



THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO:

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

This is a week-by-week companion to the Breakthrough Campaign. It's not a stand-alone piece—it relies on the weekend teaching.

So attend the weekend first.

10.8.2023 - 11.12.2023

BREAKTHROUGH

We have an unbelievable opportunity to reach the world by reaching the Bay Area.

Jesus told His disciples that they would reach all people—to the very ends of the earth. At Venture, the ends of the earth are at our doorstep. Our neighbors, coworkers and friends come from all nations and work in some of the most significant companies on the planet. So if you love your neighbor, you are loving to the ends of the earth. Though they may be here physically, they're spiritually farther away from God than ever before.

Our mission is to break through in the Bay Area for Christ. To do this, we must bridge the gap between the Church and our neighbors—and between God and us. We want more people to have a relationship with Jesus through Venture's initiatives. That's no small task in an area that consistently ranks as one of the least religious metropolitan areas in the US.

We can do what we've always done. We can focus strictly on what we do well—training believers, offering strong Bible teaching, and creating

programs and ministries for those already in the Church. But it would be easy to coast on the successes of our past.

Or, we can respond to God's call and step out by faith. We can join God's work in new ways. We can innovate and sacrifice—and in doing so, share in the blessings to come.





2023

BREAKTHRO'UGH

BY ALL MEANS POSSIBLE



BUT YOU WILL
RECEIVE POWER
WHEN THE HOLY
SPIRIT COMES ON
YOU; AND YOU WILL
BE MY WITNESSES
IN JERUSALEM, AND
IN ALL JUDEA AND
SAMARIA, AND TO
**THE ENDS OF THE
EARTH.”**

JESUS SPEAKING TO HIS DISCIPLES. ACTS 1:8

N
37.22
413°
W
121.90
67°

BAY AREA = ENDS OF THE EARTH

38.7% of our neighbors were born in a foreign country.

More than **3 million** have a first language other than English.

There are **160+** different languages spoken in our region.

Less than **5%** of our neighbors attend church.

50% of tech workers are atheist or agnostic compared to **7%** nationwide.

We reside in a place unimaginable in Bible times, where the “ends of the earth” live in our neighborhood. This unique opportunity comes with three distinct challenges:

- 1) Most do not come from countries where Christianity is widespread.
- 2) Many work in industries not known for being welcoming to faith.
- 3) An increasing number are part of the Millennial and Gen Z generations who are far less likely to embrace a firm belief in God. 44.4% of Gen Z and 42.9% of Millennials are religious “nones” compared to 24.8% of Boomers and 34.4% of Gen X.

**WE BELIEVE WE AREN'T HERE BY ACCIDENT.
AND GOD HASN'T GIVEN UP ON THEM.**



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Big life changes happen in communities.

JOIN A LIFE GROUP

Processing this guide with other people is the best way to dig deeper and find out what God may be calling you to. During this journey, all Life Groups will be using the discussion prompts in this guide.

If you're in a Life Group right now, terrific. If you're looking for a group, stop at the Hub on Sunday or look up the Life Group Finder on [Venture.cc/groupfinder](https://venture.cc/groupfinder).

There's a place for you here.

WEEK 1

What the campaign is/isn't.

This campaign is no mere fundraiser.

The next six weeks are about bridging the gap between you and God, discovering what it's like to surrender, and stepping out in faith. The Breakthrough Campaign is an opportunity to partner with God in the work He's doing in and through our community. Throughout the next six weeks, you'll be reflecting on Scripture, listening for what God might have for you, and considering how you might use your resources to engage with the work. As you do, know there will be thousands journeying alongside you, wrestling with similar questions and expectantly waiting for answers.

What do we mean by breakthrough?

This past weekend, we talked about what breakthrough means. We're specifically talking about breakthroughs for the people outside of the Church—and for personal breakthroughs, or shifts in our own faith.

What would the Bay Area look like if more people truly understood that God loves them—that He's a good father and provider? What would it look like if families had a place to rest, re-connect, and have fun? What would it look like for our friends, neighbors, and coworkers to finally have a sense of belonging here? Achieving these things requires innovation and sacrifice—and most importantly—surrender.

Breakthrough doesn't start collectively until it starts individually.

CONSIDER YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE AT VENTURE.

Before I came to Venture, I was ...

I checked out Venture because ...

The people I know here now include ...

My most memorable experience here was ...

Because I am part of Venture, my life feels different in this way ...



God has used groups of people to produce breakthroughs throughout human history. When you become part of a group (like Venture) that is pursuing what God has called them to do, you're saying, "yes, I want breakthroughs for my community and myself!"

From the beginning, God has been looking for partners in His work. In the Bible, God used spiritual communities to build temples and churches, to bridge what seemed like insurmountable gaps among people groups. For most of you reading this, Venture is your spiritual community.

It's easy to overlook the blessings of being part of a healthy, local church or assume that other people have what we have. Let's take a moment to consider how God has used this community to bring us to where we are now.

Whether you've been here for a day, a year, or a decade, you probably have a story about how God has used Venture to change your family, your feelings, or your faith. Big or small, all those changes matter.



KATHLENE

Freedom from money's grip

BREAKTHRO'GH

Twelve years ago, Kathlene was stuck in a difficult season and searching for a new church home. She found hers at Venture—and after hundreds of cups of coffee, she's still here. (You'll likely spot her in the front row!)

For a long time, money equaled security for Kathlene. But when she lost her job, lingering unemployed for 15 months, she discovered a fresh spark of faith. She continued tithing, with the hope God would continue to provide.

"I was demonstrating by action that everything belongs to God anyway. It's not mine."

When she stepped out on a limb financially, "It actually helped alleviate my worries. I was taking away money's power over my security. I was reinforcing in my heart that God is number one."

Kathlene loves interacting with other people, and seeing how God uses her time with them to share life experiences and hope.

It's her hope that in the years to come, our Venture community would reach more people who don't know the love of God, and would come to accept Him as their Savior.

"It's miraculous when I look back at who I once was, who I am now, and who I am becoming."



THOUGH I AM FREE AND BELONG TO NO ONE, I HAVE MADE MYSELF A SLAVE TO EVERYONE, TO WIN AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. TO THE JEWS I BECAME LIKE A JEW, TO WIN THE JEWS. TO THOSE UNDER THE LAW I BECAME LIKE ONE UNDER THE LAW (THOUGH I MYSELF AM NOT UNDER THE LAW), SO AS TO WIN THOSE UNDER THE LAW. TO THOSE NOT HAVING THE LAW I BECAME LIKE ONE NOT HAVING THE LAW (THOUGH I AM NOT FREE FROM GOD'S LAW BUT AM UNDER CHRIST'S LAW), SO AS TO WIN THOSE NOT HAVING THE LAW. TO THE WEAK I BECAME WEAK, TO WIN THE WEAK. I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE SO THAT

BY ALL MEANS POSSIBLE

I MIGHT SAVE SOME.

THE APOSTLE PAUL:
1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-22



A PLACE I NEED BREAKTHROUGH

TEAR THIS OUT

I NEED TO TRUST GOD
MORE AS PROVIDER

I WANT [NAME] TO
FALL IN LOVE WITH
GOD

I NEED HELP
OVERCOMING MY
ANXIETY

I NEED DIRECTION IN
MY LIFE, A CLEARER
VISION FROM GOD

I WANT TO BE MORE
ALIGNED WITH MY
SPOUSE

I JUST WANT TO HEAR
GOD'S VOICE

I NEED PEACE

I WANT GOD TO SHOW
ME HOW I CAN USE
WHAT HE HAS GIVEN
ME TO HAVE KINGDOM
IMPACT

optional

YOUR NAME:

WHAT'S THE BREAKTHROUGH IN FAITH YOU WANT IN YOUR LIFE?

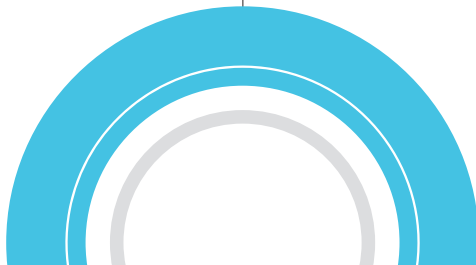
In Sunday's service, you were asked to fill out a card and drop it in a box—to write down where you're stuck in your relationship with God and where you want to see a breakthrough.

