



THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



Midpoint of the Deeper Initiative



This book belongs to:

We are praying that every person who calls Mercy Hill home would make Jesus their deepest desire.

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IN 10 YEARS, GOD TOOK THE SACRIFICE OF 30 PEOPLE AND TURNED IT INTO A DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT PLANTING CHURCHES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

In the fall of 2022, Pastor Andrew and Pastor Bobby stood on the stage and celebrated 10 years since the start of Mercy Hill, joined by the original group of 30 people who had leveraged everything to plant Mercy Hill. While recalling everything about the amazing journey of the past 10 years, they began to cast a vision for what the next 10 years could look like. The central idea revolved around the vision of a church leveraging everything for God in the same way God had worked in the original launch team. Right after this, the Deeper Initiative was officially launched. Deeper is a 2-year discipleship initiative where we challenge each person to ask the question, 'God, are you my deepest desire?' The hope is that this will ignite a movement of sacrifice and impact akin to the original launch team from 10 years prior. Imagine now in 2023, we don't just have 30 people going on this journey, but 3,000!

***AS A DEER PANTS FOR
FLOWING STREAMS,
SO PANTS MY SOUL
FOR YOU, O GOD.***

PSALM 42:1

What God has done in and through our church is amazing. In just 10 years of ministry, we've grown from 30 to 3,000 in attendance, baptized 1,654 people, and sent 178 adults to the mission field long-term. God has blessed us immensely, church! The danger for us now is that we could become satisfied with the blessings of God rather than with God himself.

In the fall of 2022, our church started a discipleship journey called Deeper. We wanted to lay the foundation for the next season of ministry as a church by asking ourselves, 'Is God my deepest desire?'

In the Deeper Initiative, we have two primary goals: First, we want everyone who calls Mercy Hill home to wrestle deeply with the question, 'Is God my deepest desire?' We hope that, in answering 'yes,' we will give out of an overflow of love in our hearts. Our goal, then, is to have 100% participation in the Deeper Initiative from everyone at Mercy Hill. As of now, we have seen 786 households participate!

Our second goal is to raise 30 million dollars for mission advancement over two years. This money will be used to fund our ongoing ministries, build a new home and hub, and start new ministries. At the start of the Deeper Initiative, our church stepped up in a huge way! Praise God! We ended up with 32 million dollars in commitments and expected giving. As we approach the midpoint in this journey, I want to call upon our church to recommit. For some, that will mean jumping in for the first time. For others, it will mean finishing strong. Still, for some, it will mean going deeper in generosity to reflect what God is doing in our hearts. Are you ready to allow God to move in your heart, whatever that means? I hope so, church. As Psalm 1 tells us, when our roots go deep in God, the fruit goes wide in our life. When God is first in our hearts, he opens our hands for a life of generosity and mission. Let's get ready for what God is going to do in and through us next. The best is yet to come!



Pastor Andrew Hopper
Lead Pastor





WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

PRIMARY GOAL

100% engagement with our hearts and hands



We have been praying as a church that God would become the deepest desire of our hearts, that every person at Mercy Hill would deepen their relationship with Jesus and make him their deepest desire. As Psalm 42:1-2 says, we want our church to thirst for God himself as the deer pants for water.

When God is our deepest desire, he opens our hands for a life of generosity and mission. We are praying that every person who calls Mercy Hill home will actively engage with the Deeper Initiative.



SECONDARY GOAL

\$30 million for Mission Advancement over 2 years

We believe that as God deepens his roots in us individually and as a church, the fruit of the gospel will spread far and wide through us. We believe that God has identified three specific areas to focus our mission of making disciples and multiplying churches in this season. We are placing our trust in God to work through each of us during this initiative to raise \$30 million to accomplish the vision he has given us.



Deeper Ministry - \$15 million

Through a deeper investment in discipleship... Our core mission of making disciples and multiplying churches is driven by the Acts 2 flywheel: Gather, Group, Give, and Go. During this initiative, our focus is on making a more profound investment in our campuses, discipleship ministries, and ongoing church planting and mission efforts.



Deeper Multiplication - \$10 million

Through a new home and hub... During this two-year initiative we will establish a new home and hub of Mercy Hill Church on 23 acres in a central location in the Triad. This home and hub will be the launching pad for church plants, new campuses, seminary students, new residents, as well as host our broadcast campus.



Deeper Mission - \$5 million

Through new mission opportunities... We plan to deepen our mission efforts. This includes funding more short-term trips, scaling adoption and foster care ministry, planting more campuses through mergers, scaling our worship culture, offering residency scholarships, and making a deeper commitment to give towards international missions.

