

GIVING ABUNDANTLY + + +

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Well, when we lived in central Florida, we were only an hour away from the beach. And so a lot of people from the Midwest thought, that must be really nice that you can just kind of pop over to the beach with your family at any time. And you of course know the truth. Our kids were little at the time that nothing in life is fun when you have little kids. Amen. See, that was the joke. That was the one I was. Yeah. Anyway, because it's true, by the way, but there's also no such thing as popping over with little kids to do anything publicly, especially something like a beach day trip.

Because man, if you're going to the beach, that means you have to pack a million things, right? You got to make a day of this. You've got to have coolers and snacks and lunches and towels and beach chairs and tents and umbrellas and sand toys and sunscreen and sunglasses and a change of clothes for everyone. Extra diapers, wet wipes, hats, a wagon to carry everything and maybe just maybe a boogie board or two, you know, to have fun with.

And so you'd pack the car up after a couple hours that you drive there for an hour, you'd contend to find parking that took you a long time and so you're a little bit of ways away. And then I had to start the 45 minute, five trips to the car hauling of all this stuff to get down to the beach in 90 degree humid weather with flip flops. And then once that was all set up, I had to set up a tent and that's not, that's just not easy for Zender to do. And so we'd have half a tent set up a half hour later and it was finally time to relax for an hour or two before our kids got restless and just wanted to go back home.

And so then would begin the five trips to the car haul away teardown of stuff and we'd pack stuff into our things and we'd take it back to the car in the hot, humid heat with the flip flops. But this time there's sand everywhere. There's sand getting all over my car, sand under the floor mat, sand in my nether regions. It's not comfortable to sit in, but I got sand everywhere and we drive home and all I want is a shower and all I want is my kids to not be in my life right now and just be home.

And so we get home and Allison takes care of the kids and I take everything out of the car and I rinse everything off and I hang it out to dry. And finally at the end of all that, I can take a shower from my nice, relaxing beach day. So yeah, it was really great to go to the beach.

About seven years in, we found a better way to do the beach and it happened through a man's generosity. He went to my church and he said, Hey, I've got a condo right on the beach and everything's there. Love to give it to you for a week. And honestly, I was a little salty, like, ah, I don't even know if I want to do this, but you're supposed to help your kids have fun experiences and that way later in life they don't go to therapy. So I'm like, okay, fine. We'll take the condo, kind of disgruntled.

And we got out to the condo and it was a game changer. It's such a better way to do the beach, to show up and to have everything that's already there. Like you can just walk out from your room onto the beach with a towel and a Frisbee. I mean, you got to wear a swimsuit too, but you get what I'm

saying. Not one of those. It wasn't one of those beaches. You know, I just making that clear, but you could wake up, you could watch the sunset, you could run, you could watch the sunrise. You could shower before you got in. Sand didn't have to be in every crevice. It was awesome.

And I think that's the difference between a scarcity mindset and an abundance mindset. Scarcity says, you know, I've got to hold onto and carry everything and bring it myself because I don't know if we're going to have enough stuff to make it through the couple of hours. Whereas an abundance mindset, you know what? I can just show up. I can live open handed because everything I need will be generously provided for.

And I want to talk today to you about scarcity and abundance when it comes to our mindsets, when it comes to our finances. We're in the middle of giving challenge, a 40 day challenge to be generous like Jesus. We decided to do this challenge because we wanted to take all of your resources and deplete your finances and make our church wealthy.

We decided to do this series because we're serious about you being great disciples. I have decided to follow Jesus. The cross before me, the world behind me, no turning back. And you can't be a great disciple of Jesus without being generous. And more than anything God wants from you, more than anything your church wants from God wants your heart to beat for his.

And he says in Matthew chapter six, verse 21, our theme verse for the series, where your treasure is there, your heart will be also. Jesus makes the point that money is really powerful and it can pull your heart in all sorts of directions. And so, yeah, this is a series where money is the object, but the subject of the entire series is I want your heart to beat for God's because we want you to be greater disciples of Jesus because that's what you were made here to be.

It's more than a money series. It's a discipleship series. It's a heart series. And we've taken that to heart even more with an acronym spelled out using the word heart. A couple of weeks ago, we talked about giving happily that there is so much joy and Jesus said it, it's more blessed to give than to receive in being generous. There's so much joy and happiness.

