







Picture





FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

You're invited to go on a spiritual journey together with us! But before we begin, I imagine there are at least three kinds of people reading this Journey Guide.

First, there are those who are new in their walk with Christ. You've come to understand the incredible love Jesus has for you and responded by placing your trust in Him. Your love for Him is growing, but you're still exploring what it means to fully live for Him. You know God's plan for your life is good, but you may feel unsure about how to follow it or face fears and challenges along the way.

If this is you, this guide was created with you in mind. It's designed to help you grow deeper in your faith and take the next steps toward fully surrendering every part of your life to Jesus.

Second, there are those who have been walking with Jesus for some time. You've experienced His faithfulness and understand the call to live for Him. You desire to grow even closer to Him and let His love shape every area of your life.

This guide is for you, too. No matter how long we've been following Christ, we all need time in His presence to renew our hearts, focus our purpose, and listen to His voice.

Our church has always been about loving God and loving our city. We're committed to being a blessing to our city and to planting churches throughout Eastern North Carolina that share this same DNA. Now, we're entering an exciting season, sensing that it's time to really strengthen our hands and prepare our hearts for what God wants to do in and through us as a church family!



Lastly, some of you may be newer to our church. We're honored to have you with us. As you read through this guide, you'll learn more about where we've been as a church and the vision God has given us for the future. This vision will require all of us to grow in faith and generosity together.

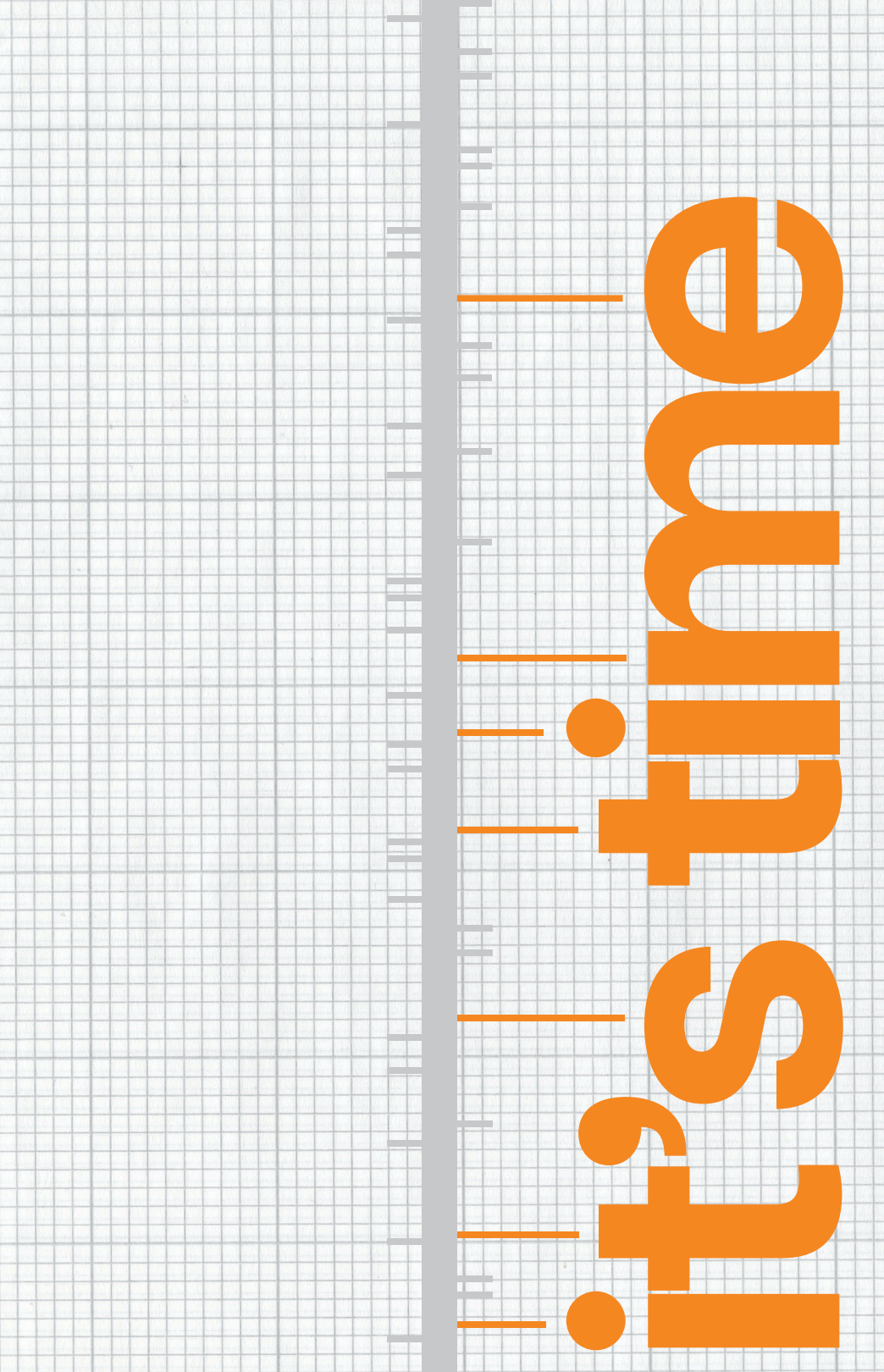
I also understand that generosity can be a sensitive topic. Maybe you've seen it mishandled in the past, and you're unsure how to feel about it. Let me reassure you: God cares more about you than anything you could ever give. In fact, He loves you so deeply that He gave His most precious gift, His Son, so you could be forgiven and have a personal relationship with Him forever. If you haven't yet accepted this gift, I invite you to do that right now. Pray this simple prayer:

"Dear Lord, I believe that You sent Jesus to die for my sins and raised Him from the dead. I accept Your gift of salvation through Jesus. Thank You for forgiving my sins and making me Your child. I am Yours because of what Jesus has done for me. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer, welcome to God's family! You've received the greatest gift of all—eternal life in Christ.

Wherever you find yourself today—new to faith, growing deeper in Christ, or new to our church—I'm so glad you're here. My prayer is that this Journey Guide will inspire us all to grow together in faith, generosity, and commitment to God's plan for our lives.

Pastor Gary



it's time

LET'S GET STARTED





HOW TO USE IT

VISION

Get familiar with why we are doing this in the first place and what's included in the It's Time Faith Journey. Get excited about where we have come from and where we are going. You can also find info on our website: <https://www.eastgate.church/itstime>

SERMON NOTES

We always provide room to take sermon notes in our Sunday bulletin, but we thought it would be helpful during our It's Time Faith Journey to provide a place where you could keep all your note-taking together.

30-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Journey through 30 days of devotions focused around themes of faith, service, and generosity. The It's Time Faith Journey begins with YOU so take some time to invest in your spiritual growth by digging deep into God's word.

PRAYER

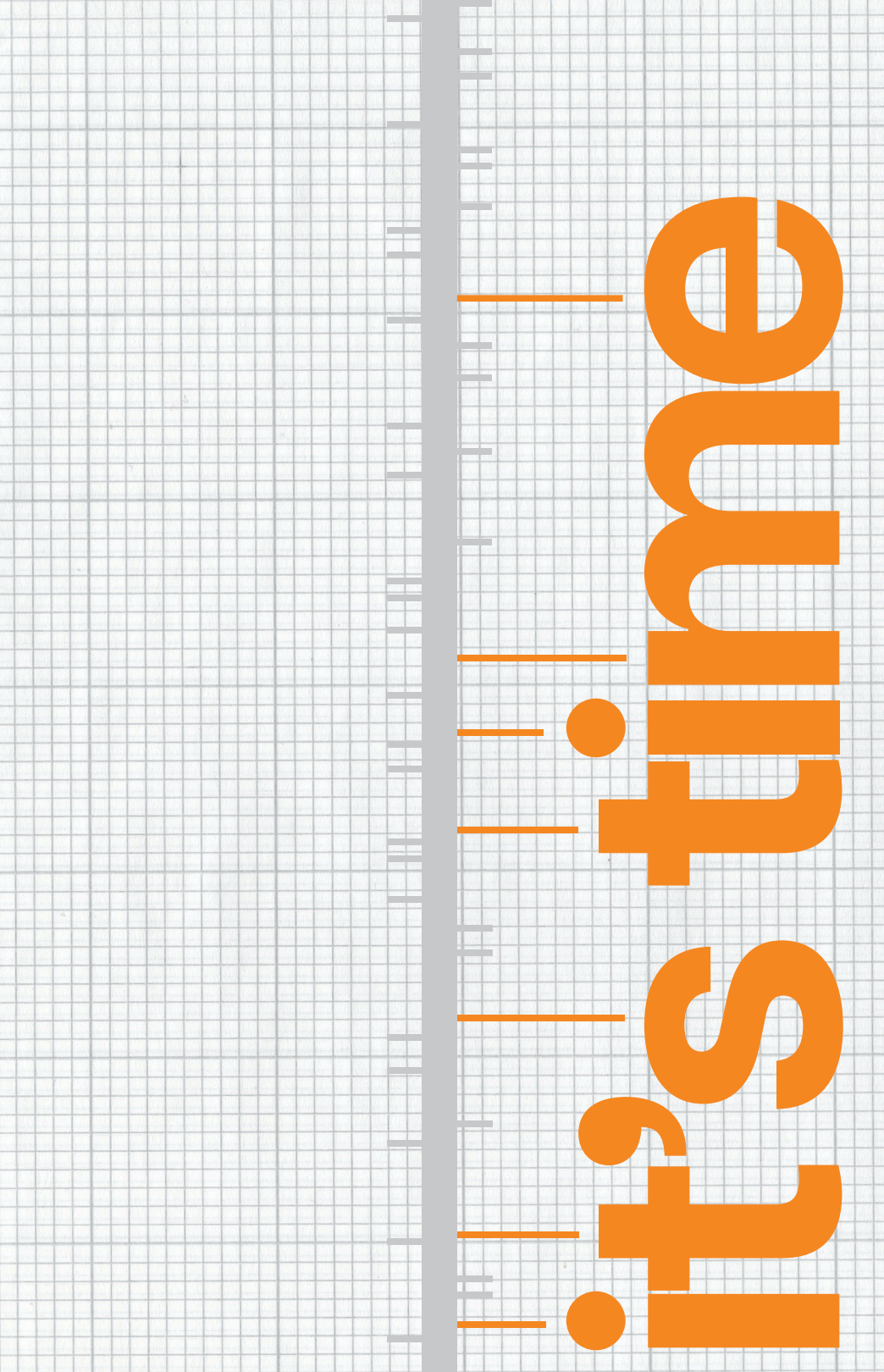
In this section you will find Scripture and prayer points to follow as we seek God and how He wants each of us to be a part of His story. This is a great section in our It's Time journey guide to help in prayers with your family and in your own personal time with Jesus.

FAQs

You will likely have some questions. We understand that, so we've put together some answers in advance. If you have questions we haven't anticipated, don't worry. We will be hosting some Q&A sessions during our It's Time Faith Journey and updating our FAQs on the website too.

COMMITMENT GUIDE

This section offers what you need to know in order to make a commitment to the It's Time vision of our church. Discover how "not equal giving, but equal sacrifice" can be realized through you.



it's time

VISION TAB

VISION TAB

VISION



VISION

*"These people say the **time** has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord... Yet now **be strong**, ...**Work**, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts... My Spirit remains in your midst. **Fear not**."*

Haggai 1:2; 2:4-5 (ESV)

IT'S TIME: Be Strong. Do the Work. Be Fearless.

Our vision is that we might respond as the people of God did that day in Jerusalem by saying together, "It's time to be strong, do the work and to be fearless in building up the house of the Lord!" Yet, for anything to be built up, whether it's broken down walls or broken down people, someone has to have the faith to do it. We want to be a people with that kind of faith. When we consider the magnitude of the brokenness in our world, it can easily overwhelm us with feelings of fear and inadequacy. But our vision from the Lord moves us to say that it's time to ensure that every man, woman, and child in our Rocky Mount and Wilson has repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel of Jesus. It's our commitment to this vision that has led us to this new generosity initiative called "IT'S TIME."

