
GREATER
THINGS
2-YEAR SPIRITUAL GROWTH
JOURNEY IN GENEROSITY
LCBC



This book belongs to:

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A NOTE FROM JASON

Last year, I spent a lot of time praying about what was next for our church, and I kept coming back to one verse.

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." John 14:12 NIV

When Jesus says, greater things, he wasn't talking about miracles. He was talking about impact. He knew the work he started wouldn't end when he left. Through his spirit, ordinary people would get to be part of something even greater. I want that. For my family, for our church, and for you. And I don't think that longing is unique to me. I think God put it in all of us.

Greater things almost always start when we open our hands and say, "God, whatever you're asking of me, my answer is yes." When we let go of what we're convinced we can't live without so we can experience more of him. That's what Greater Things is about. I'm inviting you to join me over this next season in asking God what he wants to do—and opening your hands to whatever he says next.

I've seen how God's been faithful to LCBC over 40 years, all the way back to a group of people praying in a garage. You'll find some of that story in the pages ahead, and it's convinced me of one thing: God's faithfulness in the past is what gives me confidence in the future.

My prayer is that we'd all come through this season more surrendered, more open-handed, and more expectant. So bring this book with you every weekend for the next five weeks. Take your time with it. Let it be your guide for the series as God moves in you and through you.

I can't wait to take this next step together.



JASON MITCHELL
Senior Pastor

OUR STORY

In 1986, a small group of about 40 people began to meet in the garage of Don and Joyce Hershey to pray for their son, who had recently been in an accident. As they kept meeting, more and more people joined them and God planted a vision in their hearts to start a church focused on reaching people who'd given up on church. A church for people who needed hope in Christ.

And so, what started as a prayer movement in the early part of 1986 formed into an outward-focused church relentlessly pursuing lost people. They lived with the conviction that because lost people matter to God they'd do anything and everything they could to reach just one more.

Since then, we've seen thousands of lives changed by Christ and countless people find hope, faith, and community in ways no one could have imagined. From 40 people meeting to pray in a garage to 25 locations across the state, reaching nearly 30,000 people each weekend.

Through every season, God has been faithful. And it's his faithfulness in the past that gives us such confidence in the future. If God has done all this from a small group of people meeting in a garage, imagine what he could do with a group of thousands now spread across our state who are committed to our mission of introducing as many people as we can to Jesus.

As we step into this next season, our prayer is that each of us will be ready to join God in the greater things he wants to do in us and through us.









WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Every decision we've ever made points back to the same thing: our mission. Our history isn't a timeline of growth—it's a record of what happens when a group of people stay relentlessly focused on Jesus and committed to reaching just one more.





OUR MISSION:

WE EXIST TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO JESUS AND TOGETHER FULLY FOLLOW HIM.



WHERE WE'VE BEEN



THE GARAGE

In 1986, about 40 people gathered in the Hershey's family garage in Marietta, PA and caught a vision for starting a church committed to introducing people to Jesus and together fully following him. It seems like a no-brainer now. Back then, it was everything.

DEFINING MOMENT 1
1986



HERSHEY'S FAMILY GARAGE | MARIETTA, PA

RELEVANCE

In 1991, the group had grown to around 150 people, and we were at another defining moment: in order to reach people, we had to meet them where they were. That meant teaching in simple, relevant language people could actually understand. It meant changing the music, the instruments, even the clothes we wore. We wanted to do anything and everything we could to remove barriers to reach as many people as we could.





DEFINING MOMENT 2
1991





DEFINING MOMENT 3
1995

OPEN MORE SEATS

In 1995, LCBC had grown to 450 people, and no more room to grow. The question was simple: are we done introducing people to Jesus or do we find a way to reach one more? We added a second gathering to open more seats, and then another and another... And we never looked back.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

SACRIFICE

By 2001, LCBC Manheim had 6 gatherings, and they were all full. But we knew there were more people to reach. We knew it was time to expand with a new auditorium to open more seats, and a small group of 1,500 people gave $7.6 million to build it. It was at this point something became undeniably clear for all of us: church was never about us and what we want or what we like. It's about reaching others—and it's that heartbeat that built our church on a foundation of sacrifice and generosity.





DEFINING MOMENT 4
2001





DEFINING MOMENT 5
2003

HELP THE OVERLOOKED AND UNDER-RESOURCED

A few years later, we started asking a hard question: if LCBC disappeared tomorrow, would our communities even notice? That question sent us into action. We began partnering with organizations in the poorest regions of the world and investing in our own neighborhoods—pouring millions of dollars and countless hours into the people who needed it most.

Today, we sponsor nearly 8,000 kids, work in 9 countries, partner with 96 local non-profit organizations across Pennsylvania, and are invested in 30 prisons across the state. We aren't done yet and we can't wait to see how God leads us as our impact and influence continues to grow.

EXPAND REACH

We were out of space again in Manheim—and this time, we were told by the township we could no longer expand our building. So we faced a question we'd answered before: are we done introducing people to Jesus?

We gathered a couple hundred people from the Harrisburg region and started dreaming together: what would it look like to launch an LCBC campus there? Our people rallied. They gave. They sacrificed. The Harrisburg campus launched. Then another in Lancaster City, Ephrata, York—and on and on it went.



DEFINING MOMENT 6
2007

DEFINING MOMENT 7
2018

EXPAND VISION

As we launched new campuses, we started to ask a bold question: What if God had positioned LCBC, at this moment, to reach our state? To do whatever we could to advance the Kingdom—not just in a local community, not just in a region, but across our state?

We knew our state would be reached more effectively if we worked alongside other churches who were like-minded, so we launched The Advantage—doing whatever we could to help other churches thrive. And we knew that to reach our state, we'd have to take real ground on the digital and online front, so we made a significant investment in Church Online, the LCBC App, and our other digital platforms—showing up for people across Pennsylvania before they ever showed up to church.

Today, LCBC is 25 locations (and growing!) across Pennsylvania, as well as Church Online—working alongside hundreds of other churches through The Advantage, and impacting hundreds of thousands through digital outreach.

Every decision along the way was driven by the mission. Some were hard. Many required sacrifice. And all of them required people willing to set aside personal preference for embracing a vision of reaching just one more.





WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Over the past 40 years God has led us in incredible ways, and before we step into what's next, it's worth pausing to celebrate what he's already done in us and through us.

GATHER

We gather each week to talk to God through worship and prayer and to hear from him through Scripture—together staying focused on Jesus and fully following him.

27,328

AVERAGE WEEKEND ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR

Up 7% year over year

WHAT WE'VE SEEN SO FAR THIS YEAR:

INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO JESUS

915

PEOPLE BAPTIZED

- **35 kids**
- **296 students**
- **584 adults**







KIDS AND STUDENTS

Each week, kids and students connect with friends, learn alongside leaders, and grow closer to God.

3,228
AVERAGE KIDS ON A WEEKEND

1,265
AVERAGE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AT COLLIDE EACH WEEK

659
AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOLERS AT HSM EACH WEEK

1,798
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WENT TO CAMP THIS SUMMER



CONNECT

Life change happens when we connect in intentional Christ-centered relationships with others.

7,305
ADULTS WHO HAVE BEEN A PART OF A GROUP



SERVE

We believe that when we use the unique ways that God has gifted us, we discover purpose while growing closer to God and helping create welcoming environments where he can change lives.

6,489
PEOPLE SERVING AT LCBC

WHAT WE'VE SEEN OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS:

LOCAL & GLOBAL IMPACT

The church isn't a building—it's a group of people living out their faith in their communities making the love of Jesus easy to see.

$1,527,292
GIVEN TO LOCAL AND GLOBAL PARTNERS

6,034
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES SENT TO KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

7,916
CHILDREN SPONSORED BY OUR CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

21,370
HOPE PACKS DISTRIBUTED TO INMATES AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ACROSS THE STATE

10,069
PEOPLE SERVED FOR ONE HOUR DURING IMPACT PA





REACHING OUR STATE

Millions of people across Pennsylvania don't have a church they call home. We know they're our neighbors, our friends, our family—and we have a vision for every one of them to know the hope and love of Jesus.

25
LCBC LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE

440
CHURCHES WE'RE WALKING ALONGSIDE THROUGH THE ADVANTAGE OUR CHURCH PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY



DIGITAL REACH

We want to show up for people even before they step through our doors.

4,626,437
WEBSITE VISITS

28,639,978
VIEWS ON @LCBCCHURCH SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

1,967,896
PODCAST VIEWS & LISTENS DAILY LIFE, LIVE CHANGED, AND THE EVIDENCE

573,780
ARTICLE VIEWS

505,643
BIBLE READING PLAN SUBSCRIPTIONS ON YOUVERSION

17,652
PEOPLE USING THE LCBC APP EACH MONTH







LIVE GENEROUSLY

When we honor God with what he's given us, we're putting him first—an act of obedience, love, worship, and trust. Everything we have is his—we're simply stewards of it.

$44,272,796
ALL GIVING TO OUR CHURCH OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS



EVERY NUMBER TELLS A STORY

Behind each number is a person who said yes—to Jesus, to a group, to getting baptized, to taking a next step in their faith journey. They're a reminder of what God has already done in us and through us. We give thanks for all that we've seen God do and we believe that he can do even more than we can ask or imagine.




ALL IN
GIVE
SERVE
LOVE



GREATER THINGS ARE COMING

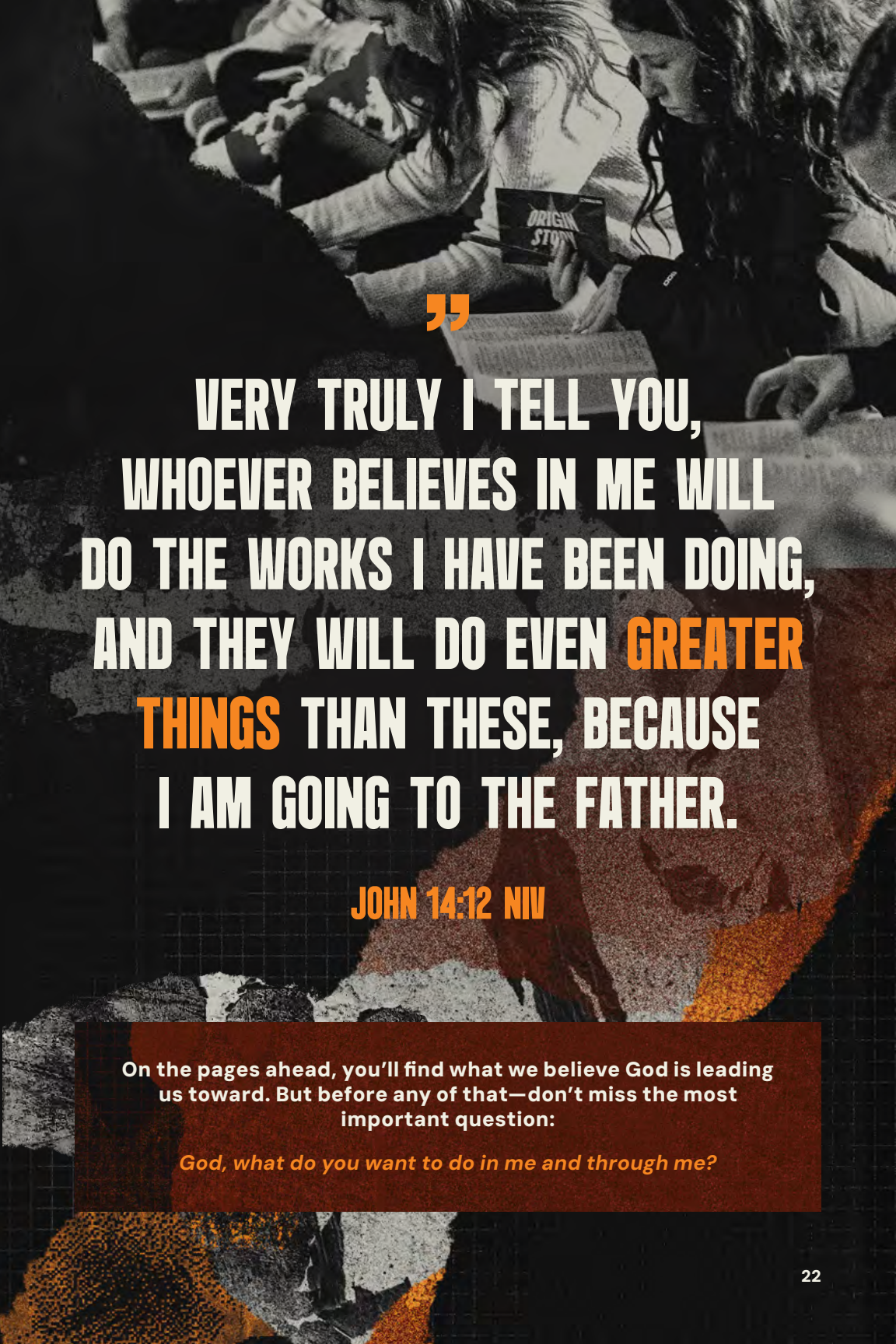
We believe we're stepping into the next defining moment in our church. A moment that will bring greater reach, greater impact, and greater hope. A moment where we'll see more and more lives changed by Christ.

We're calling this next defining moment **Greater Things**.

Greater Things is a two-year spiritual growth journey in generosity, focused on moving every person at our church toward greater open-handed, sacrificial giving and unleashing the financial resources needed to fuel the next season of mission advancement.

We believe God is calling our church to Greater Things—and it starts with us. We want each of us to courageously ask, *"God, what do you want to do in me and through me?"*

As we live more surrendered and more dependent on him, our faith deepens and our impact multiplies. The greater things he does in us will shape the greater things he does through us.



”

VERY TRULY I TELL YOU, WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL DO THE WORKS I HAVE BEEN DOING, AND THEY WILL DO EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN THESE, BECAUSE I AM GOING TO THE FATHER.