WHAT GOD HAS DONE



**199 BAPTISMS
THIS YEAR**



**Mercy Hill en Español
doubled in size
and services**



**Largest ever
Kids Week with
963 kids attending**



**5,000 in attendance
last year at Christmas**



**Launched a Chosen
Conference to support
adoption & foster care**



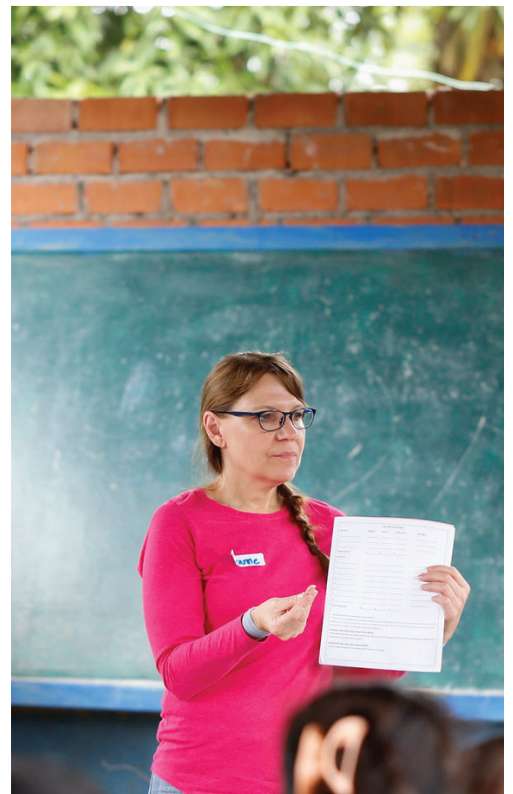
First graduating class of residents



**Launched Port City Church - Norfolk
and sent out 29**



**Launched Regional North Campus
in response to seeing 17% growth this year**



**Record number of
people going on
short-term mission trips:
185**

NEW HOME & HUB

LAUNCHING SPRING 2024

We are joining in God's work to continue making room for more and more people to come to know Jesus in the Triad and around the globe. The Ridge Campus will provide new and improved space for upcoming generations to be discipled without hindrance.

The Deeper Initiative will effectively set up the next 10 years at Mercy Hill. Achieving our goal of sending out 500 missionaries and witnessing 5,000 baptisms will depend on the success of this initiative.

When God becomes our deepest desire: we find satisfaction, he is glorified, and our lives multiply. This satisfaction leads us into a life of radical mission and generosity, propelling a movement all around us because of what God is doing in us.





Worship Academy

Scale our worship ministry culture to raise up musicians, starting in student ministry, to lead Mercy Hill worship and be sent out to church plants all over the world.

Adoption + Foster Care

Expand our adoption and foster care ministry to support families by providing resources, community, and support. Our prayer will be to eventually empty the local foster care systems.



Residency Scholarships

Offer scholarships to Mercy Hill residents, ensuring that financial barriers never hinder anyone from receiving theological and practical ministry training.

Going Deeper with International Missions

Send more finances to support strategic international mission partnerships, advancing our mission to the ends of the earth.



WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

Throughout the last 12 months, God has done amazing things through the Deeper Initiative and throughout the world! He has given us every reason to trust him, and we respond by making him our deepest desire of our hearts.

NEW COMMITMENT

If you're new to our church family and wondering about the Deeper Initiative and how to participate, Deeper is for anyone who calls Mercy Hill their church home. We welcome you to our family! Join us on this journey to explore whether God is our deepest desire and consider making a 12-month generosity commitment to Deeper.

FINISH STRONG

Some of us made a commitment a year ago, and this journey may have been even more challenging than expected. Perhaps you've pushed your generosity to new levels or faced unexpected financial challenges like job loss or change. Let's persevere and finish strong together, supporting one another, knowing that the Lord is faithful and will provide. Let's remain committed to Deeper.

INCREASE

Some of us made our Deeper commitment a year ago, and it might have required significant sacrifice. It's possible that your faith or financial situation has grown since then. While keeping our commitment hasn't been easy, you may sense the Lord encouraging you to take an additional step of faith in generosity. We challenge you to respond to his call by increasing your commitment. Remember, generosity is not a one-time event; it's a continuous journey. Ask yourself if you're still giving in a way that challenges you and if God remains your deepest desire. Pray and consider if he's inviting you to take another step of faith with an increased commitment.