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S TIME is a three-year generosity initiative to fund our vision to strengthen our community engagement, elevate our ministry capacity, and fearlessly lay the foundation for our future growth. Through IT'S TIME, God is calling us to partner with Him by investing ourselves and our resources in greater levels of commitment, in order to saturate Rocky Mount and Wilson and the surrounding areas of Eastern North Carolina with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

FROM WHERE WE'VE BEEN TO WHERE WE'RE GOING

Someone had to fearlessly and sacrificially move out in faith, or we wouldn't have a church called Eastgate. Pastor Gary and



Robin Combs felt the Lord calling them to plant a church. God gave them a vision for reaching people far from God, a church where people could come as they are and be forever changed by the love of Jesus. So, at age 32, Gary quit his



corporate job, went to seminary, and planted what we originally named, Wilson Community Church. What began as a small circle of seven gathered in their living room in November 1991, now averages around 500 nearly every Sunday between our two campuses.

Healthy things grow!

The Bible says that the church is the family of God. And our family has really grown! Isn't that what healthy things do? They grow. Healthy plants, healthy babies, and healthy families grow! If they don't, that's not a good thing. That means there's something unhealthy hindering growth. And we are continually asking God to make us a healthy church family.



Healthy families need a home. So, on Sunday, January 26, 1992, we started renting Forest Hills Middle School for our weekly Sunday services. We went from seven in the pastor's living room to 66 in the FHMS auditorium.



During this time, several people came to the pastor saying, “I wish we still met in your living room. Why do we have to start meeting in a school? Your living room was so much more cozy and comfortable.”

Pastor Gary responded, “But then we wouldn’t have room to invite all these new family members to come and join us. My living room isn’t big enough.”

Many of them were too young in the Lord to understand. They wanted to keep things just the way they had been. It was more comfortable. Growth always involves change.

**Growth always
involves change.**

It was five years before our church averaged 100 attenders and another five before we averaged 200. We rented FHMS for 15 years from January 1992 until December 2006. Every time in order to grow, we had to stay strong, keep working and fearlessly sacrifice and stretch out of our comfort zone.



During these years, we were counseled to bring on additional pastoral staff because we had outgrown Pastor Gary’s ability to care for so many sheep. In 2001, we hired Jamie Winship as our associate pastor. He helped stabilize our span of care. But in 2003, he answered the call to move to Iraq as a missionary with the IMB. In 2005, we hired two staff, Stephen Combs to be our Worship Pastor and Chris Shelton as Pastor of Discipleship and Youth. We were gearing up for growth!

However, there was a winnowing of our numbers between 2003 and 2006 when our church attempted to acquire and



remodel the old Fikewood Shopping Center on Highway 301. Many members left during this time as we continued renting FHMS on Sundays, while trying to remodel the shopping center as our new home. Ultimately, the combination of the financial strain, the fatigue of doing most of the work ourselves, and the disunity among members about the location of the project, led to many people leaving us. By the end of 2006 our attendance had fallen below 100 and we had to walk away from the Fikewood project.

During this time, Chris Shelton left us to plant a church in Greensboro. We weren't able to pay our staff as before, so Pastor Gary took on side work as a church planter coach for NC Baptists and Pastor Stephen stayed on by working side jobs teaching music lessons and lifeguarding at the YMCA pool. We even had to temporarily layoff our church secretary, Robin Combs. She took a job at a Wilson vet for a couple of years, while Pastor Gary had to relearn how to run the church office again.

This agonizing season forced us to our knees in prayer and fasting to discover where God was leading. And God was faithful. The suffering we endured together led to a more unified and strong commitment to the vision of our church. We were more convinced than ever that God wanted a church like ours in this community.

So, in January of 2007, we decided to hit the restart button. After 15 years at FHMS, we started renting Community Christian School for Sunday services. We simplified our efforts by focusing on providing excellent worship services for adults and children, sermon-based, Acts 2:42 community groups, and even launched a second worship service. We started getting healthy and growing again.



In September of 2010, the Lord provided miraculously, enabling our congregation to purchase the former Regal Cinema. On Sunday,

May 1, 2011, after several months of remodeling, we held our first worship service there. After 19 years of being the portable church, the Lord had given us a home of our own! Within only a couple of years, we were averaging around 400 attenders.

In 2012, we hired Jonathan Minter to be our Executive Pastor. With the acquisition of a building to manage and the doubling of our church attendance, we knew that we had to grow our pastoral staff to serve a much larger congregation. One of the things that we've learned is that the church won't out grow the size of the pastoral care team.



In 2015, we launched our second campus in Rocky Mount with a team led by Pastor Jonathan and Nicole Combs. We named it Eastgate Community Church. After renting Rocky Mount Academy for the first two years, we moved into our present location on Hwy. 301. We celebrated our ninth year this past September.



In 2017, we hired a consultant to help us design a Master Plan for our Wilson campus. Phase One was the children's ministry wing and playground. Using borrowed funds and the rent we receive from the Great Achievement Academy that rents it, we completed Phase One in 2018.



In 2019, we raised \$1.2 million through our 3-year generosity initiative Rise Up in order to accomplish Phase Two. This was a miraculous event in our church, made even more amazing in that it took place during COVID! We used these funds to build our Gathering Place, remodel the bathrooms and lobby. We completed Phase Two in the Spring of 2022. We celebrated our 30-year anniversary in 2022 and changed our church name to Eastgate Church, so both

campuses share the same name. Completing Phase Two, we have been able to make room for more people at our Wilson campus, so that we've been able to offer two worship venues on Sundays.



We also raised \$50 thousand from our Rise Up initiative for our Future Home Fund for Rocky Mount. We established this fund to begin to save for a future home when the time came.



We have come so far, yet we have further to go! We believe It's Time to stretch and grow again. It's Time to strengthen our community engagement, elevate our ministry capacity, and fearlessly lay the foundation for our future growth. It's Time to fearlessly follow our Savior's command to saturate our region with the gospel. Our church family represents less than 0.25% of the combined population of Wilson County (82,000) and Nash County (94,000), so we have much work to do!

We see evidence of God doing incredible work in our church. We see it in the many decisions to follow Christ, the transformed lives, the reconciled marriages, the sacrificial giving to the poor, the members going on mission trips, and the consistent attendance growth ministry-wide. It is evident that God has called this congregation to fill a unique role in Wilson, Rocky Mount, and in the Eastern North Carolina region.

**How far should we go
in joining the Father in
His pursuit of the lost?**

Yet, we look around us and see so many in our community who are lost, so many kids who do not know Jesus, so many singles who are searching, so many parents who need sound instruction in raising their children, and grandparents who want the best for their grandchildren. The gospel holds the answers they are seeking, the hope they are longing for, and our church is called to carry it to them. If we don't share God's love with them, who will? Do we dare open our arms out even further? How far should we go in joining the Father in His pursuit of the lost?

These are questions that compel us to say, It's Time! Back in January of this year, Pastor Gary said that he began to feel a kind of "holy discontentment." Our attendance had rebounded since the COVID slump, but we still weren't filling up our two worship venues in Wilson. We'd made room for more, but now we needed to focus on reaching out more. Our attendance in Rocky Mount was stable, but when we asked around town,



most people still didn't know we exist.

In addition, since it had been three years since the completion of our Rise Up initiative, we felt that it was time to consider another generosity initiative to keep Wilson moving forward on its Master plan and to find a future home for our Rocky Mount campus. With this in mind, we sought advice from experts in building and in raising capital, while at the same time, we began looking at land for a future home in Rocky Mount.

It was while our team was out looking at land that a miracle happened. We were looking at a nice piece of land when we found out that another church was already looking at it. So Pastor Gary said, "Let's pop into Redeemer Church and see if anyone's home."

So our team drove to the church and knocked on the door. His whole staff answered the door and we quickly hit it off with his team. They were just finishing a staff meeting where they were discussing the sell of their property and purchase of the Lidl building. Their pastor said, "We're really praying for a Gospel-centered church to be in this building."

That day felt so spontaneous and supernatural that it was hard to not see God's hand in it, directing us. After several months of prayer and seeking wise counsel, we began discussions with Redeemer Church about purchasing their property. We started the conversation with Redeemer, asking "What if we're the church you've been praying for?"



They were asking \$1.5 million for a 9,800 square foot, 5-year old building on almost 8 acres of land. We knew the estimated cost of



acquiring the land, and building such a property, would be in the \$5 to \$7 million range. This was a miraculous opportunity! After meeting with them several times, we finally landed on a purchase price of \$1.2 million with a potential closing date sometime in April 2015.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Our church has reached yet another decisive moment in its history. We believe It's Time to strengthen our community engagement, elevate our ministries and staff capacity, and fearlessly lay the foundation for our future growth in Wilson and in Rocky Mount.

This means It's Time to...

...BE STRONG. God has called us to saturate our region with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In order to accomplish this goal, we must reintroduce ourselves to our communities, especially in Rocky Mount. When you combine the strong economic and population growth our region is experiencing, we must be strong in faith and grow in generosity to reach all the new people coming our way.

Rocky Mount is growing. One of the largest projects driving job creation is the expansion of the Cummins' Engine Plant, which is expected to add 350 new jobs. Additionally, various other businesses and manufacturers are contributing to job growth. In terms of housing, new residential developments are underway. Overall, there are over 600 new homes currently in development.

Wilson is experiencing significant growth too. Notable is Johnson and Johnson, which has announced the building of a new pharmaceutical manufacturing campus, which will create 420 high-paying jobs. Along with other companies, a total of over 1,650 new jobs are being created. In terms of housing, Wilson has 29 new residential development projects in the



works, accounting for over 5,000 new housing units.

New residents are often very open to the gospel.

New people moving to a new place are often very open to life change and having a conversation about the gospel. Therefore, it's easy to see that it's time for us to resource

and pursue this goal with intensity. This 3-year generosity initiative will strengthen our community engagement for this purpose.

How? It costs money to invest in new resident mailers, special event mailers, invite cards, door-hangers, billboards and other traditional media. If people don't know we exist, they won't come. And to reach the younger generations we must strengthen our social media engagement. Research tells us that Millennials and "Zoomers" (Also called "Generation Z," describing the demographic of people born between the mid-to-late 1990s and the early 2010s) make at least 3 to 4 visits on Google and YouTube before considering an in-person visit. This means we may need to engage a social media firm to help us improve in this area.

Millennials and Zoomers make 3 to 4 visits online before attending in person.

We've been researching firms that help manage and develop social media. We estimate it would cost around \$45 thousand a year to use the services of a social media firm. They are producing amazing results for other churches, bringing in 8-20 new visitors per week. But this is just one example of strengthening our community engagement. Other approaches will need funding too.

We have never really funded this important ministry to the level necessary, but now it's time to really go all in on making sure everyone knows about us. Because we want to ensure



that every man, woman, and child in our region has repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel. Therefore, it's easy to see that it's time for us to resource and pursue this goal with intensity. We plan to spend the first portion of our generosity initiative on this critical priority of community engagement.

...DO THE WORK. This generosity initiative will elevate our ministries and ministry capacity. As we strengthen our community engagement and as our region grows, we will see more people coming to Eastgate. This means we will need to work at sharpening and enhancing our current ministries. It also means that we will need to enlarge our ministry capacity through bringing on additional staff. We believe that we need to add at least two additional pastoral staff to our team, one in Rocky Mount and one in Wilson, in order to continue growing. This initiative will help fund these two positions until the church is able to cover it through the general budget. It is critical that we care for the increasing number of people we reach with adequate staffing and ministry resources at both campuses.

...BE FEARLESS. Finally, through this initiative we will fearlessly lay a foundation for future growth. We will need adequate space for those we reach at both campuses. In Wilson, we've already made room for more by completing Phase Two of our master plan. But we need to lay the groundwork for future expansion by setting aside a portion of the funds we raise for beginning Phase Three when the time comes.

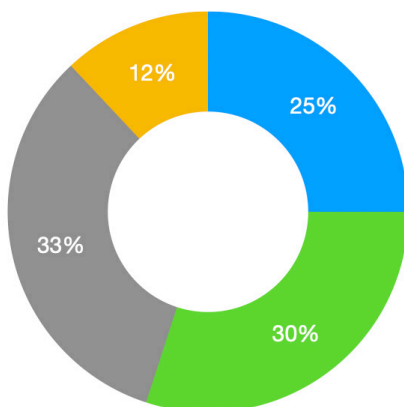
In Rocky Mount, we believe the Lord has given us a miraculous opportunity! A church property that would cost us \$5 million to build has become available. Because of our shared mission to reach Rocky Mount with the Gospel, we can purchase it for \$1.2 million. We plan to use a combination of our equity and monies committed in this generosity initiative to obtain a mortgage for the full amount.