JOHN 14:12 NIV

On the pages ahead, you'll find what we believe God is leading us toward. But before any of that—don't miss the most important question:

God, what do you want to do in me and through me?

GREATER THINGS IN US

PRIMARY GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

We want every person at our church to take their next step in fully following Jesus. Our prayer is that each of us would genuinely seek God by asking what open-handed, sacrificial giving looks like for their life as we pursue the greater things he wants to do **in us** and **through us**.

GREATER THINGS THROUGH US

SECONDARY GOAL

MISSION ADVANCEMENT

GREATER REACH — $28 MILLION

GREATER IMPACT — $72 MILLION

GREATER HOPE — $25 MILLION

TOTAL: $125 MILLION
GIVEN OVER TWO YEARS

GREATER REACH

ACROSS THE STATE

We dream of a day when everyone in our state is within 20 minutes of a Jesus-centered, outward-focused church. We're asking God for greater reach—through new and growing campuses, a serious push into Western PA, and strengthening churches across the state through The Advantage—because we believe lost people matter to God, and we'll do anything and everything we can to reach just one more.

$28 MILLION TO ACCELERATE GREATER REACH

- **Expand our digital reach and grow Church Online**
- **Launch and expand locations—including expansion into Western PA**
- **Strengthen other churches through The Advantage, our church partnership ministry**

Expand our digital reach and grow Church Online.

Our world is hungry for hope, and we want to get the good news out as broadly and as fast as we possibly can. We're going to expand our digital and online footprint in some of the most significant ways we ever have—strengthening our online content and making it easier than ever to activate on it: articles, Bible reading plans, podcasts, the LCBC App, and Church Online. We want to show up for people across our state before they ever show up to church.





Launch and expand locations—including expansion into Western PA.

We want to maximize the work where campuses are already growing, launch into new communities, and expand into Western PA—bringing LCBC there for the very first time.

Strengthen other churches through The Advantage, our church partnership ministry.

We know our vision to reach the state is bigger than what we can accomplish on our own. We knew our state would be reached more effectively if we partnered with other like-minded churches to multiply impact. Through The Advantage, our church partnership ministry, we'll continue equipping and strengthening churches across our region and beyond. Today we work with 440 churches and dream of a day where we are working with more than 1,000 churches together multiplying our collective Kingdom impact.



GREATER IMPACT FOR TODAY

We are seeing spiritual momentum in fresh ways—families being strengthened, addictions broken, freedom experienced. Greater Impact is about fueling that momentum so more and more lives are changed by Christ.

$72 MILLION TO ACCELERATE GREATER IMPACT

- **Fuel day-to-day ministry momentum and growth for adults, kids, and students—including refreshing our kid and student spaces, environments, and content**
- **Upgrade our broadcast capabilities and technology to deliver a world-class experience for all our locations and Church Online**
- **Increase our investment in local and global non-profits who are serving the overlooked and under-resourced**

Fuel day-to-day ministry momentum and growth for adults, kids, and students—including reimagining our kid and student spaces, environments, and content.

We're seeing a record number of kids, students, and young adults at our church—and we want the next generation to encounter Jesus in ways that are relevant and engaging. That means reimagining their spaces and environments, knocking down every hurdle for students to get to camp and meet God there, and developing content that roots them in Christ in a dark and confusing world. From our youngest kids to our oldest adults, life-change happens week after week—and we want to keep fueling it.



Upgrade our broadcast capabilities and technology to deliver a world-class experience for all our locations and Church Online.

We want every person—whether they're in a seat at one of our locations or watching from their living room through Church Online—to experience the full impact of what God is doing here. We built our broadcast for the size and attendance of our Manheim Campus 20 years ago, and we're looking to upgrade our technology for the size and scale our church is at today.





Increase our investment in local and global non-profits who are serving the overlooked and under-resourced.

We want our love of Jesus to be easy to see—when we serve others, we get to show them his love. We will deepen our investment in non-profit partners serving the overlooked and under-resourced, expand our work into more prisons, and walk alongside kids, families, and communities—here and around the world.

GREATER HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The greatest investment we can make is in people. Greater Hope is about raising up the next generation of leaders, equipping followers of Jesus to make a Kingdom difference wherever they've been placed, and building the infrastructure to resource, grow, and sustain everything God has for us in the decades ahead.

$25 MILLION TO ACCELERATE GREATER REACH

- **Train and equip thousands of people across our church and state to leverage their influence for Kingdom impact wherever God has placed them**
- **Invest in the next generation of leaders for our church**
- **Build a Ministry Launch Center to serve as the hub of leadership development—including video/podcast content studios and ongoing training and resourcing for LCBC's locations**

Train and equip thousands of people across our church and state to leverage their influence for Kingdom impact wherever God has placed them.

Every follower of Jesus has been placed somewhere on purpose. A workplace. A neighborhood. A school. A family. We will train and equip thousands of people across our church and state to leverage their influence for Kingdom impact right where God has put them—because the mission doesn't just happen in a church building. It happens through each of us.





Invest in the next generation of leaders for our church.

The church's future depends on who's being developed today. We will continue to invest in the next generation of leaders through expanding student internships, mentorships for young adults, and DEVELUP—our residency program that develops young men and women for a lifetime of ministry impact.

Build a Ministry Launch Center to serve as the hub of leadership development—including video/podcast content studios and ongoing training and resourcing for LCBC's locations.

We will build a Ministry Launch Center to scale our impact across the state. A place for the next generation of leaders we're investing in. A training hub for LCBC leaders and PA pastors alike. And our Central Offices where our team works each day to equip and resource our locations across the state. Additionally, it will include video and podcast content studios that strengthen every LCBC location and equip the churches God has given us the opportunity to come alongside.





THE GENEROSITY JOURNEY

God has a lot to say about how giving and generosity influences our lives as followers of Jesus. As a matter of fact, God talks more about giving than any other subject in the Bible. Why is that? It's because money is actually a matter of the heart. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus tells us, *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Our giving is a reflection of where our heart is. Our generosity is a response to God's love for us and the gift of salvation that he provided through his Son, Jesus.

Therefore, giving is not a transaction, but rather a transformation of our heart that only Jesus can accomplish in us.

Use the Self-Assessment Tool on the next page to learn more about where you are in your generosity journey.

GENEROSITY JOURNEY SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Which type of giver best describes you? Talk to God and let him challenge you toward where he's leading in your next step of generosity!

INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is someone who has decided to give for the first time, as a response to God's Word. They want to trust God and the church with their gift—to put Jesus' words into action and experience the initial joy of stepping out in obedience. They're excited for their relationship with Jesus to grow, learning to trust him with all things, including their finances. They believe he is changing them from the inside out.

The question is simple: ***God, can I really trust you with this?***

Philippians 1:5–6

→ CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver has a plan to give back to God on a consistent basis—exercising the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. By cheerfully responding to God's love for them, they're learning the joy of consistency and excelling in the grace of giving. They desire for God to be first in all areas of their life, trusting him with all things, including their finances.

The question has become: ***God, how do I make giving to you a rhythm of my life, not just a response?***

2 Corinthians 9:7

→ INTENTIONAL GIVER

For an Intentional Giver, bringing back to God the tithe—the first 10% of what God has given them—is their top financial priority. Giving to God comes first, and every other financial decision is determined by that commitment. Their giving doesn't get whatever's left after the budget is set—it drives the budget. An Intentional Giver realizes God owns 100% of all they have, and that he has specifically set aside the tithe as belonging to him. They want to respond to his love by obeying, worshipping, and trusting him with the tithe.

Giving now starts from a different posture: ***It's no longer what can I afford to give? It's God, the tithe is already yours—how do I build my life around that?***

Malachi 3:10

Psalm 24:1

FULLY SURRENDERED GIVER

A Fully Surrendered Giver fully honors God with 100% of everything he has given them. They hold all that they have with open hands—freely and willingly giving to God in whatever way he is asking. God is their only source. Their life reflects this truth as he continues to transform them each step of the way. They will always be on this journey of generosity with God—inspired and challenged every day to continue developing their attitude, willingness, and heart for living a generous and fully surrendered life.

The question has changed. It's no longer how much should I give? *It's God, I know it's all yours anyway—how much do you want me to keep?*

Romans 12:1–2

ETERNAL GIVER

An Eternal Giver thinks about eternity and building God's Kingdom, weighing every decision—big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, service—by its eternal impact, not just what it accomplishes today. They've been captivated by 1 Timothy 6:18-19: the more they "do good, to be generous and ready to share," the more they "take hold of that which is truly life."

Nothing on earth matters more to them than leading others to Jesus—earth is fleeting, heaven is forever, and God's radical, stunning generosity in them drives them to reach as many people for him as they can.

The question isn't what will this accomplish today? *It's God, how can my life multiply your Kingdom long after I'm gone?*

1 Timothy 6:18–19
1 John 2:15–16


OUR
COMMITMENT
SERVE
OUR STATE
SERVE
OUR STATE

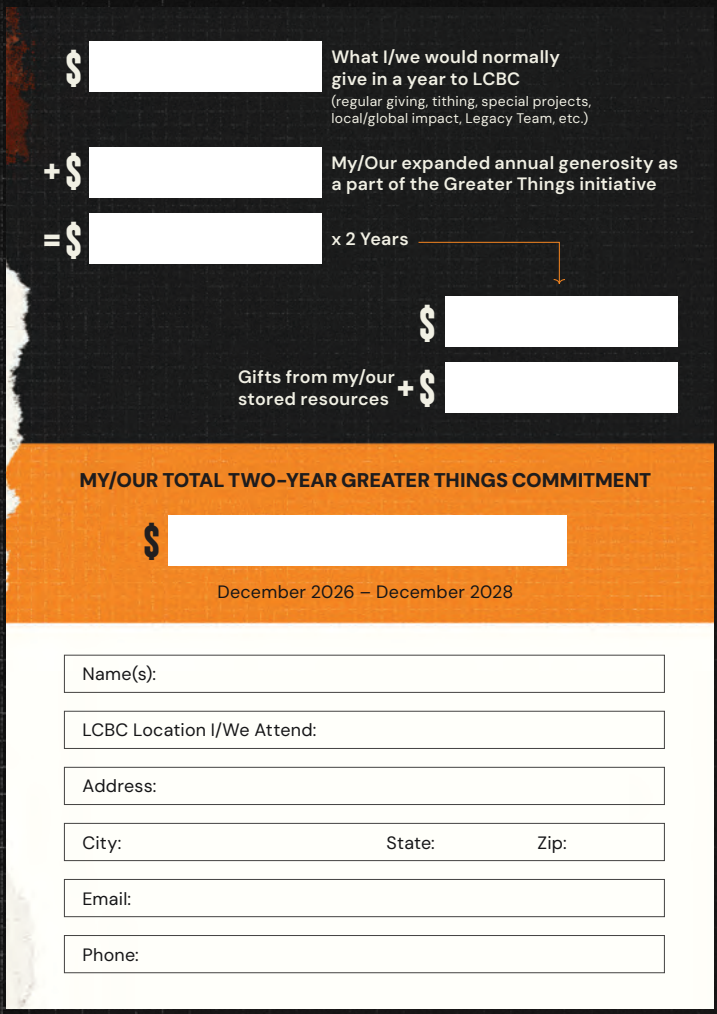
During our Greater Things initiative, all giving will go toward fueling our entire vision over the next two years. We're inviting everyone in our church to ask God, "what are the greater things you're doing in me and through me?"

During these two years, 100% of giving to LCBC will fuel the entirety of our vision in three areas of focus: Greater Reach, Greater Impact, and Greater Hope.

You may have been part of past giving initiatives where you gave "above and beyond" your general fund giving in order to make special initiatives possible. During these two years, we're encouraging every gift to go toward Greater Things—accelerating the entire vision of our church.

COMMITMENT CARD

We've included a copy of the commitment card in the back of this book so you can begin praying and planning toward your commitment and what it will mean for your journey with God over these next two years.



SAMPLE COMMITMENT CARD

TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray about how God may be leading you to give during this season, use this gift chart as a tool to help you more fully follow Jesus. Let it inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity as you pursue the greater things God has for you.

Gifts Needed	Two-Year Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	$10,000,000	$5,000,000	$416,667	$10,000,000
2	$5,000,000	$2,500,000	$208,333	$10,000,000
3	$2,500,000	$1,250,000	$104,167	$7,500,000
5	$1,500,000	$750,000	$62,500	$7,500,000
7	$1,000,000	$500,000	$41,667	$7,000,000
10	$750,000	$375,000	$31,250	$7,500,000
18	$500,000	$250,000	$20,833	$9,000,000
35	$250,000	$125,000	$10,417	$8,750,000
50	$150,000	$75,000	$6,250	$7,500,000
65	$100,000	$50,000	$4,167	$6,500,000
90	$75,000	$37,500	$3,125	$6,750,000
110	$65,000	$32,500	$2,708	$7,150,000
125	$50,000	$25,000	$2,083	$6,250,000
150	$35,000	$17,500	$1,458	$5,250,000
175	$25,000	$12,500	$1,042	$4,375,000
225	$15,000	$7,500	$625	$3,375,000
275	$10,000	$5,000	$417	$2,750,000
350	$7,500	$3,750	$313	$2,625,000
550	$5,000	$2,500	$208	$2,750,000
Many	$2,500	$1,250	$104	$2,475,000
Total Gift Total:				**$125,000,000**

WHAT'S NEXT

We're asking you to take a step of open-handed generosity, as together we take a step of faith—believing the greater things God does in us will shape the greater things he does through us.

PRAY FOR GREATER THINGS

Pray that God will do a work in the hearts of every person at LCBC and that each of us will engage with how God is leading.

COMMIT FULLY

Be part of our primary goal of 100% engagement by committing to Greater Things and encouraging others to do the same.

SHARE YOUR STORY

As God begins to work in your life, share your story with others to celebrate what God is doing in your life and to encourage others to grow in their faith.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

Live out what God is asking of you and give with an open-handed posture, stretching your faith to a new level of generosity.

