

The logo features the word "MOMENTUM" in a bold, italicized, black sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by three interlocking orange gears of varying sizes. A horizontal grey bar is positioned below the "M".

MOMENTUM

Mission in Motion

Philippians 1:6

...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

This Book Belongs To:

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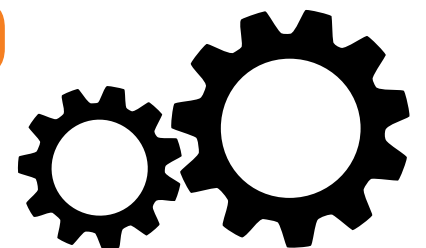
92 **YOUR MOMENTUM
COMMITMENT**

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DR. BLAKE MCKINNEY
Sr. Pastor

For the next five weeks, I want to invite you, along with everyone at First Baptist Church of Lee's Summit, to go on a journey. This notebook is your guide and your journal for this great adventure that we're calling **MOMENTUM**.

God has done so much at FBCLS throughout its 162-year history, and we know that He has big plans for us as we boldly walk into the future together! There are people to reach, a city to transform, and lives to be changed by the Gospel.

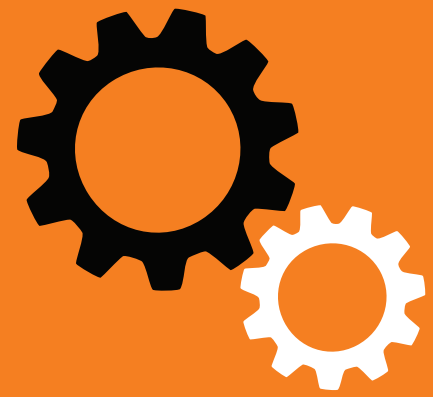
This is a defining moment for our church. **MOMENTUM** is our chance to rally around our mission and complete the great work God has laid in front of us.

Here's what I want you to do alongside your church family over the next 5 weeks:

- Plan to join me for all five weeks of our **ALL IN** message series that begins October 2, 2022.
- Find a small group that is discussing and praying through this incredibly important topic. Be sure to bring this notebook with you to each group meeting.
- Prayerfully read through this material and begin asking God what He wants you to do in response as part of continuing the **MOMENTUM** of His work in and through our church.
- Open your heart to all that God wants to teach you through this incredibly rich season.

I believe this is a season that we will all look back on with great joy and remember how God used it to change us for the better. I'm excited to be in this with you! I know that God plans to work with unstoppable **MOMENTUM**!

TIMELINE



OCTOBER 2 - MOMENTUM BEGINS

**OCTOBER 16 - FUTURE PLANNING TEAM
PRESENTATION OF REMODELING PLANS**

OCTOBER 20 - EARLY COMMITMENT EVENT

OCTOBER 30 - COMMITMENT SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 20 - CELEBRATION OF COMMITMENT RESULTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER - CHURCH VOTE ON REMODELING PLANS

LATE 2023 - REMODELING BEGINS







FINANCIAL GOALS

BASE GOAL
\$6.7 MILLION

We seek to raise a total of \$6.7 million over the next two years. That amount would fully fund the church's ongoing ministries (\$3.7 million), expand the church's outreach and missions efforts (\$500,000), and allow for renovations of our worship center to help us reach more people (\$2.5 million).

CHALLENGE GOAL
\$7.4 MILLION

If Momentum commitments reach \$7.4 million, in addition to the priorities listed above we will be able to make improvements to our lobby, creating more open and welcoming space for guests. These changes would otherwise be part of a future phase of facility improvements.





PRIMARY GOAL: 100% ENGAGEMENT

Momentum is first and foremost a discipleship initiative: we want our people to grow in faith and in generosity. It isn't just about raising money to pay for ministry. Our primary goal is that 100% of the people at FBCLS would engage in this initiative to experience a life-changing encounter with God. If 100% of the people of the church get fully engaged, we expect to see an increase in generosity and faith like we've never seen before!

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God and your family - to take the biggest steps of generosity you've ever taken.



1. PRAY FERVENTLY

Pray that God would multiply our efforts to make disciples and make much of Christ. Pray that He would do abundantly more than we ask or imagine for His great name.

My Prayer for Momentum is:

2. COMMIT FULLY

Help us reach our goal of 100% engagement in *Momentum*. Stand side by side with your church family. Commit to do what God asks. Put your "Yes!" on the table.

My Commitment for Momentum is:

3. GROW INTENTIONALLY



Attend each Sunday from October 2 through October 30. Engage in the *Momentum* study with your Community Group. Learn all you can about God's heart and will for you and your resources.

A Growth Area for me through Momentum is:

4. GIVE GENEROUSLY

Ask God to show you what it looks like to give in a way that changes you. Take whatever steps are required to see it through.

I can grow in generosity through Momentum by:



Forward Momentum

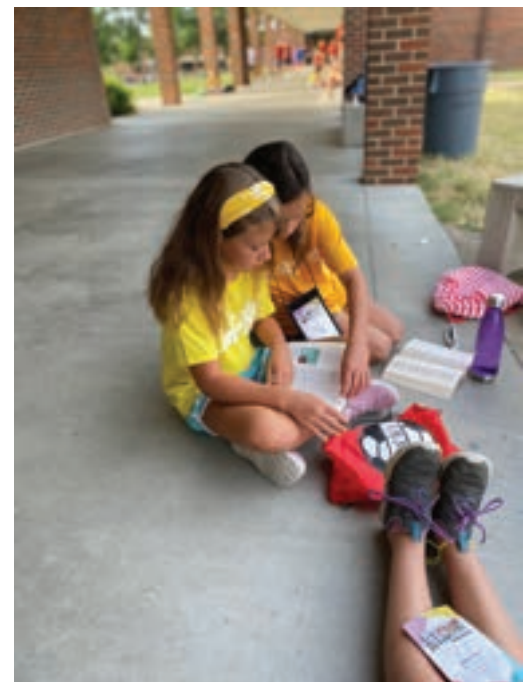
\$3.7 MILLION FOR MINISTRY

We will continue to share the Gospel through the regular ministries of the church: preschool ministry, kids ministry, student ministry, young adult ministry, senior adult ministry, worship and discipleship programs, support groups, staff salaries, utilities, and other ongoing ministries.



FIRST KIDS

FBCLS

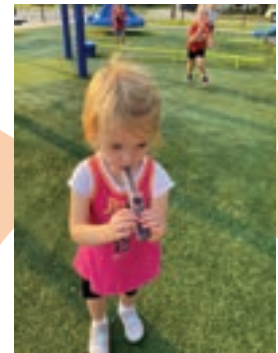


REAL MOMS
OF PRESCHOOLERS



FIRST
PRESCHOOL

FBCLS



**TRUE
LOVE**



FIRST STUDENTS



WORSHIP



COMMUNITY GROUPS



SUPPORT GROUPS





Outward Momentum

\$500,000 FOR MISSIONS

We will continue to support and expand the church's missions and outreach efforts: new initiatives to minister to the people who live and work in downtown Lee's Summit, enhanced efforts to reach out to our community, and ongoing generosity with multiple Kingdom-impacting ministries (including the Tabitha ministry in Guatemala, Hillcrest, Lee's Summit Social Services, Restoration House, Blue River KC Association, ChurchNet, the SBC International Mission Board, and CBF Global Missions).

MISSION TRIPS



TABITHA MINISTRY





Upward Momentum

\$2.5 MILLION FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

We will raise the bulk of the funds needed for improvements to our worship center that will help us reach our community and facilitate meaningful encounters with God. Plans include significant technology updates, enhancing the visibility of the stained glass, redesigning the platform for the variety of ways we use it, and updating the aesthetics of the space.

If We reach our \$7.4 million challenge goal, we will spend an additional \$700,000 for renovations of the lobby.



Lobby Render

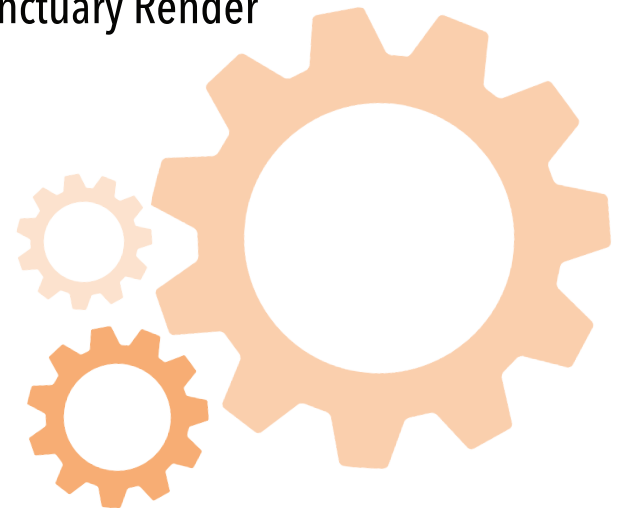
Sanctuary Render



Sanctuary Render




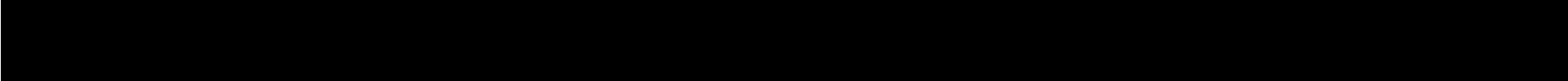
Lobby Render



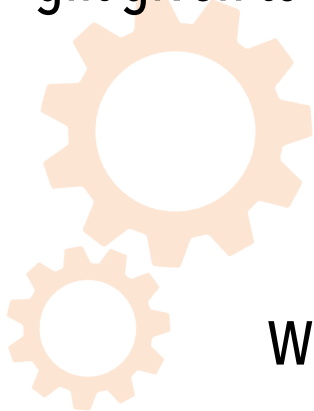


One Fund Initiative

You may have been part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift “above and beyond” your usual gifts to complete special projects. At FBC these have been used to make new buildings and ministries possible. Normally, you gave that gift to the “Building Fund” and you also continued to give to the “General Fund.” This type of giving is potentially confusing to people who either don’t have a baseline for their “usual giving” or who aren’t able to really celebrate the total giving at FBC in one single number. We believe we’re all on ONE MISSION—to passionately share the message of Jesus Christ and lead people to follow Him.



