

Getting Started

1. Are there ways in which our congregation are hoarding resources and withholding them from members or neighbors who might richly benefit from access to them?
2. What are some ways that God has provided abundantly for the flourishing of Ross Church?
3. What areas of your life do you struggle with scarcity? Meaning, where are you less than generous?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. **Belgic Confession**

Article 35: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Now those who are born again have two lives in them.

The one is physical and temporal—
they have it from the moment of their first birth,
and it is common to all.

The other is spiritual and heavenly,
and is given them in their second birth—
it comes through the Word of the gospel
in the communion of the body of Christ;
and this life is common to God's elect only.

What is the second birth being spoken of here? How can one obtain this new life?

6. Read Psalm 147. How does this Psalm relate to our sermon this morning?
7. Compare Matthew 6:25-34 with Luke 12:22-31. What similarities and differences do you notice?
8. Jesus says that all will be given to those who seek first the kingdom of heaven. He affirms this in Mark 10:29 & 30. What is he promising to believers?

Application

9. We often operate from a mindset of scarcity. Rather than being generous with what we have, we try to obtain all that we can and then hold on to that. God is generous with his grace; it overflows! How can you begin to embrace abundance?

Bible Reading Questions

May 16 – Psalms 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55 – Where do you turn during times of distress?

May 17 – 2 Samuel 16-18 – David wants to grant mercy to Absalom. Why?

May 18 – Psalms 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64 – Are these Psalms about Jesus?

May 19 – 2 Samuel 19-21 – Why would Israel side with Sheba, and not with David?

May 20 – Psalms 5, 38, 41-42 – In Psalm 42 the Psalmist states that his soul longs for the Lord like a deer pants for water. Do you long after God in this way?

May 21 – 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57 – When you're in a difficult place how do you speak with God? Is there sorrow, anger, frustration, or hope in your voice? What emotions are present in the psalms you've been reading?

May 22 – Psalms 95, 97-99 – Look outside. How do you see creation worshipping God?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · May 15th, 2016

Slow Church

“Embracing Abundance”

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Matthew 6:33, 34

- **Our economy _____ from a place of _____.**
- **God’s kingdom is characterized by _____, not death; _____, not shortfall; _____ not lack.**
- **Do I trust in God’s _____?**

Topics: Abundance, grace, scarcity