KEY DATES

WEEK OF PRAYER

A week of prayer for our entire church as we continue to seek God for the Greater Things he has for us.

November 1–8

ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT

A worship and commitment experience at the GIANT Center with all 25 LCBC locations invited to gather under one roof.

GIANT Center in Hershey, PA
November 8 | 6pm

COMMITMENT WEEKEND

At all weekend gatherings

November 14/15/16

For more information on these key dates and to register go to
LCBCchurch.com/GreaterThings



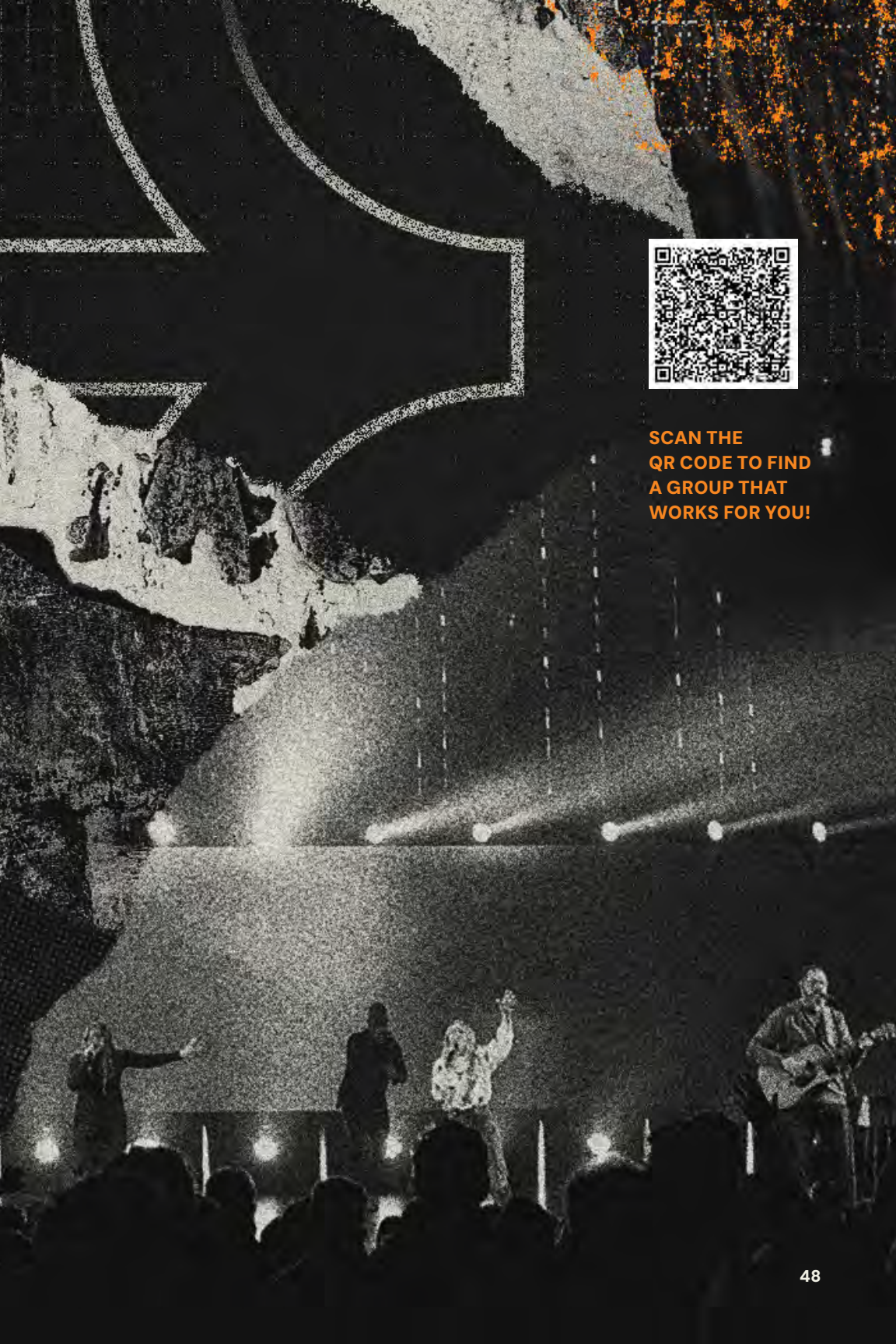


GREATER THINGS

WEEKLY GUIDE

In the following pages, we've provided a guide for you to walk through Greater Things as you seek God and ask him, "What are the greater things you want to do in me and through me?" Each week there is a spot to take notes during the weekend gathering, a group guide to reflect in a Greater Things group, and a daily devotional to allow space for you to process personally how God is leading you toward Greater Things. Be sure to bring this book with you to church each week.

Our prayer is that you don't walk through this alone, but that you grow with others in community. Talk to your friends, your spouse, your family, and make plans to be a part of a Greater Things group.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND A GROUP THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

WEEK 1

ACTS 1

GREATER MISSION

- Message Notes
- Group Discussion Guide
- Daily Devotional



MESSAGE NOTES

GREATER MISSION

Date: October 17, 18, & 19 Bible Verses: Acts 1

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Cut Here



GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Much like Jesus' commission to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth, our church has big dreams about what God wants to do, and we're excited to see the greater things he has in store. But more importantly, God has greater things in store for each of you. He has plans and purposes to fulfill in your life as you learn what it means to live open-handed.

Key Passages: Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; John 12:1-3; John 14:12

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." John 14:12 NIV

Jesus' disciples watched him feed thousands, heal the blind, and raise the dead—so this claim must have been hard to swallow. For three years, Jesus prepared this core group to carry his mission forward. His final words, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), sent them to make disciples of all nations. Acts 1:8 echoes it: they'd be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

That same invitation extends to us. Jesus is on mission to restore all things, starting with people—and playing a part in someone's story of life change is the greater work God wants to do through each of us.

START SHARING

- Jesus' disciples and the early Church were motivated by being a part of something much larger than themselves. Share a time you were part of something bigger than yourself. What's your honest answer to "What could God possibly do with someone like me?"
- What comes to mind when you hear "greater things"—excitement, skepticism, pressure? Why? When has someone's sacrifice for you made an impact?

START THINKING

- Jesus did some incredible things during his time on earth. Which of Jesus' miracles do you find most profound, and why? What do you think the disciples felt about being told they'd do greater works than him?
- Many in the room thought Mary's gift was too much, even a waste. What makes people uncomfortable about extravagant worship? Why is service to Jesus never a waste?

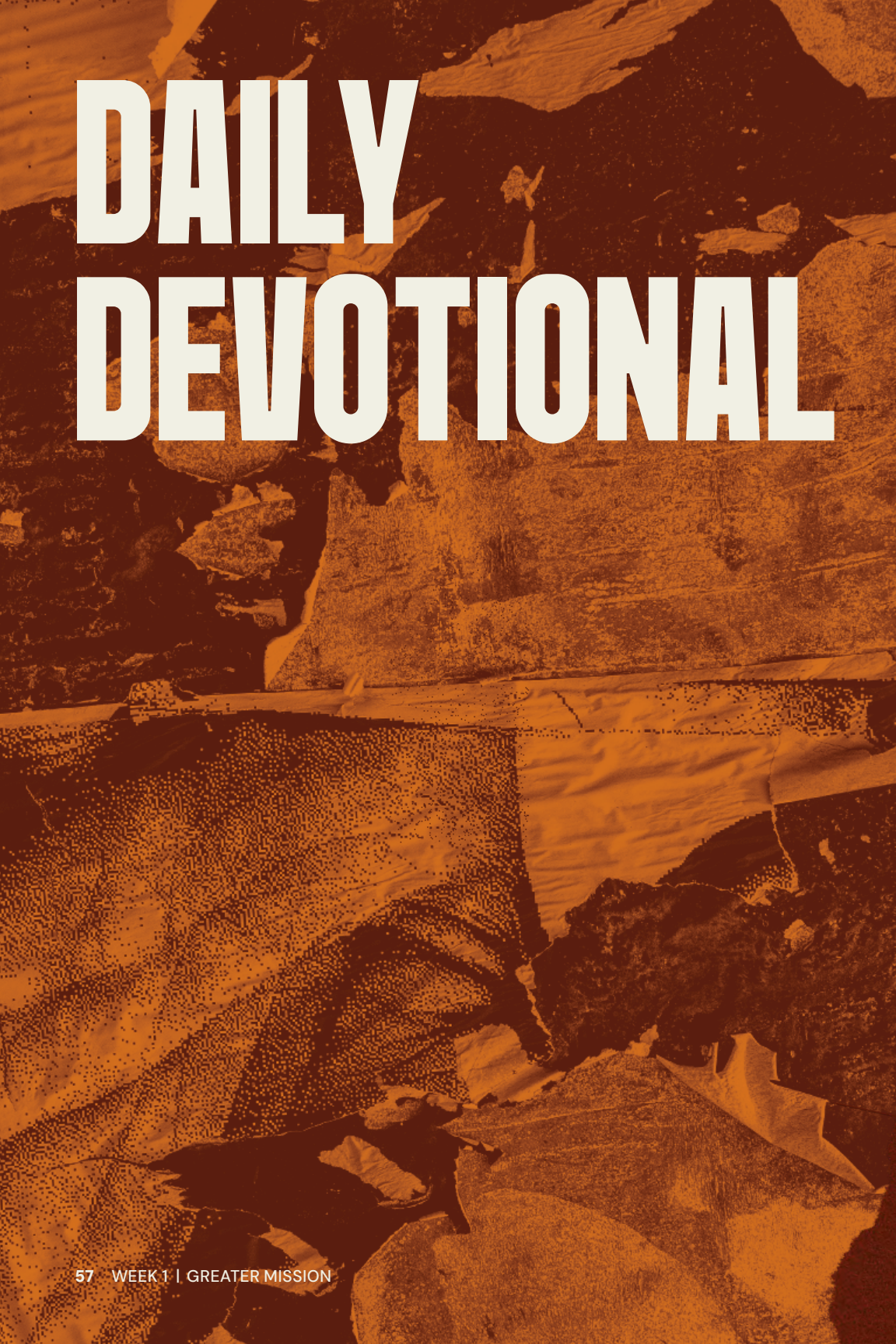
MAKE IT PERSONAL

- We're here because Jesus' first followers obeyed his mission. How do you see yourself in that same movement?
- Like the woman who poured out her perfume at Jesus' feet, what can you offer that creates lasting impact? What's something you'd genuinely struggle to lay down? What does that reveal about what you treasure?

NEXT STEPS

Ask God, "What greater things do you have for my life?"

Is there anything you would be unwilling to pour out if Jesus asked you? Why would that be so difficult?


DAILY
DEVOTIONAL

GREATER THINGS AHEAD

Read: Acts 1:8

The same God who launched a movement through a handful of ordinary followers is still working today—and that same invitation extends to you.

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us.

He lives and works in and through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things, which means you already have everything you need to make an eternal impact.

This isn't about hype or doing more—it's about becoming who God created you to be, so that through you, he can accomplish greater things. You've been invited to join what he's already doing, and it starts with a willing heart—one that's ready to listen and respond.

God is moving around you every day. When you start looking for where he's at work and listening for his voice, you'll begin to notice the **invitations to join him** that were there all along.

PRAY: God, open my eyes so I don't miss what you're doing in and around me. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, help me so I can respond to what you're personally inviting me into.

DAY 2

YOUR PART TO PLAY

Read: Matthew 28:19–20

Jesus' final words before he ascended into heaven were instructions—and they weren't just for pastors or church leaders. They were a charge for everyone who follows him to continue the work he started.

You've been given an incredible purpose: to **introduce people to Jesus so together we can fully follow him**. Maybe you're wondering, What could God possibly do with someone like me? You may think you're too young or too old, or that you haven't followed Jesus long enough. But none of those things disqualify you.

Some of Jesus' closest followers were uneducated fishermen. He chose to use shepherds, social outcasts, and people with shameful pasts to accomplish his work. Look at the Apostle Paul: God used him to help start churches throughout the Roman world and inspired him to write much of the New Testament. Paul used to kill Christians—but even that didn't disqualify him in God's eyes!

God has never sought out perfect people for his plans. He looks for willing people. You don't need to be ready enough, or good enough, or smart enough. You just need to be willing to let God work in and through you.

Bring him a willing heart and remember—you'll never go alone.
He's with you always!

PRAY: God, before I even know what the next steps are that you have for me, I am willing! Help me to not focus on my own shortcomings, but to keep my focus on you. Amen.

POURED OUT, NOT WASTED

Read: John 12:3 / John 12:7–8

Mary loved Jesus so much, she poured a twelve-ounce jar of perfume out onto his feet. This perfume wasn't just pricey; it was a year's worth of wages. But to Mary, the value of this rare perfume was nothing compared to the value Jesus brought to her life.

When you've experienced the grace of Jesus, generosity stops feeling like sacrifice and starts looking like gratitude. Mary knew this. But to everyone else in the room, it seemed like a complete waste of money—even poor stewardship. After all, it's natural to think of all the good that could have been accomplished with that much money.

But Jesus saw what everyone else missed: Mary's extravagant gift wasn't wasteful. It was an act of worship. And to Jesus, that was far more valuable than perfume.

When you pour everything out for Jesus, you lose nothing. It's gain, not loss. It's worship, not waste.

Jesus held nothing back from us. He willingly went to the cross and paid our debt so we could receive eternal life. Our extravagant worship toward Jesus is in response to his sacrifice—and it never goes to waste.

PRAY: God, I want to have a heart like Mary's. If there's anything I'm holding back from you, point that out to me and help me see the greater value of offering it to you, with a heart of worship. Amen.

DAY 4

OPEN HANDS

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:4-5

The generosity of the churches in Macedonia is a remarkable example to learn from. These believers weren't wealthy. They were poor, afflicted, and living under the pressure of Roman persecution. Yet Paul says they **begged for the privilege of giving to help others**. They weren't reluctant givers—they were looking for more opportunities to be generous. Where does that kind of generosity come from?