GENEROSITY PATHWAY

At Mercy Hill we want to equip you to grow in generosity. We've developed the Generosity Pathway to help you see where you are right now and create clear next steps for your growth. As we move from beginning givers towards extravagant givers, we not only increase our giving but also our kingdom impact.

BEGINNING

Every journey begins with a first step. If you've never given before, take the first step on the Generosity Pathway by giving a gift today.

CONSISTENT

If you have given something in the past, but are not giving regularly, your next step is to become a consistent giver. Paul tells the Corinthian church to set aside some money every week for generosity. Setting up a recurring gift is a great way to become a consistent giver.

TITHING

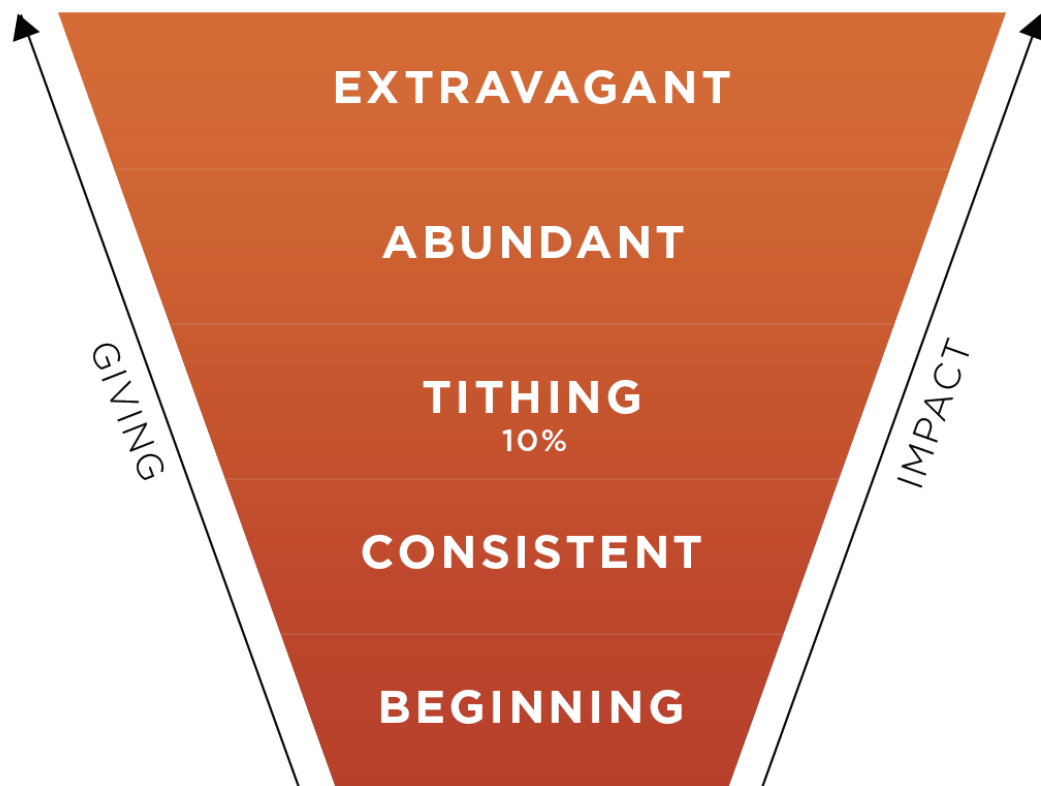
Simply put, tithing is giving the first 10% of everything God has given us back to God. Tithing is an important step that moves us from the act of giving towards a heart of true generosity.

ABUNDANT

Abundant giving goes above and beyond what might be normal or expected. When we take a step into abundant giving, it looks like consistently giving above the tithe in a way that showcases the transforming work Jesus has done in our lives.