Write down what you put on that card.

God puts specific passions in our hearts and gives us unique talents—all of which He can use to give our own lives significance and meaning, and to contribute to the Church. Our community is unique. Some of the most remarkable people in the world's most influential companies are part of the Venture community. The diversity of cultures, worldviews, strategic minds, and niche talents is unmatched. Imagine what could happen if we used our collective talent, passion, and resources to bless our neighborhoods and our city.

What have you already seen God doing in the midst of Venture Christian Church?

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING AROUND VENTURE THAT EXCITES YOU?



VERSES TO REFLECT ON

Read the following verses three times slowly. Circle, underline, highlight anything that stands out and then jot down anything you think God might be saying to you.

LUKE 12:48

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

WHO'S ON YOUR LIST?

Although God can reach people any way that He wants, He tends to use our relationships—and places like Venture—to draw us closer. In fact, most of us are here because someone invited us or prayed faithfully for God to work in our lives. God uses people to reach people. So, no matter how many bridges we build, we still need people like you to walk people across them.

Whom would you love to see have a relationship with Jesus, through Venture? Think about people at work, at school, in your family, or in your neighborhood.

WRITE DOWN FIVE NAMES:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

PRAY.

Keep this list in mind as you go through this journey. Flip back to this page often. Pray for the people who are important to you.

BREAKTHROUGH INITIATIVE 1

VENTURE EVENT COMPLEX (VEC)

A place for the community to participate in life-giving events.

*Phase 1: Field
\$1.5-2 million*

*Phase 2: Gym
\$20 million*

Why?

The picturesque, park-like oasis that Venture occupies is a powerful tool from God to reach our friends for the Gospel. Having 27 pristine acres in the heart of the Bay is unheard of. But our not-yet-believing friends and neighbors will not set foot on our property without reasons that matter to them. We will create facilities on our campus that can host large-scale family-friendly events to reach thousands of parents and kids—as well as sports facilities to run leagues that reach thousands more. These are the types of activities that people crave. By doing them well, many of our neighbors can experience, for the first time, how Jesus uplifts, invigorates, and motivates those who live in His orbit.

What is it?

- Region-leading sports and family-focused event complex with fields, courts, indoor gym and facilities to support large events (concessions, bathrooms, storage).
- Venture-run sports leagues.
- Venture-hosted Free Family Fun Events.

What will it require?

- Funds to transform Kring Field into a sports and recreation complex that includes sports courts, turf field, gym, and the infrastructure that makes hosting large events possible.
- Funding for a Sports League Director, Complex Manager, and Events Coordinator.

BREAKTHROUGH



WEEK 1

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Take a few minutes and share the breakthrough in faith you wrote down during service. If it's too personal, it's fine to generalize a bit. But don't cop-out too much. Your words might really encourage others.
- 2 We all listed things we are excited about. Share one or two of those things and why it excites you.
- 3 Read the following quote from Tim Keller and share what stands out to you.
 - » *"The churches in the United States cannot rely on the culture any longer to constitute a church porch. Congregations must build their own church porches where they can serve lemonade to outsiders who are not yet ready to come all the way into the 'house,' but where they can be prepared to do so. How is that done? What do such porches look like? We use this metaphor to describe a place where people are exposed to Christianity in both an informative and positive way, outside of ordinary church services and instruction. When I say 'place' it is not necessarily a physical space (though it may be that), but a set of relationships. In this space non-believers feel themselves to be not intruders or tolerated onlookers or 'probationers,' but loved and fully accepted 'ratified participants.'"*
- 4 Read Luke 12:22-28 together.
 - » What stands out to you from these verses?
 - » What are things that people are anxious or worried about in our area?
- 5 What's something you hope to get out of this campaign journey?

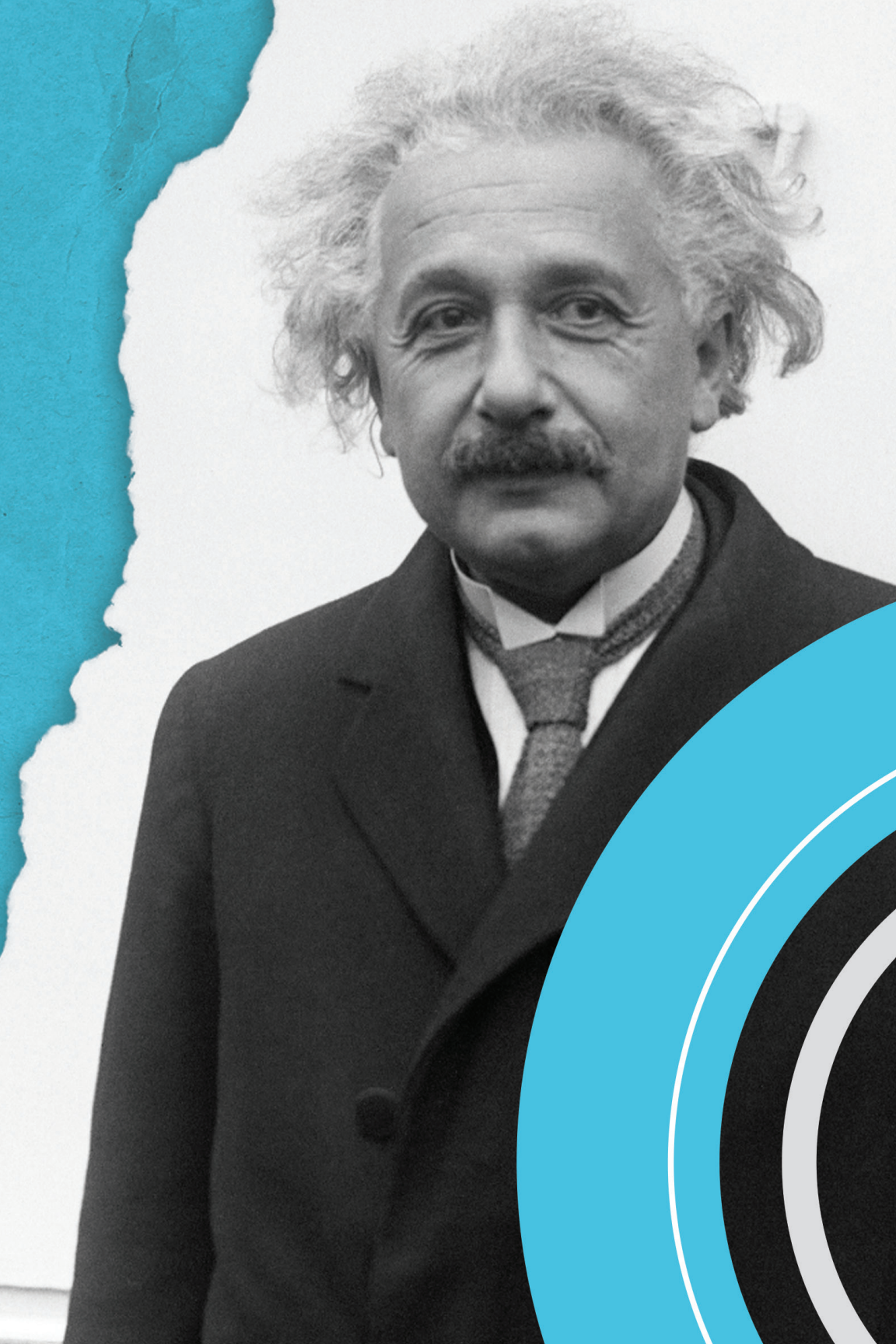
PRAYER

We are going to take some time as a group to pray for each other. If praying out loud or in a group is new for you, just relax and know you can listen while others pray. Briefly share a request or two with the group and then pray for each other.

BREAKTHROUGH

“The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results.”