It wasn't because someone preached about giving. It wasn't because they had extra money lying around. 2 Corinthians 8:5 tells us exactly where it began: They gave themselves first to the Lord (NLT).

These believers had been transformed by the grace of Jesus. They knew the Son of God had left heaven, taken on human form, and willingly given his life to rescue them. Once they understood what Jesus had done for them, open hearts and open hands became the natural response.

That's where real generosity starts. Not from guilt. Not from obligation, good teaching, or even a worthy cause. It grows out of a heart that can't get over the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. You start to realize that everything you have was God's to begin with. Your time, your abilities, your possessions, your finances—they've all been entrusted to you by a generous Father. And because he gave himself for you first, you get the privilege of giving yourself back to him.

Generosity is a posture toward God before it's ever a decision. Becoming a generous person is simply what grows out of a heart transformed by Jesus.

PRAY: God, thank you for giving yourself for me first. Help me hold everything you've entrusted to me with open hands: my talents, my possessions, my finances. Change my heart so generosity becomes my natural, joyful response to you, not something I have to talk myself into. Amen.

MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE

Read: Ephesians 3:20–21

God is mighty and powerful. Our minds can't fully grasp who he is and what he can do. But notice what Paul says: that same mighty power is at work within you. Just stop and think about that for a second.

The same God who spoke the universe into existence is working inside you—not just around you, not just through other people, and not because you've earned it. By his grace, he has chosen to make his home in you and accomplish his purposes through you. **Isn't that incredible?**

It's easy to believe God can do incredible things in someone else's life. But have you ever considered that he wants to do something extraordinary in yours, too?

This is usually where we put a lid on God. We have limited ideas of what he can do, and so we shrink the possibilities down to what we can pull off on our own.

But this is also exactly where faith can grow. It stretches when you stop measuring what God can do by what you can't and instead start trusting that he's bigger than anything you can imagine. God isn't asking you to believe in yourself more. He's asking you to trust him more.

And when he does more than you ever thought possible, there's no mistaking who gets the credit: him.

PRAY: God, reveal to me any limitations I've put on you. I believe in your power and what you want to do in me so you can accomplish greater things through me. I want my life to be a reflection of you that puts your power on display. Amen.

DAY 6

HERE, SEND ME

Read: Isaiah 6:8

Isaiah didn't say "Send me," because of false confidence or delusion. He was humbly making himself available to God. He knew he couldn't offer much on his own, but he also knew that meant he had nothing to prove—and that's the posture where God does his best work.

And look at what God did with Isaiah. He didn't leave him stuck in his old ways—he cleansed his heart, restored him, and invited him into something greater. What God did for Isaiah, he can do for you.

Maybe you've been waiting until you feel more capable, more knowledgeable, or less sinful before you say yes. But God isn't looking for someone perfect. He's looking for someone who is available. When you come to God, and say "here I am, send me," God will transform you and equip you to do greater things than you could on your own.

PRAY: God, give me a bigger vision of you and your power, and a smaller view of my own limitations. I want a heart that's ready to say "Yes, send me," wherever you lead. Amen.

WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING?

Read: Philippians 3:7–8

Paul looks back on his life before he met Jesus and realizes something profound. **Everything he once counted as important—his accomplishments, his status, all his stuff—doesn't even come close to knowing Jesus.** Notice he doesn't say those things became less important. He says they became worthless. Paul recalculated his whole life around the value of knowing Jesus.

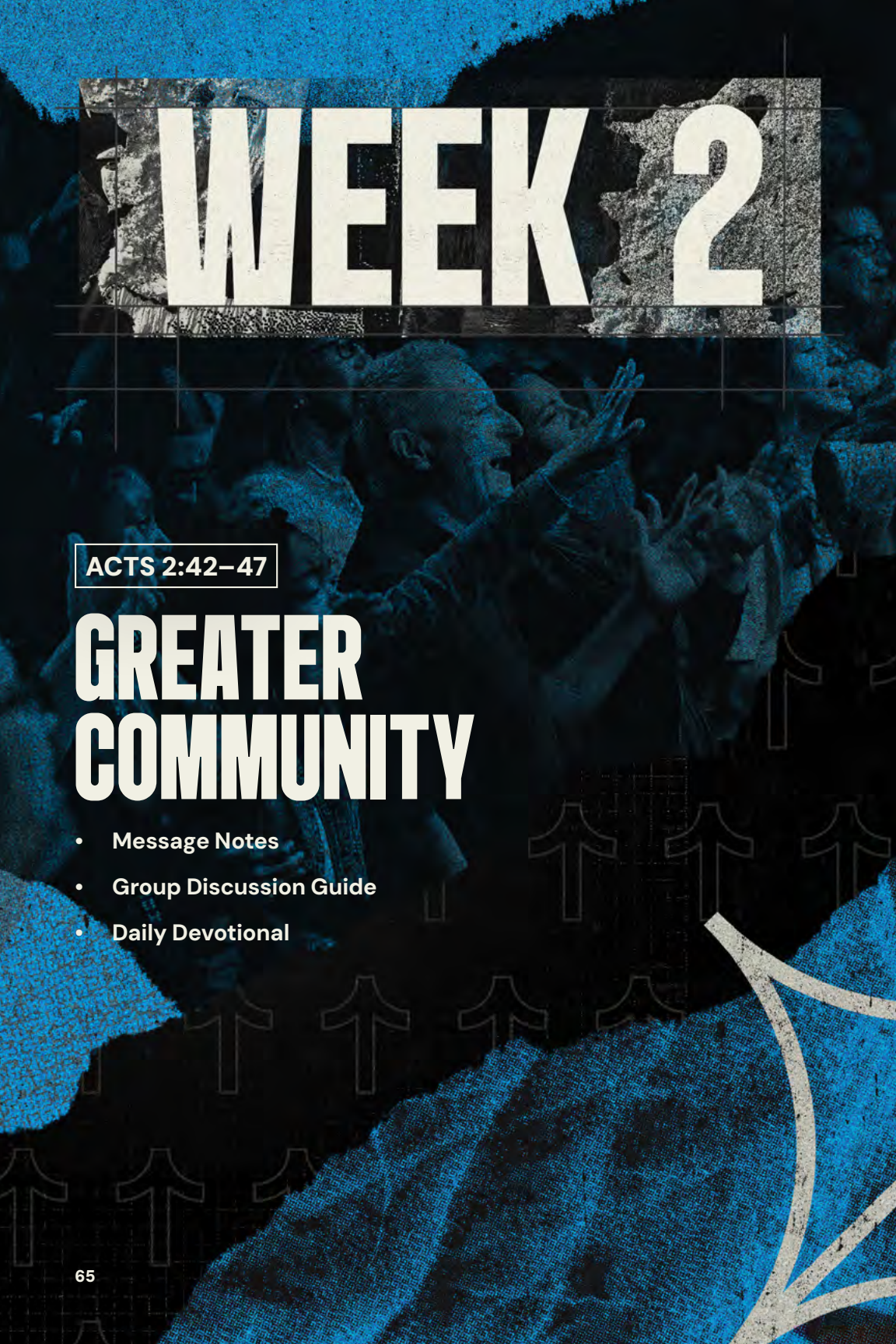
So what changed? How did the things that used to matter most end up meaning nothing? Paul never got over what Jesus had rescued him from. He knew the depth of his own sin, and Jesus met him with mercy instead of condemnation. When you really understand what you've been saved from, gratitude starts to loosen your grip on everything else. But there's something else going on. Paul knew he wasn't the first one to let go.

Jesus had already done that. He left the glory of heaven, walked the earth as a man, and gave his life on the cross. Not just for Paul, not just for other people, but for you. He held nothing back to rescue you.

How could Paul keep clinging to temporary things when Jesus had already given everything for him? And how can we, when he held nothing back for us? Paul realized he wasn't making a sacrifice so much as making a trade. Following Jesus doesn't mean giving up what matters—it's discovering what matters most. It's exchanging what's temporary for what's eternal.

Is there anything you're struggling to lay down or let go of? What do you think that reveals? Remember, knowing Jesus is worth more than anything you could ever hold onto.

PRAY: God, show me what I've been gripping too tightly, and help me see it in light of what you gave up to come after me. Reorder my priorities around you and give me the freedom to let go of the things that won't last. Amen.



WEEK 2

ACTS 2:42–47

GREATER COMMUNITY

- Message Notes
- Group Discussion Guide
- Daily Devotional



MESSAGE NOTES

GREATER COMMUNITY

Date: October 24, 25, & 26 **Bible Verses: Acts 2:42-47**

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Greater things happen within community. The early Church lived in close relationship with each other, and in this passage, we see that generosity flowed freely throughout their community. If we're to say yes to the greater things God has for us, it's not going to happen in isolation. When we are in close relationships with one another, we're close enough to see needs and be moved with compassion to meet them. We recognize that it's not all about us—those relationships keep us accountable.

Key Passages: Acts 2:42-47

"And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity."
Acts 2:44-46

START SHARING

- How did you experience community growing up? Was it in church, sports, school, your neighborhood, etc.?
- What's something generous someone did for you that has stuck with you through the years?

START THINKING

- What are some ways our culture encourages independence instead of interdependence?
- Why do you think generosity was a natural component of the early Church—rather than something required of them?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Are there areas of your life where you've been keeping people at a distance? Why do you struggle with letting people know your needs?
- When you think about your skills, money, and time, what is the most difficult thing to share with others?

NEXT STEPS

What is one change you could make to move from LCBC being a place you visit to a group of people you grow and connect with?

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What is one need you are aware of that you could meet this week?

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DAILY DEVOTIONAL

BETTER TOGETHER

Read: Acts 2:42

When you think about the best moments of your life, chances are you weren't alone. The memories you treasure most usually include people you love—family gathered around a table, friends celebrating with you, or someone who stood beside you during one of your hardest seasons.

That's not an accident. God created you for community.

The early Church understood this. They didn't think of church as a place you show up to once a week. The Church was people. They shared meals, prayed together, learned together, encouraged each other, and walked through life side by side.

Notice the choice of words in Acts 2:42: they devoted themselves. They weren't simply showing up—they were fully invested in one another. Devotion, not attendance, is what defined the early Church.

The same is true today. You can't experience all God has for you while living in isolation or keeping people at arm's length. Some of God's greatest work in your life happens through the people he puts around you. As you follow Jesus alongside others, God shapes you through them in ways that rarely happen on your own.

When you choose to engage—to be seen, to be known, to walk alongside other followers of Jesus—you discover the gift community truly is.

PRAY: God, please show me where I'm holding back from others and why. I believe that you have more to show me through relationships than I'll ever find on my own, so help me stop keeping people at a distance and actually share my life. Give me the courage to be known.

DAY 9

NOBODY IN NEED

Read: Acts 2:44–45

Imagine being part of a community where no one has to carry their burdens alone. When one person has a need, another person steps in to meet it.

That's exactly what we see in the early Church. When someone was struggling, they didn't ask, "Whose responsibility is this?" or "Don't I have enough of my own needs to worry about?" They asked a better question: "How can I help?"

And notice this wasn't charity handed out to strangers. These believers were close enough to one another to know when someone was hurting in the first place. Their giving was personal—aimed at people they actually knew and loved. That's the difference. It's deeper than just sharing what you have; it's letting someone else's need become your concern because you love them.

That kind of generosity doesn't start with the wallet. It starts with a heart that's been changed—one that has learned from Jesus that people matter more than possessions. And what was true of the Church then is still true now. It starts with us.

So sit with the question the early Church answers for us: what would "no one in need among us" require of you? One of the clearest ways your love for God shows up is in how you love the people right around you. Pick one of them today.

PRAY: God, thank you for the example the early Church set for us. Loosen my grip on whatever I'm holding too tightly, so my love for you shows up in the way I help others. Open my eyes to the needs around me, and give me the heart to meet them. Amen.

CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE

Read: Acts 2:46

It's easy to overlook someone when life gets busy. You give them a nod, maybe share a few words, and never realize they're carrying something heavy.

The early Church lived differently. They worshiped together, shared meals in each other's homes, and got close enough to actually notice one another.

That closeness is one of the real gifts of community. The more proximity you have to people, the more you start to see what they actually need. Sometimes it's practical help. Sometimes it's a listening ear or someone to pray with. But you can't meet a need you never see—and you'll rarely see it from a distance.

Notice, too, that in this verse generosity and joy show up in the same breath. Sharing their lives didn't drain the early Church. It's part of what made it so rich.

So the question isn't only "who can I help," but "am I close enough to anyone to know how I can help?" Slow down this week and look past the surface. Who around you could use a conversation, a meal, a prayer, a word that says you see them? Ask God to give you one name—then get close enough to help.

PRAY: God, thank you for never being too busy for me. Help me slow down so my own busyness doesn't crowd out the people around me. Bring one person's need into focus this week, and help me get close enough to meet it. Amen.

DAY 11

SHARPENED BY OTHERS

Read: **Hebrews 10:24–25**

Think about a time someone had just the right words to say. Maybe they gave you encouragement when you felt defeated. Maybe they lovingly pointed out a blind spot you couldn't see on your own. Either way, they cared enough to help you keep moving forward.

That's one of God's best gifts discovered inside authentic relationships with others.

Hebrews tells us to "think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works" (10:24, NLT). Don't rush past those first few words: "think of ways." Encouraging someone isn't something that happens on accident. It takes intention. We're actually supposed to plan ahead for how we can strengthen someone else's faith and spur them on to keep following Jesus.

That's a big part of why gathering together matters so much. Church is where we encourage each other, pray for each other, speak truth in love, and help one another keep moving toward Jesus. God uses other believers to lift you when you're worn out, challenge you when you're drifting, and remind you what's true when you've lost sight of it—and he wants to use you to do the same for someone else.