Last week, we looked at giving eternally and reminded you that more than money, Jesus talked about the kingdom of heaven and that it's real and that it's coming and it's forever and that your couple nights here in this world actually can impact your eternity. And in his words, fools live more for now than they do eternity.

A quick celebration before we move on to giving abundantly today is last week, we gave the challenge and we said we are hoping to sponsor 126 kids through our partner in Guatemala, Children's Hope Chest. We had 98 sponsors, we had 28 current openings and by Thursday of last week, all 28 of those kids are now sponsored. They've got resources coming to them through you. You are making an impact, 126 of you are making an impact in a child's life in Guatemala. And that really does matter for eternity. So thank you for doing just that. You are a generous church.

Today we want to look at giving abundantly that God has given to you abundantly and it's placed a lot in your hands and it's time for us to release God's abundance to this world. But to do that, I really want to spend some time in your mind, in your brain today. And some of you are like, Zach, the last place

you trust me that you want to get to is my brain. It's complicated. Some of you who are married are like, Zach, good luck in my spouse's brain. I've been trying for more than a decade and geez, why?

Because what happens in here gets seen out there. Your inner world always leaks into your outer world. And for some of us, the reason we're not generous is because there's something off in our mind. The challenge for today is to trade a scarcity mindset, which the world screams at you and to instead receive an abundance mindset, which God so beautifully offers and gives to you.

So where are you at? Let me do a quick test with you to see where you are. Let me give you five things on each of these mindsets and you can kind of think through which one's more like me right now.

A scarcity mindset. These things are true. You feel anxious about money or resources, even when your basic needs are met. You avoid giving or sharing because, well, you're afraid you won't have enough later. You compare yourself to others and you feel like you're falling behind. You hold tightly to your possessions and savings, you know, just in case, and you believe your happiness depends on getting more.

How many of those five are true for you?

An abundance mindset, these things would be more true about you that you trust that God will meet your needs, even if you're not quite sure how. You give freely without fearing loss because you know you cannot outgive God. You celebrate others' blessings and you do that without having jealousy. You see your resources as tools to bless others and you believe that what you have is enough to faithfully live today.

The good news is, if you were more on the scarcity side, or if you've got any room to grow in the abundance side, is it's possible to change your mind. I want to talk about that today. I want to talk about three sort of movements in your mind. We're going to look at these three words today, recognize, rewire, and respond.

First is recognizing what you already have. I believe that as Christians, we'll get into this more. I don't think anybody should operate with a scarcity mindset. I believe as Americans, even more, many of us ought not to, because let's be real. We live in a day of comfort that hardly any have ever experienced.

The level of access we have to security and to safety and just the resources are immense. A couple of hundred years ago, it might have made sense, right? When the unpredictability of what's going to be on the dinner table tonight, when someone had to go actually out and hunt for their food that night and to track and try to find game in order to bring to the kitchen table, you never knew if you were going to bring that back.

Or if you're farming, you don't know, is this going to be a good year or a bad year? Is a storm going to wipe out our entire crops? And so it kind of made sense, at least wisdom to kind of store up a little bit because you don't know.

Well, you fast forward today, like it's pretty predictable. You show up at family fair, guess what? You got dozens of cuts of meat, if not more than a hundred to choose from. You can buy like 25 different types of milk. Now they're coming up with new stuff. I don't even get like how you get almond milk. I don't

get it, but you can do almond milk. You can get milk from an almond somehow, or a cashew, I don't understand. You can get anything you want at a grocery.

So there's no unpredictability. You can even order stuff from your phone and get it delivered right to your doorstep. It makes no sense, even from a non-Christian standpoint, why many of us operate with a scarcity mindset today. And so are you operating with that?

I want to say to you that probably the greatest collective screaming that everybody here in America is still living with a scarcity mindset is what happened in the pandemic. When the first thing that people did was what? Buy toilet paper, all of it, everywhere.

Makes no sense.

I don't do much premarital counseling in my role here at King of Kings, but as I was thinking back to some of those years in Florida, there was, for whatever reason, a series of young couples consecutively that sort of came to me and they were all in the same boat. They were all in their late twenties and as part of the premarital counseling, they would each take a test separately and it would kind of show me like where they're compatible.

And these would be the things that we talk about. And financial stressors was always on the list of current stress and also future stress. But then because of the transparency of the test, like I could see their salary ranges.