The “It’s Time generosity initiative represents a commitment from our church family. In order to accomplish the three goals of strengthening community engagement, elevating ministry capacity, and fearlessly laying the foundation for our future growth, we intend to raise \$1.5 million through a 3-year generosity initiative that will provide a number of benefits to our church family and our community.

This pie chart gives an idea of how we plan to apportion the funds raised during the 3-year initiative.

Our primary goal during the It’s Time generosity initiative is 100% engagement of our members to take this journey of faith together. So one of the really important benefits will be that we grow spiritually in prayer and generosity and faith! This will be a new season of over and above



- Strengthen Community Engagement
- Enhance & Enlarge Ministry capacity
- Future Worship Center Fund - Wilson
- Mortgage support - New RM building

Our primary goal during the It’s Time initiative is 100% engagement

giving. Not equal giving, but equal sacrifice. This 3-year season we will be calling each other to make a spiritual response to a spiritual journey rather than a financial decision. We’re calling one another to a spiritual response.

Most importantly, this initiative will prioritize our goal to reach every man, woman, and child in our cities and region, so they have repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel. We believe God is telling us that it’s time to be strong, do the work, and fearlessly reach our region for Jesus!



I believe that God is looking for a people who want to see Him move in glorious and miraculous ways. A people who are willing to move out of their comfort zone, to say, "It's Time for more lost people to be found, more addicts to be set free, more homeless to find a home, more children to be raised up in Christ, for more marriages to be reconciled and more orphans to find a family. It's time to ensure that every man, woman, and child in our cities have repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the Good News of Jesus. As Jesus commanded us:

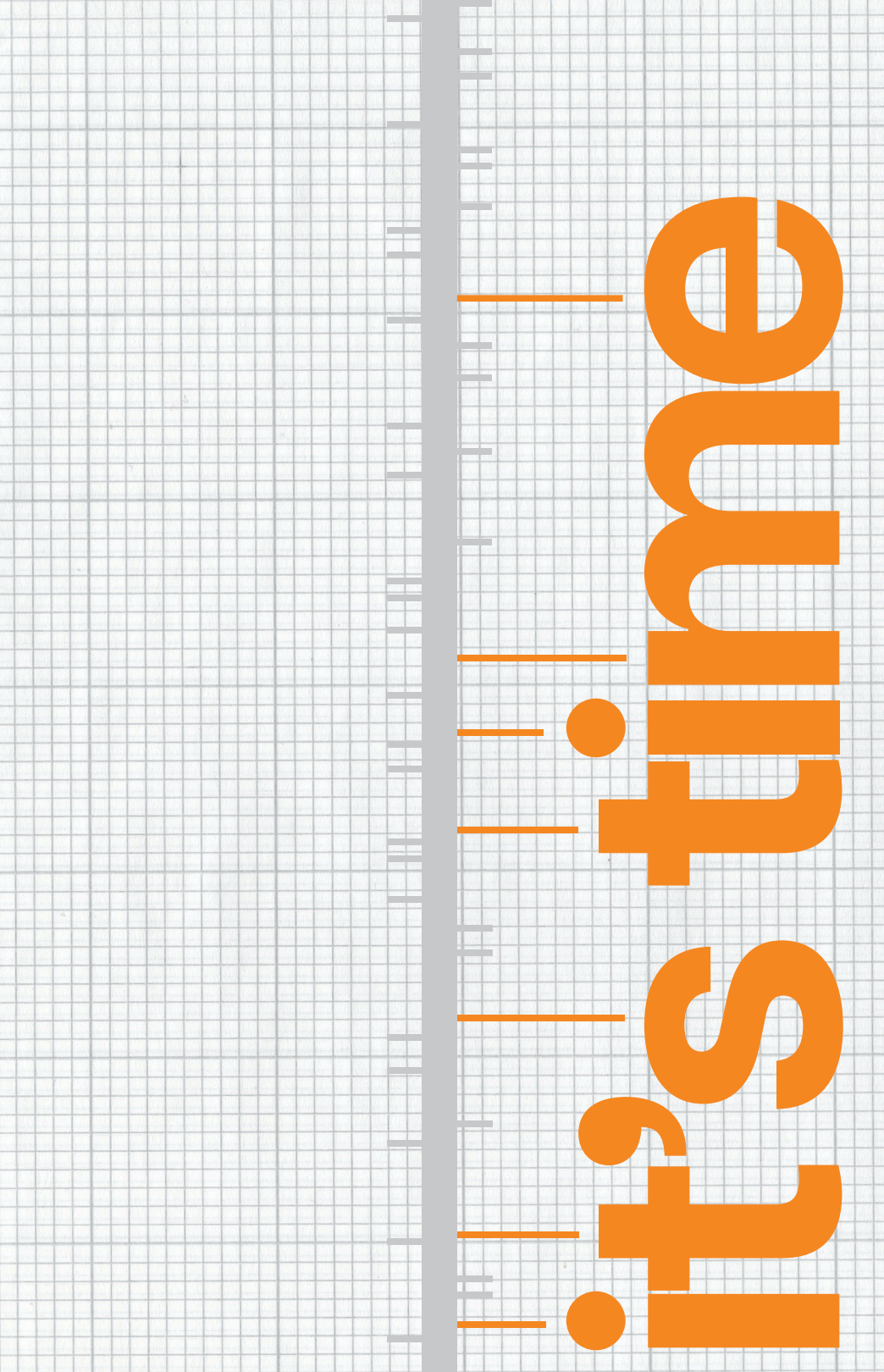
Mark 26:15 (NLT) "And then he told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.'"

Our vision is to invite people to join God's family with us. We feel it's time to be strong, do the work and to be fearless in seeing more people answer the invitation to . . .

"Come as you are and be forever changed by the love of Jesus."







it's time

Sermon Notes Tab

Sermon Notes Tab

SERMON NOTES



#1 _____

NOTES

[illegible]

Please write down three things from the sermon that you'd like to discuss in your small group this week. Share these items with your small group leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



#2

NOTES

[illegible]

Please write down three things from the sermon that you'd like to discuss in your small group this week. Share these items with your small group leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



SERMON NOTES

#3

Haggai 1:12-15 – Sunday, January 26, 2025

NOTES

[illegible]

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

Please write down three things from the sermon that you'd like to discuss in your small group this week. Share these items with your small group leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



SERMON NOTES

#4 _____

Haggai 2:1-5 – Sunday, February 2, 2025

NOTES

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

Please write down three things from the sermon that you'd like to discuss in your small group this week. Share these items with your small group leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



SERMON NOTES

#5 _____

Haggai 2:6-9 – Sunday, February 9, 2025

NOTES

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

Please write down three things from the sermon that you'd like to discuss in your small group this week. Share these items with your small group leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



SERMON NOTES

#6 _____

Haggai 2:10-17 – Sunday, February 16, 2025

NOTES

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

Please write down three things from the sermon that you'd like to discuss in your small group this week. Share these items with your small group leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



SERMON NOTES

#7 _____

Haggai 2:18-19 – Sunday, February 23, 2025

NOTES

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

Please write down three things from the sermon that you'd like to discuss in your small group this week. Share these items with your small group leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



SERMON NOTES

#8 _____

Haggai 2:20-23 – Sunday, March 2, 2025

NOTES

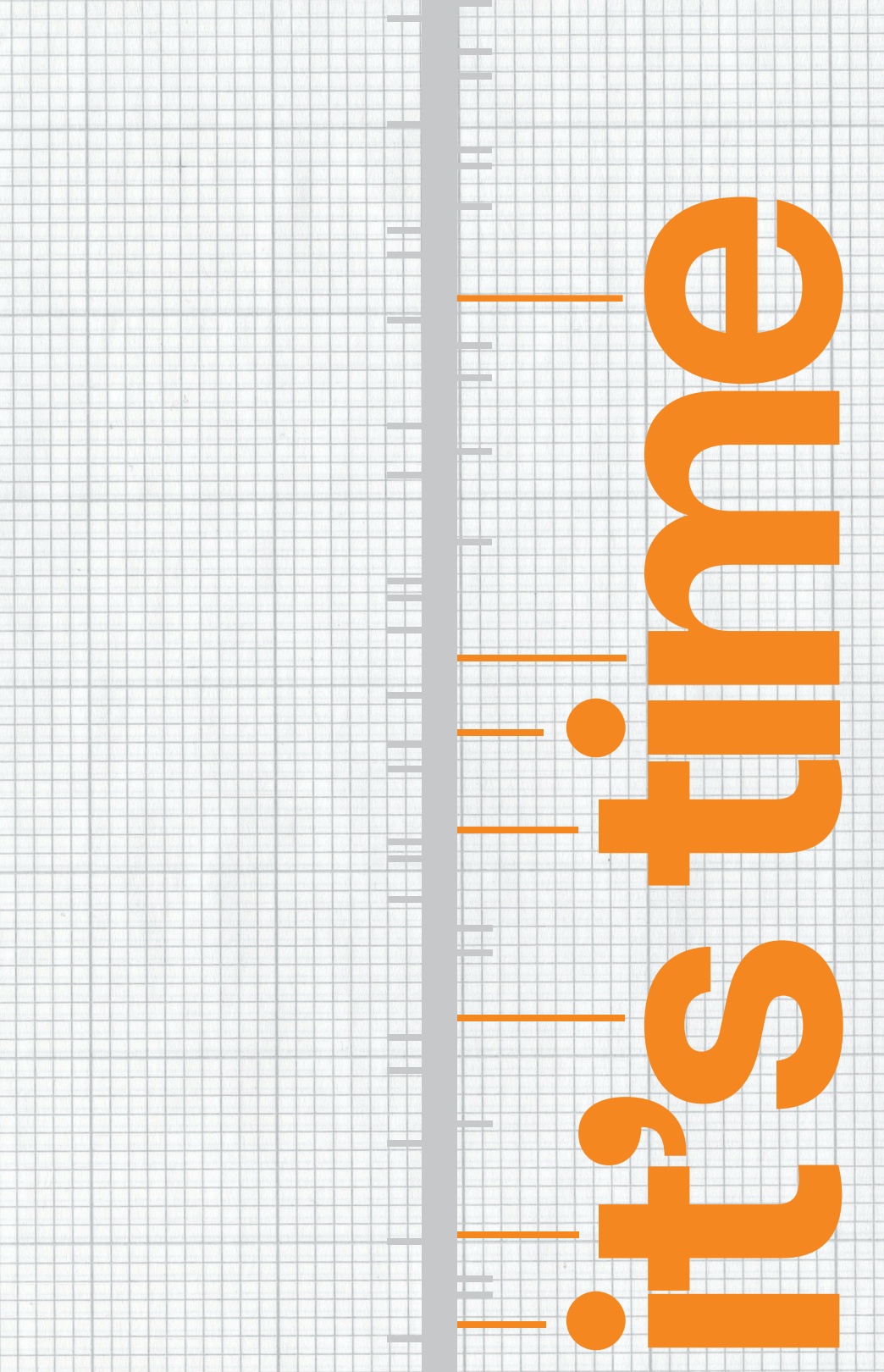
COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

Please write down three things from the sermon that you'd like to discuss in your small group this week. Share these items with your small group leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____





The image features a vertical ruler on the right side, set against a light gray grid background. The ruler has a thick gray vertical line and orange tick marks of varying lengths. The text "it's time" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, positioned to the left of the ruler. The text is oriented vertically, with "it's" at the top and "time" at the bottom. The apostrophe in "it's" is a small circle. The overall design is clean and modern, with a focus on the text and the ruler's scale.

it's time

6-Week Devotional Tab

6-Week Devotional Tab

6-WEEK DEVOTIONAL



6-WEEK DEVOTIONAL

INTRODUCTION TO HAGGAI

WHO WROTE THE BOOK?