ALBERT EINSTEIN



WEEK 2

Breakthrough Requires Surrender

SURRENDER ISN'T:

WEAKNESS

WAVING THE WHITE FLAG

A VOW OF POVERTY

THE END OF FUN

SURRENDER IS:

GIVING UP CONTROL

GETTING FREE

A WAY TO WORSHIP

MAKING ROOM FOR THE BEST STUFF

Surrender is living openhandedly before God. It's saying to Him, "My life and everything I have are Yours." The opposite of surrender is control. It's living with a tight-fisted grip on my resources and possessions—aka the world's default way of life. When our hands are closed, we live the white-knuckled, stressed-out, it's-all-on-me life. Not only are we unable to give to God, we aren't able to receive from Him either—and we miss the gifts God wants to give us.

JOHN 10:10

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

Thankfully, Jesus invites us to experience a better life, one full of peace and joy—but that life only happens when we open our hands in surrender. When that happens

we are able to receive what Jesus called the "full" life—or the "rich and satisfying life."

On the surface, it might seem illogical: how could letting go result in having more? How could emptying myself result in me being "full"? The truth of Jesus always runs counter to the lies of the world. They whisper, "You'll only experience the rich and satisfying life by holding on and stocking up." In response, Jesus says:

MATTHEW 16:25

"...Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

The simple truth is this; we each face a choice: not whether to pursue a "rich and satisfying life," but how.

DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN RELEASING CONTROL OF SOMETHING BROUGHT YOU FREEDOM

EXAMPLES:

I stopped micro-managing my employees and nothing fell through the cracks.

I quit making my wife feel guilty about hanging out with her friends. Our marriage is healthier.

I let go of trying to be well-liked by everyone. Authenticity is freeing.


I stopped obsessing over our money market fund. I sleep better.



RACHEL & ABRAHAM

Discovering God's blessings

BREAKTHRO'GH

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark red, long-sleeved top, is seen from the side, looking through a dense forest of large, mature trees. The sunlight filters through the leaves, creating a dappled light effect on the ground and the woman's hair. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the woman and the immediate trees.

The curve of the mountains against the morning sky, the oasis of outdoor space—it's what attracted Rachel and Abraham to Venture at first. The couple was invited by Rachel's mom and brother to the Spanish service, and they've been part of our community ever since.

"We have witnessed how much our lives have changed over the past few months. It's been a true blessing. We feel closest to God when we worship and pray, and speak to others about the Gospel."

As they've stepped out and tithed, "God continues to bless us every day."

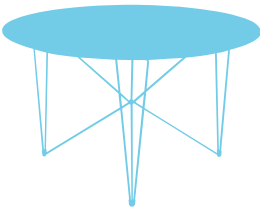
Their enthusiasm in expanding the kingdom is contagious, and it's their hope that Venture would *"help others get to know God and how great He is."*

This past weekend we heard about what it means to “put everything on the table.” Putting things on the table—releasing our grip on them in surrender to God—might not mean giving them away. Many of the things you have in your life are gifts from God simply because He loves

to bless you. Surrender isn’t taking a vow of poverty and swearing off all wealth and material things. It’s a way of saying, “God, all of this is Yours. I recognize that it comes from You and I don’t want it to come before You.”

ON THE TABLE

- MY ‘04 CAMRY**
- SAVINGS ACCOUNT**
- STREAMING SUBSCRIPTIONS**
- COLLEGE FUND**
- TAX REFUND**
- GRANDMA’S INHERITANCE**
- 3114 MEADOW LANE**
- MY NEW MCLAREN**
- SHOE COLLECTION**
- ROTH IRA**
- KITCHEN REMODEL**
- STARBUCKS HABIT**
- MY VACATION**
- STOCK OPTIONS**
- MY ACTUAL TABLE**



WHAT ARE YOU PUTTING ON THE TABLE?

What purchases, experiences, projects, accounts, or stuff could you consider surrendering to God? Whether or not we actually give these things up, we’re relinquishing some control. But it’s worth it for the ways it brings us closer to a God who wants the best for us and cares for us.

GOD IS A LAVISH GIVER.

God loves to bless us far beyond what we could achieve or earn or even imagine we could ask for. There are things we have in our lives we simply wouldn't have without the generosity of God.

What are three of those unearned gifts in your life?

WRITE DOWN THREE THINGS:

1.

2.

3.

PRAY

Take a minute to thank God for these things.

VERSES TO REFLECT ON

Read the following verses three times slowly. Circle, underline, or highlight anything that stands out and then jot down anything you think God might be saying to you.

MATTHEW 6:25-27

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”

PRAYER LIST

Faith in money or things sets us up for a life of worry and anxiety. What if I don't have the right things? What if I lose what I have? What if I don't have enough? Are you trying to do it all yourself, or are you trusting God, who is always enough?

Jesus shows us in this passage where we should put our trust. Nothing compares to God's faithfulness. When we quit chasing wealth and stuff, we're free to chase after doing God's work, with Jesus at the center of our lives.

**PRAY
MAKE A LIST OF WHAT YOU
WORRY MOST ABOUT WHEN
IT COMES TO FINANCES.**

Ask God to bring peace into each of those areas of your life.



KENNY

Amped to give

BREAKTHROUGH

Kenny counts: He's enjoyed 1,406 coffees in his time at Venture. Passionate about learning and sharing all aspects of music, he found his tune on staff at Venture.

"I love serving in kids ministry, and helping out other ministries whenever and wherever I can."

Another number Kenny can't forget: 5,000. He survived a truck fire electrically charged with 5,000 volts.

"After my near brush with death, I could think of no better time to realign my faith and stewardship."

Charged with something greater than electricity, Kenny decided to tithe consistently.

"It was my hope that my money would have a true and rewarding impact."

Kenny, hands open wide, finds giving an act of joyful service to God.

"Understanding the sacrifice that God made for me has made me free. Once I knew the true importance of giving, I didn't worry about anything!"

"I felt like I was making a difference in the life of the church as well as people. In my opinion, I gave up nothing but money and time—which are just tools. I hope that Venture can continue to grow our mission and expand our staff."

FRONT PORCH & BACKYARD

Welcoming places for friends to gather and connect with one another.

Front Porch

\$4 million

Backyard

\$3 million

Why?

In an area that never stops working and moving, friendships are still formed and deepened when you slow down and connect. People crave spaces that are safe, comfortable, and inviting. Front porches and backyards are the places in people's homes where relationships grow, and for our church it's no different. The front and back entrance areas of our current building are inadequate and uninviting. By reimagining them as gathering spaces, the invitation to share a freshly brewed ethically-sourced cup of coffee in a beautiful location, or to strike up a conversation while the kids play on a great playground, will create the perfect excuse to gather and give people an opportunity to connect. Another advantage is that children will now have a fun, safe place on campus to make friends and be a kid.

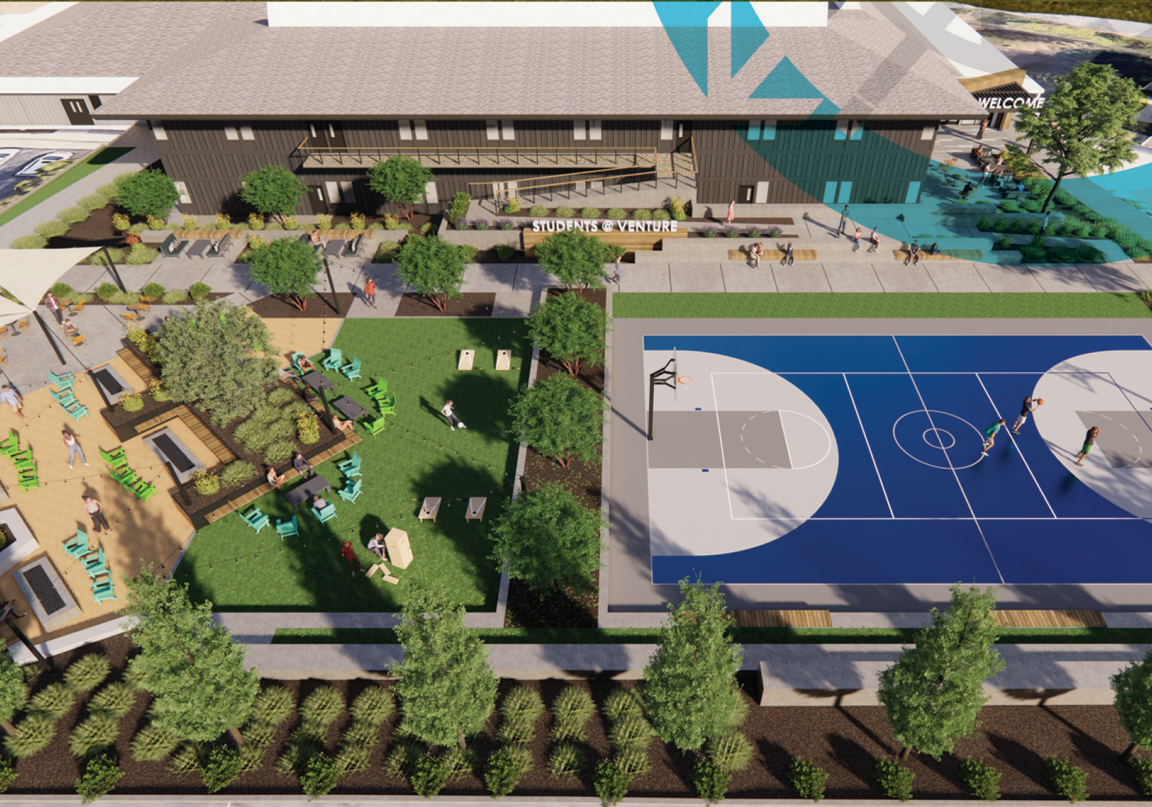
What is it?