And when you combine the two, again, young, just getting their career started, but there were like four in a row that if you combine the two, they were making over a hundred, almost \$150,000. And as I was looking at them, I was like, guys, I see this on your stressor list, both currently and in the future.

But I don't know if you know this, you are well into the top 1% of the wage earners of the world. And if you do some things right now and put some practical financial budgeting things in place right now and learn how to save and learn how to be generous, even more so than saving.

Like this actually has the opportunity to never be a stressor for you. And wouldn't that be awesome? Because there's many people that do stress and that do fight. And some of them even end up getting divorced because of things like this.

And this is an incredible blessing for you. How cool is that? And they looked at me like with sheepish eyes of like, you're crazy, man. And it was like, I can't even, how do I get in? Hello?

The world is screaming and getting its grip, even on our young people to think that that amount of money at that age, that they need to worry about this.

From an American standpoint, a scarcity mindset doesn't really make a lot of sense for 99% of us. From a Christian perspective, it makes no sense because Psalm 23 verse 1, do you believe it or not? The Lord is my shepherd. I lack what? Nothing.

That is either true or it's not. And if it's true, it changes everything. You have more than enough in God, who is your shepherd, who guides you and leads you.

A few verses after our theme verse, Jesus says these words in Matthew chapter 6, verses you've probably heard before, if you've grown up in the church, but verses to take heart again. Therefore I tell you, don't worry about your life, what you're going to eat or drink or about your body, what you're going to wear.

Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air. They don't sow or reap or store away in barns. And yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Can any one of you by worrying at a single hour to your life? Another translation says, can any one of you worrying ever add an inch to your height?

No, it's ridiculous. And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They don't labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon, the richest man ever in the world in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow's thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothes you, you of little faith?

God says, if you're ever feeling like I won't provide, take a moment and look at birds and just look at grass. And if I take care of things like that, don't you know who are much more valuable that I'll take care of you.

You see, in our world, we teach that comparisons never okay. And it's because there's a lot of unhealthy comparison, but God actually says, if you're having a problem with provision or mindset, it's healthy to compare, but don't compare yourself to other like rich lifestyle, rich and the famous.

Compare yourself to birds and grass. I'm going to take good care of you.

One of the nicknames of God in the old Testament, the Hebrew, maybe you heard Jehovah Jireh means the Lord will provide. It's also pretty fun to say Jehovah Jireh. Come on, let's say it. Jehovah Jireh, the Lord will provide.

It means it's implied actually that God will not only give you enough, but he'll give you more than enough. It isn't that true for what God's done for his people throughout humanity.

So we're going to recognize that we really are blessed. Now the only caveat before I move on to number two is I think scarcity makes sense in just a couple of places still in our world. Number one is phone charger cables. Never enough.

Especially if you live with teenagers, they just go places. And then also socks, right? You put two in the washer and dryer and it comes out one and we still don't know where they go. So those two places, amen, amen. Maybe remote controls too. I just had to order another one because it was lost.

But anyway, number two, we're going to rewire our mind. Romans 12, two beautiful verse. Don't conform to the pattern of this world. Don't listen to the screams of the scarcity mindset of this world, but instead be transformed by the what? Renewing of your mind.

We have the power to change our mind. And when you rewire your mind, you start filtering, stop filtering every decision out of based out of fear of running out or missing out.

And instead you filter it through the faith that God who has provided for me is providing for me, will continue to provide for me.

And we move from this shift of what if I don't have enough to what if God really is who he says he is and provider is one of those things he says.

Now rewiring your mind is not some new age. It's not some manifest thing that you hear out there. It's actually incredibly biblical and highly spiritual and very much backed with science.

Many of you know this, that there's this thing in our brains called neuroplasticity, which means that that your brain can, can get rid of old pathways and you can have new pathways in it.

And so think about it this way. If your brain, I'm getting in your brain right now. If your brain is like forming a scarcity mindset, think of that as grass, that as you continue to walk down that path in the more you worry and fear and have anxiety and practice hoarding and collecting and storing, then that grass just continues to get worn down more and more and more, which makes it easier for you to walk through.

But you have the power to change your mind, your brain. It's neuroplasticity.

You can actually stop walking down that path and with some intentionality, walk down a different path.