The prophet Haggai recorded his four messages to the Jewish people of Jerusalem in 520 BC, eighteen years after their return from exile in Babylon (538 BC). Haggai 2:3 seems to indicate that the prophet had seen Jerusalem before the destruction of the temple and the exile in 586 BC, meaning he was more than seventy years old by the time he delivered his prophecies. From these facts, the picture of Haggai begins to come into focus. He was an older man looking back on the glories of his nation, a prophet imbued with a passionate desire to see his people rise up from the ashes of exile and reclaim their rightful place as God's light to the nations.

WHEN AND WHERE?

Haggai's prophecy came at a time when the people of Judah were extremely vulnerable. They had been humbled by their exile to Babylon, hopeful in their return to their Promised Land, and then so discouraged by opposition in their rebuilding of the temple that they had quit (Ezra 4:24). Now, sixteen years later, with Haggai blaming their lack of food, clothing, and shelter on their failure to rebuild the temple, the Jews were receptive to his message of rebuilding the Lord's house.

Unlike most of the other prophets, Haggai explicitly dated his prophecies, down to the day. He gave four separate messages, the first on August 29, 520 BC (Haggai 1:1); the second on October 17, 520 BC (2:1); and the final two on December 18, 520 BC (2:10, 20). These messages encouraged the people of Judah to finish building the temple and to have hope in God for the promise of blessings in the future.



WHY IS HAGGAI SO IMPORTANT?

After thousands of years, the book of Haggai remains largely unique among the books of Old Testament prophets for one key reason: the people of Judah listened! Haggai's message to rebuild the temple was passionate, simple, and straightforward (Haggai 1:8). No one could mistake whether or not his direction had been followed—the results would be evident for all the people to see. Through the physical act of rebuilding the temple, the people began to indicate a shift in their spiritual lives: from devotion to self toward devotion to God.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Haggai had an important message for the Jews who had recently returned from exile. They had forgotten their God, choosing instead to focus on their own interests, so it was time for them to “consider [their] ways” (Haggai 1:5, 7). Nothing was more important for the Jews than to show that the Lord was at the center of their thoughts and actions, so Haggai directed them to finish rebuilding God's temple.

However, rather than leaving them alone with the task of rebuilding, Haggai continued to preach to the Jews, encouraging them with the hope of future glory in the temple and a victory to come over the enemies of God's people (2:7–9, 21–22). According to Haggai's message, if the people would place God at the center of their lives, they would realize the future blessings that God had in store for His people.

HOW DO WE APPLY THIS?

Haggai's encouragement to rebuild the temple in the face of the Jews' neglect brings to mind the apostle Paul's exhortation to Christians to build our lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10–17). Are you building a life that reflects your status as a temple of the Holy Spirit, leaving a legacy that will stand the test of time?



HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

SET ASIDE TIME EVERY DAY

Jesus had a habit of getting alone with God every day to pray and hear from His Father. The gospel of Mark reports that “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (Mark 1:35). The gospel of Luke describes His habit of daily time with the Father too, saying, “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” (Luke 5:16).

This six-week devotional is designed to help you follow Jesus in this daily habit. Experts tell us that it takes six weeks to develop a habit, so make a commitment to set aside time every day and see what God does in your life. This devotional offers five readings per week. This leaves the weekends to catch up on any days you may have missed and/or to meditate on what you learned that week in your time alone with God.

IT FOLLOWS THE S.O.A.P. METHOD

What is S.O.A.P.?

S - Scripture

Take time to read God’s Word, asking God to speak to you.

O - Observation

What is God saying to you in this Scripture? Ask the Spirit of Christ to teach you and reveal His will to you.

A - Application

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or a correction for a particular area of your life.

P - Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use



this Scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Write out your prayer in the journal.

WE'VE GIVEN YOU A DAILY JUMP START

Each day's devotion already has a short S.O.A.P. jumpstart. But you should use the "Notes" section to record your own responses. You might do your own S.O.A.P. in the notes. Or you might decide to write your own personal prayer as if you were writing a letter to God ("Dear God, ...). Or you may just want to use the "Notes" section as your daily journal. The main thing is to engage the Word in prayer and meditation.

WHEN'S THE BEST TIME?

Most people prefer to do it the first thing in the morning before the day gets too busy. But that doesn't always fit everyone's schedule. So, when's the best time? When you're at your best! Are you an early morning person, then do your devotions in the morning. Are you a night owl? Perhaps before going to bed is your time. So put your journal where it will remind you. Get in a quiet place. Grab a cup of coffee. And get alone with God.



WEEK ONE: Day 1

TITLE: What time is it?

SCRIPTURE

Haggai 1:1

“In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:”

OBSERVATION

The book of Haggai begins at a specific moment in history. Notice how careful Haggai was to give the precise date when God spoke to him. The people of Israel had returned from exile but were neglecting the rebuilding of God’s temple. Instead, they focused on their own homes and priorities. God uses Haggai to ask them, “What time is it?” Is it time to focus on personal priorities and comforts, or is it time to turn their attention back to God’s work?

APPLICATION

We often get caught up in the busyness of life, putting off what matters most. Take a moment to reflect: Is it time to realign your priorities? Are there areas in your life where you’ve delayed obedience to God’s calling? Today, consider what time it is in your spiritual journey.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to recognize the times and seasons You have set in my life. Give me the wisdom to prioritize Your work above my own comfort. Amen.



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WEEK ONE: Day 2

TITLE: Consider Your Ways

SCRIPTURE

“Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.’” (Haggai 1:5-6)

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

OBSERVATION

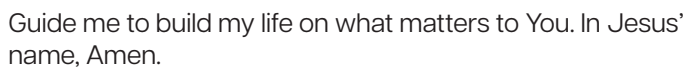
God challenges the people through Haggai to reflect on their actions. They were more concerned with their own homes while neglecting the temple. The phrase “Give careful thought to your ways” is a call for introspection and realignment. Haggai pointed out the futility of prioritizing self-interests over God’s work. Jesus emphasized a similar truth, teaching us to seek God’s kingdom first, trusting Him to meet our needs.

APPLICATION

Generosity and selflessness are themes here. Are we investing our time, talents, and resources into God’s kingdom, or are we more focused on personal gain? Let’s consider our ways and make sure we’re building what truly matters. Where are your priorities today? Are you seeking your own comfort before God’s kingdom? When we put God first, He promises to provide everything we need.

PRAYER

Father, help me to examine my heart and my priorities. Help me to seek Your kingdom first in every area of my life. May I be generous and willing to give my best for Your kingdom.



(Write your thoughts and prayers here)

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WEEK ONE: Day 3

TITLE: God's House First

SCRIPTURE

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,' says the Lord." (Haggai 1:7-8)

"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." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

OBSERVATION

God commanded the people to prioritize building His house. In the New Testament, Paul emphasizes that our giving should come from a willing and cheerful heart, as an act of worship.

APPLICATION

Building God's kingdom requires intentional and sacrificial giving. Are you willing to prioritize God's house with your time, resources, and finances?

PRAYER

Father, help me to give joyfully and prioritize Your kingdom in all I do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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WEEK ONE: Day 4

TITLE: The Lord Stirs the Spirit

SCRIPTURE

“Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God... So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel... and the spirit of Joshua... and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God.” (Haggai 1:12-14)

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:13)

OBSERVATION

The Lord stirred up the spirit of the people to do His work. Similarly, Paul tells us that it is God who works in us, motivating us to fulfill His purposes.

APPLICATION

God is the one who gives us the desire and strength to do His work. Ask Him to stir your spirit today and guide you in fulfilling His purposes.

PRAYER

Father, fill me afresh with Your Holy Spirit. Stir my heart to act according to Your will. Guide me as I serve You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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WEEK ONE: Day 5

TITLE: The Courage to Obey

SCRIPTURE

“Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. Then Zerubbabel... and Joshua... set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.” (Ezra 5:1-2)

“But Peter and John replied, ‘Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’” (Acts 4:19-20)

OBSERVATION

The people had the courage to resume building the temple despite opposition. In Acts, Peter and John demonstrated similar boldness, choosing to obey God rather than people.

APPLICATION

Obedience to God requires courage, especially when faced with challenges. Are you willing to follow God’s direction even when it’s difficult?

PRAYER

Father, grant me the courage to obey You, no matter the obstacles I face. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



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WEEK TWO: Day 6

TITLE: The Glory Yet to Come

SCRIPTURE

“The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,” says the Lord Almighty.” (Haggai 2:9)

“Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.” (John 2:19-21)

OBSERVATION

Haggai prophesied that the glory of the new temple would surpass the old. This was not because it was greater than the first Temple that Solomon built. It wasn't. It was because the Messiah would someday walk in its courts. Jesus revealed that the true temple is His own body, signifying a greater fulfillment through His resurrection.

APPLICATION

God's presence is no longer confined to buildings; it dwells in us through Christ. The Church is not the steeple, it's the people! How does this truth shape your view of worship and service?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for making us your true temple in Christ. Help me to abide in You as Your dwelling place. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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WEEK TWO: Day 7

TITLE: Faith Over Fear

SCRIPTURE

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Now hear these words: ‘Let your hands be strong so that the temple may be built. You who are hearing these words from the mouths of the prophets... When the foundation was laid for the rebuilding of the temple of the Lord Almighty, the people came and rejoiced. Before that time there were no wages for people or hire for animals... But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as I did in the past,’ declares the Lord Almighty. ‘The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. As you have been an object of cursing among the nations, Judah and Israel will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.’” (Zechariah 8:9-13)

“He replied, ‘Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’” (Matthew 17:20)

OBSERVATION

Zechariah encouraged the people of Israel to be strong in faith, trusting in God’s promises for their future blessings despite the fear they may have had. Jesus’ words in Matthew remind us that even small faith can move mountains and overcome fears.

APPLICATION

Fear often paralyzes us, but faith empowers us. God calls us to act in faith, no matter how small we feel our efforts are. Ask God to help you trust Him for the impossible and to give you courage to move forward in His work.



NOTES

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WEEK TWO: Day 8

TITLE: *God's Presence Brings Peace*

SCRIPTURE

"But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'" (Haggai 2:4-5)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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." (Philippians 4:6-7)

OBSERVATION

God reassured His people in Haggai that His presence would be with them as they rebuilt the temple. In Philippians, Paul speaks of the peace that comes when we trust in God's presence, regardless of circumstances.

APPLICATION

God's presence is the source of our peace. When you face stress or uncertainty, turn to God in prayer, trusting that He is with you and that His peace will guard your heart.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your promise of peace and presence. I surrender my worries to You today and ask for Your peace to fill my heart. Guide me in Your presence, and help me to trust You fully. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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WEEK TWO: Day 9

TITLE: A Holy Reminder

SCRIPTURE

“On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Haggai: ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: Ask the priests what the law says: ‘If someone carries consecrated meat in the fold of their garment and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, olive oil or other food, does it become consecrated?’ The priests answered, ‘No.’ Haggai said, ‘If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?’ ‘Yes,’ the priests replied, ‘it becomes defiled.’ Then Haggai said, ‘So it is with this people and this nation in my sight, declares the Lord. Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.’” (Haggai 2:10-14)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

OBSERVATION

Haggai taught that the people's offerings were defiled by their sin, reminding them that holiness is not transferred by proximity but requires purification. Similarly, John assures us that when we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive and purify us.

APPLICATION

Are there areas of your life that need cleansing? God is faithful to forgive and purify us when we come to Him in confession. Don't let sin defile your offering to God. Confess and allow Him to cleanse you.

PRAYER

Lord, I confess my sins before You. Purify my heart and mind, and help me to live a life that is holy and pleasing to You. Thank You for Your forgiveness and grace. Amen.



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WEEK TWO: Day 10

TITLE: God's Blessing on the Faithful

SCRIPTURE

"Now give careful thought to this from this day on—consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the Lord's temple. When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew, and hail, yet you did not return to me, declares the Lord. From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid. Give careful thought: Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. 'From this day on I will bless you.'" (Haggai 2:15-19)

"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." (Luke 6:38)

OBSERVATION

Haggai reminded the people that their disobedience had brought hardship, but upon their repentance and obedience, God promised to bless them. Jesus teaches that generosity is rewarded, and God blesses those who give with a heart of cheerfulness and faith.