The Momentum Initiative will last two years. In those two years, every gift given to FBC will go to the Momentum Initiative—for our church, our city, and our world.

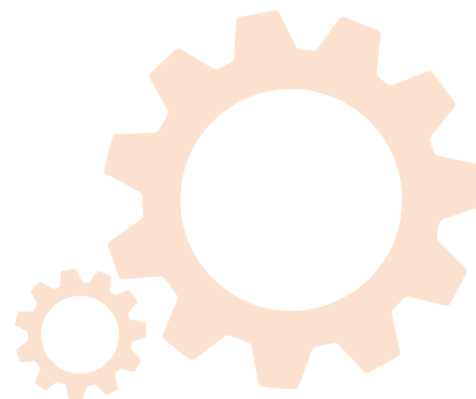


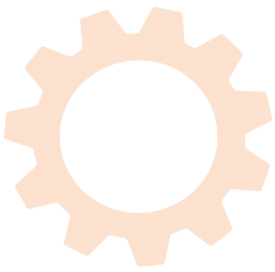
We've included a sample commitment card on page 96 so you can see how a "one fund initiative" works. Please take the time to fill this out, but don't worry: You'll get a shiny new one to submit on Commitment Sunday, October 30.

Creative Ways to grow in your Generosity



Generosity Initiatives rely on church members making gifts that **EXPAND & ACCELERATE** their current level of giving. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where you set your heart on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from the spiritual priorities.



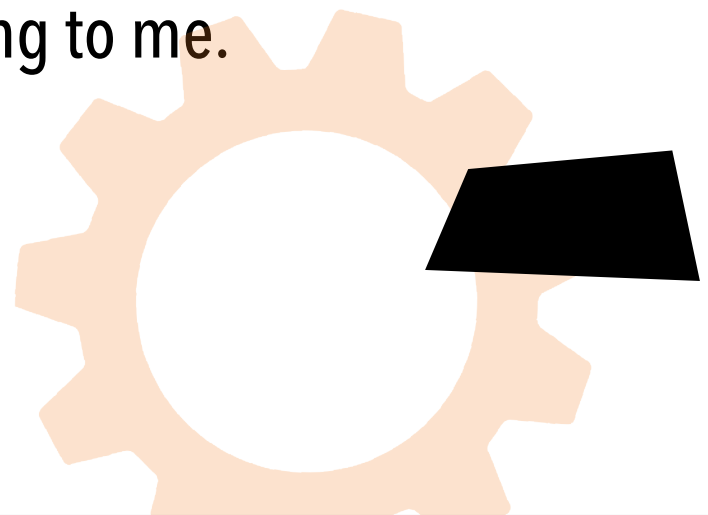


One way of defining this is "**LIFESTYLE STEWARDSHIP**," a term used to describe a level of giving that affects one's living.




The challenge of Lifestyle Stewardship is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to let your giving touch your living!

King David declared, "I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." (**2 Samuel 24:24 NIV**)

David understood the gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the heart of the giver! This is the spirit of Lifestyle Stewardship: If it is for my God, my gift must have value and meaning to me.



Often, Lifestyle Giving means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another. The three keys to effectiveness in Lifestyle Stewardship are:

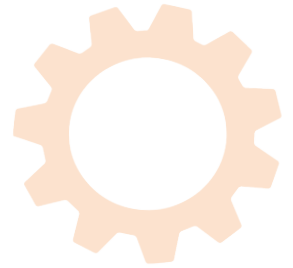
-  Reassess lifestyle
-  Rearrange priorities
-  Reallocate resources

Many believers have been amazed at their ability to give more generously to their church. The following seven steps are offered to help you in this regard.

1. PRACTICE PRIORITY BUDGETING

Many families will choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their current budget in order to give more to a generosity initiative. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, home remodeling, or other major purchase. Many Christians giving to capital stewardship campaigns find a way to give through sacrificial commitments made in faith and coupled with priority budgeting.

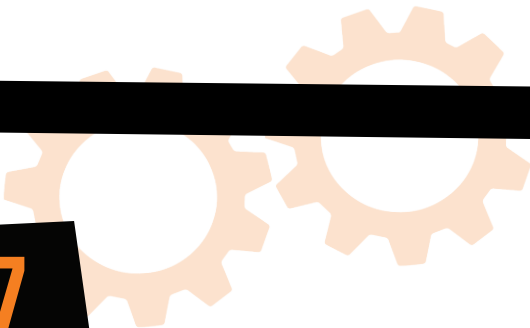
2. REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENDITURES



Often, families have significant short-term expenditures for special needs. One example is the large expenditure a family incurs for a child to attend college. A family realized that their daughters would be graduating from college during the two years of the generosity initiative and, as a result, they were able to increase their commitment to the second year of the campaign by thousands of dollars by giving what they had been spending on their daughters' tuition. Another example would be the cash flow that is freed up when a loan is paid off.

3. INCREASED GIVING WITH INCREASED INCOME

Some people receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from their employers. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. In many instances, families have decided that they will commit the full amount of salary increases.

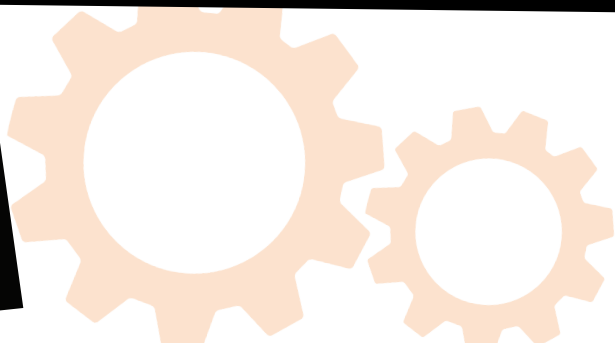


4. GIVE FROM YOUR EXCESS

A young man decided that two collectors' baseball cards worth over \$20,000 he had been holding for a number of years would be the most appropriate means of touching sacrifice for his family. Some families save money over a period of years for a special project. A couple had saved \$80,000 to build a lake cabin. When their church entered a generosity initiative, they decided the needs of the church were greater than their need for a second home.

5. COMMIT UNEXPECTED CASH

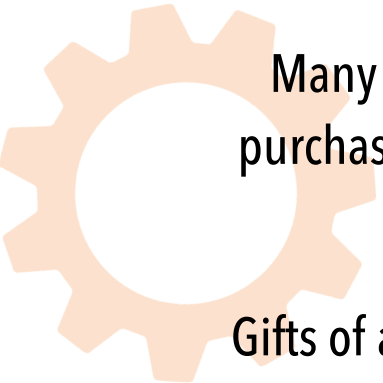
Often, people pray for God to show them a way they can give beyond what they can presently see or afford. Sometimes, the answers come unexpectedly. A couple had been praying for weeks about their commitment to the church generosity initiative. Much to their surprise, they received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. They gave the entire amount to their church as part of their two-year commitment, in addition to a commitment from their regular income.



6. SACRIFICE YOUR EXTRA TIME

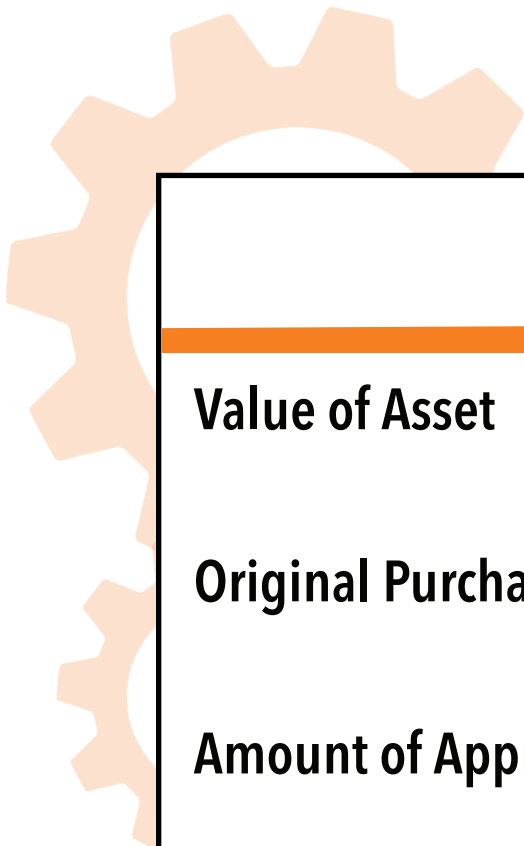
Some family members have extra time they would be willing to use in a part-time job to be able to give more to the church. This is particularly true for families whose children are grown and away from home and for semi-retired or retired couples. A man was in the process of retiring when his church entered a campaign. He and his wife secured new jobs and gave the first two years of their retirement income to the generosity initiative.

7. DONATE APPRECIATED ASSETS (STORED RESOURCES)



Many people own stocks that are worth significantly more than the original purchase price. That is good news. The bad news is that if these stocks are sold, a significant portion of the gain would be lost to taxation.