- Construction of a coffee shop with great coffee and plenty of indoor and outdoor gathering spaces for friends to spend time together throughout the week.
- Reimagining and refurbishment of our current "front porch" to not only make Venture more welcoming, but also provide more hang out space for families and friends.
- Creating a "backyard space" that provides connection and recreation for kids, students, and families.

What will it require?

- Funds to construct the coffee shop and outdoor patio area complete with fireplace and new seating areas.
- Funds to refurbish areas around the church entrances with new seating, clear directions and signage, and new play equipment for kids, as well as make our entrances ADA-friendly.
- Funds to build a youth hangout and activity area behind our existing building.

BREAKTHROUGH



WEEK 2

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 together.
 - » What was Paul's approach in sharing the Gospel (Jesus) with others and connecting with the culture around him?
 - » Is this an easy or difficult thing to do? Why is that?
 - » What step can you take this week in emulating Paul's approach to reaching those around him?

- 2 Pastor Tim talked about four mindsets. Which one inspired you the most and why?
 - a. "I have become all things" - Nothing I won't sacrifice personally.
 - b. "To all people" - No one is too far from God.
 - c. "By all means" - Nothing I won't try.
 - d. "That I might save some" - Nothing more important than the Gospel.

- 3 As you were putting stuff on your table list, did anything surprise you or make you see your world in a different light? What was the hardest thing for you to put on the table? What was the easiest?

- 4 Share your story of when you released control of something and it brought you freedom.

- 5 Share one of the unearned gifts you listed, and describe why it feels like a gift.

PRAYER

Have one person quickly share a couple of prayer requests and pray for them right away. Then move on to the next person in the group and pray together this way this week. Make sure to graciously let people pass if they feel uncomfortable praying.

WEEK 3

Breakthrough Requires Sacrifice

When God has a big ask, people step up and give sacrificially to it. Each time tabernacles, temples, and churches needed to be built, God's people donated their most valuable possessions to the cause, without grumbling. In Exodus, God commands Moses to ask the people to bring contributions to build the tabernacle. "Whoever is of generous heart" should give. Note that it says in Exodus 35:21, "And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him..."

People weren't asked to check the balance on their savings accounts—they were asked to check their hearts. The question isn't, "Do I have enough to give?" The question is, "Am I willing to give whatever I have?" Giving requires sacrificing resources, but God is most concerned with the condition of our hearts toward Him.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

In all things and at all times, God can give you all that you need. Isn't that brilliant? If we feel convicted to give something, and we do it, God says He will provide for us above and beyond our imagination. In 1 Chronicles, giving is called a "freewill offering." Likewise, this campaign is an invitation—you are free to choose how or if you'll participate.

YOUR CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE.

Who do you interact with at work, at home, in your neighborhood, at school, on the soccer field? Don't worry, we're not asking you to baptize them. For a few minutes, just consider how many people you know. These are the people in your mission field whose lives could change by knowing God.

Write down three different spheres or areas of your life (work, home, friends, etc). Within each one, write the names of five people.

area

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

area

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

area

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Write my version of David's prayer from 1 Chronicles 29

David is a key figure in the Bible with a resume that would absolutely crush on LinkedIn: he defeated Goliath, conquered armies, established the capital city of Jerusalem, wrote most of Psalms, and gave generously to fund the temple. Whew. Relax, David, we get it.

But did you know that Jesus is referred to as the "Son of David"—six times in the gospel of Matthew alone? In fact, this title for Jesus is so important that Matthew starts his gospel by naming Jesus the "Son of David" in the very first sentence. When He healed crowds they wondered to each other, "Could this be the Son of David?" (Matthew 12:23) And when He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday they chanted, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9)

The title "Son of David" is reflective of not just the Kingship of Jesus but the type of King He came to be. Because David was not a normal king. Amazingly, he saw his entire kingdom and everything in it as not belonging to him. While rival kings stamped their faces on coins and engraved it over city gates, David's goal wasn't his own renown—it was God's. That's why Scripture describes David as "a man after God's own heart." (1 Samuel 13:14)

If you've ever wondered what that sort of heart sounds like, David put it on full display when he wrote the prayer recorded in 1 Chronicles 29:10-29 as he was rallying the nation of Israel to follow him in radical generosity to God.

Following in the footsteps of David and the "Son of David," write your version of David's prayer using the prompts and space provided.

1 CHRONICLES 29:10

David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting."

David begins his prayer by calling out that God is "everlasting." What in your life is God more "lasting" than? Your fears? Portfolio balance? Resume? Rusty car? Take a minute and tell Him:

1 CHRONICLES 29:11

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all."

As King of Israel, David wasn't merely affirming God's sovereignty over His eternal kingdom; David was telling God that his personal kingdom belonged to God—the army, defense resources, treasury holdings, all the buildings, the economy—all of it. What is your personal kingdom? Tell God it all belongs to Him:

1 CHRONICLES 29:12-13

"Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name."

Since the time he showed his prowess as a warrior, songs had been written about David's strength and power and his name was praised. But David knew a secret: what others saw as his strength was actually the power of God working through him. What in your life have you been praised for that has been God working through you?

1 CHRONICLES 29:14

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

David saw everything he could give as first given to him by God and the opportunity to be generous as an honor. Take a minute to tell God how you feel about the opportunity to give and about what He's given to you:

1 CHRONICLES 29:15-17

"We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you."

David wanted to live before God with uncompromised honesty and integrity. Take a minute to be honest with God about your intentions in this campaign:

1 CHRONICLES 29:18-19

"Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided."

David ended his prayer about giving with an ask for a gift he wanted to receive from God—something David could never have purchased on his own: faithfulness for his son to follow God. What gift do you want that no amount of money could ever buy? Ask God for that right now:

THE WORLD SAYS

MONEY = SUCCESS.

GOD CAN'T MEET YOUR REAL NEEDS.

WORK MORE, NO MATTER THE COST.

GIVE WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT.

ALWAYS HAVE SURPLUS.

DON'T TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT YOUR MONEY.

YOU DESERVE AN EASY AND COMFORTABLE LIFE.

DON'T GIVE MORE THAN 10%.

HIGHER PAY MEANS A BETTER LIFE.

CHARITY IS THE GOVERNMENT'S JOB.

BE PROUD OF HOW MUCH YOU SAVE.

SPEND AND BE HAPPIER.

FEND FOR YOURSELF.

CHEERFUL GIVING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

HELP PEOPLE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.

RELY ON THE BIG DONORS.

GIVING 10% IS UNREALISTIC.

YOU OWE GOD.

TRUST FINANCIAL PLANNERS, NOT GOD.

GIVE MORE WHEN YOU HAVE MORE.

ON MONEY

GOD VS THE WORLD

There's an undeniable connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about money. Fifteen percent (15%) of everything Jesus said in the Bible relates to money and possessions. Acknowledging God as provider and holding lightly to what we're given can be very, very hard. Growing in generosity is a step of faith that the enemy doesn't want us to take.

