**Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity**

Dear Friends,

I really hope that you will join me in worship in the coming weeks for a church-wide study and worship emphasis entitled “Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity.” Our nation has experienced what many have described as the “American Nightmare.” Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, rising housing costs, and a volatile stock market have all contributed to economic security. We live in a society that tells us, you deserve it now,” whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

I’m sure we’ve all struggled with these issues at one time or another. I know I have. Beginning with our {DATE} sermon, we are going to explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management. In small groups we will look at what others have learned by working through financial challenges and watch some informative video clips. Each week we’ll be providing you with some tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

These are important issues that we cannot ignore. I hope you will join me as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience that God is “Enough.”

In Christ,

**Six Key Financial Principles**

***Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity***

1. Put God first in your living and giving. *(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)*
2. Prepare a spending plan and track all expenses monthly. *(Proverbs 27:23-24)*
3. Simplify your lifestyle; live below your means. *(Matthew 6:19-33)*
4. Provide immediately for an emergency fund. *(Timothy 6:9-12)*
5. Pay off all credit card debt and use cash, not credits. *(Proverbs 22:7)*
6. Practice long range saving and investing habits. *(Luke 14:28)*

**Enough Newsletter Article**
This {DATE} I really hope you will join us in worship in the coming weeks. I truly believe you’ll be blessed! Over the next five weeks we are focusing on a Spiritual Life Series called, “Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosty.”

In the shadow of one of the worst, if not the worst recessions, since the Great Depression many people are still feeling stressed. People are worried about “protecting what’s theirs” and squirreling away enough for the future. We listen to TV news and read the papers, yet how many of us have focused on the Scriptures to be reminded of the hope, assurance, peace, and yes, ABUNDANCE, that God provides.

Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann reminds us of that the strand of God’s abundance is woven throughout the pages of the Bible, from beginning to end. The conflict between (models of) abundance and scarcity is the defining problem confronting us as individuals, a country, and a world early in the 21st century. The Good News in the Scripture bodily lifts up “the abundance that flows from God.”

The opening chapter of the Bible asserts that everything, including you and me, originated out of the magnificent, inexplicable, love of a God who generously called the world into being. Our baptismal liturgy declares that each of us has been miraculously created for a purpose woven together by God. And the story of abundance continues with images of heaven, which says that our lives will end in God, and that this well-being cannot be taken from us. Brueggemann says, “What we know about our beginnings and our endings, then, creates a different kind of (worldview or perspective) present tense for us. We can live according to a faithful ethic whereby we are not driven, controlled, anxious, frantic, or greedy, precisely because we are sufficiently at home and at peace to care about others as we have been cared for. But if you are like me, while you read the Bible you keep looking over at the screen to see how the market is doing. If you are like me, you read the Bible on a good day, but you watch ads every day.”

The message we often get is that we must get more, bigger, and better stuff and, in turn, we get stressed out about how to do this while balancing everything else. There is another way, an ancient way of meaning, purpose, and God’s bounty and blessing. Join us as we celebrate all we have and better learn balance and how to best use it.