

**4th Week of Stewardship Season:
“Good Gifts (Received & Shared)”**

“Promises Kept”

GETTING STARTED

- Share a time when you dedicated yourself to something that didn't necessarily, immediately see results.
-Why/how were you willing and able to stick with it?
- Discuss the difference between doing the right thing motivated by fear (of punishment, etc.) versus doing it in hope of improving something.
- Why, do you think, human beings are so prone to catastrophizing, polarizing, etc. when the familiar changes?

Hebrews 10:11-25

- Based on the author's description, what were the pros and cons of earthly priests?
- If (in both the Old and the New Testaments) GOD didn't intend for sacrifices to erase sin, what were/are their intended purpose(s)?
- In the context of this passage, discuss any connections between Divine Promises, ongoing sanctification, and the nature of The Church.
- If believers have (already) been forgiven and can't earn salvation, why, do you think Scripture (including this reading) spends so much time encouraging The LORD's people to continue in worship, service, fellowship, and so on?

Mark 13:1-8

- How does this scene address the tension between our perceptions and GOD's intentions?
-In turn, what does this do to our understanding of how prophecy/promises are or aren't fulfilled?
- Discuss why Mark would have placed this story immediately following the account of the widow's gift.

- What, in your opinion, does this Text have to do with materialism?
-How does this shape our understanding and practice of the Christian faith?

1st Samuel 1:4-20

- What “point(s)” do you think The LORD was making by initiating the monarchy through the history of this prophet (Samuel)?
-How does this segment address issues of ABUNDANCE vs. SCARCITY mindsets?
- Who do you identify with in this reading, and why?
- What can we infer from this passage about the purpose(s) of our blessings?
- Share your thoughts on Hannah's faithful hope/consistency and motivation(s) vs. those of the other characters.
-Elkanah
-Peninnah
-Eli

IN CLOSING

- Share any connections you see between tonight's scriptures.
-What do they have to do with our themes for the season & this week?