So don't leave it to chance. **Who in your life needs encouragement right now?** Think of one way to give it this week. It might be exactly what someone needs to keep going.

PRAY: God, thank you for the people who have strengthened my faith when I needed it most. Show me who you're calling me to encourage this week and help me do it on purpose instead of leaving it to chance. Use my words to help someone keep moving toward you. Amen.

GIVE ON PURPOSE

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

In this passage, Paul is writing to the church in Corinth, who had plans to help another church. Paul wrote to let them know he'd be coming to collect the gift they'd already promised, and he advised them to get it ready ahead of time.

Why? Because he didn't want them scrambling at the last minute and throwing something together under pressure. He wanted their gift to carry the same joy and willingness they'd had from the start.

Planning your giving isn't less spiritual. It protects the joy that inspired it in the first place. God's generosity toward you has always been rooted in love, never guilt. Why would he want guilt—or stress, or pressure—creeping into your giving?

And that's exactly why Paul immediately promised that God would generously provide everything they need. Generosity was never about losing something. It's about trusting the One who always provides, so you're free to hold what he's given you with open hands.

Which gets at the real point: the goal isn't generosity. The goal is Jesus. Generosity is just what happens in a heart that already belongs to him. So don't wait for the moment of the ask to figure out your response. Decide now, before the pressure's on, the kind of giver you want to be.

PRAY: God, thank you that love—not guilt—is the only thing behind your generosity toward me. Grow that same heart in me. Help me give freely and cheerfully because I trust you, not because I feel cornered. Help me decide ahead of time to be generous. Amen.

DAY 13

COMPASSION THAT MOVES

Read: 1 John 3:17–18

Someone shows up for you in a hard season—brings a meal, covers a bill, sits with you in a waiting room, or just listens while your heart is heavy. In a moment like that, you don't only feel cared for. You feel the love of Jesus, handed to you through a person.

That's exactly what John is talking about. Love was never meant to stay stuck in your heart or in your words. **It's meant to move.**

It's easy to say we care, and mean it. It's another thing entirely to step toward someone who's hurting. God didn't just tell us he loved us; he proved it through Jesus. As his followers, our love should be just as visible.

After all—as John asks—if you see someone in need, have what it takes to help them, and choose to do nothing, what does that really say about God's love at work in you?

Real compassion eventually costs you something—your time, your energy, sometimes your money. But when God's love fills your heart, it keeps your heart open. And an open heart has a way of leading to open hands. No matter what God has entrusted to you, whether a lot or a little, love puts it to use for someone else's good.

Don't let this stay a nice idea. Who's the person in front of you who's hurting? What do you have that you can offer them today?

PRAY: God, help me show your love through compassion that moves me to act. I don't want to only say I care. I want your love for me to be obvious in how I love the people around me. Show me who needs help today and what I can do. Amen.

THE CHURCH GOD GROWS

Read: Acts 2:47

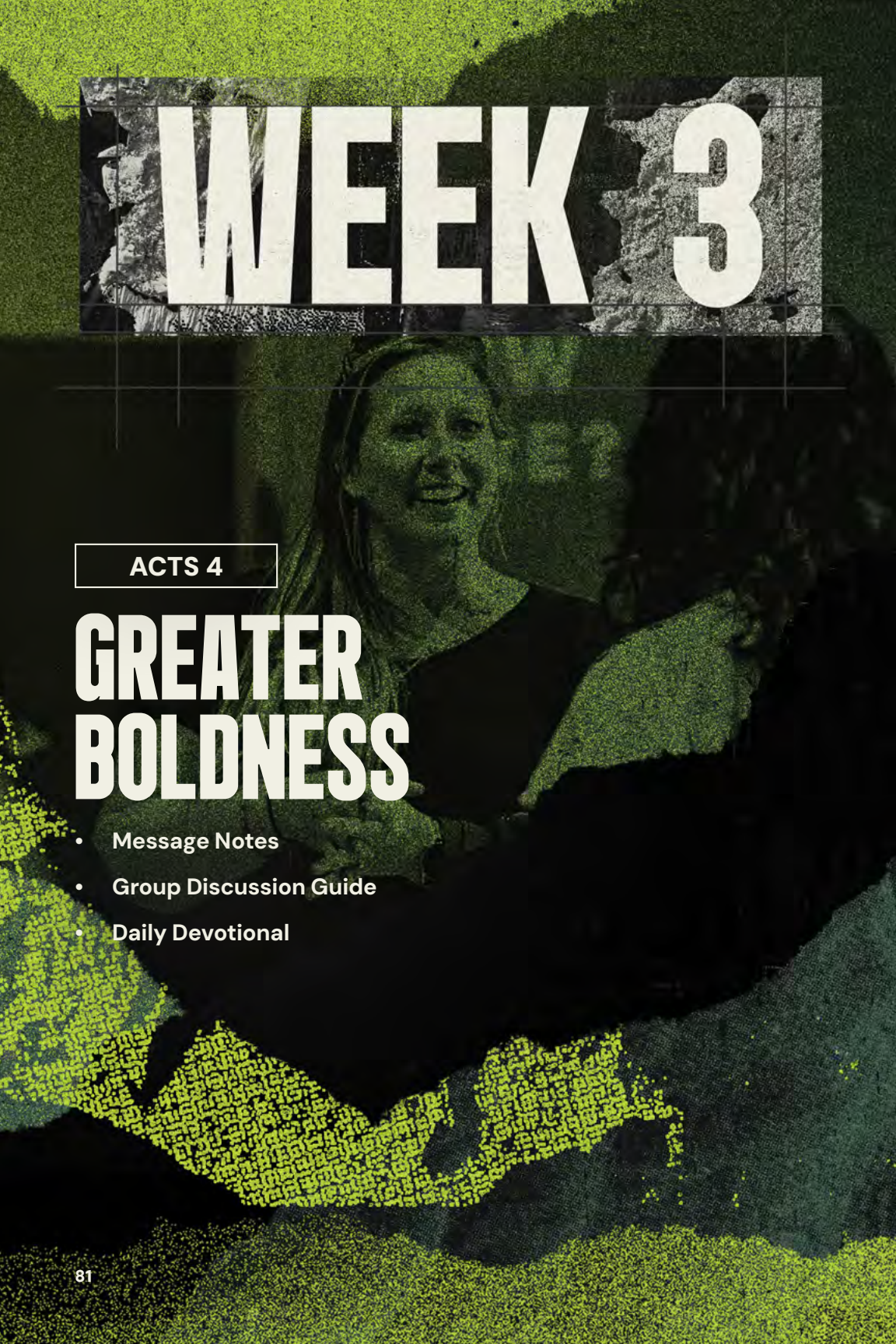
As the early Church grew, more and more people who were far from God found salvation in Jesus. And it wasn't because they had the best worship music, the sharpest preaching, or free coffee in the lobby. Those things can be a good use of what God provides, but they were never the source of the church's power. God added to their number because he was working through a community whose love for him and for one another was easy to see—and impossible to ignore.

Look closely at this verse. It doesn't say God grew the church's attendance. It says God added "those who were being saved." That's the whole point! **Not more people in seats, but more lives changed by Christ.**

The love and generosity of those ordinary believers reached people they never met—people like you. You're part of the legacy God started through their faithfulness. They couldn't have pictured you, all these years later, following the same Jesus they loved. And just as God used them to reach you, he wants to use you to reach people you'll never meet.

What God builds through us together is always greater than anything you could pull off on your own. When your love for Jesus shows up in how you love people, God changes lives. And when a whole community lives that way, he uses it to change the world. So live like someone's watching—because someone always is.

PRAY: God, use my life and my church to reach someone who's still far from you. Make our love for you and for each other easy to see, and let it point people to Jesus. I want to be part of the legacy you're still building. Amen.

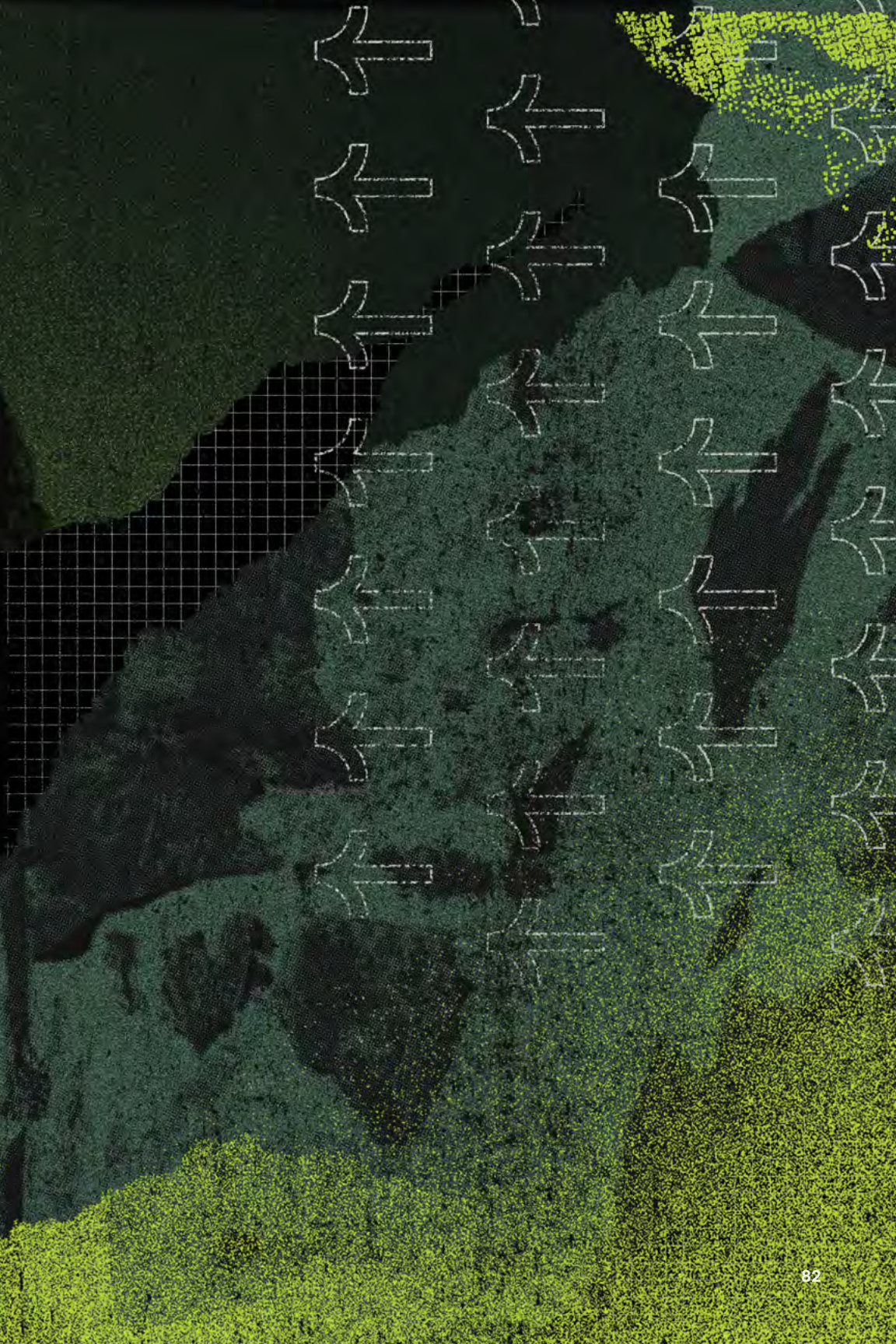


WEEK 3

ACTS 4

GREATER BOLDNESS

- Message Notes
- Group Discussion Guide
- Daily Devotional



MESSAGE NOTES

GREATER BOLDNESS

Date: October 31, November 1 & 2 **Bible Verses: Acts 4**

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Peter and John faced opposition because of a miracle they performed—and when the people saw their boldness, they thought, "These men must have been walking with Jesus to be able to stand up to certain death." Then the Holy Spirit moved in a mighty way, and people were moved to radical generosity. They started selling property and possessions. When you walk with Jesus, your perspective starts to shift. You see what actually matters, and it changes how you view possessions. The temporary doesn't seem to matter as much. The question is no longer "how much should I give?" but "how much do I even need to keep?"

Key Passages: Acts 4

"The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John." Acts 4:13

"The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion." Proverbs 28:1

"All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had." Acts 4:32

START SHARING

- Peter and John were telling people about Jesus' resurrection even though they knew it wouldn't be well received by leaders and could have consequences. Can you name a time you stepped up and did something you knew was right knowing that it could have negative consequences for you?
- When you experience a negative consequence for doing the right thing, how do you typically respond?

START THINKING

- We often think of people like John and Peter as "larger than life." Read verse 13 again. What does this tell us about them? How is that the same as, or different from, you?
- Read Peter's response to the authorities in Acts 4:19-20. What do you think motivated him to respond in that way?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Being bold and stepping out in faith can be scary. We often think about what we might lose. What was gained by John and Peter's boldness in this passage? What do you think would be gained if we trusted God and stepped out in the same way?
- People like Barnabas were clearly inspired by the faith, sacrifice, and boldness of others—to the point where he himself sold his field and brought the money back to serve others in the church. Is there anyone who has inspired you in this way? Is there anyone who could be impacted by your faith, boldness, and sacrifice?

NEXT STEPS

Is there an area of your life where you find it easier to play it safe? What's something you can do this week to step out in faith or be bolder in this area?

_____

_____

Read verse 32. They shared because they did not think of what they had as their own—but from God, to be shared with others. What is something you can do this week to move toward having the same perspective they did?

_____

_____

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



MARKED BY JESUS

Read: Acts 4:13

Spend enough time around someone and you start to pick up their habits—the way they talk, the way they think, even how they react when life gets hard. We slowly come to reflect the people we're closest to. "Birds of a feather," as the saying goes.