Now the problem with the abundance mindset is because you've been walking down the scarcity mindset so much. The path over here, the grass is pretty tall and so it might take a little more effort to get you started.

And maybe as you're blazing this new trail and hiking, you might need to take some hiking sticks with you to kind of knock down the spider cobwebs in the forest because you haven't been down this path in a while.

But the more you walk it, guess what? The more it gets worn down and the more you remember that God is your provider, that God has been faithful.

The more you look at the gifts that he's given to you, the more you operate with generosity, the more that path now gets plowed down and that grass now gets worn down and that becomes easier to walk through.

And then you do it enough. You look back at the old scarcity path and you're like, the grass is tall over there. I don't ever want to walk down that path again.

That's how it can work. You can rewire your mind and there's different ways that you can do this.

And because I took a couple of minutes at the front, I'm going to skip that part right now. You can read about it in the book this week. How about that?

But one of my favorite examples of guys that rewired their minds, I mentioned this book, true riches last week, one of my favorite books in preparation of this series.

I not only love it because of what it teaches the theology, the research that went into this, but because there's two incredible stories from these coauthors that goes with it.

John Cortinez and Gregory Balmer were two young, highly successful businessmen. They also were lifetime churchgoers and had tithed their entire life.

Tithing means giving 10% to the church.

Now they were radically different.

John Cortinez, he was a saver. The goal for him was to retire at 40, eat, drink, and be merry from 40 on was what he was moving towards.

Gregory Balmer, he was also a tither. He was also faithful, but he was the opposite of a saver. He was a spender.

And I think all of us have a little bit of, are you a saver? Are you a spender? We may lean towards one way.

And so the way it worked for him was he was making a really good income, \$400,000 a year.

And so he'd give the church \$40,000. That's a pretty nice gift for a church to get annually. But the reality was he'd live on the other 360,000, hashtag YOLO, vacations, experiences, and the lifestyle just kept building up and up and up.

These two guys didn't know each other, but they met at Harvard and they realized that many of the people that got through that program and were uber successful were still empty and unfulfilled, even though they had everything that this world could provide.

And so they embarked on this massive study, interviewed hundreds of graduates, those that were empty and unfulfilled, but also they were hearing about this group of people that actually is extremely joyful and very fulfilled and feel like their lives are significant.

And they found the common thread of those people was radical generosity and that radically changed their life.

And they realized in that moment that they were going to stop living as a saver and a spender, but for the cause of Jesus Christ.

And they flipped the question that I think a lot of us have when it comes to giving.

I think the question most of us think is, well, how much do I need to give? What's God calling me to give?

And they flipped the question to how much do I really need to keep, right?

For Cortinas, do I really want to keep that much and save that much? Because when I do, doesn't that become my security blanket and not God?

For Balmer, like I'm already spending \$360,000 a year on our family. Like, is it really like no holds barred, no limit, and I just give 10% of the church and I live on the rest?

That didn't sit right with either of them.

And so each of them decided to come up with what they call a finish line number, a number of this is how much my family, our family needs to live the life we feel God is calling us to live.

And anything above that, we're going to put that towards kingdom causes.

They gave themselves permission that as life changes and, you know, maybe kids go to college or there's a medical emergency, whatever it might be, that that number can vary over the years up and down.

But what I love about these two is the flip of that question and they actually have thought it through of what I need to live in this world.

They did this massive study and kind of ironically, I ended up interviewing one of them on a podcast and he said that when they were looking at cost of living kind of nationally, they actually used Omaha of all places as the average, because it's a perfect 1.0 on cost of living in our nation.

Isn't that cool? Interesting.

But what I love is they have a number and I'm guessing that the majority of the people under my voice right now, you haven't thought that through and you don't have a number of like what is enough for you.

And the problem is if you don't identify that number, guess what will happen?

You will keep moving the goalposts further and further and further back and you'll get more, but then you'll want more and you'll get more and then you'll want even more and then you'll get more and you'll want even more.

And the problem is that many of you are getting even more than you ever thought you were going to get, but you still want more because you don't haven't defined what those goalposts look like for you.

And you're still in that mindset of how much do I have to give? No.

How much do you need to keep?

How much blessing of God do you need to keep?

And then what can you do with the rest?

It's a radically different way to look at generosity.

So we're going to recognize, we're going to rewire our minds and then number three, we're going to respond with open hands.