Gifts of appreciated assets—typically investment securities or real estate—can be very advantageous to both the donor and to the church. By transferring ownership of the asset to the church, the donor avoids capital gains taxes on the sale of the asset. In addition, the donor receives an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset. That, in effect, makes these gifts less costly to make.



	Sell asset and gift net proceeds	Give asset directly
Value of Asset	\$12,000	\$12,000
Original Purchase Price	\$3,000	\$3,000
Amount of Appreciation	\$9,000	\$9,000
Capital Gains Tax*	\$2,340	\$0
Proceeds to Church	\$9,660	\$12,000
(asset value minus taxes)		

*Assumes 12-month holding period, 15% capital gains tax, 6% state income tax rate.

Though it is important to invest your giving to further the mission of the ministry God has laid on your heart, it is also important to consider the tax implications of making a gift to the church. Before making a commitment of this type, please consult your CPA, tax attorney, or other financial advisor.

A Final Word

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the two-year period of the campaign. You might be able to give more in the second year than in the first. As you think about your financial commitment to the campaign, think not just of your potential to give right now, but also of your potential to give in the future. It might be that you can make a two-year commitment in which 35-40% is given in the first year, and 60-65% is given in the second year.

Finally, as you consider your financial commitment to the Lord's work, you might want to consider estate planning. Many sincere, committed Christian people have not made provision for God in their wills and estate planning. Now might be a good time to do that. It might be as simple as including a provision in your will that 10% of the value of your estate will be donated to the church holding your letter of membership at the time of your passing. Or, it could involve a planned gift such as a charitable remainder trust. While such gifts do not provide immediate financial benefit to a generosity initiative, they are marvelous gifts of faith commitment to carry on the work of the church for future generations.





Week 1

Oct. 2-8

Building Momentum:
Jesus WILL Build His Church
Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON NOTES



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Guide

Week 1

WEEK 1

Written by Sharon Byers

ABRAHAM: MASTER OF STEWARDSHIP | Genesis 22:1-14



WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A “MASTER” OF, OR WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MASTER OF?

COMMAND OF GOD - VERSES 1-2

What 2 ways did God qualify the command?

1. Your _____ son (note that Ishmael had been sent away)
2. _____ , meaning _____
3. Whom you _____ this is the _____ it is mentioned in the Bible
Coincidentally, its first mention in the New Testament also refers to a
_____ Matthew 3:17

Why did God command this?

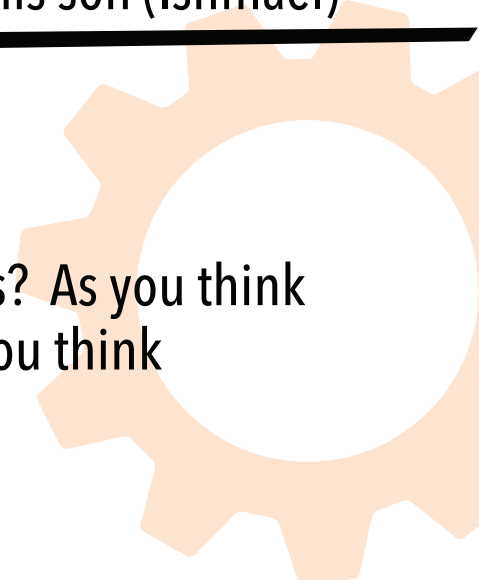
1. To _____ Abe (verse 1) = nacah, meaning _____
2. Abe never left his _____ (Genesis 11:13-12:1; Acts 7:2-4)
3. Abe had trouble leaving _____ (Genesis 13:1, 6)
4. Abe had trouble kicking _____ out (Genesis 21:11)

The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son (Ishmael)

COMMITMENT OF ABE - VERSES 3-5

What most likely happened between verses 2 and 3?

Don't you imagine that Abraham pleaded with God about this? As you think of a past difficult conversation with your spouse, how do you think Abraham was going to tell Sarah about this?



What clue in verse 5 reveals how Abe was able to do this?

Abraham believed in _____ because he _____ God

Hebrews 11:17-19. God had said Isaac would have children, so Abraham figured God would raise Isaac from the dead.

CONDUCT OF ABE — VERSES 6-10

Abraham foreshadows _____ who gave his only _____ whom he _____

Isaac foreshadows _____ who willingly carried his own _____ and was obedient to _____

Isaac was probably at least a teenager and could have fought with Abraham, but he went willingly, allowing his dad to tie him up. Jesus likewise went willingly to the cross.

CONSTRAINT OF GOD — VERSES 11-14

Isaac wasn't sacrificed because he wasn't _____ and because Abraham has _____ the test.

This would help the Israelites understand the significance of all the sacrifices—the use of animals in place of a human, but ultimately it would be a Son for all.

What would you have named the hill?

From what he named the hill, Abraham recognized there would be a _____ sacrifice - John 8:56

Jehovah-Jireh is in the future tense. Notice, he didn't name it "God Has Provided" or "God Did Provide" - but "God Will Provide." He recognized a future sacrifice of a greater Son.

LESSONS

1. We must not only commit sinful things to God, but also _____ things
Isaac had been a joy to Abe, a blessing and a miracle - what's confusing is that God would ask for that. If we hold too tightly to things, God could pry them out, but it would be painful. God wants our fellowship, and the best and easiest way to do that is to hold to things loosely.
2. When we commit everything to God, we'll be _____ (James 2:20-23)
And this blessing was being God's friend. Our blessing is God Himself.
3. Our obedience and faith must be based on God's _____, not our emotions
The problem with this story is we always try to understand it with our emotions, and we can't. We can't imagine the emotions Abraham was feeling. But he didn't let his emotions affect his faith.
4. Faith isn't un_____ (Hebrews 11:19)
"Reasoned" in the Greek is logizomai which means reckon, calculate, or draw a logical conclusion. It's not a blind leap. Faith always acts on facts. A great example is Moses' mother. What's a fact about babies? They cry! Thus, she put him in the river and had faith he would be taken care of.

5. God provides at the point we _____ Him, usually when our _____ are against a wall. While Abraham and Isaac were walking up one side of the mountain, the ram was walking up the other side. While you're planning to commit everything to God, He has already put in motion His plans to provide for you.
6. Our obedience in stewardship is directly related to our trust in God's _____ and His ability to _____ for us. Abraham really believed that God was going to raise Isaac. If we had that kind of faith in God's Word and in His ability to provide for us, we wouldn't have trouble with giving.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. What's the hardest thing God has ever asked you to do or to give up?
2. Which of the lessons above has impacted you the most and why?
3. How does Abraham's example reassure you that God is more than capable of meeting your needs?
4. What is God challenging you to do in the area of stewardship of your time, talents, and resources?

Building
MOMENTUM
Through Prayer



WEEK 1

40 DAYS OF PRAYER
Prayer Guide



1

WEEK 1

11

Scripture:

1 So we are always of good courage.
We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we live by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:6-7

Prompt: Faith

God, stretch us and increase our faith as we look for ways to trust you more in this life and throughout eternity. We rely on you in our daily lives, knowing you are faithful.

Scripture:

2 Not to us, O LORD, but to your name give glory...

Psalms 115:1

Prompt: Glory to God

Lord, we give you the glory in all things. We can do nothing on our own without you.

Scripture:

3 ...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

Matthew 6:19-20

Prompt: Eternity

God, we live for you. I pray to live for you in light of eternity, not living for the now.

Scripture:

4 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, ... His understanding is unsearchable.

Isaiah 40:28

Prompt: **Mysteries of God**

God, thank you for being with me in moments of darkness. Thanks for understanding all things that confuse me.

Scripture:

5 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

Galatians 3:2

Prompt: **Acceptance through Spirit**

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your Holy Spirit. You have erased the disaster of my sin and shown me your amazing grace.

Scripture:

6 Whom have I in heaven but you? There is nothing I desire besides you.

Psalms 73:25

Prompt: **Contentment**

Father, I am satisfied in you. Keep my heart content in order to walk in peace.

Scripture:

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

Prompt: Confidence

God, give us your confident Spirit and help us to walk in your ways of love and selflessness each moment.

NOTES



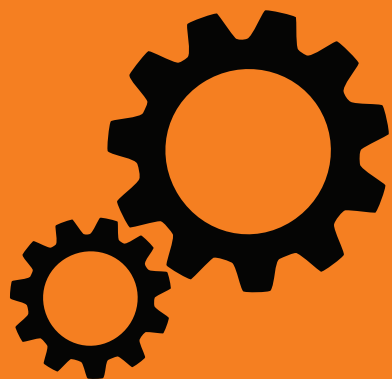
Week 2

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Oct. 9-15 Personal Momentum:

You Are an Unfinished Masterpiece
Philippians 1:6

SERMON NOTES



COMMUNITY GROUPS

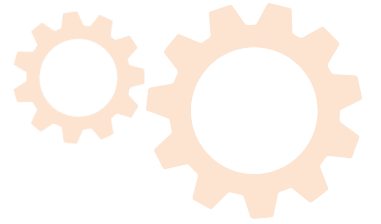
Guide

Week 2

WEEK 2

Written by Bob Webb

THE GIFT AND THE GIVER | Mark 12:41-44
Mark 12:38-40



The Bible Meets Life - A Single Mom's Offering

THE SINGLE MOM'S OFFERING

It's been a tough week for this single mom of two. She works two part time jobs. Her mother helps with childcare for her four-year-old and one-year-old. Her combined salaries enable her to pay her part of the rent on their public housing apartment. Food stamps provide the basic portion of her family's nutritional needs, and she is able to go every other week to a local food pantry to supplement her grocery budget. She literally lives paycheck to paycheck and part of her income depends upon tips from her waitressing job. This Sunday she was off work and she and the kids went to church. It felt good to worship and to celebrate the Lord's Supper with her church family and her mom. As she makes her way down the aisle to leave, she notices that a deacon is at each door holding an offering plate. As people pass the deacon, many are putting bills in the plate. She reaches for her billfold and takes out two one-dollar bills. It will be a week until a paycheck and this money must see her through to payday. She smiles at the deacon and drops the two bills into the offering plate.