That's exactly what the religious leaders ran into with Peter and John. They were amazed by the boldness of these two, because they could tell they were ordinary men with no formal training. This is the same Peter who, just weeks earlier, denied he even knew Jesus. The same group of disciples who scattered in fear when Jesus was arrested. So what changed? How does that kind of fear turn into this kind of boldness?

The council landed on the answer themselves: they had been with Jesus. That's what happens when you spend real time with him. He starts to change **the way you think, the way you speak, the way you handle pressure**. The closer you get, the more his character rubs off on yours. Over time, people start to notice there's something different about you.

Is anything getting more of your time and attention than Jesus? Imagine what could grow out of your life if you started guarding your time with him like the gift it is.

PRAY: God, I want the way I think and live to be the result of time spent with you. That time is a gift—help me protect it and prioritize it over everything else clamoring for my attention. Make me more like you, and let people see the difference. Amen.

DAY 16

UNABLE TO STAY QUIET

Read: **Acts 4:16-20**

Peter and John were in a genuinely high-pressure spot, staring down the barrel of real consequences. The council before them held all the earthly authority, and they ordered these two to never speak about Jesus again.

But Peter and John were clear about who they ultimately answered to: God, the highest authority there is. And after everything they'd seen, staying silent simply wasn't an option. They had walked with Jesus, watched him die, seen him alive again, and felt the power of the Holy Spirit for themselves. How do you keep something like that to yourself?

Their boldness wasn't recklessness, and it wasn't defiance for the thrill of it. It was the natural response of people who were absolutely convinced Jesus was alive. When you've really experienced his love, his grace, and his power, it becomes almost impossible not to tell somebody.

The same is true for you. Boldness isn't about having the perfect words or a naturally fearless personality. It's about loving Jesus more than you fear what people think. As your conviction about who he is grows, so does your courage to open your mouth.

What have you seen God do in your life? When's the last time you told someone about it? You don't have to explain everything or win an argument. You just have to be willing to tell someone what you've experienced.
Name one person who could hear it from you this week.

PRAY: God, give me courage in the moments I'm tempted to stay quiet. Remind me that I don't need to have all the answers—you're just asking me to share what I've seen you do in my life. Help me love you more than I fear anyone's opinion of me. Amen.

PRAY FOR BOLDNESS

Read: Acts 4:23-31

There's nothing wrong with praying for peace and safety—we should. But sometimes God wants to give you something even better: **a heart that praises him** when life isn't peaceful, endurance when following him gets uncomfortable, and courage when fear is telling you to stay quiet.

That's the thing about boldness. It isn't something you have to manufacture on your own. It's something you ask God for. After Peter and John returned to the other believers and filled them in on what the council commanded—to never speak about Jesus again—they all prayed. As they prayed, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke God's word boldly.

And that same Holy Spirit lives in everyone who has put their faith in Jesus—including you. Which means **you don't have to scrape together your own courage**. You can ask God for his. So start praying bolder prayers and see what shifts.

PRAY: God, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. I'll take comfort when you give it, but what I want even more is boldness—for the greater things you want to do in and through me. Give me your courage where I've been running on my own. Amen.

DAY 18

ONE HEART, ONE PURPOSE

Read: Acts 4:32

The early believers weren't united because they shared the same personalities, backgrounds, or opinions. They were united because they shared the same Savior, the same mission, and the same purpose. And that compelled them to stop thinking of themselves as owners and started living like stewards. They knew what they had wasn't ultimately theirs; **it was God's**. When a need came up, they shared gladly, because they knew they were just handling what God had given them in the first place.

As followers of Jesus, most of us already believe God is the creator, owner, and provider of everything. But believing that and living it are two different things. God's ownership isn't something we only read about in the Bible—it's the lens that changes how you see every single part of your life: your money, your marriage, your kids, your friendship, your work, your time, your abilities. Everything you have, and everything you are, was entrusted to you by God.

When Jesus really grips your heart, your grip on everything else starts to loosen. You don't have to clench so tightly, because you know it all belongs to him anyway. What's one thing you've been holding like it's yours? Today try opening your hand and calling it what it actually is: God's.

PRAY: God, help me not just to know you own it all, but to actually live that way. Thank you for trusting me to steward what belongs to you. Loosen my grip on the things I've been clutching, and remind me they were always yours to begin with. Amen.

HOLDING LOOSELY

Read: Acts 4:34–35

The early believers understood that everything they owned belonged to God. So when a need came up, nothing was off the table if God prompted them to give—not even, as you just read, land or houses.

That doesn't mean God is asking you to sell your house. But it does invite some honest questions. Has anything you own **become off limits** to God? Is there something you'd be unwilling to place in his hands? Is there an area of your life where you've denied him access?

Maybe it's a house. Maybe it's an investment account. Maybe it's a prized possession, your calendar, or your plans for the future. Whatever it is, God isn't nearly as interested in the thing as he is in your heart. A lot of us say, "God has my heart," and mean it. But every now and then he points to one specific area and asks, "Do I have your heart here, too?"

An eternal perspective changes the way you see temporary things. God cares about what you give—but he also cares about what you're keeping, and why. God doesn't necessarily want you to own less, but he does want to make sure nothing ends up owning you.

So let him ask the question. Where have you been holding onto too tightly? Are you willing to hand it over?

PRAY: God, I'm asking you boldly—point out anywhere in my life that I've shut you out. I don't want anything wedged between you and me. If there's anything I'm gripping too tightly, help me loosen my hold. Amen.

DAY 20

WHAT ACTUALLY LASTS

Read: Matthew 6:19–21

What are you living for? You probably want the answer to be God, and family, and the things that matter most. Of course, you believe that's true. But Jesus is handing you a kind of litmus test: to find out what you're living for, watch where your money goes.

Jesus understands the human heart. He knows how easily money starts to have power over us, pulling our focus off what's eternal and onto what's temporary. But God is a good Father, and like any good father, he wants to see you free from the grip of money.

God showed us how this works. Jesus left all the riches of heaven behind, came to us in human flesh, and paid the full price for our sin on the cross. His love for you outweighed his desire to hold on to what was rightfully his. He gave up everything so you could belong to him.

Which means the treasure of his heart is you.

God doesn't want you to be ruled by the false god of money; he wants your heart captured by him. He doesn't want you to hoard money for yourself, but to store it in the right place, with the right heart so it can be mobilized for his purposes. That's the kind of treasure that actually lasts.

PRAY: God, it's incredibly humbling to realize that I am the treasure of your heart. Keep that truth right in front of me so that when I give, it shows that you are the treasure of my heart too. I want to invest in things that matter—things that will still be here in eternity. Amen.

FROM "KEEP" TO "GIVE"

Read: Acts 4:36–37

Some people are remembered for what they built. Barnabas is remembered for what he gave away. Here, we see him selling a field and handing the money to the apostles—no fundraising campaign, no public recognition. That one act of radical generosity became the thread running through his whole story. All through the book of Acts, Barnabas became known as the guy who encouraged people, believed in them, and poured his life into the mission of Jesus.

Generosity isn't something you do every once in a while when the mood strikes. **It's who you become**. Plenty of people are generous, but for a follower of Jesus the reason is different. We don't give just because it feels good or the cause is worthy. We give because God has been overwhelmingly generous with us first. And as your heart grows to look more like his, generosity becomes one of the most natural ways **his character shows up in you**.

Barnabas never set out to be known as generous. He just kept saying yes to God, and over time, generosity became his reputation. What kind of reputation are your daily choices building? Plenty of people will form opinions about you—but there's really only one whose opinion counts. Keep saying yes to him, one choice at a time.

PRAY: God, you've invited me to move from keeping to giving. Help me do it with the right heart, for the right reasons. Make generosity part of who I am, not just something I do now and then—and help me keep saying yes to you. Amen.



WEEK 4

ACTS 9

GREATER TRANSFORMATION

- Message Notes
- Group Discussion Guide
- Daily Devotional



MESSAGE NOTES

GREATER TRANSFORMATION

Date: November 7, 8, & 9 **Bible Verses: Acts 9**

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

When Jesus changes your life, it changes everything. The evidence of that change flows into every area of your life because Jesus invites you to live a life fully poured out in your time, energy, talents, money, forgiveness, and more. We call this "radical transformation." If you find yourself living closed-handed with a scarcity mindset, ask God to do a work of radical transformation in your heart—because what we treasure is the best indication of where our deepest desires, loyalty, and affection lie. What greater transformation does God want to do in your life?

Key Passages: Acts 9

"All who heard him were amazed. 'Isn't this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?' they asked. 'And didn't he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?'" Acts 9:21

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

START SHARING

- Saul began his journey determined to arrest and kill Christians, but he ended it proclaiming Jesus as his Savior. Have you ever started a trip, a season of life, or a plan that ended up somewhere completely different than you expected?
- When life changes direction unexpectedly, how do you typically respond? Do you embrace change, or do you prefer sticking to the original plan?

START THINKING

- Saul's transformation was dramatic. What happened to him on the road to Damascus to prompt such a radical change?
- God spoke directly to Saul but also used Ananias to get Saul started on his transformation. What does that tell us about the things God uses to transform people?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- What is it about Jesus that makes him worthy of completely changing the direction of our lives?
- Ananias played an important role in Saul's transformation. How can we be like Ananias by investing our time, energy, talents, and money into the transformation of others?

NEXT STEPS

Is there an area of your life where you feel stuck in pre-Jesus habits, attitudes, or priorities? What is one specific step you can take this week toward greater transformation in that area?

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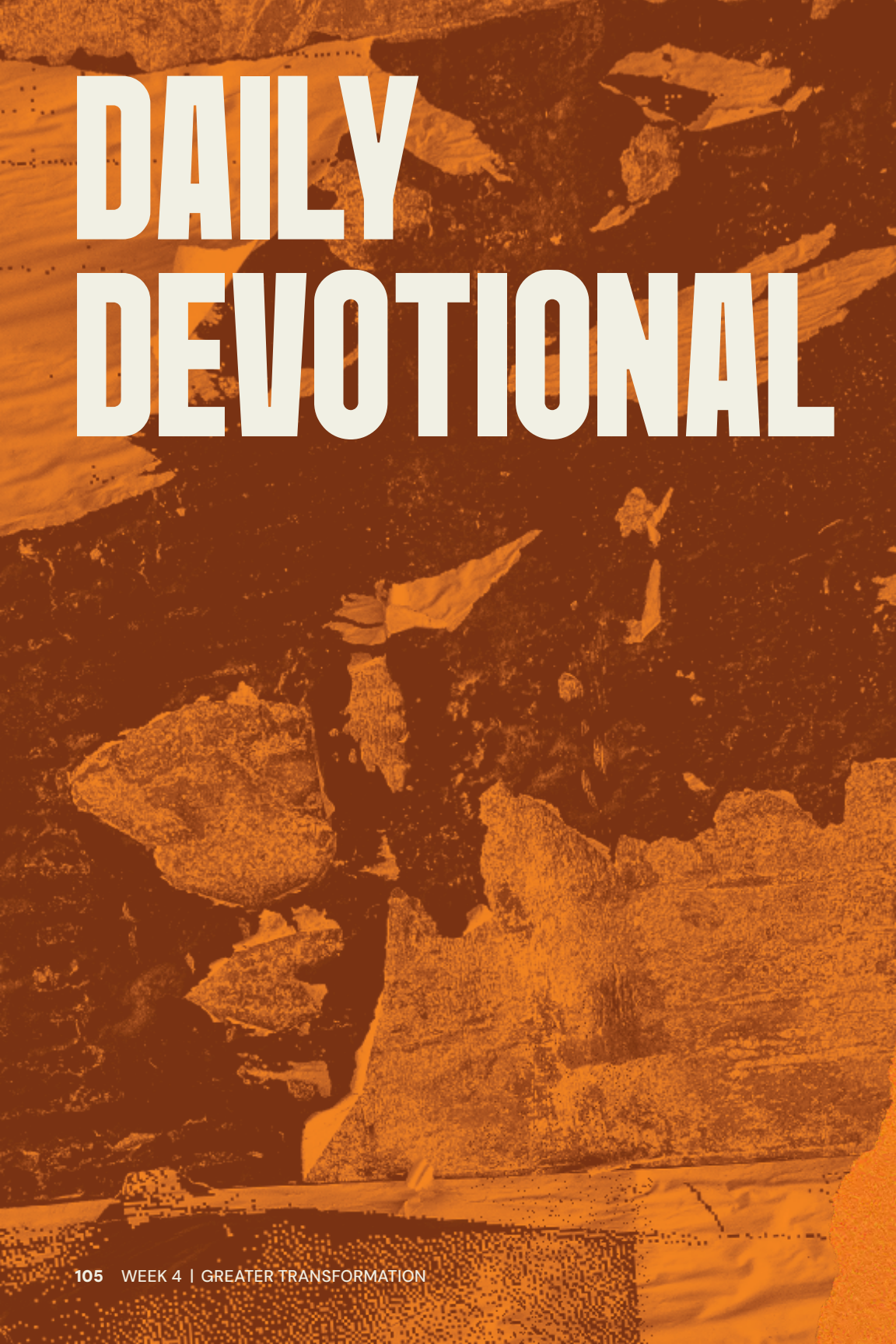
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What specific steps can you take in the greater transformation of those you know and in our community?

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DAILY
DEVOTIONAL

STOPPED IN YOUR TRACKS

Read: Acts 9:3–4

Saul wasn't looking for God. He was on his way to arrest people who followed Jesus—letters in hand, momentum on his side, completely convinced he was right. And that's exactly when Jesus showed up. Light from heaven flashed around him, bright enough to drop him to the ground. Then, he heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Saul was in the middle of a mission against Jesus when grace found him. He hadn't softened on his own or started asking questions. If anyone was beyond reach, it was him. Yet he's the one Jesus stopped in the road.

Jesus finds a lot of us that way, too—on a schedule we didn't pick, like a conversation that wrecked us, a season where we fell apart, or a moment we can look back on and identify as a turning point. **Jesus doesn't wait until we have it all together**. He often moves in when we don't.