APPLICATION

God blesses those who are faithful in obedience, whether in our giving or our service. Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to greater faithfulness? Trust Him and step out in obedience, knowing He rewards those who honor Him.



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WEEK THREE: Day 11

TITLE: Strength for the Task

SCRIPTURE

“Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord. ‘Be strong, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the Lord Almighty.” (Haggai 2:4)

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
(Philippians 4:13)

OBSERVATION

In Haggai 2:4, God commanded Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people to be strong and work on rebuilding the temple, reassuring them of His presence with them. The New Testament echoes this encouragement through Paul’s words in Philippians, reminding us that our strength for any task comes from Christ.

APPLICATION

God’s call to “be strong” is a reminder that the strength needed to accomplish His work does not come from ourselves but from Him. Just as the people of Israel were encouraged to work despite opposition, we too are called to persevere in the calling God has given us, knowing that Christ’s power is our source of strength.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your promise of strength when we feel weak and discouraged. Help me to rely on Your strength and not my own as I take on the tasks You have set before me. I trust in Your presence and power to guide and equip me for everything I need to do. In Jesus’ name, amen.



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WEEK THREE: Day 12

TITLE: God's Perfect Timing

SCRIPTURE

"From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid. Give careful thought: Is there yet any seed left in the barn?... From this day on I will bless you." (Haggai 2:18-19)

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Now hear these words, "Let your hands be strong so that the temple may be built." Before that time there were no wages for people or hire for animals. But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as I did in the past,' declares the Lord Almighty." (Zechariah 8:9-11)

OBSERVATION

Haggai and Zechariah speak of God's timing in blessing His people. Though they faced hardship, God promised that His blessing would come as they faithfully completed His work. The people had to trust in God's perfect timing.

APPLICATION

Sometimes we want immediate results from our efforts, but God's timing is different. Trust that as you follow His lead and obey His instructions, His blessing will come in the right season. Are you willing to wait on God's timing?

PRAYER

Lord, help me to trust Your timing. Give me patience and faith to wait for Your blessing as I faithfully do Your work. In Jesus' name. Amen.

[illegible]



WEEK THREE: Day 13

TITLE: Seeing God's Hand in Provision

SCRIPTURE

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty. "What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground."... 'Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the Lord that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?'" (Zechariah 4:6-10)

OBSERVATION

God reminded Zerubbabel that the rebuilding of the temple would not be accomplished by human strength but by His Spirit. The small beginnings were part of God's grand plan, and He assured them that His Spirit was the source of their provision and power.

APPLICATION

When faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges, remember that it is God's Spirit, not our own strength, that accomplishes His work. Have faith that God can turn small beginnings into great outcomes.

PRAYER

Father, empower me to see Your hand in my efforts. Help me not to rely on my own strength but to trust fully in Your provision and guidance. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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WEEK THREE: Day 14

TITLE: The Heart of Generosity

SCRIPTURE

“Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the Lord.” (Haggai 1:8)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

OBSERVATION

God’s command to rebuild the temple was not only about physical restoration but about prioritizing His glory over personal priorities. Jesus echoes this by teaching that what we treasure most, reveals our hearts. True generosity is about seeking God’s glory above all else.

APPLICATION

Consider where your “treasure” lies. Is it in building up your own house, or is it in honoring God? Practice generosity today as a way to align your heart with the values of God’s kingdom. Giving is the antidote for greed.

PRAYER

Father, help me to store up treasure in heaven by living generously. Let my giving reflect my desire to honor You above all. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



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WEEK THREE: Day 15

TITLE: The Heart of Generosity

SCRIPTURE

“Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the Lord.” (Haggai 1:8)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

OBSERVATION

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WEEK FOUR: Day 16

TITLE: Building Together in Unity

SCRIPTURE

“So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel... and the spirit of Joshua... and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God.” (Haggai 1:14)

“...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.” (John 17:21)

OBSERVATION

Haggai describes a powerful moment of unity when God stirred the hearts of the leaders and the people to work together. Jesus prayed for unity among His followers, knowing that this oneness would reflect God's glory to the world.

APPLICATION

Are you working in unity with others in your community or church? Unity in God's work is a sign of His Spirit moving among us. Seek to promote unity and work together for His glory.

PRAYER

Father, unify us as Your people. Stir our hearts to work together for Your purposes and reflect Your love to the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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WEEK FOUR: Day 17

TITLE: Sacrificial Giving

SCRIPTURE

“And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts” (Haggai 2:7-9)

“As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins... ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others.’” (Luke 21:1-4)

OBSERVATION

God promised a greater glory for the new temple, not based on its outward appearance but on the future coming of Messiah and the New Covenant. This inspired sacrificial giving from God’s people. In Luke, Jesus highlighted the widow’s offering, emphasizing the value of sacrificial giving from the heart.

APPLICATION

True generosity is not measured by the amount given but by the heart behind it. Are you giving out of abundance or sacrificially, like the widow? Trust God to use your gifts for His glory.

PRAYER

Lord, teach me to give sacrificially and from a heart of love. May my offerings reflect my trust in You and my desire to honor Your name. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



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WEEK FOUR: Day 18

TITLE: God's Assurance in Giving

SCRIPTURE

"From this day on I will bless you." (Haggai 2:19)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously... 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." (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

OBSERVATION

God promised to bless the people from the moment they committed to rebuilding His temple. Paul reinforces this principle in the New Testament, teaching that God blesses those who give generously with a willing heart.

APPLICATION

Are you hesitant to give because of fear of lack? Trust God's promise that He will provide abundantly as you sow generously into His kingdom.

PRAYER

Father, help me to give with a cheerful heart, trusting in Your promise of provision. Let my giving be an act of faith in Your abundance. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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WEEK FOUR: Day 19

TITLE: The Power of God's Spirit

SCRIPTURE

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty." (Zechariah 4:6)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8)

OBSERVATION

Zechariah's message emphasized that the work of God could not be accomplished through human strength but only through His Spirit. In the New Testament, Jesus promised His followers the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish His mission.

APPLICATION

Are you relying on your own strength to fulfill God's purposes? Seek the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in your life. He is the source of strength and guidance for all that God calls you to do.

PRAYER

Father, fill me with Your power by Your Holy Spirit. Help me to rely on You instead of my own strength. Enable me to do the work You have called me to with boldness and faith. Amen.



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WEEK FOUR: Day 20

TITLE: Investing in Eternal Rewards

SCRIPTURE

“I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,” says the Lord Almighty.” (Haggai 2:7)

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

OBSERVATION

Haggai’s prophecy pointed to a future glory that would come when Messiah would come and the nations brought their treasures to God’s house. Jesus taught His followers to seek God’s kingdom first, promising that their needs would be met as they prioritize His work.

APPLICATION

Are you investing your time and resources in things that have eternal value? Prioritize God’s kingdom, trusting that He will provide for your needs as you seek His purposes first.

PRAYER

Father, help me to seek Your kingdom above all else. Let my investments in time, talent, and treasure reflect a heart that prioritizes Your eternal purposes. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



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WEEK FIVE: Day 21

TITLE: Choosing to Be a Blessing

SCRIPTURE

“So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel.” (Ezra 6:14-15)

“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.” (Luke 6:38)

OBSERVATION

The Jewish leaders, spurred by the prophetic words of Haggai and Zechariah, chose to continue building despite challenges. Jesus taught that a generous heart reaps abundant blessings, reflecting God’s generosity.

APPLICATION

Consider how you can be a blessing to others through your giving. Whether it’s time, encouragement, or resources, choose to give freely, trusting God’s promise of abundant returns.

PRAYER

Father, make me a generous giver in every area of my life. Help me to give freely, trusting that You will bless and multiply my efforts. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

[illegible]



WEEK FIVE: Day 22

TITLE: *Seeing Beyond the Present*

SCRIPTURE

“Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Be strong... and work. For I am with you,’ declares the Lord.” (Haggai 2:3-4)

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

OBSERVATION

The elders remembered the grandeur of Solomon’s temple and felt discouraged by the new one’s appearance. Yet God called them to see beyond the present and trust in His promise of greater glory. Similarly, faith involves believing in what we cannot yet see.

APPLICATION

Are you feeling discouraged because the present doesn’t look like what you expected? Hold onto faith in God’s promises, trusting that He is working out a future of greater glory.

PRAYER

Father, help me to see beyond my present circumstances and trust in Your promises. Strengthen my faith to believe in what I cannot yet see. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



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WEEK FIVE: Day 23

TITLE: Sowing Generously

SCRIPTURE

“Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree... have not borne fruit. From this day on I will bless you.” (Haggai 2:19)

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10-11)

OBSERVATION

God assured His people that even though they hadn’t seen the fruit yet, His blessing was coming. Paul echoes this by encouraging the Corinthians to sow generously, promising that God would provide and multiply their efforts.

APPLICATION

Don’t hold back in your giving or in your acts of service, even if you haven’t seen immediate results. Trust that God will bless and multiply your efforts as you sow generously.

PRAYER

Father, help me to give and serve generously, trusting that You will bring about a fruitful harvest. Increase my faith to believe in Your promises of provision and blessing. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



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WEEK FIVE: Day 24

TITLE: *The Promise of God's Presence*

SCRIPTURE

"This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear." (Haggai 2:5)

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
(Matthew 28:20)

OBSERVATION

God reminded the Israelites of His enduring promise: His Spirit was still with them, just as it had been during their exodus from Egypt. Jesus gave a similar promise to His disciples, assuring them of His continual presence.

APPLICATION

Are you facing challenges that make you fearful or uncertain? Take comfort in God's promise that His Spirit is always with you, guiding and strengthening you.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the promise of Your presence. Help me to remember that You are always with me, no matter what I face. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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WEEK FIVE: Day 25

TITLE: A Vision for God's Glory

SCRIPTURE

"I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt... My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem." (Zechariah 1:16-17)

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

OBSERVATION

Zechariah received a vision of a prosperous and restored Jerusalem, filled with God's mercy and comfort. The gospel of John describes the incarnation of the Son of God and how the glory of God was revealed in Him.

APPLICATION

What vision has God given you for your life, your family, or your community? Align your actions with His purposes, seeking to bring Him glory in all you do.

PRAYER

Father, give me a vision for what You want to accomplish in my life. Help me to live in a way that draws others to You and glorifies Your name. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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WEEK SIX: Day 26

TITLE: The Priority of God's House

SCRIPTURE

"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. 'Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.'" (Haggai 1:9)

"Since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:21-25)

OBSERVATION

The people of Israel focused on their own homes while neglecting God's temple. The author of Hebrews taught that since Jesus is our great high priest over God's house, we can respond by drawing near to God, holding fast to our confession, and not neglecting His house, but stirring one another up all the more.

APPLICATION

Are you putting your own desires ahead of God's work? Make a commitment to prioritize His kingdom, trusting that He will take care of your needs.

PRAYER

Father, help me to put You first in everything. Give me the wisdom to prioritize Your kingdom and trust in Your provision for my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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WEEK SIX: Day 27

TITLE: Responding to God's Call

SCRIPTURE

"Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem... Then Zerubbabel... and Joshua... set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem." (Ezra 5:1-2)

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" (Matthew 9:37-38)

OBSERVATION

Haggai and Zechariah's prophetic words stirred the people to action, prompting them to resume the rebuilding of the temple. Jesus highlighted the need for laborers in God's harvest field, calling His disciples to pray for and respond to this need.

APPLICATION

God's call to action still stands today. Are you willing to respond and serve where He needs you most? Pray for workers and be ready to be part of the answer to that prayer.

PRAYER

Father, I pray for more workers in Your harvest field. Stir my heart and make me willing to respond to Your call, ready to serve wherever You need me. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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WEEK SIX: Day 28

TITLE: Generosity that Builds Up

SCRIPTURE

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who has put it into the king’s heart to bring honor to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem in this way and who has extended his good favor to me before the king and his advisers.” (Ezra 7:27-28)

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

OBSERVATION

Ezra praised God for moving the heart of a foreign king to support the rebuilding of the temple. This generosity was seen as an act of God’s favor and an opportunity for His people to give thanks. Paul reminded the early church that giving brings greater blessing than receiving.