LOOKING AT THE BACKGROUND TEXT

Mark's account of Jesus observation of the temple worshippers' offerings is a familiar one that reminds Christians of how the amount given is not as important as the heart of the giver and the available resources of the giver. Let's begin our study by looking at the background text.

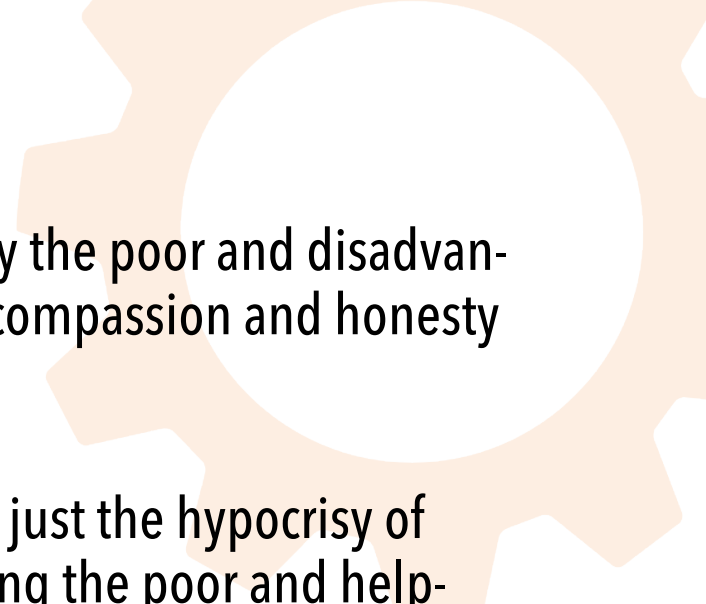
MARK 12:38-40

Mark's account of Jesus' observation of the temple worshippers' offerings is a familiar one that reminds Christians of how the amount given is not as important as the heart of the giver and the available resources of the giver. Let's begin our study by looking at the background text.

(Vs 38-40) As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

There are two themes that seem to come from the text. The first theme found in the background text of verses 38-40 paints an unbecoming picture of the scholars of the law in how they tried to impress people with their piety and their desire to be recognized in the synagogues and banquets while cheating widows out of their houses and offering high sounding prayers for the sake of appearance.

Geoffrey Smith, **Pastor of Park Woods Presbyterian Church of Overland Park, Kansas**, calls our attention to this theme in the story of the widow that is part of the bigger picture Mark is painting. The theme has to do



with the failures of Israel to treat others, especially the poor and disadvantaged like the widow of Mark's account, with the compassion and honesty that the Law required of them.

The problem of the scribes and pharisees was not just the hypocrisy of their religion, but it was also that they were robbing the poor and helpless of the very care and assistance they were supposed to provide them according to the very law they worshipped. (**Exodus 22: 22-24, Deuteronomy 10:17-18**) The Israelite widow was particularly vulnerable since she could own no land and there was no way she could grow food or provide for herself. (Naomi and Ruth- **Ruth 1:1-5**) Because of this, the law made provisions for her to be cared for by the community. (**Deuteronomy 14:28-29**)

In spite of their hardships, widows were seen to be as much a part of the community as anyone else and were included in the festivals and holy days. (**Deuteronomy 16: 11-14** The Festival of Weeks) Instead of being overlooked, they were to be provided special compensation due to their limited resources (**Deuteronomy 24:19-20**)



The second theme deals with the account of the widow's offering.

MARK 12:41-44

"He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Jesus is observing how the wealthy make their contributions to the treasury, when by contrast, a widow makes her way forward and puts in her offering. By any measure, her offering is insignificant compared to those of the rich. Jesus calls his disciples and begins to teach them. Jesus' words don't seem to make sense. How could such a small offering compare with the larger offerings of the wealthy? Jesus explains "they have contributed out of their abundance but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had to live on."

EXPLORING THE BIBLE: A TYPICAL TEMPLE SCENE

Verse 41 "He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. "

I. A mix of people worshiping in the temple

⚙️ Some Rich

⚙️ Some Poor

⚙️ What is considered "rich" where we live? (Annual household income in Jackson County MO, 2021 \$57,409, Per: Department of Numbers)

⚙️ What is considered "poor" where we live? (Federal poverty level for a family of three equals \$23,030 in U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts)

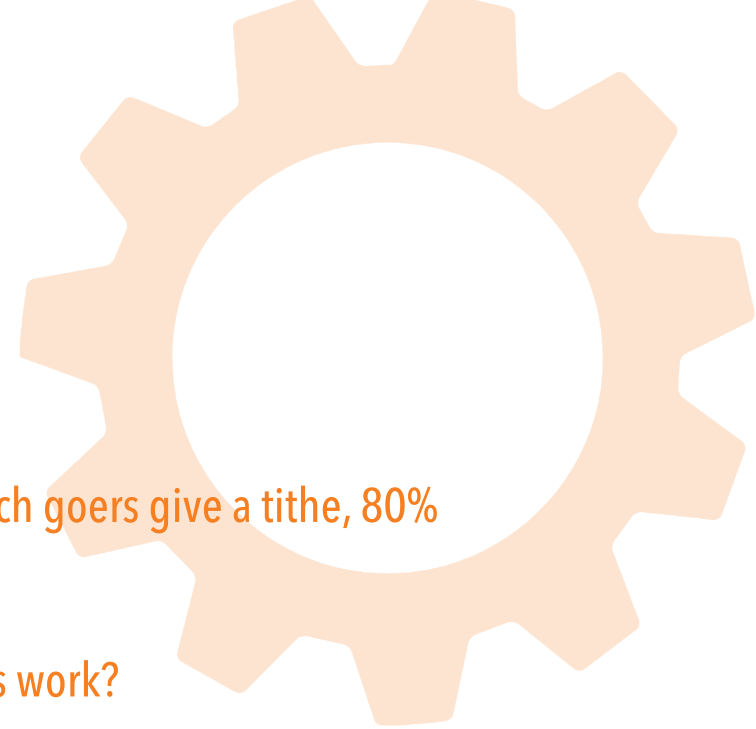
⚙️ How do our incomes compare with other countries of the world? (Median household income in Mexico is \$3,366 in 2022)

A WIDOW WHO STOOD OUT

Verse 42 "A poor widow came and put in two copper coins, which are worth a penny"

1. People gave differing amounts

- ⚙️ Some gave large amounts
- ⚙️ Some gave small amounts
- ⚙️ Giving statistics: According to NPSOURCE, 5% of church goers give a tithe, 80% give 2% of their income.
- ⚙️ What determines how much we should give to God's work?
 - Some believe that the basis of giving is the Old Testament requirement of the tithe. (**Malachi 3: 10**)
 - Some feel that the New Testament teaches giving based on ability to give, attitude about giving, and the level of commitment to Christ of the giver. (**Acts 4: 32ff, II Cor 8:1-6, Matt 23:23-24**)



GIVING THAT IMPACTS OUR LIVES

Verses 43-44 Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

People give out of differing levels of personal impact.

- ⚙️ Some give what they are comfortable giving.
- ⚙️ Some give at a sacrificial level.




What is sacrificial giving?

In years past, a building fundraising campaign of the SBC used the slogan: "Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice."

Mark's account of Jesus' teaching about the widow's offering does not specify an amount that should be given in an offering. Instead, Jesus contrasts the giving of those with wealth with the giving of those in poverty. The two extreme levels of giving offer a surprising conclusion.

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

 What are your means?

 What will you give?

 What is your comfort level vs. your sacrificial level to give?

The decision is yours to make.

A VERSE TO REMEMBER:

Mark 12:44b "But she out of her poverty has put
in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Building
MOMENTUM
Through Prayer



WEEK 2

40 DAYS OF PRAYER
Prayer Guide



Scripture:

8

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Prompt: **Impact**

Lord, change our lives and make a difference in our community and beyond. May the people of our church change the spiritual climate of their homes, neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.

Scripture:

9

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists...

Hebrews 11:6

Prompt: **Pleasing God**

God, you have called me to believe. Please work in me to be someone who seeks you and wants to please you as I live by faith.

Scripture:

10

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Prompt: **a for Time Everything**

Lord, we acknowledge that sometimes we put our "seasons" ahead of you. Forgive us and help us to center ourselves on you.

Scripture:

11 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.

Daniel 3:18

Prompt: **Deciding who we will serve**

We are challenged daily for the devotion of a variety of gods to serve: work, love, approval, etc. Choose to serve God and God alone.

Scripture:

12 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

Isaiah 12:2

Prompt: **Who's our Salvation?**

God is our salvation. Isaiah states it so clearly: we will trust. Trust Him today.

Scripture:

13 Instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant... for even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:43-45

Prompt: **Servant of All**

Jesus, you have given us the greatest example of servanthood. We want to imitate you and serve others well. Let us show love in our words and in our deeds.

Scripture:

14 With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *Ephesians 4:2-3*

Prompt: **Love**

As we love and serve our neighbors, God, make us more like you and show the love that you have given us to others. Keep us united in you, through peace.