It's often easier to believe what the world says about money than what God says. Take a few minutes to read and compare common worldly beliefs versus the Scriptures, and see what resonates with you or challenges you.

GOD SAYS

GIVE TO GOD FIRST.

PROVERBS 3:9-10

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

A BETTER LIFE COMES FROM BEING GENEROUS.

PROVERBS 11:28

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

LUKE 12:15

Then [Jesus] said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

CHEERFUL GIVING COMES FROM THE HEART.

1 CHRONICLES 29:17

I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

MONEY CAN'T MEET YOUR REAL NEEDS—ONLY GOD CAN.

HEBREWS 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

MATTHEW 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

PUT YOUR TRUST IN AN UNCHANGING, FAITHFUL GOD.

PROVERBS 11:28

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

How is God communicating to you through these Scriptures? If you find yourself saying, "Yeah right?" to something God says, you're not alone. It is easy for all of us to struggle with truly embracing God's commands regarding money at a heart level. But if you let yourself rest in them, you may find God giving you new levels of faith in this important area of your life. Write down anything that stands out or comes to mind.

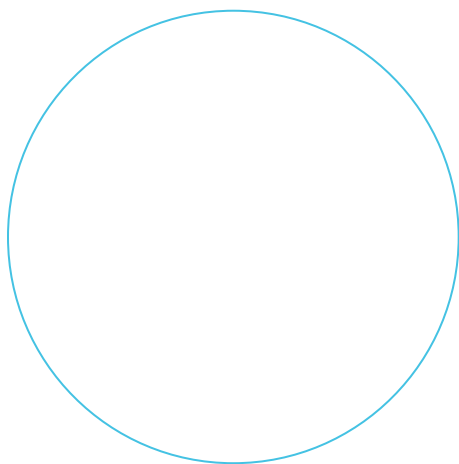
WHAT'S ON THE TABLE?

Last week we all made a list of things we're putting on the table. (If you didn't make your list, knock it out now.) Now we'll take a second look at those things and listen for God's guidance on them.

On the following pages are four circles. Go through your table list, item by item, and place each item inside the circle into which it fits. Some things might be easy to categorize; others might require some prayerful consideration.

**STUFF I FEEL
LIKE GOD
MIGHT BE
LEADING ME
TO...**

1. KEEP AND ENJOY



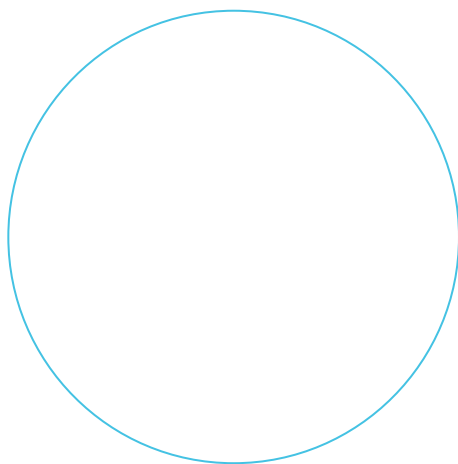
When this circle is full, read this verse:

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”

Take a few minutes to thank God for these gifts He has abundantly given you. Ask Him to keep your heart open to any new guidance He wants you to hear.

2. GO WITHOUT FOR A SEASON TO FREE UP RESOURCES



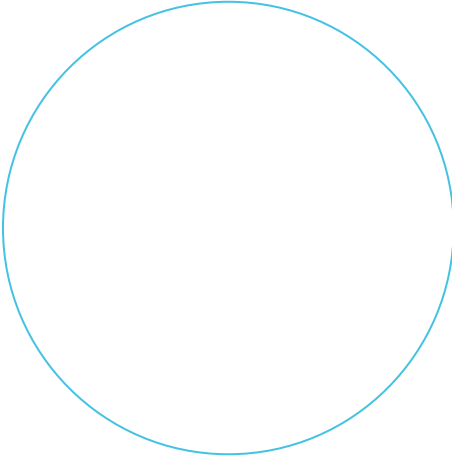
When this circle is full, read this verse:

LUKE 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Take a moment to receive the encouragement God gives us through these Scriptures.

3. CHANGE TO FREE UP RESOURCES



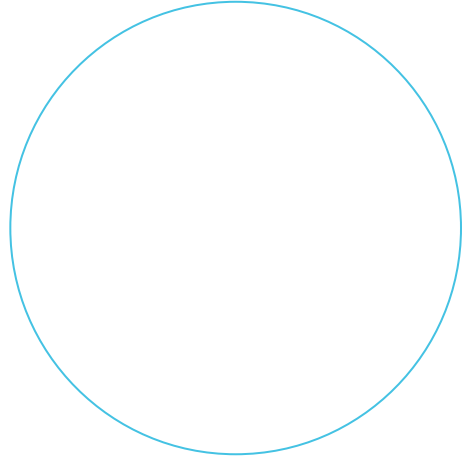
When this circle is full, read this verse:

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Ask God to show you what it feels like to be a cheerful giver. If any words come to mind, write them here.

4. NOT SURE YET



When this circle is full, read this verse:

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”


Questions or hesitations about these things? Ask God your questions; describe your hopes. Then tell Him you’re open to His perfect guidance, whenever that may come, and let His peace comfort you.



ED

Running after God's purposes

BREAKTHROUGH



“I felt free when I let go and let God show me His plans for me and my family.”

Ed is a passionate family guy who wants to run after God’s direction for his family and others.

So when Ed felt called to support a Venture ministry trip to India, he stepped up. His family wanted to bless others and for their gifts to be stewarded well, as we all do. And yet Ed held a seed of doubt—that is, until he released the gift to God.

“We felt led to donate money, which the school used to build a playground. Once I donated, I released any control of the use of our donation, and put my trust in God and the missions team. At the same time, I thought there might be other needs beyond our gift, and so I prayed for God to meet all needs.”

“Giving gave me a sense of peace, knowing that I listened to the Holy Spirit and that the funds would be used as God had already planned. Giving has taught me that sacrifice and commitment to serve brings us closer to God by dying to self.”

You’ll often find Ed serving on Venture Serve Day projects and in our high school ministry.

“I feel closest to God when I’m serving Him in ministry with my time, talent, and treasures (or even on a run!). It’s miraculous when we see high school students accept Christ through ministries such as FCA, Hume Lake and others.”

As much as his own life has changed, he’s seen remarkable growth in faith in his small group, too.

“I love the amazing children’s ministry, biblically-based teaching at Venture, and the great church family here. I hope and pray that Venture would continue to grow disciples to teach others about Christ and show His love in their actions.”

VENTURE FAMILY INSTITUTE \$1 million

The leading source of encouragement and training for families in the area.

Why?

The number one need of our community that we can uniquely meet is to help raise kids who thrive. Families in our community will do whatever it takes to help their kids. They invest large amounts of money in tutors, camps, sports, and school. But that's not always working, as evidenced by the increase in depression, anxiety, and suicide in our younger age groups. Our area is lacking in training and development opportunities for how to raise healthy families with healthy rhythms and a grace-centric worldview. Through unique, biblically-based content, as well as events designed specifically for parents and kids, we can help any family, regardless of their faith-background, increase the chances their children will grow up to lead a healthy life.

What is it?

- A comprehensive online resource with articles, videos, webinars, and group-based coaching. Content will cover a large spectrum of topics that are relevant to families

in our area. Some examples are:

Articles or blog posts like:

- *Five fun, free, family-friendly activities to try within a 30-minute drive of Los Gatos.*
- *What to do when your child is having discipline issues at school.*
- *Ways to ensure all of your children feel loved and connected to you when your time is severely limited.*
- *How to lead your kids to Jesus in a multi-faith environment.*

- Live seminars and workshops on our campus.

What will it require?

- Funds to build a user-friendly, content-rich Venture Family Institute website and app.
- Funds to source expert content and develop online training programs.
- Funding to create and run live seminars on our campus.
- Funds to hire a VFI Director.



FAMILY INSTITUTE



ARTICLE
Five fun, free, family-friendly activities to try within a 30- minute drive of Los Gatos.

