

# More Than Enough

*Living Abundantly in a Culture of Excess*

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## A WORSHIP PLANNING GUIDE

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## *Introduction to the Worship Planning Guide*

*More than Enough: Living Abundantly in a Culture of Excess* addresses questions with which many North American Christians struggle. This Worship Planning Guide is designed to help pastors develop a worship series to help participants turn their lives more fully toward the grace and generosity of God.

A note for further church study: Go to [www.wjkbooks.com/MoreThanEnough](http://www.wjkbooks.com/MoreThanEnough) to check out the accompanying Discussion Guide for congregation-wide, small-group, and individual study.

Eight worship planning prompts are offered here; topics could be combined to use in a shorter season like Lent, Epiphany, or Easter, or expanded for a longer series in ordinary time. Each of the following prompts includes:

- suggested title
- sermon starters
- focus scriptures
- hymn suggestion
- prayer station idea
- corresponding chapter(s) from *More than Enough: Living Abundantly in a Culture of Excess*

Worship planning teams can be creative with other aspects of the liturgy as well. For example, each week, a congregation member could be invited to give a testimony on the theme. The congregation should be encouraged to read along as the series progresses, and questions from the group discussion guide could be used as “food for thought” prompts in the weekly bulletin or in discussions following worship.



# WORSHIP PLANS



# Enough



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## IN SEARCH OF A WELL-LIVED LIFE

### *Sermon Starter*

What defines a well-lived life? What if we lived for “enough” instead of “the best”? How can we live simply for the sake of the world, even when it’s so complicated?

### *Focus Scriptures*

Exodus 16:2-4; Jeremiah 29:5-7; Mark 6:41-43

### *Hymn Suggestion*

“’Tis the Gift to Be Simple”

### *Prayer Station Idea*

On a white board in your worship space, write the words, “I have more than enough...” and provide markers for worshipers to finish the sentence. Provide a few examples, like “food,” “clothing,” and “love.”

### *Corresponding Chapters*

Chapters 1, 2, and 3

# Crying Out



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## LAMENT AND CONFESSION

### *Sermon Starter*

Sometimes the world is so full of grief that we can only lift our prayers in lament. Sometimes we are complicit in the sins of the world. How can these ancient practices of the church contribute to a well-lived life?

### *Focus Scriptures*

Psalm 44:24-26; Romans 7:18-19

### *Hymn Suggestion*

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

### *Prayer Station Idea*

Provide paper and pens and invite people to write their own psalm of confession or lament.

### *Corresponding Chapters*

Chapters 4 and 6

# A Rich Man, a Short Man, and Much Ado About Money



## *Sermon Starter*

How do we live faithfully with our money? We give some away—but how much? And what do we do with what we keep?

## *Focus Scriptures*

Luke 18:18-25; Luke 19:1-9

## *Hymn Suggestion*

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

## *Prayer Station Idea*

Place three buckets or baskets on a table, one labeled “Share,” one labeled “Save,” one labeled “Spend.” Invite people to pray about how they will faithfully do each of these with their financial resources this week.

## *Corresponding Chapter*

Chapter 5



# Blessing and Curse



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## ALL THIS STUFF

### *Sermon Starter*

We can't live without material possessions. How can we live faithfully with our stuff?

### *Focus Scriptures*

Deuteronomy 30:19; Matthew 6:25-33

### *Hymn Suggestion*

"All My Hope on God Is Founded"

### *Prayer Station Idea*

Fill a table with objects most of us encounter in everyday life: a cell phone, car keys, dishes, shoes, and so forth. Invite people to consider how each object can be life-giving or can get in the way of a well-lived life.

### *Corresponding Chapter*

Chapter 7

# Loving Our Neighbors



## *Sermon Starter*

Who are our neighbors? How are we called to love our neighbors near and far? How does our church accompany our neighbors well, and how could we do better?

## *Focus Scriptures*

Matthew 25:37-40; Luke 10:25-37; Acts 1:8

## *Hymn Suggestion*

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

## *Prayer Station Idea*

Provide photos or names of people and organizations your congregation works with, locally or around the world. Invite worshipers to choose one to pray for this week.

## *Corresponding Chapter*

Chapter 9

# Keep It Holy



## REST, DELIGHT, AND GIVING THANKS

### *Sermon Starter*

The practices of Sabbath-keeping, gratitude, and delight lead us toward hope. In the midst of our busy lives, how can we develop and nurture these practices?

### *Focus Scriptures*

Exodus 20:8-18; Psalm 118:1-4, 24

### *Hymn Suggestion*

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

### *Prayer Station Idea*

Create a gratitude wall in your worship space. With colorful slips of paper, invite worshipers to add things for which they are grateful. Leave the wall up for several weeks and keep adding to it.

### *Corresponding Chapters*

Chapters 8, 10, 12

# Voices and Votes



## *Sermon Starter*

Advocacy, action, and hands-on service are ways that we can participate in the coming kingdom. The reality is that while our individual choices are important, we also have to actually change the systems that don't work. How can we get involved?

## *Focus Scriptures*

Proverbs 31:8-9; Isaiah 58:6-10

## *Hymn Suggestion*

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

## *Prayer Station Idea*

Have postcards available for worshipers to write to their lawmakers about an issue your congregation is passionate about.

## *Corresponding Chapter*

Chapter 11

# An Old, Old Story and a New Way to Live



## *Sermon Starter*

Being faithful means being part of a community that tells these stories and lives this way of life — not because God demands us to be church-goers, but because we need the reminder that there is a different way to live. How can our lives be transformed?

## *Focus Scriptures*

Psalm 40, Luke 1:46-55

## *Hymn Suggestion*

*“I Love to Tell the Story”*

## *Prayer Station Idea*

Invite worshipers to reflect on how their lives have been changed, even in subtle ways, as a result of this worship series. What’s one thing they will do differently?

## *Corresponding Chapter*

Chapter 13