NOTES



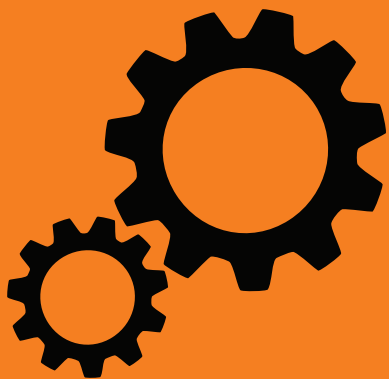
Week 3

Oct. 16-22 Generosity Momentum:

Take the Next Step on Your Giving Pathway

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

SERMON NOTES



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Guide

Week 3

WEEK 3

Written by Allen Baker

GENEROUS LIVING AND GIVING | 2 Corinthians 8:1-9



THE POINT Because God's abundant grace in our lives never changes, we can give and live generously in every circumstance.

LIFE CONNECTION

Many well-meaning believers struggle with financial giving. The approach and attitude are often “How much can I spare right now?” rather than “Where can I generously give to join God in His Kingdom work?” We often focus on what we lack and what we think we need rather than on God’s grace and abundant provision that meets us right where we are each day. Everything that we have, from our spiritual gifts and talents to our material resources, is a gift from God that we can utilize to advance His kingdom and His glory.

(8:1-2) – Paul encouraged the Corinthian believers to move forward in their renewed commitment by following the example of the Macedonians. God’s grace is the central theme underlying the collection for the Jerusalem church. Paul used the Macedonian churches as a great model of generous and joyful giving, even amid their extreme poverty. This was a special offering, not the regular offering, and it was collected to meet a special need. Paul evidently did not expect the Macedonians would give very much. Their giving was spontaneous and voluntary, fueled by grace, not by pressure.



(8:3-7) – The liberality of the Macedonians is evidenced by four major factors which Paul cited:

1. The Macedonians gave “even beyond their ability” – over and above their ability.
2. Their giving was from the heart and not compulsory. They considered it a privilege of sharing. The Macedonians gave so freely that Paul did not even have to request of them a collection.
3. The Macedonians illustrated a selfless spirit by their pleading to be involved with the Jerusalem church. They begged to contribute.
4. The Macedonians first gave themselves especially to the Lord, then, in keeping with God’s will, to Paul and his cohorts.

It’s not the amount the Macedonian church gave but their attitude and spirit in giving that Paul commended. Paul pressed the example of the Macedonian act of grace in **verses 6-7**. It appears the Corinthians had lessened their zeal in ministry for the poor in Jerusalem. Paul was sending Titus to further encourage the Corinthian church—something that Titus had evidently done before.

Paul pointed out to the Corinthian church that they “**excel in everything.**” They excelled or overflowed in all kinds of spiritual gifts and talents as a church. Paul subtly draws a comparison between the Macedonians (**who overflowed with joy and generosity**) and the Corinthians. Indeed, the Corinthian church overflowed in spiritual giftedness. Now, Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be zealous in their contribution to the poor and to excel also in “**this grace of giving**” (v.7). Genuine Christian generosity comes first from a relationship with Jesus Christ. If one is walking with Christ in a growing personal relationship, that person will feel what Christ’s heart feels.

(8:8-9) – First, Paul made it clear that he was not making a command. It was in the Corinthians' spiritual interest to give freely out of Christ's abundant love. Second, Paul assessed the genuineness of the Corinthian's love as compared to the diligence of others, alluding to the benchmark of the Macedonians' faith. Third, Paul wanted to verify the genuineness of the Corinthians' love. The love which one has for Christ will empower one to overcome barriers and obstacles such as poverty and hard circumstances.

Paul next appealed in v. 9 to the ultimate incentive for grace giving—the incarnation of Jesus Christ. "...though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."

Three facts stand out:

1. Christ was rich – a richness that points to the pre-incarnate status of Jesus in the realms of heavenly glory before his lowly birth in a manger ([Phil. 2:5-11](#)).
2. Christ voluntarily, graciously, and willingly stepped down to earth and took on a slave's status so we might partake of his eternal riches and righteousness ([2 Cor. 5:21](#)).
3. Christ "for your sake he became poor." Christ became poor literally ("The Son of Man had no place to lay His head" [Matt. 8:20](#), [Luke 9:58](#)), and by taking on mortality ([Phil. 2](#)).

David Kinnaman, CEO of Barna Group, shared that only 42% of Christians say it is "very important" that individual Christians donate money to their church. Meanwhile, just over one in ten from this same group (13%) say that it is unimportant to give money to their church.

DISCUSS:



What one generous thing would you do for your church if you had no financial obstacles or limits to your abilities?



Have you ever been so convinced of a church or mission project that you just had to give to it?



What are some circumstances that might lead you to give generously to your church?



What are some circumstances that might keep you from giving generously to your church?



Have you been in a place, like the people of Macedonia, where you longed to give even more? What do you think was driving this deep motivation to give?



Notice how the work of Jesus is used as our example and our fuel to give. How does a proper understanding of the gospel give us a desire to give generously?



Do you give regularly to your church? If not, what is blocking your heart from giving? If you do give, how can you increase your gifts to God in thankfulness for what He has done for you?

PRAYER:

Thank God for His incredible generosity to you in Christ. Thank Him for the privilege of giving generously for the purpose of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and of helping others. Ask Him to help you joyfully complete the desire He has put in you to give generously, not letting circumstances or fear keep you from it.

Building
MOMENTUM
Through Prayer



WEEK 3

40 DAYS OF PRAYER
Prayer Guide



70

Scripture:

15
Above all, keep loving one another earnestly...Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:8-10

Prompt: **Serving**

God, keep us willing to go out of our way to help, to encourage, and to serve others. May our church family be available as loving servants to our community and beyond.

Scripture:

16
Lord, teach us to pray.

Luke 11:1

Prompt: **Teach us to Pray**

I want to learn from you, Jesus. Help me to come to you with everything.

Scripture:

17
Likewise the spirit helps us in our weakness. For we don't know what to pray but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Romans 8:26

Prompt: **The Spirit Intercedes**

When I can't find the words, Lord, you will speak for me. There is so much confusion sometimes but I believe that you go before the Father on my behalf.

Scripture:

18

Now Jesus told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up.

Luke 18:1

Prompt: Always Pray and never give up

God, you know how fragile I am. Make me complete in you and trust that YOU are the one who hears and knows me.

Scripture:

19

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though He was in the form of God ... emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant...

Philippians 2:5-7

Prompt: the Mind of Christ

Jesus, help me surrender to you as I also surrender to others. You are my strong example of servanthood. Help me empty myself, keeping my mind focused on you.

Scripture:

20

He told them, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers..."

Luke 10:2

Prompt: Equipped and Ready

Lord help me to live wisely and bravely, ready to share your message with the world. You've called me to go, go before me.

Scripture:

21

If we live by the Spirit let us also
keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25

Prompt: **Prayer Walk**

God, remind us to keep company with
you through every step of our days.

Meet at FBC @ 9am

OR

go 'Virtual' in your favorite area

NOTES

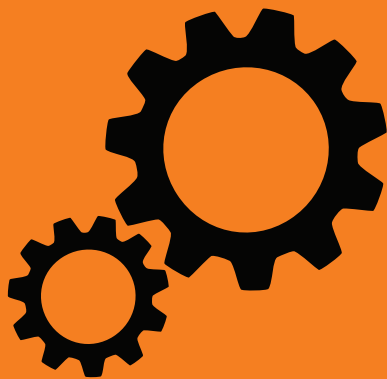


Week 4

Oct. 23-29 **Generational Momentum:**

Don't Let It Stop with Us
Psalm 78:1-7; Psalm 145:4

SERMON NOTES



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Guide

Week 4

WEEK 4

Written by Rick Henks

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Guide



A RESULT OF GENEROUS GIVING | 2 Corinthians 9:1-11

2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-11

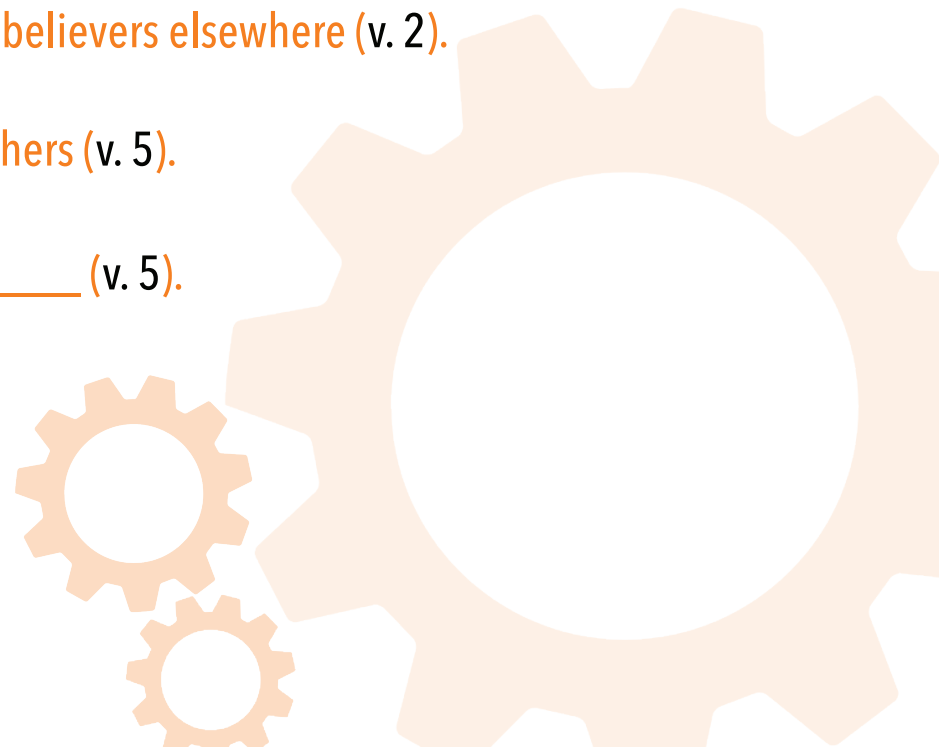
"There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. **2**For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. **3**But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. **4**For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we - not to say anything about you - would be ashamed of having been so confident. **5**So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. **6**Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. **7**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. **8**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. **9**As it is written" 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.' **10**Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. **11**You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

Although the scripture for our lesson is in chapter 9, we can better understand the context if we look at the last verse in chapter 8, v. 24, which reads “Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.”