[Read now](#)



SEMINAR
What to do when your child is having discipline issues at school.

FREE | TUESDAY @ 6PM

[Register now](#)



WEEK 3

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Look back on the comparison of what the world says vs. what God says about money. Which Scripture is hardest for you to believe and why? Which one is the easiest?
- 2 Share which part of David's prayer (from 1 Chronicles 29) impacted you the most.
- 3 Read Exodus 35:21-27 together.
 - » What does this passage tell us about the people's response? What did those who were willing bring? What did the different people and groups provide?
 - » What does this passage tell you about your place in Venture's story right now?
- 4 Share with the group one thing you think God is asking you to go without for a season to free up resources, and how you feel about it.
- 5 Prayer
 - » Look at your circles of influence. Pick someone on your list you think seems least likely to be open to church or Jesus. After each person has shared, take a minute to pray for the people you've named.
 - » Look at your answer under "I'm not sure yet." Pray for God to encourage and motivate each of us in this area.

WEEK 4

Breakthrough Requires Action

We need to take risks and move, based on what we think God is calling us to. If you want different results, you've got to try different tactics. In Sunday's message, we heard more about innovation—how the church has been willing to change methods to tackle new solutions and reach more people.

We live in an area of the world that's willing to accept high risks for the sake of technology, finance, and business. Shouldn't we be the people most willing to innovate for the sake of the Kingdom? As a church, we need to find new ways to meet people where they are, so they can experience the freedom and joy of living a life centered around Jesus.

David vs. Goliath: it's a familiar and powerful story. Most of us can picture the leather slingshot, the thundering giant. But we only know this story because David heard from God—and then followed through on what he heard. He didn't just have lofty ideas and park himself on the hillside. (That would have been a really boring story.) Instead, because he lived a life surrendered to God, he honored God's call by taking action—even when the action required an enormous risk.

WE GET TO MAKE A CHOICE. WE CAN CHOOSE TO LIVE:

SPARINGLY OR GENEROUSLY

FAIR SHARE OR FREE FLOWING

RELUCTANTLY OR WILLINGLY

MANAGEABLE OR IMPACTFUL



FROM 1 SAMUEL 17

(King) Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are little more than a boy and he has been a warrior from his youth."

"The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." - David

Then Saul dressed David... He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

(David chose five small stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone.

**DAVID MOVED.
AND HIS MOVEMENT
HONORED GOD.**



NOAH

Sacrificing for peace

BREAK**THRO**U**GH**

“God has taught me that He’ll do way more with the funds He’s given me than I will.”

Noah’s servant heart (and acting on God’s prompting) led him to join our staff as a middle school leader. He loves cooking and serving food with Student Grub Co.

Like most of us, Noah tended to equate money with security. And over time, God has been peeling back his layers of faith when it comes to finances. Here’s one of those stories.

Noah felt prompted to give after seeing a post from a friend, requesting financial help for her family’s legal needs. At first, he worried his contribution wouldn’t be profitable, but he acted anyway.

“I hoped that God would use my funds to do things I couldn’t do on my own. I hoped that God would provide more money than I had the ability to give.” (As you can guess, full-time ministry has many perks, but huge paychecks aren’t one of them.)

God honors our faith, and in this case, showed up tangibly for Noah.

“God showed me my sacrifices weren’t unnoticed. I received a thank you letter from the person I donated to, and they were beyond happy and thankful for my donation. In making the choice to give, I gave up my own desires but received joy instead. Stepping out financially gave me a sense of peace and purpose.”

His gift changed a family—but it also changed Noah.

“My faith in God’s provision has changed by giving financially. Letting go of what I thought gave me control and security has given me freedom, trust, and faith that God has and always will provide.”

“My hope for Venture in the coming months and years is that we gain the facility needed to foster more community spaces to spread the gospel.”

SCRIPTURE ENCOUNTER

Complete the equation below. Use your calculator.
Round all numbers to the nearest whole number.

Your Age:

Divide by 3:

Subtract the number of pets you have:

Subtract the number of streaming services you subscribe to:
(What counts as a "streaming service"? You decide.)

Subtract the number of championships your favorite team has won:
(What if I don't have a favorite team? Your kids' soccer team maybe? Or use "0")

Your final number:

On the following page, read the Scripture verse with the corresponding number. Read it again, slowly. Think about your life right now and then read the verse one more time. While all of these verses can speak to our lives, trust that God wants you to hear this verse right now.

Note If your number is over 15, use verse #15. If your number is below 1, use verse #1. And if you didn't do the work, just pick one at random.*

1. **JOHN 14:27** *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*
2. **PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
3. **PHILIPPIANS 4:19** *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*
4. **JEREMIAH 29:11** *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
5. **ISAIAH 41:10** *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*
6. **PSALM 34:8** *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*
7. **ROMANS 8:28** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*
8. **NAHUM 1:7** *The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.*
9. **PSALM 16:11** *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
10. **PSALM 138:10** *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.*
11. **JOHN 16:33** *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*
12. **PSALM 4:8** *In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.*
13. **ROMANS 15:13** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*
14. **PSALM 23:6** *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*
15. **PSALM 84:11** *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

IN THAT VERSE, WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU ABOUT YOUR CURRENT SITUATION RIGHT NOW?

WHAT IF

In the previous pages, you read Scripture about God's promises to all His people—which includes YOU.

What if all of those promises are true for you? What if God has the power to save you, provide for you, transform you, and give you peace?

WRITE DOWN THREE THINGS THAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IN YOUR LIFE IF YOU BELIEVED—IN YOUR HEART—THAT GOD'S PROMISES ARE TRUE.

What would change in your work, your kids, your church, your relationships?

1.

2.

3.





It seems counterintuitive that when something is foundationally about our hearts and freedom, it often goes back to numbers. Yet numbers, when we're talking about surrendering our stuff to God, are the best way to make our surrender concrete.

So how can we follow through? One way is to break down the numbers. Depending on what your table list looks like, and what you're hearing from God, the short exercises here might help you figure out how to turn ideas into numbers—or numbers into a plan.

Use only what's helpful.

SURRENDER EXERCISE

ROUGH OUT THE NUMBERS

WHAT COULD YOUR SURRENDER LOOK LIKE?

EXERCISE #1

IF I WENT WITHOUT

FOR A SEASON, I WOULD FREE UP \$ _____ /EACH MONTH

IN 1 YEAR, THE AMOUNT WOULD BE: (x12) \$ _____

IN 2 YEARS, THE AMOUNT WOULD BE: (x24) \$ _____

FOR A TOTAL 3 YEAR COMMITMENT OF: (x36) \$ _____

+

IF I WENT WITHOUT

FOR A SEASON, I WOULD FREE UP \$ _____ /EACH MONTH

IN 1 YEAR, THE AMOUNT WOULD BE: (x12) \$ _____

IN 2 YEARS, THE AMOUNT WOULD BE: (x24) \$ _____

FOR A TOTAL 3 YEAR COMMITMENT OF: (x36) \$ _____

+

IF I WENT WITHOUT

FOR A SEASON, I WOULD FREE UP \$ _____ /EACH MONTH

IN 1 YEAR, THE AMOUNT WOULD BE: (x12) \$ _____

IN 2 YEARS, THE AMOUNT WOULD BE: (x24) \$ _____

FOR A TOTAL 3 YEAR COMMITMENT OF: (x36) \$ _____

+

EXERCISE #2

I SENSE GOD LEADING ME TO GIVE THIS AMOUNT OVER 3 YEARS: \$ _____

I THINK I MIGHT BE ABLE TO REACH THAT NUMBER BY DOING THESE THINGS:

WANT TO BREAK IT DOWN?

MONTHLY THIS WOULD LOOK LIKE:

(+36) \$ _____

ANNUALLY THIS WOULD LOOK LIKE:

(+3) \$ _____

Or...

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I CAN REACH THIS NUMBER. I'M TRUSTING GOD WILL PROVIDE WHAT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE RIGHT NOW. I WILL CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR HIS WISDOM AND TALK TO OTHERS I TRUST IN THIS AREA.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

EXERCISE #3

WHAT RESOURCE I HAVE THAT I COULD SELL OR LIQUIDATE:

Or...