APPLICATION

Generosity is a reflection of God’s character. When we give, we build up God’s work and experience His joy. Look for opportunities to give generously today, knowing that it brings blessing not only to others but also to your own heart.

PRAYER

Lord, make me a cheerful and generous giver, like You. Help me to see the joy and blessing in giving more than receiving. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



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WEEK SIX: Day 29

TITLE: Encouragement to Keep Building

SCRIPTURE

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel, you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of ‘God bless it! God bless it!’” (Zechariah 4:6-7)

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

OBSERVATION

Zechariah’s vision was a message of encouragement to Zerubbabel: the rebuilding of the temple would not be accomplished through human strength but by God’s Spirit. Paul shared a similar encouragement, reminding believers that God completes the good work He begins.

APPLICATION

Are you feeling weary in your efforts to serve or build what God has called you to? Trust in His Spirit to give you the strength to continue. Remember, He who started the work will see it through to completion.

PRAYER

Father, I rely on Your Spirit, not my own strength, to complete the work You’ve called me to. Encourage my heart today, and give me the perseverance to keep building for Your glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



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WEEK SIX: Day 30

TITLE: An Unshakable Kingdom

SCRIPTURE

“The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth” (Haggai 2:20-21)

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28-29)

OBSERVATION

The Lord spoke to Haggai a second time, describing a future when One in the line of Zerubbabel (who was in the line of David), would come shake up everything. The author of Hebrews calls believers to be grateful for the Kingdom they are receiving cannot be shaken. For it is the Kingdom of God.

APPLICATION

What is the most significant thing you could be involved in on planet earth today? Isn't it the Kingdom of God? For all other nations and kingdoms will be shaken and will pass away, but the Kingdom of God will last forever.

PRAYER

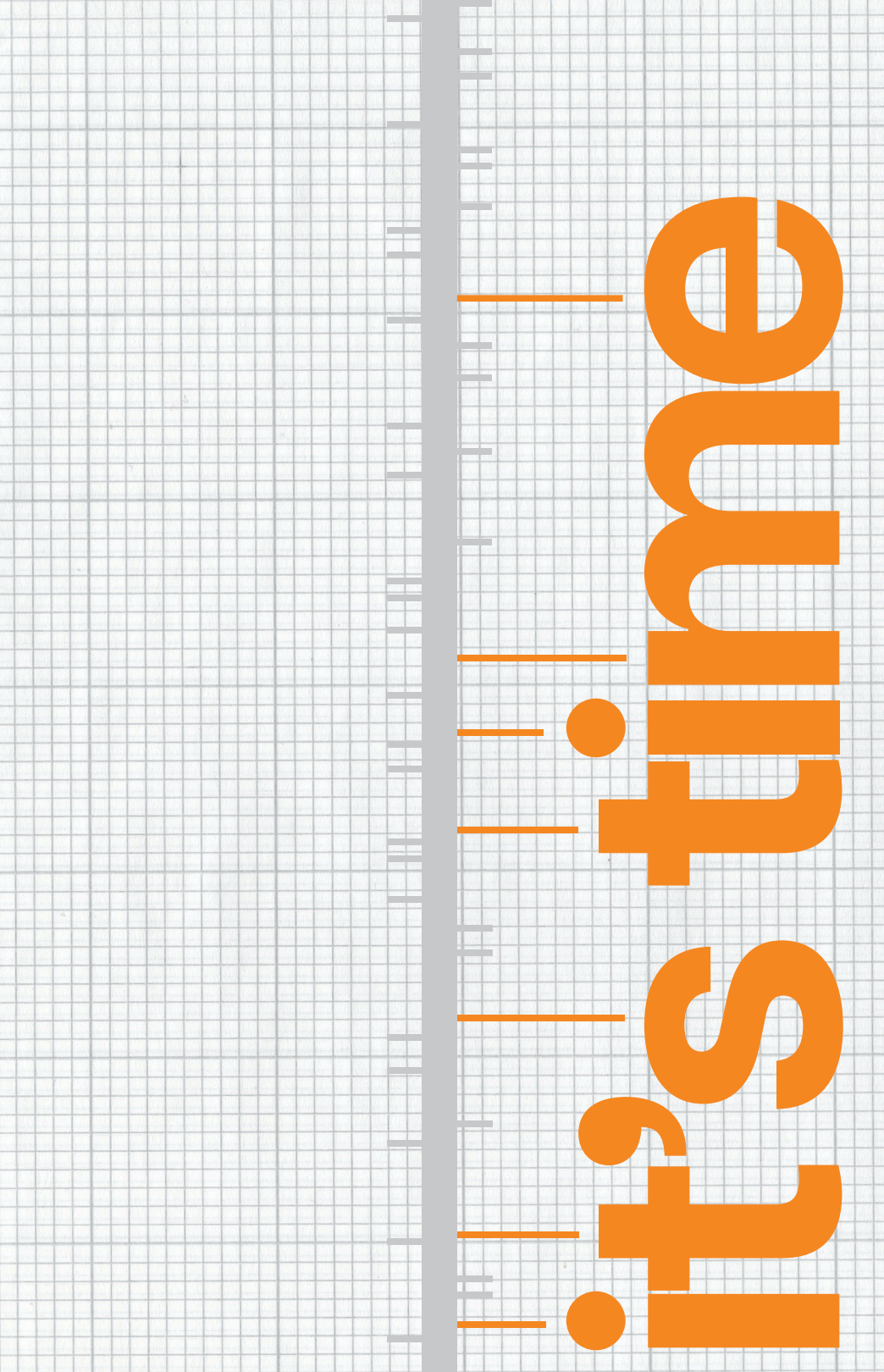
Father, help me to keep my focus on Your Kingdom. I want to pray “Kingdom come” prayers. Your kingdom come, Your will be done in me and in my family and in my world today. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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it's time

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PRAYER



PRAYER

Undoubtedly the most important aspect of the IT'S TIME Faith Journey is prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to lead us. Although the desired outcome of this process is our ability to be more effective in reaching and ministering to people, the process to get there, is a spiritual and faith-filled one. The process we want to undertake, if done right, will help each of us grow closer to God as we seek Him, hear His voice, step out in faith and obedience and follow Him into the future.

The Devotional section in this Faith Journey Guide will help you through your personal journey of prayer and surrender. A prayer that we encourage everyone in our church family to pray in this season is, "God, what do you want to do through me?"

It is important that we, as a Church Body, also pray for others. We call this intercessory prayer. Intercessory prayer can be defined in two ways:

- Praying for those who cannot or will not pray for themselves.
- Going to God to plead the case of another.

Here are some prayer points that we'll be praying in this season as individuals, Community Groups, and as a church:

- That God would continue to help us see people come to faith and mature in Christ.
- That we would grow in our Heart for God, Heart for Each Other, and Heart for Our World.
- That God would move through us to serve others well.
- That God would help us love Eastern NC and the world in a greater way.
- That we would plant more "city" churches in our region and world.



THOSE FAR FROM GOD

IT'S TIME is all about reaching people who are far away from God. We are strengthening our community engagement, ministries, and improving our buildings in order to reach more people with the gospel. We have many reasons to pray, and many of those are people who are far from God right now.

- Pray that those who have never known the peace and power of life in Christ encounter God through our church family, that we would celebrate all God is doing in our church everywhere we go, and that we would reach more people than ever before.
- Pray that lost people will flood into our church as we increasingly make more room for them to come and know the love of Jesus.
- Pray that we tangibly LOVE our city through compassion, care and service.

100% PARTICIPATION

- Pray that everyone who calls our church their home will prayerfully pursue God's will for them.
- Our goal is not that everyone would give equal amounts, but that everyone would give equal sacrifice as God directs them. Let's pray that God would lead each person as to what that means for him or her.
- Pray that God will prepare our hearts for what He will require of us.
- Pray that God will reveal to us what financial resources we should give, that a spirit of sacrificial giving will prevail, and that the theme "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifices" will be clear.
- Pray that everyone is impacted spiritually through the **IT'S TIME** Faith Journey.



PRAYER GUIDE

ACTS

ADORATION:

Express your worship and praise to God. Celebrate how great God is; invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

CONFESSION:

Admit your sins to God, thanking Him for forgiveness through Christ. Admit areas in your life that may be outside of God's will for you or areas that may not be pleasing to God. You can even confess your hesitation to engage in the process.

THANKSGIVING:

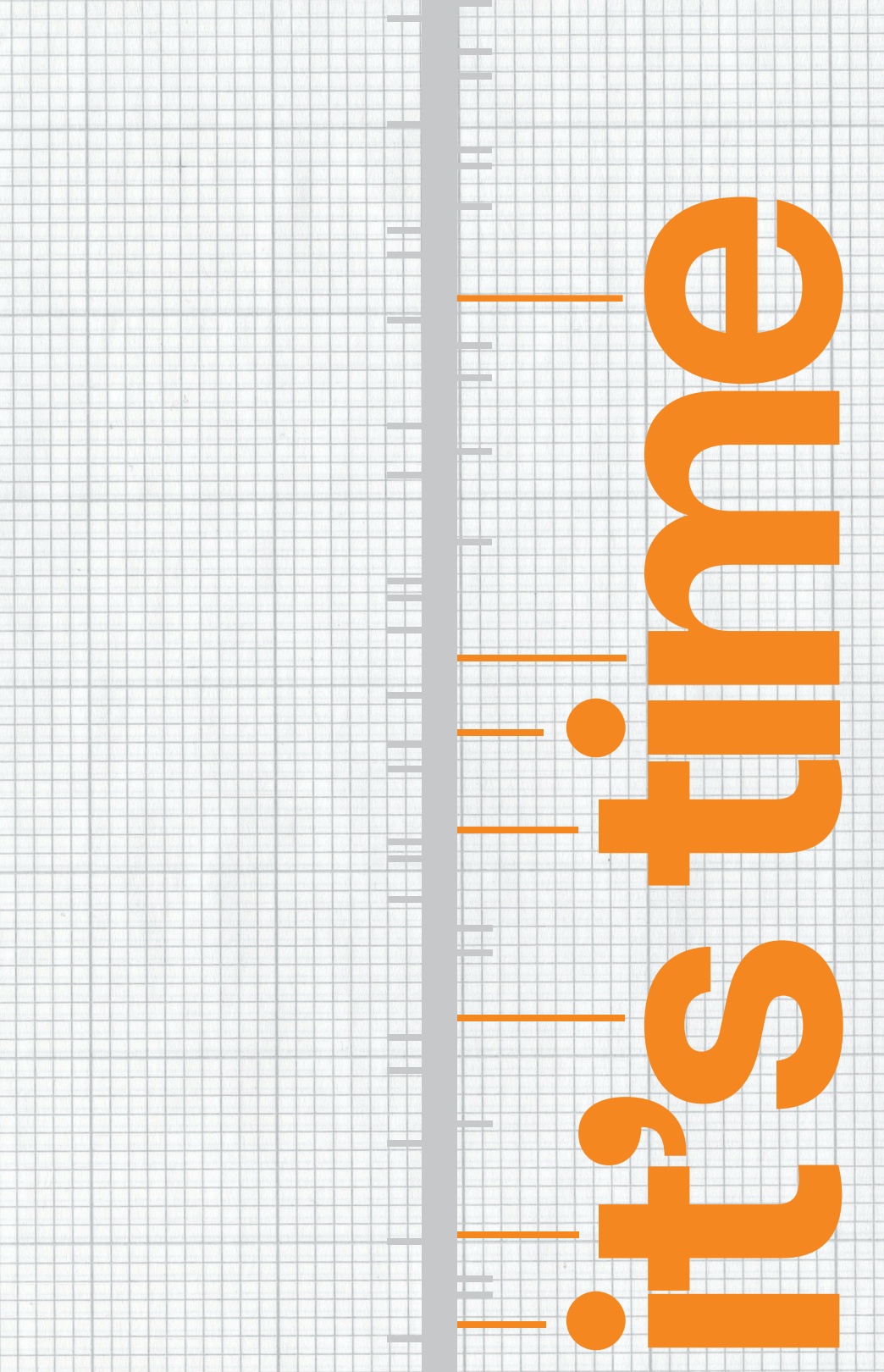
List all the blessings God has bestowed on you. Give thanks for all things. Think about the many aspects of your life for which you can be grateful. Many times we are more blessed than we think. Thank God for your family, friends and all the great things God has done in your life.