In chapter 9, vs. 1, Paul quickly relates his understanding of the love for others evidenced by the believers at Corinth by clarifying it this way – “There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord’s people.” Paul knows how much these believers care for their own group of believers there, but also for believers elsewhere whose circumstances are different than what they are experiencing.

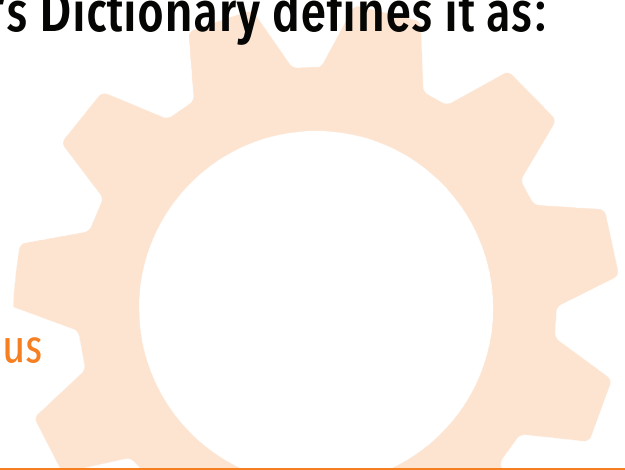
Look at what Paul says about this group of believers:

- ⚙️ They are eager to help, so much so that Paul _____ about their willingness to help other congregations (v. 2).
- ⚙️ Their enthusiasm to give has impacted/affected believers elsewhere (v. 2).
- ⚙️ This congregation has promised to share with others (v. 5).
- ⚙️ They have promised to be _____ (v. 5).



What does "generous" really mean? Webster's Dictionary defines it as:

- ⚙️ Liberal in giving: Openhanded
- ⚙️ Marked by abundance or ample proportions
- ⚙️ Characterized by a noble or kindly spirit: Magnanimous



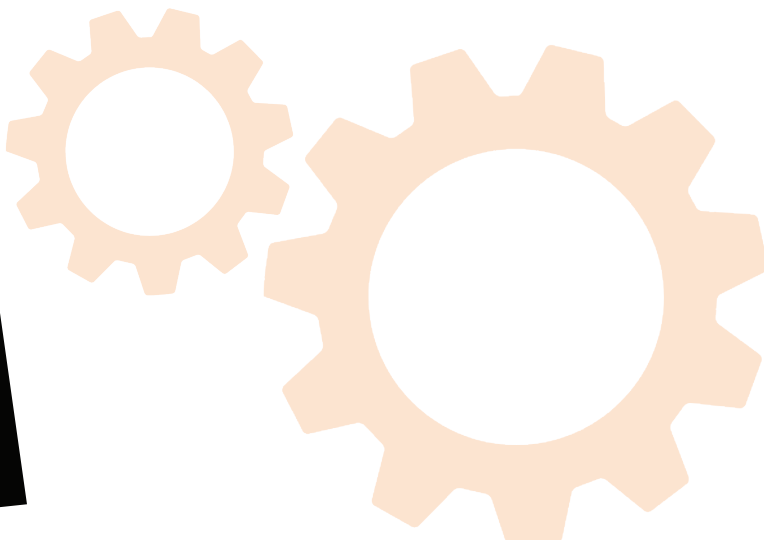
In v. 5, Paul reminds the believers in Corinth to prepare their generous gift so that it will be _____ when the time comes to share it.

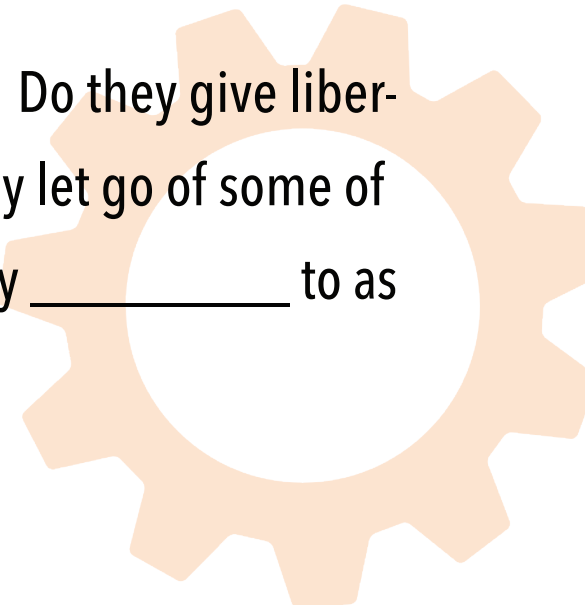
But look at the contrast in how Paul wishes them to make their gift - as a generous gift, and not grudgingly given.

“Webster defines “grudgingly” as:”

Unwilling, reluctant

Done, given, or allowed unwillingly, reluctantly, or sparingly





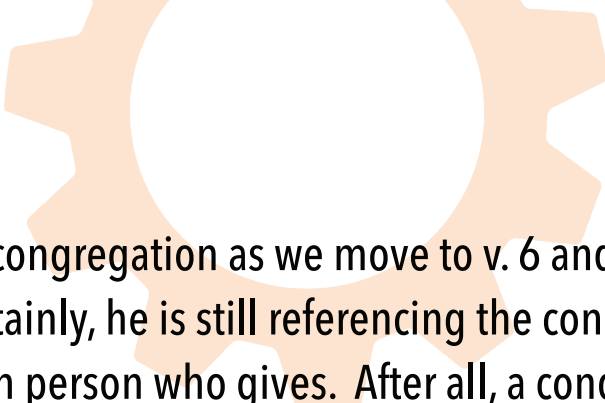
The contrast in how a gift can be made is like day and night. Do they give liberally or do they give just enough to not seem cheap? Do they let go of some of what they have because they _____ to or because they _____ to as part of the congregation?



**The real difference is in the _____
of the heart that accompanies the gift.**


Paul likely could have stopped there in his reminder to the Corinthian congregation. After all, he has been boasting about their willingness to give and their enthusiasm to do so. In a sense, he was probably “preaching to the choir”. Yet fortunately for many other congregations over the centuries, and for us today, he didn’t stop at verse 5. What we get from Paul’s encouragement to the Corinthian congregation is far more knowledge and understanding about the potential surrounding generous giving.

Before we dig into this, it is interesting to note that a synonym of the word “encouragement” is “momentum”. The definition of the word “momentum” according to Webster’s is: strength or force gained by motion or by a series of events. Paul is well aware of the momentum that generous giving by the Corinthian congregation can and will have on the church as a whole (all local congregations). Much like a rope becomes strong when individual strands are woven together, the growth of the “church” to proclaim the power of the Gospel is greatly enhanced as each generously gives for the benefit of other congregations.




While Paul is still speaking to the Corinthian congregation as we move to v. 6 and beyond, the words he says take on a dual meaning. Certainly, he is still referencing the congregation's promised gift, but his words also apply to each person who gives. After all, a congregation is a group of individuals who have a common desire to enhance the presentation of the Gospel to a lost world.

The shift in the words Paul says is about the results of giving. Before we even begin a look at this, we should be careful to understand that the "reaping" and the "blessing" he talks about does not necessarily mean that the result will be monetary. It may well be that God will choose to bless that way, but there are many ways to be blessed by God.



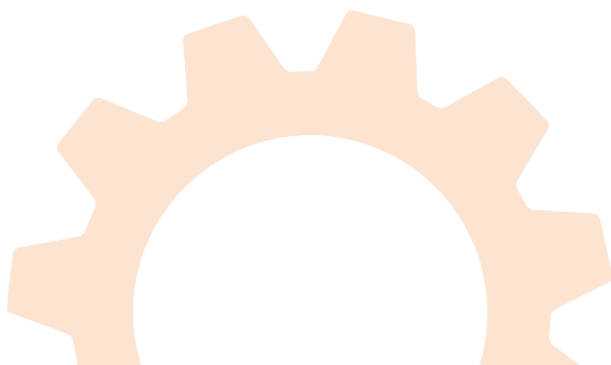
Verse 6 brings us to a truth of the way God designed the earth we live on. If we sow _____ we will not get much in return. However, if we sow generously, we will see _____ return. Any farmer will confess to this truth; he knows that the more seeds placed in the ground, the more he is likely to get back at the time of harvest.




How do we know this is a truth of God? It is in the _____ that God creates. A single seed of corn planted in the ground, can yield on average, 800 - 1,600 kernels at harvest (based on either 1 or 2 ears per stalk)¹. The ground doesn't cause it; the rain nor the sun cause it. God uses all of those to make it happen, but the generous reaping comes because He puts it within the seed to happen.