EXERCISE #4

I DON'T HAVE A NUMBER, BUT I'M TALKING TO GOD ABOUT:

FOR ALL THE MARRIED FOLKS OUT THERE

We all have different beliefs to work through, different ways of hearing God, different perspectives about what feels like abundance in our life and what we want to sacrifice for others' freedom.

Before you finish out this week, have a conversation with your spouse. Talk about what ideas you're both having and what you've been asking God about. You might not come to a conclusion about how to move forward, but listen to each other's perspective and then take a few minutes to pray together.

SO MAKE IT A DATE

DATE

TIME

PLACE

PRAYER

If you're uncomfortable praying as a couple or have never done it, this is the perfect opportunity. Prayer is a conversation. Yours could start with: "God, this is what we're thinking about right now, and we'd love to hear what You think about it."

IDEAS MY SPOUSE HAS:

WHAT WE'RE PRAYING ABOUT:

BREAKTHROUGH INITIATIVE 4

DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP TOOLKIT *\$1-1.5 million*

A future-oriented digital toolkit to allow anyone, anywhere to take a life-giving discipleship journey.

Why?

Our goal is for every person reached to become a fully-formed disciple of Christ. We, and the people in our community, however, are very busy so we cannot always attend services, group meetings, and training opportunities. Furthermore, our culture now expects access to growth opportunities and content anywhere at any time. We are located at the centerpoint of the digital revolution, yet churches in our area are not keeping up with our workplaces. We will change that with an app-based tool that will allow anyone who is interested in pursuing spiritual growth to do so from their own pocket, allowing them to build rhythms and ultimately find the real life that Jesus offers to His faithful followers.

What is it?

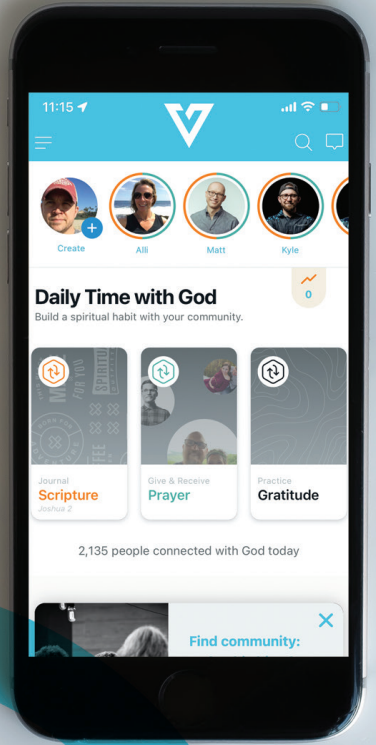
A custom-developed spiritual growth tool focused on helping people grow spiritually.

What will it require?

- Funds for custom app development.
- Funds for content generation.
- Funds for translation services to reach other cultures.



BREAKTHROUGH



WEEK 4

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Which Scripture verse did you get in the Scripture Encounter exercise on page 58? Read it aloud. Then share how it relates to your current situation.

- 2 You wrote down several things that would change in your life if you fully believe that God's promises are true for you. Share one of the things with the group.

- 3 Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37. At the beginning of the David and Goliath story, King Saul tells David he is "little more than a boy" and would be fighting a warrior. Not exactly a confidence booster. Has there been a time in your life where you felt convicted by something or like God was leading you to do something, but you were discouraged by something or someone? What was the effect?

- 4 Read Acts 17:32-34.
 - » What were the differing responses to what the Apostle Paul shared?
 - » We should always expect to receive these types of responses from people we are sharing with. Do you find this encouraging or discouraging? Why?
 - » What are some of the responses you've received as you have shared about Jesus with others?

- 5 Share one thing you're feeling challenged by right now in this campaign journey. After everyone has shared, pray for each other and commit to praying for each other this week.



BREAKTHROUGH

“If I had asked
the public what
they wanted, they
would have said a
faster horse.”

HENRY FORD

WEEK 5

Breakthrough Requires Conquering Fears

Every journey of faith for every person of faith ever has been a fight against fear. We should not expect it to be different for us. If we're going to follow God's lead, we must choose to believe in His words and assurances over the voice of fear telling us, "This could be a huge mistake."

There's a reason "certainty" and "faith" are separate words. The reality of the nature of faith is that it is inherently risky. Faith is risking the belief God is who he says He is—not just for others, but for us. Until we do, we will never fully know Him. While we may wish that following God was simply acting on certainty, Scripture tells us that it absolutely requires faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."



This week, we're going to dig into both sides of the equation: our fears and our faith. Will we listen to fear? Or will we step out with faith that God is a rewarder?

DIG DEEPER INTO

BY ALL MEANS

Let's take a few minutes to reflect on Paul's words to the Corinthians:

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

Paul was firm in his resolve to use "all possible means" to help save the lost.

What means do you have—financially, intellectually, relationally—to help with the work God is calling Venture to do?

- What would it mean for you to contribute those things?
- What fears do you have around that?

Meditate on what it means to share in its blessings. The blessing of God's favor, kindness, and abundance is waiting for those who participate in His work.

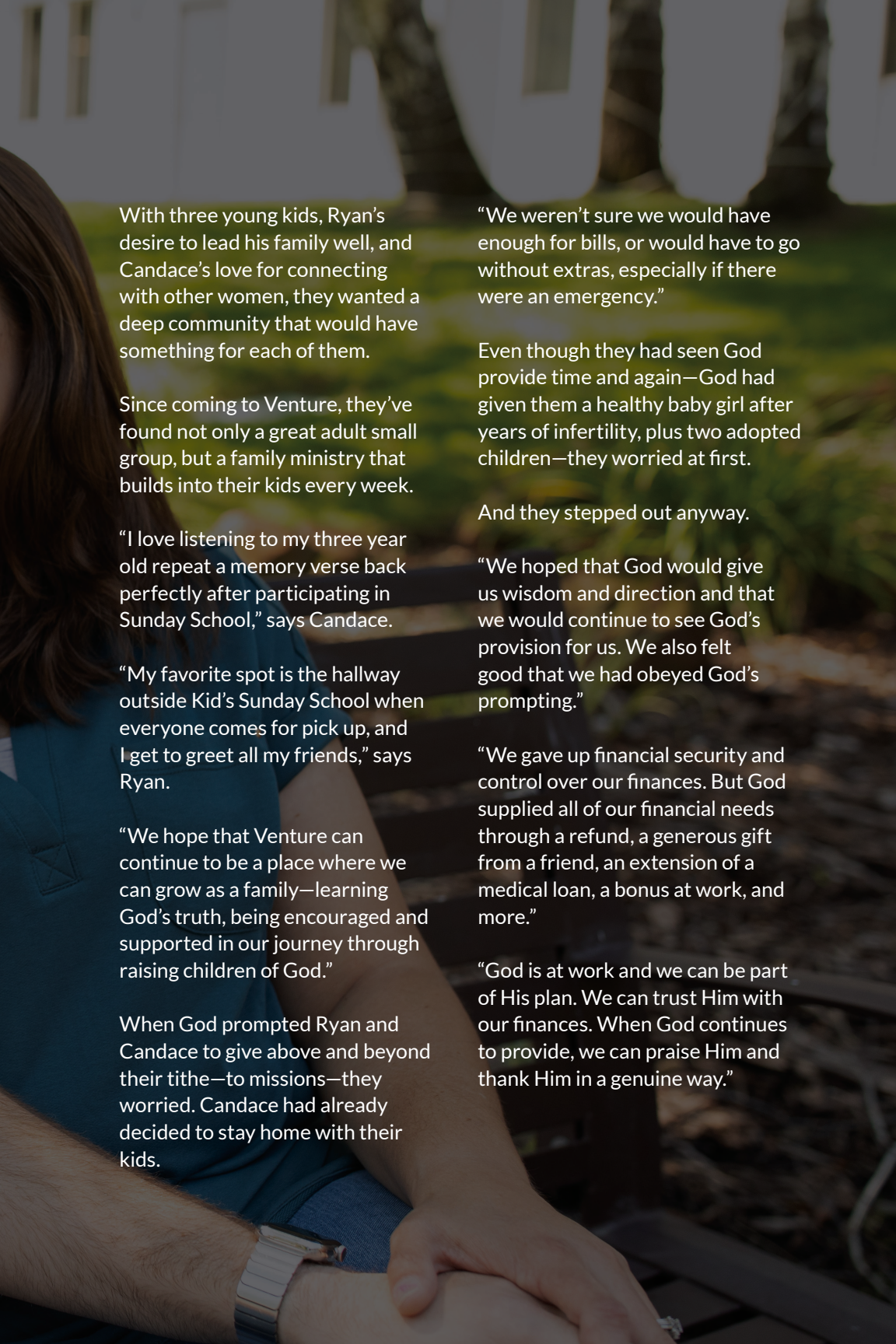
- If we, by God's grace, are able to bridge the gap between our neighbors and God (and between ourselves and God) as part of this campaign, how would that feel?
- How would it change your family? Your relationships? Your perspective?
- Which of the four initiatives in this campaign would bring you the most joy to see fulfilled?