SUPPLICATION and SURRENDER:

Admit your dependence on God's supply. Ask Him to meet all your needs. Relinquish all that you are and all you have to God. This may be the hardest part of this prayer progression. Open your time, talents and treasure up to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

"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 throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." — Ephesians 3:20-21





it's time

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FAQ'S



FAQs

What is “It’s Time?”

IT’S TIME is a three-year generosity initiative to fund our vision to strengthen our community engagement, elevate our ministry capacity, and fearlessly lay the foundation for our future growth. Through **IT’S TIME**, God is calling us to partner with Him by investing ourselves and our resources in greater levels of commitment, in order to saturate Rocky Mount and Wilson and the surrounding areas of Eastern North Carolina with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Our goal is that 100% of our church family will fully engage in the **IT’S TIME** journey. We want everyone praying and participating. We will trust God for the results, and move forward in the timetable that makes the most sense. We will be financially responsible. If everyone at Eastgate commits to going on this spiritual journey together, and then responds as God directs, we believe extraordinary things will happen. It really is about allowing God to do the impossible inside each of us, so that he can do the impossible through us!

Why are we doing this now?

Because it’s time. In 2017, we hired a consultant to help us design a Master Building Plan for our Wilson campus. In 2018, we completed Phase One of the plan. We opened a new children’s educational wing and playground. In 2019, we began a three-year generosity initiative called “Rise Up” with the goal of raising \$1 million to accomplish Phase Two. By the end of the initiative in 2021, we had raised over \$1.2 million in over and above giving. Our Rocky Mount campus participated in the last half of Rise Up and started raising money for a “Future Home Fund” to prepare for the future.

In 2021, we began Phase Two by remodeling another of the theater rooms, creating a multi-purpose space that we called “The Gathering Place.” We were able to use this space for



KidzFest the Summer of 2021 and launched a second worship venue in this space in November 2021. In the Spring of 2022, we completed Phase Two by remodeling the lobby, the bathrooms, the nursery, and changing the name of our Wilson campus from Wilson Community Church to Eastgate Church.

Now, it's time again to look to the future. We've made room for more at our Wilson campus by enlarging our children's ministry areas and doubling our adult worship capacity. Now, it's time to strengthen our community engagement to fill the room we've made.

It's time to address the needs of our Rocky Mount campus. We've been renting now for nine years. We've been saving for a future home. Now, a miraculous property has become available. We believe it's time to finally purchase a real home for our church family in Rocky Mount.

It's been three years since our last generosity initiative and we believe it's time to stretch again! Rocky Mount and Wilson are both experiencing economic, residential, and population growth. We believe now is the time to be strong, do the work, and to be fearless!

Why do we need to grow?

The church is the family of God. And healthy families grow. Just as parents sometimes may wish that their children wouldn't grow so fast, so we may cling to a similar sentiment for our church. Yet, the truth is, no parent would truly wish their children not to grow. That would be unhealthy and selfish. Neither should we wish that our church family wouldn't grow.

Besides, the Lord Jesus has commanded us to make disciples of all nations. As we are obedient to Christ's command, we will grow. As a result, we will need to strengthen our community engagement, so that every man, woman, and child had repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel.



We will also need to enhance our current ministries and enlarge our ministry capacity by adding more volunteers and pastoral staff. Of course, we also need to provide adequate space for this growth at both our current campuses, and at future campuses in Eastern North Carolina as the Lord leads us. Every family needs a home.

How will this be more of a spiritual journey than a capital campaign?

Because our goal is 100% engagement in taking the spiritual journey together, not in raising \$1.5 million. We will be preaching through the book of Haggai and asking our church family to respond as the people of Haggai's day did, by saying, "It's time to be strong, do the work, and to be fearless." We believe that how we handle the time, talent and treasure that God gives us is a spiritual matter. So, we will be challenging everyone to prayerfully trust God by growing in their personal investment into His kingdom. Not everyone will be able to give the same, but everyone should be willing to prayerfully consider giving more.

Radical generosity is our goal for everyone. We want to move people up the generosity ladder to experience the freedom and joy of being a generous giver and investor in God's kingdom. If everyone fully engages in the spiritual journey together, then whatever we raise, we will be thankful. Yet, we are trusting that as our people will willingly and sacrificially give above their tithes and offerings, we will be able to accomplish the vision God has given us.

Won't I get lost in the crowd of a larger church?

No, not if our church continues to follow the paradigm given in the 1st century church to grow big and small at the same time. Remember what the Scripture says, "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah" (Acts 5:42). As we grow in Sunday attendance, we will



need to launch new community groups that meet in homes. We will continue to follow the rhythm of the 1st century church—meeting in the “temple courts and from house to house.” As our church grows, you won’t get lost in the crowd. you’ll always have your community group family and you’ll have the small service teams that you serve on with others in the church.

How will we keep “It’s Time” before the people for 3 years?

We will add it to our new member classes, we will do regular status updates, we will offer updates on our website and other media. We are also exploring other ways to keep it before everyone for the whole three years. We want every member of the church family to be involved in this. This includes the children and youth. We will be offering special training and teaching to our kids and youth during the It’s Time initiative and even reminders afterwards. We’ve learned that generous children grow up to be generous adults.

How much money do we hope to raise?

We hope to raise \$1.5 million over the next three years over and above our normal tithes and offerings. We know that this will take much sacrifice and faith on our parts, but we believe that God is calling us to fully utilize what God has entrusted to us to reach more people with the Gospel. We also believe that the God who calls us to this great work, is also the God who will enable us to do it.

Couldn’t this money be spent better elsewhere?

We have always been a church that lives within its means. After all, we met in homes and rented facilities for 19 years in Wilson before having a home of our own. And now, we’ve rented for nine years in Rocky Mount. We support dozens of local, domestic, and international ministries. We spend thousands of dollars annually in benevolence and missions.

So no, we don’t think this money could be spent better



anywhere else. Our church handles all of its finances with integrity and multiple layers of accountability. We live within our means. Besides this, the church is God's "Plan A" for reaching the world with the Gospel. He doesn't have a "Plan B." The church is a better investment than the government, better than any other non-profit, or NGO.

God has given us a vision to reach the people in our two cities and the people East of 95. Shouldn't we be willing to give sacrificially so that it is used to its fullest potential? We believe that the church is the very best place to spend our generosity. We want to reach more people, inviting them to come just as they are and be forever changed by the love of Jesus.

How will having our own home in Rocky Mount help us grow?

Having a new home of our own will definitely give us a great boost. When our Wilson campus moved from rental facilities to a home of its own, it doubled in attendance almost immediately. But we also worked really hard at promoting ourselves to the community, sharpening our ministry teams, and adding another pastor to the staff to help capture and maintain the growth.

A new home of our own in Rocky Mount, one that has great visibility, is actually built to be a church, that offers great children's accommodations, including a wonderful playground, and a beautiful worship space, will definitely help us grow. Yet the building by itself will not be enough. We will need to work to strengthen our community engagement, sharpen our ministries, and add to our pastoral staff. We will plan a Grand Opening as we relaunch our church in Rocky Mount. So yes, we believe that all of this together will help us reach more people with the gospel of Jesus!

Why not build a new worship center in Wilson next?

Because we have been advised that it is neither financially feasible nor practically advisable to do the worship center



phase next. It will be the most costly phase and we want to grow in attendance and giving within our current building footprint before beginning Phase Three. This will put us in a better financial position to begin the worship center phase. But we do plan to set aside a portion of the funds from this initiative to be used for planning and design for this future phase, as well as starting a Phase Three fund, saving towards it. The time will come for Wilson to build a new worship center, but we have to fill this building first!

How does “It’s Time” help strengthen our community engagement?

It costs money to invest in new resident mailers, special event mailers, door-hangers, billboards and other traditional media. If people don’t know we exist, they won’t come. Just one mailer that goes out to several zip codes and households can cost quite a lot to cover printing, addressing and postage. And to reach the younger generations we must strengthen our social media engagement. Research tells us that Millennials and Gen Zers make at least 3 to 4 visits on Google and YouTube before considering an in-person visit. This means we may need to engage a social media firm to help us improve in this area. In addition, we want to look at adding other community outreach events like KidzFest and Whirligig to our annual calendar.

Won’t we need to add new staff to support a larger attendance?

Yes. This is actually one of the benefits of the generosity initiative. According to current church growth research, a full-time pastor is needed for every 75-100 attenders. This means we are currently staffed to maintain who we are now in Rocky Mount, and we are understaffed in Wilson. In order to grow, we believe we need to add at least two pastoral staff, one at each campus. We plan to underwrite these two ministry positions from the **IT’S TIME** initiative for three years, at which time we believe we will have grown enough to carry the additional cost in our regular church budget.



What positions do we need to fill in order to grow?

In Rocky Mount, we need an associate pastor who can lead worship and oversee our Sunday morning ministry teams. This would free up our lead pastor to focus on preaching, prayer, and guests. The rest of the ministry responsibilities could be divided between the two pastors, according to their gifting and competencies. This would double our pastoral ministry capacity in Rocky Mount.

In Wilson, we know that we are understaffed, but we're unsure about the next position most needed. Two of the ministry areas that we feel most stretched to fully cover are in getting new people connected to the church and in missions, both local and international. Really, these are two different positions, so we'll be getting counsel on this and keeping you informed as we move forward. This initiative will help us fund this very important need until our church budget can grow to support it.

How will the funds be distributed between the three goals?

First, they will be distributed according to priority, with community engagement being first priority. Then, they will be distributed according to need. We think we'll need around 25 to 30 percent of the initiative to go towards strengthening community engagement. We'll need 30 percent to go towards enhancing ministry capacity, and the final 35 to 40 percent to go towards establishing a Phase Three Fund for Wilson and supporting the additional mortgage payments as needed for Rocky Mount's new building.

How much of the money will go toward purchasing the Rocky Mount property?

We don't plan to use any of the funds in purchasing the new Rocky Mount property. The plan is to use our equity to secure a loan for the entire \$1.2 million. Our loan capacity will be a determined based on our equity, our current giving, and the



amount of our total generosity initiative commitments. We do plan to use part of the initiative funds to support the increased mortgage payments until we grow enough to cover it out of our general fund.

How will the funds be distributed between the two campuses. These funds will be collected into one fund. Although we keep our campus' budgets separate, we will be combining our It's Time giving into one fund. This will make it easier and more strategic to budget for the three goals that we share as one church, two campuses.

What happens if we don't reach our giving commitment goal?

First, we believe we will reach it. With God's help and mutual sacrifice, we exceeded the goal in our last generosity initiative. So we have faith we will reach this goal too. However, we will always live within our means and we will adjust the funding of our three goals accordingly, with the priority being in the order of the three goals. This means first priority will go to strengthening our community engagement.

What can I do?

We love this question. It reveals a servant's heart of unity and willingness. What can you do? Engage fully in the It's Time journey. Let us be like the returning Jewish exiles who were challenged to be strong, do the work, and to fearlessly sacrifice to rebuild the Temple. Accept the challenge to own this vision and calling of God. We must walk this out in unity as a church. Start by praying for people in your life yet to be reached. Pray for what God would want to do in and through you to reach them.