This truth alone should encourage us to sow generously with our _____ and our _____. While we don't have to do it primarily with an expectation of a return, Paul wanted us to understand that we can anticipate a _____ for sowing generously. God loves to _____ to his children. Just think about the many ways each of us is blessed by Him. Sure, life has challenges, but our blessings outweigh the challenges.

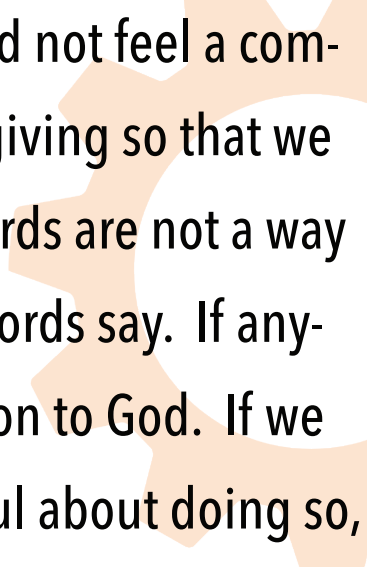
As valuable as verse 6 is for us, verse 7 gives us the context under which we should evaluate how generous we choose to be. "Each of you should give what you have _____ in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a _____ giver." Perhaps a good starting point for applying this verse to our self is the truth that God does not _____ anything from us. It's all His already. But it is also true that God does _____ something from us. And what is it He wants? He wants _____ of us. Deuteronomy 6:5 says "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Notice it doesn't say with all your possessions or money or time, etc. Why not? Because all those things are encompassed within all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength.





If we give as Deuteronomy 6:5 says to do, we will find that, in increasing measure, our desire to _____ of what we have, to recognize it's all His anyway, and that generous giving is what He seeks from us, He will _____ us to give generously. Why does He want us to be increasing in our connection to Him? Because when we do so, we are going to be more _____ to properly handle the generous reaping He wants to give to us. Think about Job and Abraham; God blessed them more than abundantly. Yet each one remained close to and _____ to the Lord, and in doing so, were capable of handling the generous response God gave to them for their commitment.

The words in verse 7 take the " _____ " off of us. We need not feel a compulsion to give. In fact, Paul is telling us to evaluate our giving so that we _____ feel good (cheerful) about what we give. These words are not a way to excuse ourselves from giving - that's not what those words say. If anything they should be a gauge as to our spiritual connection to God. If we cannot determine a giving level at which we can be cheerful about doing so, then it isn't our gift that's the problem - it's our _____!



As Paul begins to close this section in verses 8-11, we see the power of God, the provision of God, the promise of God, and the purpose for giving as we make our determination about our generous giving. Look at these words Paul says:

- ⚙️ God is _____ to bless you abundantly so that we can continue in doing good work (v. 8) – God has the power.
- ⚙️ Our generous giving is viewed as righteousness (v. 9)
- ⚙️ The results of generous giving will endure _____ (v. 9)
- ⚙️ He (God) will _____ the seed to sow (v. 10) – the provision
- ⚙️ He will enlarge (grant a generous harvest) of righteousness (v. 10) – the promise
- ⚙️ He will _____ us in every way
- ⚙️ In order that we can be generous _____ it is called for (v. 11)
- ⚙️ For the ultimate purpose of _____ to God – the source of it all (v. 11) – the purpose

Paul has given us the guidelines, or parameters, of how each of us can come to a position in our spiritual life where generous giving is a part of who we are. As we evaluate where we are today, and as we apply the words he spoke to us through Paul, God can use these words to make our heart increasingly more generous, increasing our momentum and being an encouragement to others in our congregation.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

How would you characterize your own attitude when it comes to your giving?

Where and how have you experienced God meeting your needs as you've trusted in Him?

Building
MOMENTUM
Through Prayer



WEEK 4

40 DAYS OF PRAYER
Prayer Guide



Scripture:

Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! ... The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Psalm 103:1-6

Prompt: **Reverence**

LORD, may we experience a growing sense of awe about who you are and what you've done for us in Christ. May we live with respect for a God who motivates us to live in every way that honors you.

Scripture:

And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

Luke 5:26

Prompt: **Amazed by God**

God, your works are incredible! Keep me alert and more aware of your presence as I encounter people, creation, and experiences you have created.

Scripture:

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Psalm 27:14

Prompt: **Wait for the Lord**

Waiting on God doesn't mean sitting around and hoping. Waiting means believing He will do as He promised and then acting with confidence.

Scripture:

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2

Prompt: **Be Transformed**

Lord, please keep me from conforming to this world and transform my mind for the sake of Christ.

Scripture:

Lord, how long will you forget me?
How long will you hide your face from me?

Psalm 13:1

Prompt: **Is God Hiding?**

David thought God had abandoned him but we know God never abandons and He never forgets us. Rest on this promise.

Scripture:

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.

Isaiah 30:18

Prompt: **Wait on the Lord**

Lord, I'm asking you to be gracious as I look to you for guidance in my life. Lead me in the way of justice and mercy. I wait on you, I know you will deliver.

Scripture:

28

Lord I have no life apart
from you.

Psalm 16:2

Prompt: **Away from You?**

We have no life away from you, Lord.
Let us center ourselves on you
and you alone.

NOTES



Determine Your

MOMENTUM Commitment

Mission in Motion

Below are some exercises to do and questions to reflect on at home prior to Commitment Sunday:

- 1** List out the financial commitments you currently have—those that go beyond a one-time payment and have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child’s tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.
- 2** Now, write out the commitment you are planning to make for Momentum. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your Momentum commitment? What if you wanted to raise your Momentum commitment? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a truly surrendered giving commitment? With your current priorities, are you fully engaged with God’s mission of helping people take their next step with Christ?

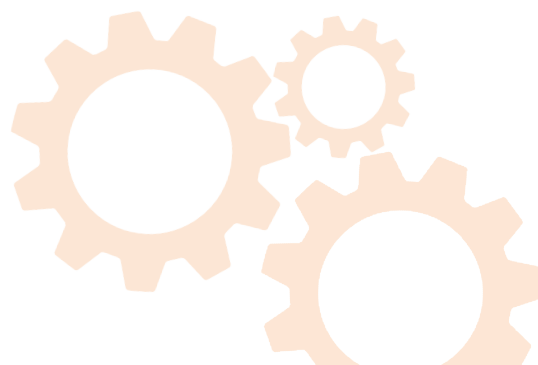
3 If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you value?

4 Would that statement be true about you? Or, is there something that needs to be explained or modified?

5 If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what spiritual transformation will occur in you?

6 How will you leverage this change to influence others such as your children, your co-workers, your friends, your family, or others in your circles of influence?

Write your answers here:





Pray over your commitment

as you prepare to lay your card at the altar on Commitment Sunday, October 30. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process, and prayer is what gives us the bold heart of Christ within us.

Let's do this!



Let's be people boldly surrendering themselves to God in every area of their lives.



MY/OUR TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY COMMITMENT TO BUILD MOMENTUM

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

NAME(S): _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/ZIP: _____

\$ _____ WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN A YEAR.

+

\$ _____ MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY FOR MOMENTUM

=

\$ _____ X 2 YEARS = \$ _____

Gifts from my/our stored resources +
(savings, stocks, real estate, other assets). \$ _____

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT: \$ _____

NOVEMBER 2022-NOVEMBER 2024

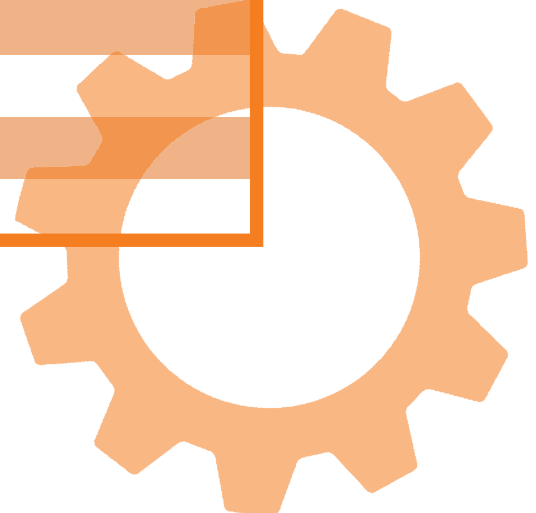
You may think your gift doesn't matter when compared to our total goal for Momentum. You're wrong! Every gift matters to God. It's not about the amount, but what that amount means to you. ([Matt 12: 41-44](#)) Use the table to see how your monthly gift adds up over two years!

Two Year Giving Table

Monthly Gift Of

Over 24 Months Equals

\$10	\$240
\$20	\$480
\$30	\$720
\$40	\$960
\$50	\$1,200
\$60	\$1,440
\$70	\$1,680
\$80	\$1,920
\$90	\$2,160
\$100	\$2,400
\$125	\$3,000
\$150	\$3,600
\$200	\$4,800
\$250	\$6,000
\$300	\$7,200
\$350	\$8,400
\$400	\$9,600
\$500	\$12,000





Week 5

Oct. 30- Nov. 5

Unstoppable Momentum:

In the Hands of Jesus, Our Gifts Can Change the World

Mark 6:30-44

SERMON NOTES

Building
MOMENTUM
Through Prayer



WEEK 5

40 DAYS OF PRAYER
Prayer Guide



100

5

WEEK 5

5

Scripture:

Do nothing from selfish ambition...
Let each of you look not only to
his own interests, but also to the
interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

Prompt: **Togetherness**

Lord, may we experience unity in
our shared commitments to Christ.
We pray to drop our selfish
preferences and honor others
above ourselves.

Scripture:

I am crucified with Christ. It is no
longer I who live but Christ who
lives in me...

