

# No Place Like Home

A Heart of Generosity

## **Psalm 26:8 (NIV)**

*Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.*

- There is no other place like this place!!
- HFH is a vision series where we learn or are reminded of where He has placed us.
- God's heart for His house is that we would all believe, "There's no place like home."

***The local church isn't just where I go, it's a home where He places me.***

## **Ephesians 2:19-22 (Message)**

*19-22 That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.*

3 Decisions that Have Shaped Our Lives the Most (Me and Amy)

*We gave our hearts to Jesus.*

*We gave our hearts to each other. (I loved her, she liked me.)*

*We gave our hearts to the local church. (Connected, and Invested)*

*Over the next few weeks, we'll get to hear stories of LifeGaters and discover through God's Word what it means to have a heart in the house.*

- **God is building a home; He's using us all....** We know that Jesus builds His church, but Paul tells us that He uses us in what He is building. What an honor! We aren't spectators, we are participators.

**God Builds His House with Generous Hearts**

**GENEROUS: *arranging my life around the thrill of being used by God to make a difference.***

***How does our generosity make this place a home that people are drawn to?***

VIDEO: ***Henson's Story***

- God didn't give us generosity to get something from us. He created it to build something with us.
- We all have a choice to live generously or to hold everything to ourselves.
- It has nothing to do with your income or how much you have. It's a mindset and position of the heart. **What are you doing with what you have? Time, Talent, Treasure.**
- Living generously begins with understanding God is a generous God! The Bible tells us so much about His generosity.

*Psalm 100:5 For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.*

*Psalm 145:16 Generous to a fault, you lavish your favor on all creatures.*

### **2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (Passion)**

*6 Here's my point. A stingy sower will reap a meager harvest, but the one who sows from a generous spirit will reap an abundant harvest. 7 Let giving flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty. Let it spring up freely from the joy of giving—all because God loves hilarious generosity! 8 Yes, God is more than ready to overwhelm you with every form of grace so that you will have more than enough of everything —every moment and in every way. He will make you overflow with abundance in every good thing you do. 9 Just as the Scriptures say about the one who trusts in him: Because he has sown extravagantly and given to the poor, his kindness and generous deeds will never be forgotten. 10 This generous God who supplies abundant seed for the farmer, which becomes bread for our meals, is even more extravagant toward you. First, He supplies every need, plus more. Then He multiplies the seed as you sow it so that the harvest of your generosity will grow. 11 You will be abundantly enriched in every way as you give generously on every occasion, for when we take your gifts to those in need, it causes many to give thanks to God.*

### **What generosity looks like in and through the house!!**

#### **They want to be more like God.**

*Matthew 5:48 "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You are kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.*

- Simple but true. God is generous and we should desire to reflect Him every day, everywhere, in every way. (Born, takers; born again, givers)
- You are the most like God when you give. Generosity is an extension of His goodness through us. Christ is the head and we are the hands and feet of His generosity.
- He loves it because He sees Himself in us.
- Song: "I want to be a vessel you work through; I want to be more like you."

**Looks like nearly 13,000 hours of LifeGaters serving locally, nationally, and internationally.**

**They see giving as an opportunity, not an obligation.**

*2 Corinthians 9:7 Let giving flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty. Let it spring up freely from the joy of giving—all because God loves hilarious generosity!*

- Get To, not Got To. Not a religious duty, a relational delight.
- What we do TOGETHER through the vision of this house is so much more than we could do on our own.
- We get to be part of what God is building through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure the local church.
- A shared vision gives us the opportunity for our generosity to be multiplied.

**Looks like \$90,000 given in local, national, and international missions.**

**They receive more than they could ever imagine.**

*Proverbs 11:24-25 The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.*

- When we live generously and bless others, the Bible says, we will be “abundantly blessed.”
- It’s not the motive but it is the result. *Abundantly enriched in every way...*
- Stingy is like looking at life through a straw. Generosity is looking at life with full vision.

**Looks like 2 bible translations were developed for unreached people groups.**

**They attract people to God.**

*Matthew 5:16 Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

- *for when we take your gifts to those in need, it causes many to give thanks to God.*
- Generosity is a doorway into the life of another.
- When we’re stingy with what we have and how we treat others, they won’t want to know about our God. We must be so generous that people want to know Jesus more.

**It looks like 735 people making a decision for Jesus! And 51 families made LifeGate their home this year.**

**They have a plan (Response)**

*Isaiah 32:8 (NLT) But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.*

1. **Start Putting God First** with the tithe. An obedient heart precedes a generous heart.
2. **Ask the Holy Spirit for Help** dealing with stinginess and developing a heart of generosity. (All of us in some area)
3. **Look for Ways to Be Generous.** Heart for the House Family Offering **Oct. 22nd**