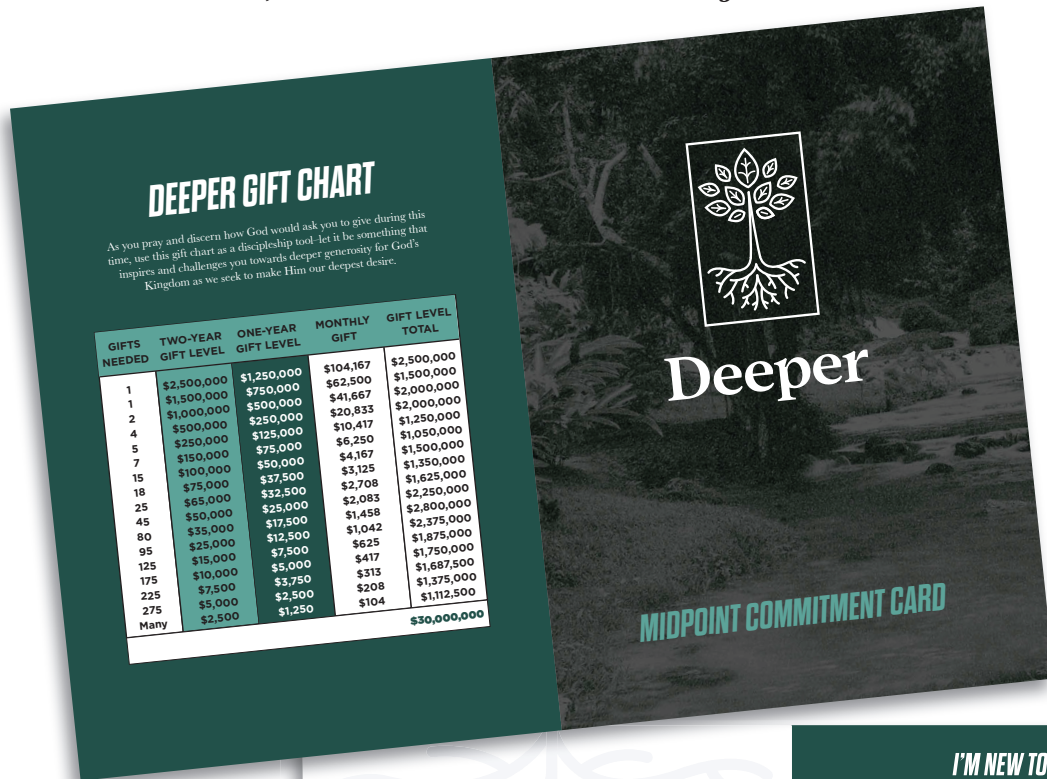
EXTRAVAGANT

An extravagant giver lives a life that demonstrates that every single resource, financial or otherwise, is a gift from God and to be used for his glory. Taking a step into extravagant giving means there is nothing withheld, and every area of your life is freely and joyfully given for kingdom purposes.



COMMITMENT CARD EXAMPLE

We've included a hard copy of our Commitment Card in this book to allow you to begin praying about your commitment and what it will signify for your journey with God during the rest of the Deeper Initiative. Take some time to contemplate and pray about this, and we'll provide you with a new hard copy during **Commitment Weekend**, which is scheduled for **November 2 to 5**.



DEEPER GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool—let it be something that inspires and challenges you towards deeper generosity for God's Kingdom as we seek to make Him our deepest desire.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ONE-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$2,500,000	\$1,250,000	\$104,167	\$2,500,000
1	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$1,500,000
2	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$2,000,000
4	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$2,000,000
5	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,250,000
7	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,050,000
15	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$1,500,000
18	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$1,350,000
25	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$1,625,000
45	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$2,250,000
80	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$2,800,000
95	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$2,375,000
125	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$1,875,000
175	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$1,750,000
225	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$1,687,500
275	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$1,375,000
Many	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$1,112,500
				\$30,000,000

PRIMARY GOAL: 100% ENGAGEMENT

We are praying that every person at Mercy Hill will deepen their relationship with Jesus in this season and make him their deepest desire, both with their hearts and their hands.

SECONDARY GOAL: MISSION ADVANCEMENT OVER 2 YEARS

We believe God has identified three areas to focus our mission of making disciples and multiplying churches in this season. And we are trusting God to move through each of us over the next two years to raise \$30 million to accomplish the vision he has given us.

DEEPER MINISTRY

Deeper investment in discipleship - \$15 Million

DEEPER MULTIPLICATION

New Home and Hub - \$10 Million

DEEPER MISSION

New mission initiatives - \$5 Million



I'M NEW TO DEEPER

☐ I/we would like to make a 12-month commitment to the Deeper Discipleship Initiative in the amount of:

\$

*This includes your regular giving over the next 12 months as well as expanded giving and stored resources

I'M ALREADY COMMITTED TO DEEPER

My/our **current** two-year commitment to the Deeper Discipleship Initiative is:

\$

☐ Confirm my/our original commitment to finish strong.