Luke chapter 12 verse 48, from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Another great example of this, and I'm giving you these great examples so it can challenge you. Yeah. I want you to be challenged, but just so you can get a kind of a picture was a guy named Stanley Tam.

He's one of the most successful business people that our nation's ever seen.

And he not only was successful, but he grew into an extremely generous man.

He was the founder of the U S plastic corporation, pretty big company, by the way.

And in 1936, you know, like bomber and Cortina is up to that point. He'd always kind of given 10% faithfully, but God was stirring in him that I've blessed you so much that, that you, that, that there's something wrong with the way that you're living.

And so through conviction and through prayer, he actually, in 1936, legally transferred majority ownership to God.

God owned 51% of the U S plastic corporation.

And he operated that way for 19 years until 1955, when through even more conviction and prayer and through practicing generosity, and God just continued to pour out blessings.

It was in 1955 that he actually legally transferred a hundred percent ownership of the U S plastic corporation to God.

I think that means God owns all the plastic, which is kind of neat to think about, wow.

And over the course of his lifetime, he was able to give a hundred, the company was able to give \$140 million.

Versus thirties, forties, fifties, and sixties, \$140 million.

And I look at that, I'm like, that's really cool.

And Stanley once said, you can't outgive God.

The more I release, the more he provides, my job is simply to be faithful with what's in my hands.

You've been given much and much is expected.

And again, I'm talking largely money and finances in this series.

God doesn't always promise you financial blessing for financial blessings, but you will be blessed.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

It may be financial blessings.

In Stanley's case, it was certainly that.

And there are many stories in King of Kings that could show you that, but it doesn't always result in financial blessings.

But the reality is that God has given you much and he's provided for you out of his abundance.

He's abundantly given.

He's not held back, right?

This mindset of God's going to hold back, or I need to fear because will God give me everything I need?

Like, come on, seriously, let's not, we don't need to go very far to see that that's a lie from the enemy to think that God would hold out for you when the character and nature of God is to give everything for you, to give abundantly for you.

Look at God, the father that gave his most prized possession, his one and only begotten son.

I think he's going to hold out on you.

He gave you his best and look at Jesus.

Do you think he's going to hold out on you?

No, he took what was in his hands and he raised his hands on the cross to die for you and paid in a currency more valuable than silver and gold and dollars and cents.

He gave every ounce of his blood for you.

And so why are we ever worried that like God's going to hold out or not going to give us what we need for the time we need it.

He'll give you more than enough of all of it.

You need more grace.

You get more than enough of it.

You need, you need more.

He's got everything for you.

God is a God that gives abundantly for you.

He is your shepherd.

And so you lack nothing.

He is your King of Kings.

And so I think church, it's time that we stop walking around as spiritual orphans, scraping for scraps and remember the fact that we're a son and a daughter of the King of Kings.

And there's a great inheritance for us.

And no matter how this world shakes out, that inheritance will be seen a hundred fold in eternity, which is forever.

And so if God puts something in my hands now, I don't need to close my fist.

I don't need to bring it tight and store it up.

I can let it go and I can give abundantly because God's going to abundantly give to me over and over and over again.

Does the same for you.

If Jesus is your shepherd, you lack nothing.

If he is your savior, your debt has been paid in full.

And if he is your Lord, he deserves your heart and for your hands to be open, to be used, however the spirit moves.

This God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

So how do we get out of, get out of our heads, get out of our minds, change our minds, recognize, rewire, respond?

And maybe it'll never get to the scale of a Stanley Tam or these two Harvard business.

It's not what it's about.

But all of us are called to respond with open hands and to give out of what God has given to us.

And so I put together, I think, a fun exercise.

I'm kind of curious to see how it, how it's going to play out.

But when I think of abundance and just stuff that's like, I don't know, just sitting there, I started thinking of in my junk drawers or in my glove boxes, what's the thing that's sitting in there that others might be able to use that I'm not for whatever reason.

And I thought of these things called gift cards.

Have you heard of these before?

Do you know that Starbucks has \$2 billion on and hold right now through gift cards?

And that every year they make hundreds of millions of dollars on unused gift cards?

Hundreds of millions for one company.

And that's at a place that's at every corner.

So I started thinking, how many of us have unused or partially used gift cards that you're not maybe ever going to use?

Because maybe someone bought you a gift card to a place that you don't even like, but someone else might like it.