The question was never whether God would come after you. He already has. The only thing left to decide is whether you'll stop running and turn around.

PRAY: God, thank you for the moment you interrupted my life—even when I didn't want it in the moment. I can see now you were after me, not against me. Keep interrupting me whenever I need it so I don't miss what you're trying to do in my life. Amen.

DAY 23

NEW SIGHT, NEW LIFE

Read: **Acts 9:17–18**

Before Saul could see anything clearly, someone had to come to him. And the man for the job was Ananias.

Ananias had every reason to say no when God sent him. After all, Saul had been hunting down people just like him. But he went. He walked into the house, called him "Brother Saul," and prayed. Saul's eyes were opened. Then he got up and was baptized.

There are two things worth noting here. First, Saul's change was visible. He didn't just have a private spiritual experience. He got up visibly, noticeably different. That's what God's transformation does—it shows.

Second, God used an ordinary person to get Saul there. Not an angel or a burning bush or a booming voice from above. Just Ananias, willing to go where God sent him even though it scared him.

God still works like that. Someone probably brought you to God, too, maybe without you even realizing. And one day soon, you might be an Ananias for someone else.

Don't just be grateful your eyes were opened. Use them. Look hard at who God has put in front of you, and be the person **willing to walk into the room nobody else will**.

PRAY: God, show me where I'm still seeing with old eyes. Help me see the work you've done in my life, and help me notice the people you're guiding me toward so I can show them to you. Amen.

EVERYTHING CHANGES

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17

There's a real temptation to keep faith in a box. You give God your weekend, maybe your morals, one corner of your life for "spiritual" stuff—and hold onto the rest for yourself.

But a life fully lived for Jesus doesn't allow for that. Anyone who belongs to Jesus, he says, has become a new person. Not better or improved. New. Their old life is gone.

God wants to make you new, too—and he starts the moment you belong to Jesus. But he works on everything, even the areas you might have considered off-limits: your calendar, your bank account, your habits, and your conversations. The pieces of your life nobody used to touch.

God isn't interested in transforming you halfway.
He wants to give you a whole new life.

Don't settle for half of it.

PRAY: God, I've kept some doors locked from you. You've made me new, but I've been living like the old me in a few places I don't like to look at. Come into the parts I've fenced off. I trust you with it. Amen.

DAY 25

WHERE YOUR HEART LIVES

Read: Matthew 6:21

You can learn a lot about what someone loves by looking at two things: their **calendar** and their **bank account**. That's what Jesus is getting at: wherever your treasure is, that's where your **heart** already lives.

Jesus isn't trying to guilt you into anything. He's handing you a mirror. If you want to know what your heart is really set on, look at where your time and money have been going lately. The answer isn't a grade on whether you're a good person. It's just honest information about where your heart's been pointing.

Sometimes what you find lines up with what you say you value. Sometimes there's a gap. You can't nag your heart into caring about the right things, but you can use that gap as a signal that it's time to recalibrate. Shift your time, your attention, your money—and your heart has a way of following it.

So don't just look at your calendar and your bank account and wince. Move something. Give time or money to what you say matters most, and watch your heart start to catch up to it. Don't just be grateful your eyes were opened. Use them. Look hard at who God has put in front of you, and be the person willing to walk into the room nobody else will.

PRAY: God, show me what my time and money reveal about my heart. I don't want to get defensive about it—I want to be honest. Move my treasure toward you, and let my heart follow it there. Amen.

SURRENDER THE SCARCITY

Read: Matthew 6:31–33

When you're afraid there won't be enough—enough money, enough time, enough security—you grip a little tighter to whatever you've got. It's instinct. Nobody has to teach it to you.

Jesus meets that fear head-on. Don't worry about all these things, he says, because your Father already knows what you need. Seek his Kingdom first, and everything else falls into its right place.

Notice Jesus doesn't pretend your needs aren't real. He just says **you're not carrying them by yourself**. There's a Father in the picture who already knows, already sees, and already provides. That's what makes open hands possible: trust. You can loosen your grip because you know **God won't loosen his**.

So what's the fear that keeps your hands closed? Name it. Open your hands and give it to God today. You may find you don't want it back.

PRAY: God, I hold on tight because part of me is scared there won't be enough. Here's the fear I keep gripping _____. I'm handing it to you. Help me trust that you already know what I need, and free me to live with open hands. Amen.

DAY 27

TRANSFORMED TO SERVE

Read: Ephesians 2:10

God didn't just **rescue** Paul from his old life; he **remade** him for a new one. Saul the persecutor became Paul the missionary.

The same is true for you. You're not only saved from something—you're made new **for something**. The Bible says you are God's masterpiece, created in Christ to do the good things God planned for you long ago. That means the greater things you were made for aren't something you have to invent or drum up on your own. God prepared them ahead of time. You're just stepping into it.

You don't have to map out your whole purpose this week. You just have to be willing to show up, pay attention, and say yes when God nudges you toward the thing right in front of you.

The same God who turned a man hunting Christians into the one who carried the gospel across the world has made you new too. And he had greater things in mind when he did it. So don't wait for the whole plan before you take a step. Do the next thing God's put in front of you and trust that he's already there, working ahead of you.

PRAY: God, thank you for not just rescuing me but remaking me—and for having a purpose in mind when you did. Show me the good things you prepared for me. I don't need the whole map right now. Just show me the next step, and give me the courage to take it. Amen.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOU?

Read: Romans 12:2

The world is always pulling on you. Buy this and you'll finally feel okay. Measure up to that person. Settle here, because this is as good as it gets. It's constant, but it can be subtle—and if you're not paying attention, you'll drift right along with it.

The Bible essentially tells us to get a little stubborn against that current: don't copy the pattern of this world. Instead, let God transform you by changing the way you think. Transform is a key word. You can't transform yourself. Only God can do that. This transformation is a daily thing. It's a thousand small but deliberate choices to let God shape your mind instead of letting the world do it for you.

Where have you settled? Where have you accepted a smaller version of what God wants to do in you? Don't just answer that in your head and move on. Pick one place you've gotten comfortable and hand it back to God. A transformation you only sample becomes a memory. A transformation you let continue becomes a life changed.

PRAY: God, I've settled in a few places I'd rather not admit. Keep transforming me, especially where I've gotten too comfortable. Change the way I think, so I stop drifting with everything around me and start following you on purpose. Amen.

WEEK 5

ACTS 20

GREATER COMMITMENT

- Message Notes
- Group Discussion Guide
- Daily Devotional



MESSAGE NOTES

GREATER COMMITMENT

Date: November 14, 15, & 16 **Bible Verses: Acts 20**

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Where are you finding your meaning and purpose? Paul lived a life entirely committed to seeing the good news of Jesus spread throughout the world, and it was his greatest joy. In the same way, we are invited into greater commitment and surrender to the work God wants to do in our world. It's us saying, "I will live with open hands. I will go where you want me to go, I will give what you're asking me to give." That's a life poured out—and that's a life worth living.

Key Passages: Acts 20

"And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
Acts 20:35

"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."
Luke 6:38

"Since we have planted spiritual seed among you, aren't we entitled to a harvest of physical food and drink?"
1 Corinthians 9:11

START SHARING

- Paul spends some time in Acts 20 talking about what he hopes his legacy will be. If you were to leave this earth tomorrow, what would you want your legacy to be?
- Read verses 33-35. Paul quotes Jesus here, but he also cites his own example of following Jesus. Have you experienced times when people followed Jesus in their actions as well as their words? How does that demonstrate a greater commitment than nice-sounding words alone?

START THINKING

- In this passage, Paul is returning to Jerusalem knowing that he is likely going to face prison and suffering. Why do you think he was motivated to do that?
- In verses 18–21, Paul describes both the hardships he's faced and the message he's been preaching that caused those hardships. What do you think this says about Paul's sense of purpose and meaning for his life?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Having reflected a bit on what your purpose is and what you'd like your legacy to be, what things might be keeping you from fully realizing those?
- Read verses 25–27. Paul leaves everything on the table here for the sake of following Jesus and furthering his Kingdom. What would it look like for us to be "all in" in the same way Paul was? How would that impact our lives and the lives of those around us?

NEXT STEPS

Write down one or two sentences of what you would like your legacy to be. Ask "What can I do this week to make this true of me?"

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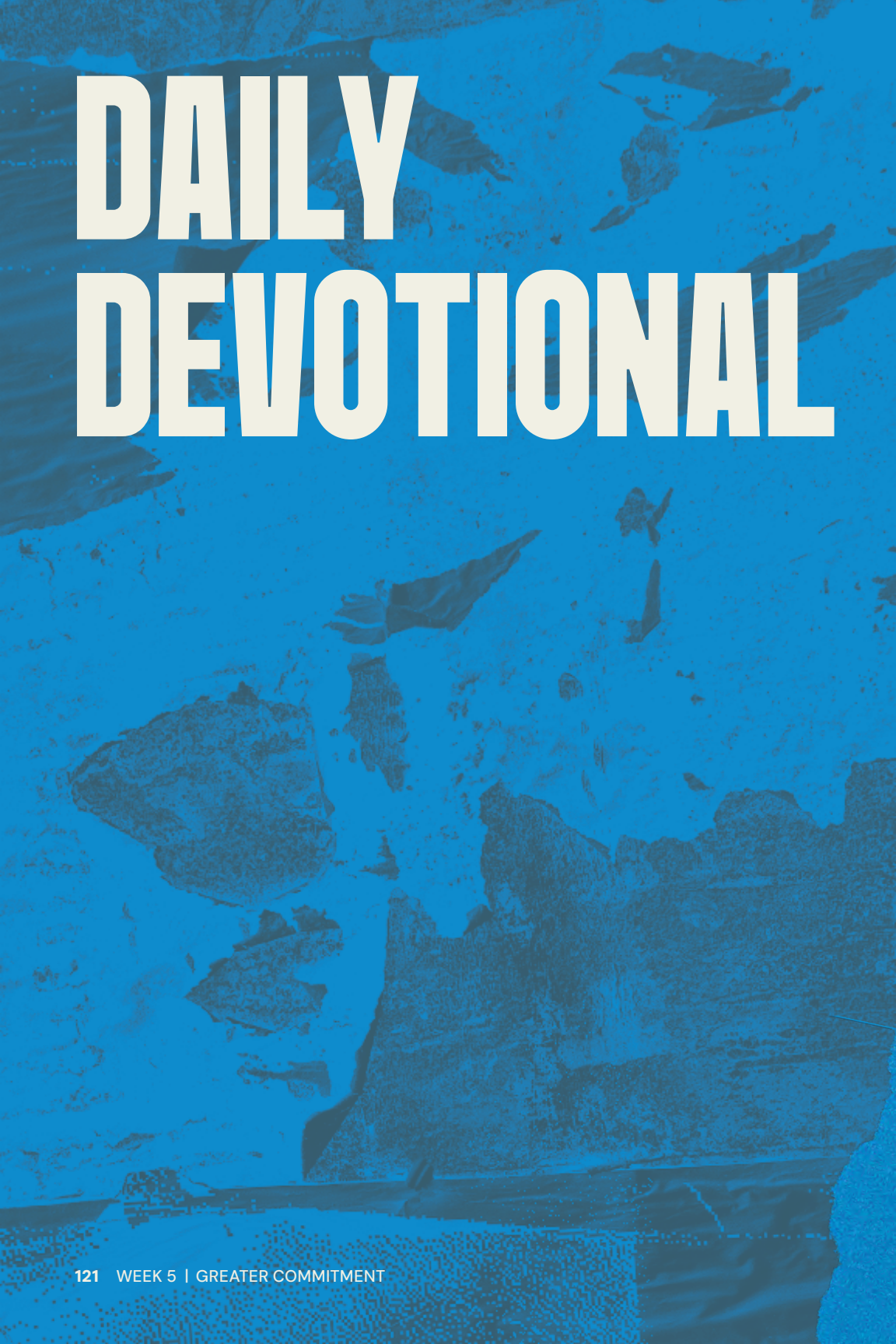
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Prayerfully consider being a part of the Greater Things initiative. Talk to God and take the step to do what he says, whatever that is.


DAILY
DEVOTIONAL

FINISHING WELL

Read: Acts 20:24

Paul is on his way to Jerusalem, and he knows trouble is waiting for him there. That's what makes his words so startling: my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it to finish the work Jesus gave me.

That might sound like despair talking. But Paul had found something worth spending his whole life on, and once you've found that, staying comfortable stops being the goal. Paul wanted more than mere survival. He was trying to finish strong—to run the whole race, not just coast through.

Most of us are good at starting. We can easily capitalize on that fresh burst of motivation that comes with a new goal or a new season of life. Finishing well, staying faithful after the excitement wears off, is often the hard part. That's when we're most tempted to quit—or at least stop trying.

Like running a literal race, you have to "keep your eyes on the prize." Remember what's at stake: Kingdom impact. Greater things. Lives changed by Christ.

What would it look like to play the long game for something like that? To fill your days with purpose and spend your time and effort on something that will still matter long after you're gone. Think about the prize you're running toward and talk to God about how you can start going after it wholeheartedly.

PRAY: God, I want to finish well, not just start strong. Show me the greater things you want to accomplish through me, and give me the faithfulness and endurance to keep pushing toward it. Help me keep running until the race is done. Amen.

DAY 30

MORE BLESSED TO GIVE

Read: Acts 20:35

This verse runs against everything in us. More blessed to give than to receive? Every instinct we have says the opposite: that the person with more is better off.

But think about the most generous people you know. They're rarely the most anxious ones. There's a lightness to people who've learned to hold their stuff loosely because they've figured something out: giving isn't a loss you brace yourself to survive. **It's a joy you get to step into.**

That's what Jesus is pointing to when he says it's more blessed to give than to receive. He isn't laying down a rule so much as letting you in on a secret about how life actually works. In God's economy, the math runs backward from the world's: you end up fuller when you pour out, and lighter when you let go.