☐ Increase my/our two-year commitment to:

\$

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

CAMPUS: _____ PHONE: (____) ____-____

EMAIL: _____

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Check out our extended FAQ resource at:

DEEPER.MERCYHILLCHURCH.COM/FAQ

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



KEY DATES

The Greatest Commandment Sermon Series
Starts Oct 12 + 15, 2023

Vision and Prayer Walk at the Ridge Campus
Oct 15, 2023

Discovery Groups
Oct 17 - Nov 7, 2023

Commitment Weekend
Nov 2 + 5, 2023

SERMON SERIES **+ Discipleship Guide**

W1 | Abide and Produce Fruit - 10/12+15

W2 | Deepest Trust - 10/19+22

W3 | All Your Heart - 10/26+29

W4 | Entrusted with Much - 11/2+5

WEEK 1 | 10/12 + 15

“Abide and Produce Fruit”

JOHN 15:4-5

[4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (ESV)

**BEARING FRUIT IS A RESULT OF
ABIDING IN THE VINE.**

Opening Question

Share a time when you wanted a certain result but chose the wrong path to get there.



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this week's
video.

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Below are the questions for discussion in community group this week. If you can, take some time to think through the questions before group each week.

Read through John 15:4-5 together, sharing anything God is revealing to you through the personal study or through the sermon.

Why does abiding in Christ take priority over producing fruit as our focus?

What are the ways in which we abide in Christ?

How does the gospel shift our thinking of abiding and bearing fruit?

Based on the sermon, what's one action step you'll commit to take this week?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take time to pray over the action step each person will take towards abiding more in Christ and commit as a group to check back in on each person's progress at your next meeting.

“Deepest Trust”

GENESIS 22:1-18

[1] After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” [2] He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” [3] So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. [4] On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. [5] Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” [6] And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. [7] And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” [8] Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together. [9] When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. [10] Then Abraham reached

out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. [11] But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” [12] He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” [13] And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. [14] So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” [15] And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven [16] and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, [17] I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, [18] and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” (ESV)

GOD CALLS US TO TRUST HIM WITH EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

Opening Question

What are the top 5 things you put your trust in on a daily basis?



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this week's
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Below are the questions for discussion in community group this week. If you can, take some time to think through the questions before group each week.

Read through Genesis 22:1-18 together, sharing anything God is revealing to you through the personal study or through the sermon.

What's a word or phrase that stood out to you from Genesis 22? Why?

What does culture tell us to put our trust in? Why are those things insufficient?

Why is the God of the Bible worthy of our trust?

How do we go about growing our trust in God?

What role does our generosity, and specifically our finances, play in growing our trust in God?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take time in prayer to confess the things we trust instead of God, praise God for how he has proven himself trustworthy, and check in on last week's action step.

WEEK 3 / 10/26+29

“All Your Heart”

PROVERBS 3:5-8

[5] Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding

[6] In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

[7] Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

[8] It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones. (ESV)

**WE CANNOT TRUST GOD IF WE
ARE LEANING ON OUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.**

Opening Question

What are some “wise” phrases or idioms you’ve heard over the years that really don’t make sense?



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Below are the questions for discussion in community group this week. If you can, take some time to think through the questions before group each week.

Read through Proverbs 3:5-8 together, sharing anything God is revealing to you through the personal study or through the sermon.

What’s something that challenged you in the sermon this week?

How does Proverbs 3:5-8 relate to our role as steward rather than owner of our lives?

How does the gospel change our view of our time, talent, and treasure?

Does your giving reflect that you’re trusting Jesus to direct your path? Practically speaking, does your generosity affect your saving and spending decisions or do the saving and spending decisions lead your giving?

What does it look like in your life to let your trust of Christ drive your finances?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take time in prayer to confess to one another the things we are trusting in more than Jesus. Pray for one another to seek God as our deepest desire and for our generosity to reflect that.

WEEK 4 | **11/2+5**

“Entrusted with Much”

MATTHEW 25:14-17

[14] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15] To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17] So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18] But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. (ESV)

**WE ARE CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT
WITH WHAT WE ARE GIVEN.**

Opening Question

Share a time you made a commitment in your life that changed the trajectory of your life.



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Read through Matthew 25:14-27 together, sharing anything God is revealing to you through the personal study or through the sermon.

What was one statement or thought from the sermon that you found encouraging?

Why do you think God gave us each time, talent, and treasure?

How does the gospel shape how we view our role as stewards?

What role do commitments play in our growth, both generally, and specific to our spiritual life?

How does the gospel shape how we think about making a commitment to Deeper?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take time in prayer to confess areas where we've failed to steward what God has given us. Pray for one another to seek God as our deepest desire and commit to steward all that he has given us out of a heart of gratitude.