What would it look like if we just brought those to church and gave them out to people that had wants or needs and we could be a blessing?

So I was like, let me test this a little bit to see if this is just my family.

So I threw a Facebook comment out there a couple of weeks ago, and I asked how many people, how many gift cards are you sitting on?

And there were 91 responses.

So I totaled them up and I averaged them and it turns out it's about six, seven.

Not true.

It's those two numbers combined.

It's about 13 everybody's sitting on average.

And so I thought what a cool thing that might be is if we could bring these gift cards to King of Kings and in a couple minutes, Seth, your campus director will tell you what that is going to look like.

But in a couple of weeks, we're going to redistribute these gift cards and there'll be a blessing.

And if you want a blessing, you can have it.

If you need a blessing, it'll be here for you.

If you want to grab one or a few for friends in need, great, grab it.

It's awesome.

I'm starting the journey today.

I've got a few gift cards.

This one's a sacrifice for me.

These are Chipotle gift cards.

So this is hard, but someone else will have multiple burritos on me.

This one is not hard.

This is not a sacrifice.

This is Valentino's.

I had Valentino's when I went to Miller North for lunch like two years in a row, and I vowed that I will never eat Valentino's again.

And so whoever gave me this card doesn't know who I am.

And I won't use it.

But some of you might.

You might like it.

Great.

Some of you got these things laying around.

Awesome.

Some of you, maybe you do use them.

There were some people that go, we use all of them, the hoity-toity ones, right?

The holier-than-thou ones.

Oh, we don't have any.

Okay, whatever.

But anyway, even if you don't, you can participate.

You can go buy gift cards this week.

You can shop local.

You can go to major chains.

Sometimes they offer discounts, and you can bring them with you.

Again, Seth will give you instructions on that.

And in two weeks from now for the finale week, I think we're going to see a lot of fun and joy, joy in giving, joy in receiving.

I think it'll be neat.

There may be couples here that can get an Omaha Steakhouse dinner that maybe they've never had before.

Maybe a family that needs money to fill a tank of gas can get a tank or two filled.

Maybe a young mom can have groceries taken care of for a week or two.

At the end of last service, I met a man who was a doctor that said, hey, I've got a nails and spa gift card because I like to do every other month pedicures.

I was like, okay.

I was like, I think I'm going to give this up.

I was like, okay, bro, whatever you need to do.

If you need to give up your pedicure, if you need to give up your pedicure, I bet there's someone here that would really love to have their nails done.

Anyway, I think it'll be super fun and I hope you take part, but no matter what you do, the challenge this week is to trade scarcity for abundance, to recognize what we have, to rewire our minds and to respond with open hands.

And some of you, God may be challenging you to go far beyond just gift cards and maybe this is the week where you give abundantly to a person that you can greatly bless or a ministry that's on your heart or the church that you so dearly love.

Ask God and be obedient.

It's by practicing generosity that we train our brain that there is a new way to do this, that God is our provider.

So I hope you take part.

It's going to be a lot of fun.

Hey, will you pray with me?

And I'd like you to start with fists that are closed.

Because sometimes people say that we don't bring anything to God when we come to God.

And actually, I think that may be a little bit too beneficial because I think we bring not nothing.

I think we bring our worst to God and he invites us to.

These closed fists represent that mindset that's got to get out.

It's not fitting for those of you who believe in Jesus.

And so God, we come to you with closed fists today as a reminder of my mind hasn't been where it needed to be.

And I've doubted you and I've had fear and I've had unneeded anxiety in my life, stressed out because I don't know that you will provide for me.

And I bring that to you today as a confession.

And I thank you that you're ready to respond with grace for me.

Open your hands now.

Jesus says to you that you have received grace.

Grace is for you.

I forgive you.

I have more than enough forgiveness for you.

I'll always have forgiveness for you.

There will always be a second chance for you, my child, my son, my daughter.

I love you.

I will provide for you.

Look at the birds and check out the grass.

I love you so much more than those things.

I'll take really good care of you.

You are my beloved, my prized possession, the apple of my eye.

When I look down from heaven, I looked at you and I said, you are very good.

I take great pleasure in you and know that I've got a great future for you and I'll give you everything that you need.

And so live open handed, be generous and wait for my return.

I love you.

It's in your name we pray and together the church says, amen.