Ask God to speak to your heart and simply respond to his leading when the time comes in 2025. Take the time to go through the materials we will provide to prepare us to hear from God. Be diligent to participate in all aspects of the **IT'S TIME**



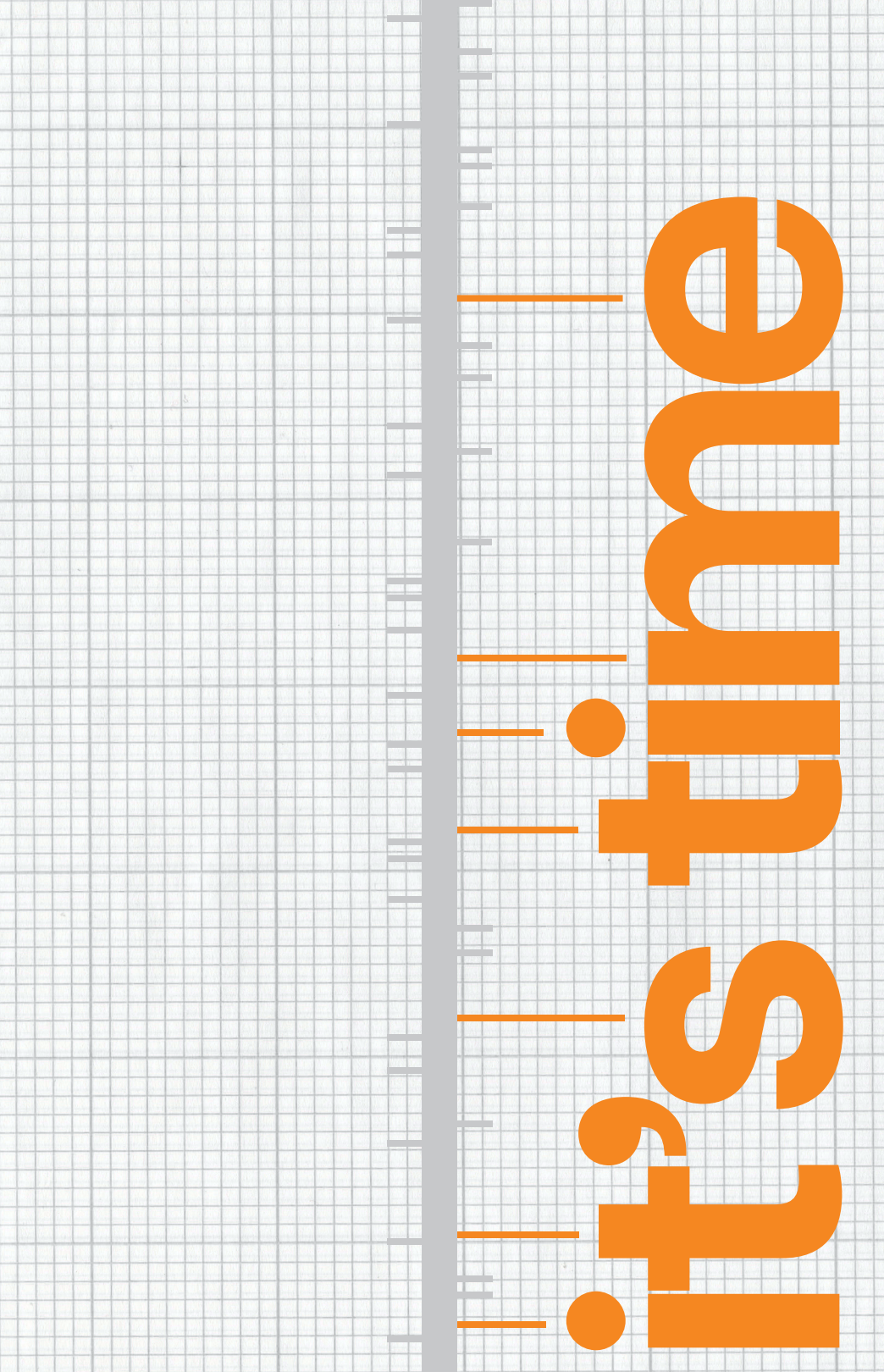
generosity initiative. Remember, our goal is 100% of our church family participating in prayer and sacrificial generosity when the time comes, so that together, we accomplish what God desires from us and for us.

What if I have more questions?

Ask them. Let us know and we'll add them to future versions of our FAQs and do our best to answer them. It's important to us that everyone's questions are given careful consideration. At the end of the day, we want to be united in vision and direction. We may not all agree on every detail (as is true in any family), but we want to always march together in unison towards God's will for us.







it's time

Commitment Guide Tab

Commitment Guide Tab

COMMITMENT GUIDE



COMMITMENT GUIDE

SO WHAT IS YOUR INDIVIDUAL PART IN IT'S TIME?

Beyond praying and serving, we're asking you to consider what role God would have you play in giving toward the IT'S TIME generosity initiative. From the beginning, our church has been marked by people who were willing to sacrifice their resources and time so that others could discover the love of God. We know that God hasn't given everyone the ability to give the same dollar amount, but He does call each of us to bring all we have – "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice."

GOD'S GUIDE FOR GIVING

The Bible has a lot to say about giving and the promises attached to it. Giving is a responsibility and a privilege. With that in mind, here are four Biblical principles on giving from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2:

"Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made." — 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

FIRST, EVERY BELIEVER IN EVERY CHURCH SHOULD GIVE

Giving is a universal principle. The apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers, "Follow the same procedure I gave to the church in Galatia." In other words, Paul is saying, "They did it in Galatia - you need to do it in Corinth." They did it in Macedonia, and we need to do it here. Every church should do this. It was not just something the Corinthians were asked to do; it is asked of every believer. No believer is exempt from giving.



SECOND, WE LEARN THAT GIVING IS TO BE DONE CONSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY

“On the first day of every week,” Paul said, “set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income.” The idea is to consistently take a percentage of your income and set it aside for the work of God. This is what the Scripture tells us to do. And then, as you do this, you are able to invest it in His kingdom.

THIRD, GIVING IS A PERSONAL ACT

Notice that Paul says, “each one of you should set aside a sum of money.” Paul’s point is that every one of us should set aside money to give. Even children ought to be taught this. Giving to God’s work is a personal act for every believer.

FOURTH, WE SHOULD PREPARE OURSELVES TO INVEST IN THE WORK OF GOD

The apostle Paul told the believers put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Paul is saying to prayerfully consider how much to give. Do it in advance. It should never be a last minute or flippant practice. Paul also says, “in keeping with your income.” In other words, not all of our gifts will be equal, but our sacrifice should be. Our giving should be in proportion to what we earn. Giving is an opportunity to be an obedient Christian. Take it seriously, but do it cheerfully. Always ask and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you.



DISCOVER OUR CHURCH'S GOD-GIVEN VISION AND YOUR GOD-GIVEN CALLING

If we want to reach the people around us, we need to make an opportunity for them to be reached. We need to engage them where they are and be prepared to minister to them when they come. We need to create a culture and an atmosphere that fosters life change and discipleship. We can do this, but not without you! You will be astounded at what God does through our sacrifices as a church.

But what you may not expect is what He does in you through sacrifice. The process of determining your **IT'S TIME** commitment can help you grow spiritually like few others things can ...if you really allow Jesus access to your heart, not just your bank account.

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

Can you imagine what it will be like to see more young families and children coming and filling our classrooms and worship spaces? Can you imagine the marriages reconciled, the children being disciplined to follow Jesus and the grandparents being encouraged? Can you imagine realizing that God has enabled you to give more than you ever dreamed possible over three years. Realizing also that your heart expanded as you became more open-handed and generous. And most of all, that you helped open the door for hundreds of people to discover a relationship with Jesus that they couldn't have imagined?

SO WHERE DO I START?

The best place to begin is by talking with God about what's on your heart and mind, specifically in relation to this giving commitment. Be honest and open with Him about where you are, but make sure you spend some time listening to what He has to tell you! Go through the DEVOTIONAL section of this Faith Journey Guide and get God's perspective.



1. DELIBERATE - TALK WITH GOD

First, we ask that you go to God and ask that His will be done in your life. It's important that you are striving to follow the direction the Holy Spirit has for you and that you find doors He wants you to walk through.

2. DEFINE - WHAT SACRIFICE LOOKS LIKE FOR YOU

What changes can you make in your life that will better enable you to invest in what you believe in? How can you give in ways that will make a difference in you?

"I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing." – 2 Samuel 24:24

3. DETERMINE - A STARTING POINT

IT'S TIME is based on this idea: "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice." In other words, not all of our gifts will be the same amount, but every one of us can meaningfully invest in proportion to the resources God has given us to work with. Your three-year commitment is to be a demonstration of the definition of sacrifice that God has revealed to you.

We thought it would be helpful to explain what commitment is and is not. A commitment is a heartfelt, Spirit-led decision to get behind the vision of our church, and it is something that you make between you and God. A commitment is not a contract or a legal agreement. It's not between you and the financial department at the church.

Your starting point should begin by praying about what you can give above and beyond your regular tithe or percentage giving. Generosity begins when we stretch beyond what is required (tithe) to what God places in your heart (generosity).



4. DECIDE - CREATE A PERSONAL GIVING PLAN

Prayerfully plan a three-year plan of giving that goes above and beyond your regular tithe. Remember, we are not just paying for outreach, ministries and buildings; we are investing in people - bringing the message of Jesus to our city and our world.

Prayer is something to keep coming back to throughout the different parts of this process. Even in the nuts and bolts of sorting out financial questions, this is a faith journey. It's not about guilt or obligation. Remember, the idea isn't to figure out a mathematical formula, it's about giving Jesus access to your heart and letting Him lead you in your financial decisions. The Holy Spirit desires to walk with you through this journey.

**Why don't you get started by praying
our **IT'S TIME** prayer?
"Jesus, what do you want to do thru me?"**

Personal Giving Plan...What is my step of faith?

In the end, rising up to join God in the impossible is about more than simple math – it's about trusting Him to do the impossible. As seen in the Bible, God often taps people on the shoulder and asks them to do something that contradicts conventional wisdom.

Where is Jesus calling you to go higher and deeper than ever before? What's the step that forces you to trust God in a new way? Where is He asking you to trust Him without a safety net – so that you can experience His ability to "catch you" in a way that radically transforms your heart and faith?

*"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."
– Hebrews 11:1*



You've just arrived at a great starting point! But the journey isn't over yet! Make sure that you attend every week in the Haggai sermon series and attend the gatherings that are available to you – and keep letting God speak to you.

Mark your calendar for February 16, 2025. It's our Commitment Weekend, where we'll be turning in our **IT'S TIME** commitments together as a church. The real journey will begin from there as we faithfully bring Him our sacrifices over the next three years – and watch Him accomplish more than we could ever ask or imagine.

IT'S TIME is not about equal gifts,
but equal sacrifice.





\$1.5 MILLION GIFT PROFILE GUIDE

What will it take for us to be successful in raising \$1.5 million? There is one thing for certain – we cannot take the total that is needed and divide it by the number of families in the church and come up with an “average” gift for every family to give! That will not work! Studying other campaigns (that have already been completed) in other churches, a very typical distribution of gifts can be found. Using that typical distribution and applying it to our church, we find a “model” distribution of gifts that it will take for us to be successful. This also underscores the Biblical principle of **proportionality** – that each of us is “called” to give according to how we’ve been blessed with financial resources!

This “tool” also underscores another Biblical principle of stewardship, the principle that decisions about giving should be made in prayer. Look at the chart below and pray the Stewardship Prayer, “Lord, what do You want to do through me?” Then ask the Lord, “Where do You see me (or us) on this chart?” (At what “level” of giving?) God will tell you – just ask!!

NUMBER OF GIFTS AT LEVEL	GIFT LEVEL	MONTHLY (36 MONTHS)	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
1	\$150,000	\$4,167	\$150,000	\$150,000
2	\$75,000	\$2,083	\$150,000	\$300,000
3	\$60,000	\$1,667	\$180,000	\$480,000
4	\$45,000	\$1,250	\$180,000	\$660,000
4	\$30,000	\$833	\$120,000	\$780,000
5	\$24,000	\$667	\$120,000	\$900,000
8	\$15,000	\$417	\$120,000	\$1,020,000
12	\$10,000	\$278	\$120,000	\$1,140,000
16	\$7,500	\$208	\$120,000	\$1,260,000
24	\$5,000	\$139	\$120,000	\$1,380,000
48	\$2,500	\$69	\$120,000	\$1,500,000



Sacrifice is always required to follow the Lord. For us to expand our capacity to equip people and continue to make a difference in our city and around the world, it is going to take some real sacrifice. It's going to take some shifting in priorities, in spending and in giving. If we want to reach the people around us, we need to make an opportunity for them to be reached. We can do this, but not without you!

REMEMBER THE GOD FACTOR

Don't put yourself in a box! As we move forward into the future of our church, what are your dreams? What if God chooses to bless your future too? We think He will. So, don't forget the "God factor" that could adjust your commitment because of a new job, raise, promotion, etc. God has shown how He can take a commitment made in faith that was a real stretch for someone and bring in the resources to meet it.











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