



Encountering Community: Generosity 2026

A Household Devotional

This family-friendly devotional is intended to help you connect and reflect with your loved ones about “stewardship” in a meaningful way.

And by that, we just mean opening up questions like:

1. What matters to (each of) you?

2. How can we authentically respond to God’s goodness in community?

So, gather at the dining table or bring this guide along for a “car conversation”, and let’s dig in!



Zacchaeus: A Story of Rejoicing & Response

Grab a Bible (or Google!) and look up and read Luke 19:1-10.

What Happened?

What’s one word or detail in the story that stood out to you when you heard it?

Zacchaeus was both powerful, and also (quite literally) overlooked. He was a tax collector, which made him pretty unpopular, but like us, Zacchaeus so clearly wants to be seen for who he really is, and to belong.

What do you think it felt like when Jesus (followed by the crowd) stopped to yell out *Zacchaeus’* name, and said he’d like to come over to *his* house for dinner? How would you feel or react?

What Matters?

There are a variety of reasons we value belonging to our church community. Maybe, for you, it’s about personal relationships, or the opportunities to deepen faith, learn, and get involved. Maybe it’s about the positive difference we try to make in the world through service, or just about getting to worship together in a community we trust to show up to tell the story of God’s love for us again and again. Maybe, it’s about what Normandale connects you to, how it centers you spiritually, or the things it helps you think about in a new way each week.



***Share a meaningful experience you’ve had in the past year
(connected to Normandale).***



This past year: (write something you appreciate)



Why did it matter to you? How did that experience make you feel?

At the end of our story, we see that Zacchaeus is filled with new hope! He *hurries* to welcome Jesus and make amends. He builds up and affirms the worth of community. And he gives generously from what he has. Zacchaeus responds to Jesus' love by sharing God's love with others – investing in real relationships with other people (maybe for the first time ever)!

***You already shared about your own experience this past year...
What would it be worth to provide that kind of experience for everyone?
What's your hope for us, as a church?
Is there a meaningful experience you wish we could give people?***



My hope for Normandale:

***Next steps: How could you play a part in making this hope a reality?
Name one thing you could do – prayer, gifts, planning...everything counts!***



This Next Year: (how can we help give these gifts to others?)

All that we offer to God is multiplied, including our love, efforts, and resources. Your presence is already a gift in this community of faith. As we think about how we will invest in faith-centered community this coming year, let's turn to God in *hope* and *thanks*!



Let us Pray

Good and generous God, you bless us with belonging, new starts, and great hope! Thank you for seeing, knowing, and embracing each one of us. Use our hands and hearts, our dreams and gifts – all that we have, and all that we are, to share the joy of your love! Shape us, as Normandale Lutheran Church, into a community where everyone can experience that “salvation has come to this place.” In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.