's generosity, and how does her example challenge your heart posture towards giving?
- **Read James 1:22-25**. James encourages us to be doers of God's word, not just hearers. What is one thing from God's word that you want to put into practice this week?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

This week, Pastor Josh challenged us to approach the rhythm of generosity not through reason, but through revelation. Rather than simply deciding what makes sense to give, we want to seek God and respond to what He is calling us to do.

This week, choose a specific time each day to pause and pray. Ask God to reveal what generosity looks like in your life and give you the faith and courage to respond in obedience to whatever He asks of you.

PRAYER GUIDE

- Into the Breach - Pray for what God wants to do both in and through the church and your group in this season
- Encounter: Advanced Commitment Night - That God would prepare our church for this time of prayer, worship and commitment on November 4th.

LIVE FREE PODCAST

DEEPER DIVE INSIGHTS FROM LIVE FREE PODCAST EPISODE 100!

The 4 BIGGEST LIES About Money That Christians Believe

Does following Jesus guarantee financial blessing, and what does it really mean to seek God's kingdom first? In Episode 100, Pastors Carlos and Paul unpack Matthew 6:33, exploring God's kingdom, biblical stewardship, and the relationship between wealth and faithfulness. They challenge prosperity and poverty theology while explaining why God's provision isn't a promise of riches. Ultimately, they offer practical ways to put Jesus first in our relationships, finances, and everyday decisions.

God's Commands Are for Your Good | Deuteronomy 10:12–13; Deuteronomy 30:19–20
God's commands aren't meant to restrict our joy but to protect us from the consequences of sin. Obedience allows us to experience the freedom and life He intends.

- God's boundaries protect our hearts, relationships, and spiritual health.
- Lying destroys trust, envy breeds bitterness, and pride prevents growth.
- Gossip damages relationships, while unforgiveness keeps us trapped in resentment.
- Greed and lust promise satisfaction but ultimately undermine genuine contentment and intimacy.
- God's instructions flow from His love and desire for our good.

God's Kingdom Begins Here and Now | Matthew 6:9–10; Mark 1:14–15
Jesus didn't come only to secure our eternity; He came to establish His kingdom and transform how we live today. Seeking His kingdom means surrendering every area of life to His authority.

- God's kingdom is where we embrace His will and authority.
- Jesus announced the arrival of God's kingdom and demonstrated what life under His rule looks like.
- The Sermon on the Mount emphasizes heart transformation, not merely outward behavior.
- Discipleship means increasingly reflecting God's will in our relationships, work, and decisions.
- God's kingdom advances as we surrender broken areas of life to Christ.

LIVE FREE PODCAST

DEEPER DIVE INSIGHTS FROM LIVE FREE PODCAST EPISODE 100

Wealth Doesn't Determine Your Faithfulness | Matthew 6:19–33; Psalm 24:1
Jesus never promised that following Him would make us wealthy. Scripture rejects both the prosperity gospel and the belief that poverty automatically produces righteousness– Calling us instead to trust God and faithfully steward His provision.

- Matthew 6:33 promises God's care for our needs, not unlimited material wealth.
- Seeking God first doesn't eliminate personal responsibility or diligent work.
- Scripture describes both wealthy and poor people who are either godly or ungodly.
- Wealth isn't inherently sinful, and poverty isn't proof of spiritual maturity.
- Everything belongs to God; he entrusts possessions to us for faithful stewardship.
- Money becomes dangerous when it replaces God as our source of security and satisfaction.

Make Jesus the Center of Everything | Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:33
Seeking God's kingdom first means intentionally organizing our lives around Jesus. True discipleship transforms how we spend our time, manage responsibilities, and approach everyday decisions.

- Putting God first requires intentional choices, not just good intentions.
- Jesus modeled prioritizing prayer and time with the Father.
- Our schedules and habits reveal what matters most to us.
- Worship, Christian community, and spiritual disciplines strengthen our relationship with God.
- Jesus isn't meant to occupy one part of life; He should shape every part.

> **Does your schedule– does your agenda– do the activities in this season reflect the priorities of your heart?**
>
> **— Carlos Erazo**

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- **The Divine Conspiracy —** Dallas Willard
- **Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide —** Randy Alcorn
- **21 Days of Prayer / Into the Breach Devotional —** https://lakepointe.church/ITBonline