And you don't have to just take his word for it. You can test it. Give away something you'd normally keep—money, time, attention, help nobody asked you for—and pay attention to what it does inside you.

The lightness you feel is the blessing Jesus was talking about. Go looking for it this week.

PRAY: God, I've spent a lot of my life assuming more is always better. Let me experience what Jesus promised: that there's a joy in giving I'll never find by holding on. Loosen my grip and teach me the kind of generosity that leaves me lighter, not emptier. Amen.

A LIFE POURED OUT

Read: 2 Timothy 4:6–7

"My life has already been poured out as an offering to God." Poured out. Not stored up, not carefully protected. Paul is talking about a life emptied on purpose, for something truly worthwhile.

Here's the kicker: Paul wrote this from a prison cell, and his execution likely wasn't far off. But he doesn't sound bitter or defeated. He sounds fulfilled. He's saying, I fought the good fight, I finished the race, I kept the faith. Those are the words of a man at peace looking back on his life with confidence and assuredness.

We usually assume the goal is to protect ourselves. We save our energy, guard our time, and keep something in our reserves just in case. But even when we live cautiously like this, making sure to never give too much of ourselves, we still end up feeling strangely empty. In contrast, a poured-out life isn't an empty one. In fact, the people who pour themselves out the most for what matters are usually the ones who look back with the fewest regrets.

Faithfulness stretched across years is its own kind of generosity. It's giving God not just one offering, one sacrifice, or one good season, but the whole thing, down to the last drop.

You only get one life to pour out, so stop rationing it. Ask God where he wants it spent and start pouring now—while you still have something to give—instead of waiting until the end.

PRAY: God, when I reach the end of my life, I want to say what Paul said. Take my whole life as an offering. Show me where to spend it and help me pour it out well. Amen.

DAY 32

WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?

Read: Philippians 1:21

What could you do or say to threaten someone who says that living is Christ and dying is even better? There's no leverage left to use against them.

Whatever you're really living for—your career, your reputation, your kids, being liked—is exactly the thing you'll be most terrified to lose. Wherever you find your meaning is where you'll always feel most fragile.

Paul's words show what it feels like to find your meaning in Christ. When your life is anchored to Jesus, you stop clinging so desperately to everything else. It simply pales in comparison.

Ask yourself, "What am I living for?" And don't answer the easy way. Don't stop at the things that sound good on paper; that would be flattering if you shared them in a group. What are you actually living for? The ugliest, most self-centered things that drive you.

Then, take whatever you named and hold it up next to Jesus. How does it look now? Is it something you can build a life—an eternity—on?

PRAY: God, I want you to be my reason for living. Not one more thing on the list, but the center it all hangs on. I want to feel the freedom Paul felt, where the things I'm scared of losing suddenly don't seem so important. You're the one thing that can never be taken, and the one thing worth living for. Amen.

RICH IN GOOD WORKS

Read: 1 Timothy 6:18–19

Ask most people what the good life looks like and you'll get some version of more—more margin, more comfort, more assets, more equity. More. But here, Paul points in the opposite direction. He tells the wealthy in Timothy's church—the ones who coveted more—that real life is found by giving, not gathering. By doing this, he says, they'll take hold of the true "good life."

But this isn't a life a few lucky people are born with or a privilege only a certain few have access to. You don't need to have a certain number on your paycheck or a certain amount in your savings. It's a posture, built one small and unglamorous step at a time. Whether you have a little or a lot, there's still a small step you can take today—a simple, doable way to meet a need.

"Small" looks different to everyone. One person's "small" act of generosity may feel out of reach for another. But you know what you can do. When the need comes up, you know deep down if you can meet it. If you can pay for their groceries, put gas in their car, watch their kids, take 5 extra minutes for that conversation, pray for them in the moment instead of later.

Generosity isn't a more ideal version of you waiting off in the future. It's the culmination of the small, intentional choices you can make right now, and then again tomorrow, until one day it's simply who you are. What's a small step you can take today?

PRAY: God, help me see every day as a chance to do some good—every resource as an opportunity to bless someone. Make generosity my habit instead of my goal. Teach me to see what you've given me like tools for someone else's good, and let me find the true "good life." Amen.

DAY 34

SOW GENEROUSLY

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

Nobody plants a seed and then stands there crying because they don't have their seed anymore. Seeds are planted with expectation—what goes into the ground grows. When you plant a seed, you feel some sense of hope or excitement about what will grow from it.

Paul says generosity works the same way. Giving isn't your money vanishing. It's a seed being planted. You give before you can see the harvest because you believe **God will grow it into something greater**.

Which is exactly why Paul adds that God loves a cheerful giver. Not one who feels obligated, or one who feels sad about what they're giving up. Cheerful. Joyful. Hopeful. And you can't fake that. You can only give with this kind of posture when you truly believe God will take care of you—when you believe he'll do greater things with what you're planting.

So stop guarding your seeds. Put them in the ground and watch with hope-filled excitement as God makes something grow.

PRAY: God, help me plant generously and leave the harvest to you. Help me to give with hope and anticipation, not with obligation or dread. You gave me these seeds so I can scatter them freely. I can't wait to see what you do with them! Amen.

SAY YES TO GREATER THINGS

Read: 1 Chronicles 29:14

David had just gathered an enormous offering for the temple—gold, silver, everything needed to build it. And in the middle of that generous moment, he prays a strangely humble prayer: Who am I, that I could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!

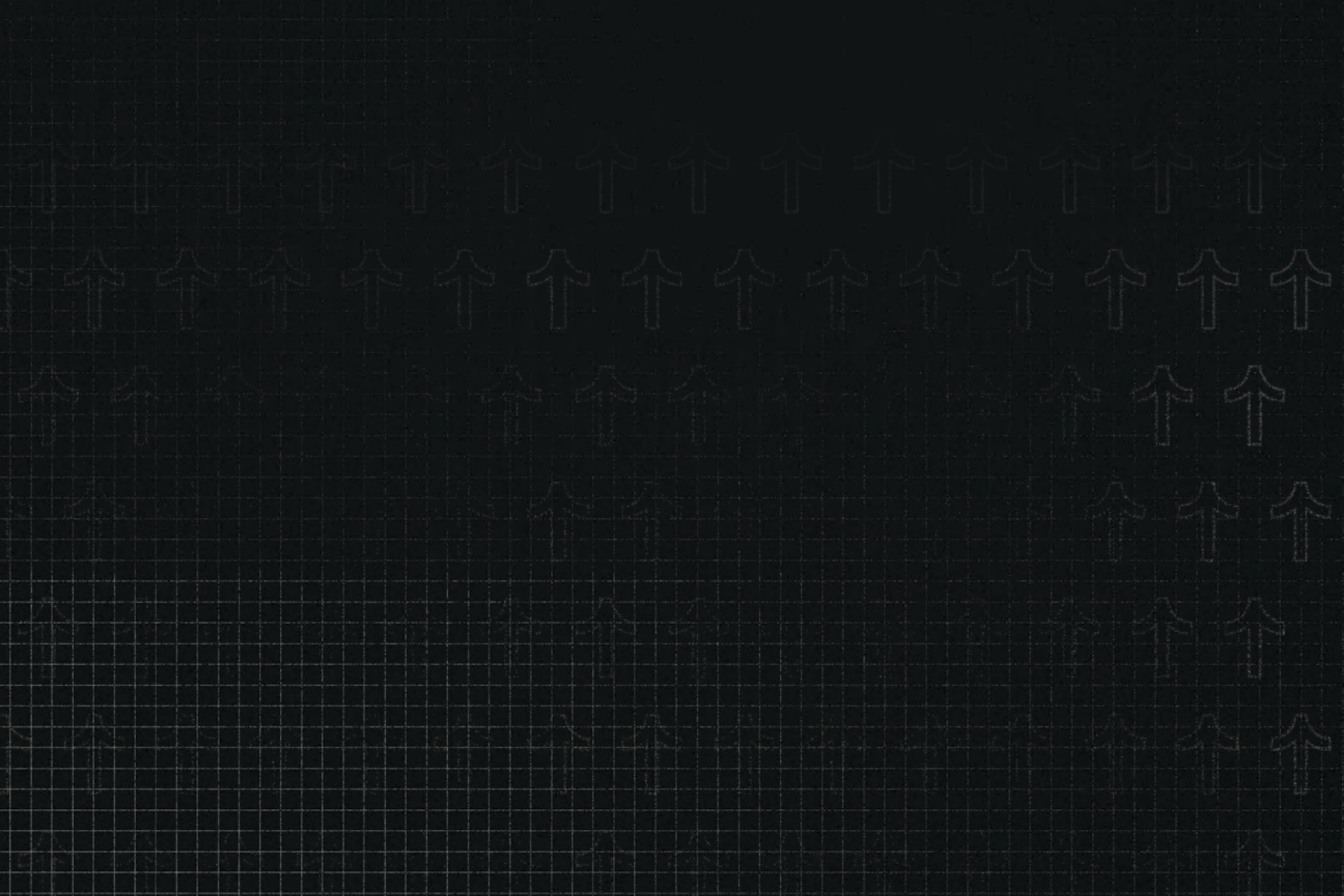
That's the whole point. Every yes you offer God, every gift, every open hand, all started with him. Your time, your abilities, your money, your very life—**all of it came from God first**. Generosity was never you giving God something out of your own supply. It's just returning what was always his to begin with.

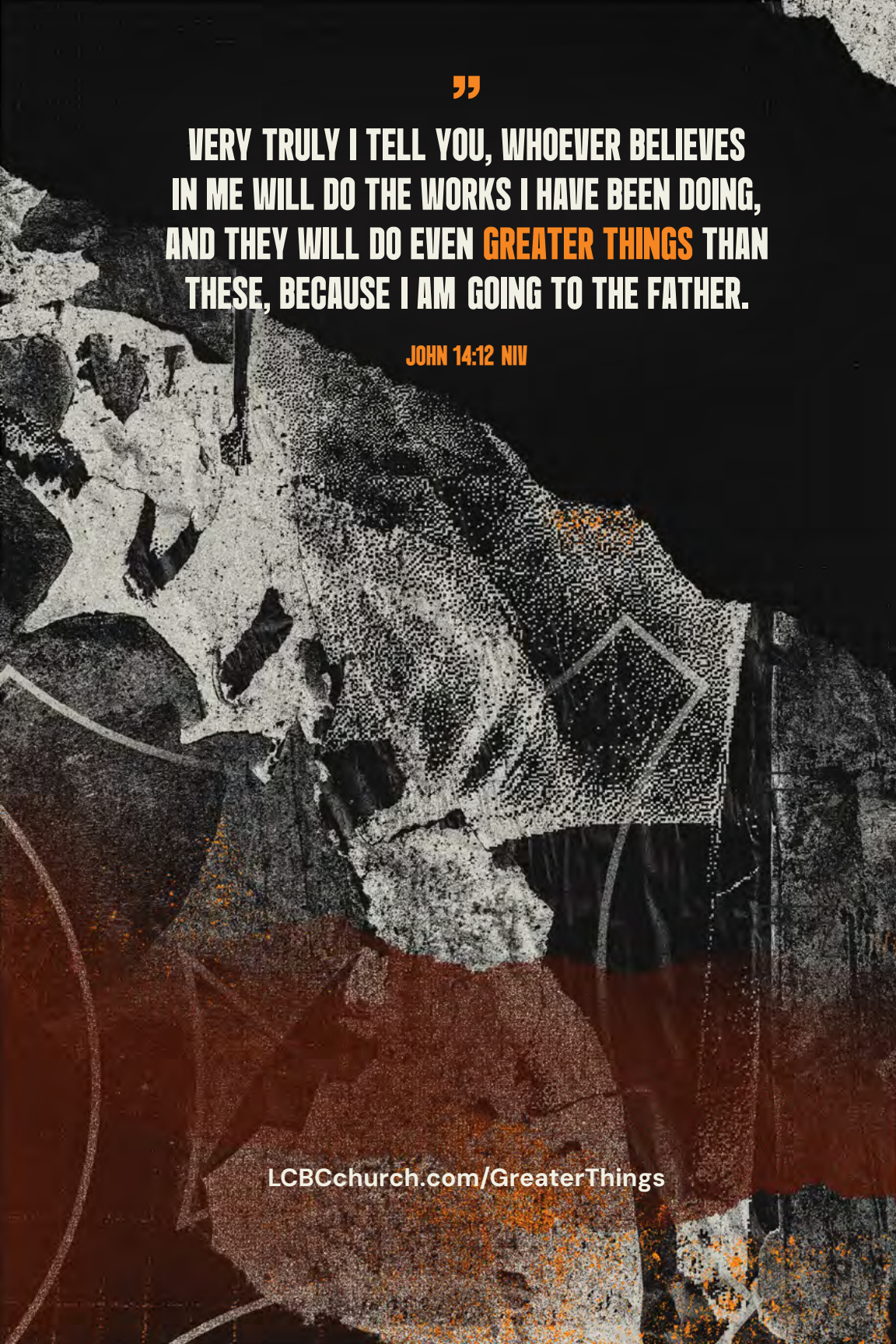
Look back over where these last few weeks have taken you. A God on mission who pulls ordinary people into the story. Community you were built for. Boldness to speak up and to go. Transformation that reaches every corner of your life. Commitment that finishes the race.

You've spent these days reading, processing, and praying. This is the day you respond. It's the day you say, "Yes. I'll live with open hands. I'll go where you send me. I'll give what you ask."

Say yes to the greater things God wants to do in you and through you. **Then go live like you meant it.**

PRAY: God, here's my yes. To open hands. To going wherever you send me. To giving whatever you ask. Everything I have came from you anyway, so do the greater things you want to do in me and through me. I'm all in. Amen.




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VERY TRULY I TELL YOU, WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL DO THE WORKS I HAVE BEEN DOING, AND THEY WILL DO EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN THESE, BECAUSE I AM GOING TO THE FATHER.
JOHN 14:12 NIV
LCBCchurch.com/GreaterThings