Galatians 2:20

Prompt: **Never Alone**

Because of your sacrifice, I live for
you in the power you have shown.

Scripture:

We are Christ's ambassadors,
as though God were making his
appeal through us. We implore you
on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled
to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Prompt: **Reconciled to God**

Pray for those who do not know
Christ. Lord, make me aware that
I am a witness for Jesus every day.
Show how we, the church, can
meet and reach the lost.

Scripture:

Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny?
But not one of them will fall to the
ground without your Father knowing
about it already. Even the hairs of your
head are all counted. Never fear, you are
worth more than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:29-31

Prompt: **Fear Not**

No matter what happens, God you
know me. You are the one who cares
for me most. You know every little
detail about me, about my life. Thank
you for giving me value and
valuing my life.

Scripture:

So then let us pursue what makes
for peace and for
building others up.

Romans 14:19

Prompt: **Build up Others**

Lord, forgive me when I tear others
down. I desire your peace in the
middle of all my relationships.

Scripture:

No one has ever seen God; but
if we love one another, God lives
in us and His love is complete.

1 John 4:12

Prompt: **Love Others**

God, you are love. Your love lives in
me! Let that love overflow into each
person I see.

Scripture:

35

...I will not sacrifice to the Lord
my God burnt offerings that
cost me nothing.

2 Samuel 24:24

Prompt: **Commitment**

God, move us out of our comfort
zone in order to give sacrificially,
with gratitude.

NOTES



Week 6

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

Prayer Guide

Scripture:

You must decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need and plenty left over to share.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Prompt: **Stewardship**

God we are grateful for your gifts, all we have is yours. May we be generous with all the resources you have entrusted to us, our time, talents, and treasures.

Scripture:

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

Prompt: **Your will be Done**

Lord, we surrender to your will. Align our hearts and minds with yours.

Scripture:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ...You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Prompt: **Seek the Lord**

The Lord God promises to take care of me. Remind me, Lord, to steward my heart and life according to your plan. Your plans are for my good and for your glory. I seek you and expect to find you.

Scripture:

39

The LORD has heard my plea for help; The LORD accepts my prayer.

Psalm 6:9

Prompt: **Hear my Prayer**

May our prayers continue, God. Hear my heart and show me your ways.

Scripture:

40

Daniel, don't be afraid! God has listened to your prayers since the first day you humbly asked for understanding, and He has sent me.

Daniel 10:12

Prompt: **Understanding**

I do ask for understanding, God. You rule over all and you overrule any scheme that tries to undermine your good purposes.

Notes:







FAQ

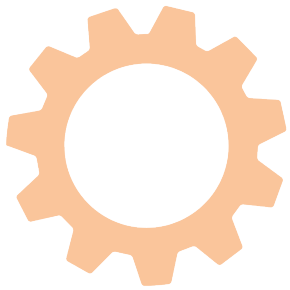


WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

First and foremost, we are asking that you pray and seek God's direction on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and then listen to what He says. Take your next step. Engage in personal reflection with God in this guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life.

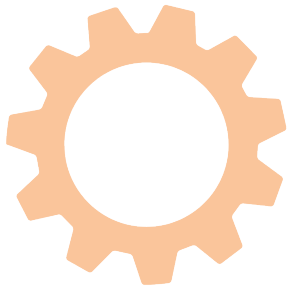
We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to gospel-centered generosity—whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading.

Finally, we ask that you prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome God, and He is going to move in huge ways. We anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective Momentum commitments—something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, **October 30**, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and our own faith.



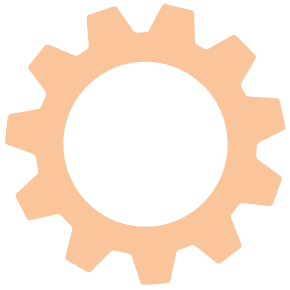
HOW IS MOMENTUM DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS GENEROSITY INITIATIVES?

We are more focused on everyone at FBC seeing their giving as an integral part of the discipleship process and then being challenged by God to take a next step. The bulk of this notebook is focused on helping us dig into some key Biblical principles that guide us in this area as we follow Jesus. This is our first priority—100% engagement in the process. Even if someone wrote us a check today for our challenge goal of \$6.7M and our challenge goal of \$700,000, we would still do this initiative. Whether we're just starting in our giving journey or we're very committed givers, we all have a next step to take and room to grow in this area.



HOW DOES \$6.7M OVER TWO YEARS COMPARE TO CURRENT GIVING AT FBC?

For the past two years, our total giving has averaged \$1.95 million per year, which multiplied by two years is \$3.9 million. So, in essence, we're trusting God to increase our resources by \$2.8 million over two years for a total of \$6.7 million.

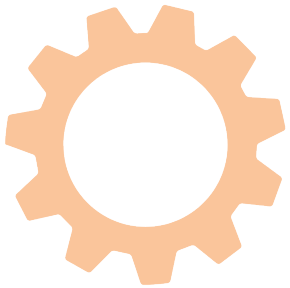


ARE THERE ADDITIONAL WAYS BESIDES CASH THAT I CAN GIVE TOWARD MOMENTUM?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward Momentum. You might have some stocks, property, or other items of that nature. Or you may have stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He just might be calling you to give during this time. Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you.

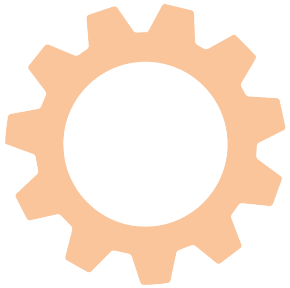
Karen Sherman, Church Business Administrator is able to assist with all such gifts.

karen.s@firstls.church



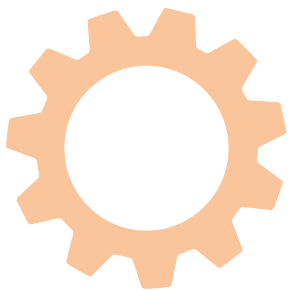
WHAT IF I HAVE NEVER GIVEN TO FBC BEFORE?

Momentum was crafted specifically with you in mind. Momentum is a “one fund” generosity initiative. It’s different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving, thus creating two steps for people who aren’t yet giving. Momentum is a call to sacrificial, gospel-centered generosity for absolutely everyone at FBC. If you have never given before, this is your chance to get in the game with a committed sacrifice. We really hope you will.



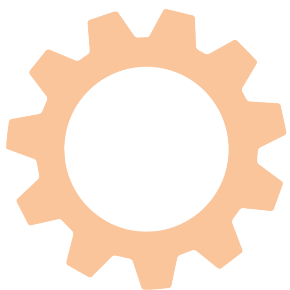
HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year (24-month) commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with Celebration Sunday and our offering on Sunday, November 20, 2022 and it will culminate in November of 2024.



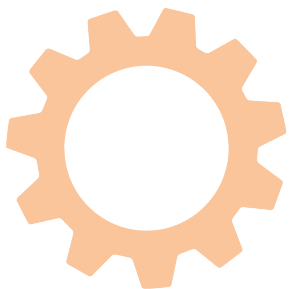
WHAT IF I AM NEW AROUND HERE?

Momentum is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to support, and we would really love for you to make FBC your home and join us in Momentum. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your church. The best way to get on the team is to join the church family at the conclusion of one of our worship services, or indicate your desire to make FBCLS your church using the form on our church website at fbcls.info/next.



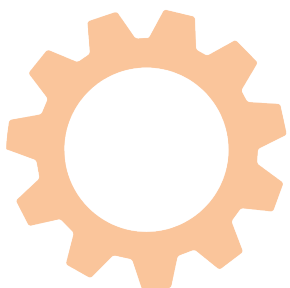
WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A JOB RIGHT NOW? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR MY MOMENTUM COMMITMENT?

Momentum is about your total, radical, sacrificial generosity to God's mission at FBC. We believe that God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance, and that looks different for every person. Momentum is about a heart change—one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God in this area of giving and declaring that we are a people who are unfinished. That may mean that you are being challenged to sell things, to pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you don't quite know how to fulfill right now but that you believe God will provide for, as you seek for ways to work towards that commitment. We would like for 100% of us to be a part of Momentum so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually-stretching season at FBC.



WHAT IF I AM SEVERELY IN DEBT RIGHT NOW? AM I STILL SUPPOSED TO GIVE?

If you are someone currently seeking to make payments to pay off debt right now, we commend you for making progress on that. And you should continue to do so. We would be happy to help you in this journey and/or to recommend a budgeting class that might minister to you. Being in debt does not, however, “excuse” someone from giving. Giving isn’t about what God wants from you; rather, it’s about what God wants for you. It should be our joy and privilege to give at all times. Please visit with a member of our ministry staff if you need assistance with this or if you would like to speak with a budgeting counselor. We would be honored to help you!



WHAT IF I HAVEN’T BEEN BAPTIZED YET?

Great question. People take different spiritual steps at different times. Some people begin praying before they begin attending church. Others begin going to a small group meeting before they begin talking to God in prayer. Giving is another spiritual step, and it comes at different times for different people. However, just like other spiritual disciplines, giving draws us closer to God. God is calling ALL of us to give.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Whether you have taken the spiritual step of baptism or not, we would encourage you to join us in Momentum. We firmly believe it will draw you closer to God and hopefully to a place where you are ready to make the decision to become baptized and to surrender your life to the Lordship of Christ.

If you are interested in talking with someone about baptism, let us know by completing the form at fbcls.info/next.







**JOIN US AND DISCOVER
HOW GOD IS CALLING YOU
TO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
LEE'S SUMMIT**

