

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP  
GIVING EVENT**

- Small Groups
- Temple Talks
- Response Sunday

**Members meet in groups of 8-15 to discuss how their faith practices and stewardship behaviors make their lives extraordinary.**

**Weekly support is provided through sermons, bulletin inserts and temple talks during a 4 week time of discernment.**

**Disciples are asked to make a commitment at a final worship service devoted to stewardship.**

BE EVER MINDFUL...

Keep the conversation and goals rooted in the strengthening of disciples and supporting God's mission.

This event is more about raising disciples than it is about raising money.

The rate of response is impacted directly by the number of participants at the small group gatherings..

Good communication and personal invitations maximize participation.

Temple talks by mature stewards are essential to provide perspective and encouragement to participants.

Recruit and train and equip group leaders

Thank you and follow-up must be immediate.

# Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives.

## AT A GLANCE

### APPROACH

Brings together small groups of members who have some connection with each other. This promotes meaningful conversation among members and appreciation for how our faith and stewardship behaviors enrich our lives.

- Commitments are gathered at a time when the congregation is naturally assembled.
- Provides opportunity for stewardship education and personal integration.

### BENEFITS

- Allows member to meet in informal, relaxed settings that encourage listening and sharing.
- Provides opportunity for educational interpretation.
- Fosters bonds between members

### WORKS BEST IN

Small to mid-size congregations with established relationships.



## EXTRAORDINARY LIVES

The participants in our congregational ministry are ordinary people who lead extraordinary lives by bringing hope to others. Devoted to four missional behaviors:

- Accompanying Jesus
- Introducing Jesus
- Following Jesus
- Serving Jesus

Extraordinary lives flavor the world with God's purpose. We take this extraordinary journey of faith together confident that:

God changes people.

Changed people change churches.

Changed churches change the world.

The "extraordinary" refers to the understanding that our relationship with Jesus provokes us to behave in ways that are quite exceptional. This event asks members to commit to four missional behaviors that capture the faith practices of the disciple of Jesus. Congregational goals involving mission support commitments, invitations to worship, prayer and study, and dedicated service ministries are all part of the extraordinary lives.

First fruit percentage giving is at the heart of the extraordinary life events, challenging us to share 10%, save 10% and spend 80% of our income and resources.

## TIMELINE

### PLAN

(8 weeks before Response Sunday)

Planning team identifies members of small groups and invites leaders and hosts to serve.

Set dates for small group meetings and agenda of activities.

### TRAINING

(6 weeks before Response Sunday)

Prepare leaders for their responsibilities. Highlight qualities of good small group leader: understands and is enthusiastic about subject matter, uses participants names, honors time limits, listens carefully, responds appropriately to questions.

### FIRST SMALL GROUP

(5 weeks before Response Sunday)

Hold an opening meeting of the pastor and stewardship committee. Ask these steward leaders to make financial commitments before the small group meetings and temple talks begin. Widen participation with multiple small group gatherings throughout the congregation.

### EDUCATION

(4 weeks before Response Sunday)

Pastor and members give three or four temple talks and sermons on "ordinary people with extraordinary lives" including both personal and biblical stories.

Mail Estimate of Giving Cards to those not attending a small group

### RESPONSE SUNDAY

Share commitments at worship after all the small groups have met. Have additional materials available on Response Sunday

Tally results

### FOLLOW-UP

(1 week after Response Sunday)

Re-contact all persons who were not able to participate on Response Sunday

Thank participants and workers.

## PEOPLE

### PASTOR

Make sure the pastor is on board. The Pastor's leadership and willingness to explore his or her own behaviors will be essential if "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives" is to have an impact on the members of the congregation.

### RESPONSE LEADER

The response leader works with other key leaders to divide the congregation into small groups. Be sure to identify a leader and host for each group. Set the agenda of activities for the small group meeting and provide necessary materials.

### SMALL GROUP LEADERS

The small group leaders are crucial to a successful response. Select people who are best known by group members, have good conversation skills, are outgoing and committed to the congregation's ministry and who lead extraordinary lives. Tailor the meeting agenda to fit the "Extraordinary Lives" theme and goals.

### SMALL GROUP HOSTS

Hosts will invite and confirm attendance, welcome participants to their home (or other appropriate setting) and provide light refreshments. Groups may meet in the evening or during the day.

### TEMPLE TALK PRESENTERS

Recruit four additional presenters to deliver temple talks on the Sunday's leading up to Response Sunday. The content of the temple talks will focus on how the missional behaviors are integral parts of an extraordinary life of faith. The final temple talk will focus specifically on the first-fruits, percentage giving model. The 10-10-80 paradigm is one example of ordinary people living extraordinary lives.

### FORMING SMALL GROUPS

Every congregation has viable small groups. Tap into the affinity groups within your congregation, and then think creatively about natural groupings. For example:

Adult choir members	Recently retired members
Parents of children who attend the same school	Couples without children
Single, divorced, widowed members	Sunday School teachers
Most recent new member class	At-home parents
High School or college aged members	Those who live near each other

### SUPPORT MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON LINE AT: [www.njsynod.org](http://www.njsynod.org)

Temple talk scripts	Bible Study Resources
Sermon Starters	Worship Resources and Bulletin Inserts
Commitment Materials	Presentation Scripts

## A PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

- Welcome and opening prayer
- Leader reflects on themes and biblical stories, exploring how God equips ordinary people to lead extraordinary lives.
- Show extraordinary lives supported by common faith practices,
- Distribute commitment cards and explain timeline for completing and returning.
- Ask participants to make extraordinary commitments in response to God.
- Close with prayer, thank you's and light refreshments.

Ordinary People,  
Extraordinary Lives.