A photograph of a man and a woman smiling at each other outdoors. The man is on the left, wearing a black t-shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a teal t-shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

RYAN & CANDACE

God's provision for family

BREAKTHRO'GH



With three young kids, Ryan's desire to lead his family well, and Candace's love for connecting with other women, they wanted a deep community that would have something for each of them.

Since coming to Venture, they've found not only a great adult small group, but a family ministry that builds into their kids every week.

"I love listening to my three year old repeat a memory verse back perfectly after participating in Sunday School," says Candace.

"My favorite spot is the hallway outside Kid's Sunday School when everyone comes for pick up, and I get to greet all my friends," says Ryan.

"We hope that Venture can continue to be a place where we can grow as a family—learning God's truth, being encouraged and supported in our journey through raising children of God."

When God prompted Ryan and Candace to give above and beyond their tithe—to missions—they worried. Candace had already decided to stay home with their kids.

"We weren't sure we would have enough for bills, or would have to go without extras, especially if there were an emergency."

Even though they had seen God provide time and again—God had given them a healthy baby girl after years of infertility, plus two adopted children—they worried at first.

And they stepped out anyway.

"We hoped that God would give us wisdom and direction and that we would continue to see God's provision for us. We also felt good that we had obeyed God's prompting."

"We gave up financial security and control over our finances. But God supplied all of our financial needs through a refund, a generous gift from a friend, an extension of a medical loan, a bonus at work, and more."

"God is at work and we can be part of His plan. We can trust Him with our finances. When God continues to provide, we can praise Him and thank Him in a genuine way."

This weekend,
 you'll get a card
 that looks like this.
 Here's a chance
 to check it out
 in advance and
 understand what
 we'll be doing
 together as a
 community.

SAMPLE

MY COMMITMENT

FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____

LAST NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ APT # _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (IF GIVING TOGETHER) _____

TOTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT

Above and beyond my regular giving.

Today through Dec. 2026 \$ _____

This is how I hope to divide my commitment over the next 3 years:	TODAY \$
	THE REST OF
	2023 \$
	2024 \$
	2025 \$
	2026 \$

I plan to make some (or all) of my commitment via E-gift (venture.cc). YES NO

All/part of the total amount above is in the form of stock transfers totaling \$ _____

TO BE GIVEN BY (DATE): _____

I am registered on venture.cc. YES NO

USER NAME (IF KNOWN): _____

My spouse is registered on venture.cc. YES NO

USER NAME (IF KNOWN): _____

BREAKTHROUGH

So we can send you a few letters during the year, with updates and encouragements.

This amount should indicate what you plan to give above and beyond your regular ministry giving.

There's something powerful about just getting started. Whether it's a big project or blank page, the momentum begins when you literally take action—even if it's a small move. We'll be encouraged to start our commitment on Commitment Weekend.

We have a few weeks left in 2023.

This helps us make specific plans about when and how we can financially support each of the four initiatives.

This is a way to do recurring, automatic deductions from a checking account or credit card. You can sign up at venture.cc.

Instructions on how to do this are available at venture.cc under "Give".

This will really help our IT volunteers. Don't know your username? We'll figure it out. But still circle "yes" or "no".

As the Philistine [Goliath] moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

1 SAMUEL 17:48-49

SAYING “YES”

Even many of the “heroes” described in the Bible doubted what they heard from God. But what made them spiritually heroic was that they trusted God and moved forward—despite what others thought or their own second-guessing. They were defined by their actions, not their doubts. Many of these people are celebrated in what is often called the “Hall of Faith” found in the Book of Hebrews. Read some selections from that chapter below and consider your next step of faith.

SELECTIONS FROM HEBREWS 11

7 *By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household...*

8 *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*

11 *By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. **12** Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore...*

27 *By faith [Moses] left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. **28** By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. **29** By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.*

30 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.*

31 *By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.*

32 *And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— **33** who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, **34** quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.*

BE ENCOURAGED.

Paul, an early follower of Jesus and author of many books of the New Testament, encouraged the church community of Corinth to act on their generosity. Reflect on Paul's encouragement and take notes if anything crosses your mind.

FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 8

V1-3 *"And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability."*

V10-11 *"And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means."*

WEEK 5

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1 The first part of Hebrews 11:1 says, “*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for.*” What’s something you’re hoping for right now as it relates to this campaign journey?

2 Review the selections from Hebrews 11 listed in this campaign guide (page 78). Which story or character do you relate to the most? What is it about their step of faith that you can apply to your own life?

3 Read Hebrews 11:39-40 together.

» The heroes of the faith left a legacy for the future generations. They did not achieve or attain the things that had been promised. What excites you about being part of building something that will last far beyond yourself?

4 What is one of your fears around giving up something for the sake of the kingdom? Has it changed since we started this campaign journey? How?

5 In the first week, you wrote down an area of your life in which you needed a breakthrough in your faith. Has anything happened over the last few weeks? Share with the group. You could also share one thing you’ve been learning about yourself or God.

PRAYER

Take some time to tell God your fears in prayer. Even though He knows them already, it is powerful to admit them out loud in prayer. Ask Him to take your fear and replace it with faith.

WEEK 6

**HIS MASTER REPLIED,
“WELL DONE, GOOD AND
FAITHFUL SERVANT! YOU
HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL
WITH A FEW THINGS; I
WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE
OF MANY THINGS. COME
AND SHARE YOUR
MASTER’S HAPPINESS!”**

MATTHEW 25:21

In the days ahead, it might be encouraging to reread your story—to remember this moment in time, and to look forward to what's ahead.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

My name is:

I'm passionate about:

One thing I "put on the table" during this journey was:

As I listened to God, something I heard from Him was:

I just followed through by:

Right now I feel:

I'm asking God for:

Consider sharing your story with someone else on this campaign journey. It's encouraging to hear how others have surrendered, listened, and followed through as we move forward together as a community.

TAKE A MOMENT TO

ASK GOD TO SPARK THE ENERGY, EXCITEMENT, AND ENDURANCE TO SEE YOUR COMMITMENT THROUGH.

“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” [ACTS 20:24](#)

Paul also understands that staying on mission isn't easy, and he understands our human tendency to lose steam. With all we have to attend to in our lives, we now have the attention span of a goldfish. But the life-altering work we're committing to is worth our focus.

In a letter to the Galatians, Paul offers encouragement:

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

[GALATIANS 6:9](#)

WEEK 6

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Read Acts 20:22-24. Even though Paul knew of the challenges that were in front of him, notice his commitment to finish what God had called him to do. What are some challenges in front of you personally right now? What is the course that you believe God has placed in front of you?

- 2 What was your experience like last weekend when you made your commitment with the rest of the community?

- 3 Over the last six weeks, what are some ways you've experienced breakthrough? Whom did God move you closer to?

- 4 Read Philippians 2:1-4 together.
 - » What does the apostle Paul tell the Philippian Christians in this passage?
 - » How does this passage connect with your life right now in this season?

- 5 What's something that might keep you inspired during the next three years as you continue this journey of spiritual growth and sacrifice for others? Be as specific as possible.

PRAYER

Pray to God as a group to finish this commitment to the best of your ability. Ask God to grow your faith over the next 3 years. Ask Him to continue to break through in your group and in your life personally.



2023
BREAKTHROUGH
CAMPAIGN