



GENEROSITY INITIATIVE



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
BROKEN ARROW

# GREATERTER

*Still*





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

— Ephesians 3:20-21





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# From Pastor Matt

We are a church that loves our city. Broken Arrow. A city that has grown from a small country town to be a key cog in the Tulsa metroplex. We love this city. We so badly want to reach BA & Beyond by multiplying disciples to follow Jesus.

And in a time when people are more and more in isolation; in a time when families are unhealthy; in a time when people are less interested in the Gospel, there stands a light. It's you. It's First Baptist Broken Arrow.

For nearly 120 years, this church has stood as a light of the Gospel. We believe that God is working in us and through us to look at what the next 20 to 25 years looks like at FBCBA. God has done some amazing things in this church. From our humble beginnings in a railcar to the church building on the hill, God has worked and God has moved.

What God has done in our church is great, but we believe for this next season that what God has for us in the days ahead is GREATER STILL.

Greater Still is a two-year discipleship journey in which we are challenging our entire church, 100% of us, to fully engage through our faith and in our generosity. We're asking you to join us in Greater Ministry, Greater Missions, and a Greater Future.

In Ephesians 3:20-21, the Apostle Paul reminds the church in Ephesus that God is able to do far more abundantly than we can ask or think. God invites us to come to Him boldly in faith to see Him work in ways we cannot comprehend. It's in this—faith that will stretch us—that we believe God will bring Himself glory through all generations.

God desires to work in us and through us in this season to reach BA & Beyond. We invite you to join us on this Greater Still journey!

—Pastor Matt Brooks  
FBCBA Senior Pastor







# FBCBA'S History



FBCBA forms in The Evangel Railroad Car

**1904**

The Little White Church was built and dedicated

**1908**

Revival Meeting draws half of Broken Arrow's population

**1927**

The 'Rock' Church was dedicated

**1951**

FBCBA members attend first service in a new sanctuary

**1974**







**1979**

FBCBA celebrates 75th anniversary

**1986**

Nick Garland assumes position of Senior Pastor of FBCBA

**1989**

FBCBA's Cornerstone Mission launches

**1991**

A note burning service is held to celebrate church's financial freedom. Church votes to purchase 142 acres of land at the intersection of 61st & 161st

**1996**

An unprecedented outlay of \$15,000 launched the Talents efforts and yielded a return of \$400,000 in October

Groundbreaking Day for the current site at  
61st & 161st Street

**1996**

2,500 FBCBA members march from the  
Broadway location to the current location

**1999**

**January 1**, first services held in the new  
facilities at 61st & 161st

**2000**

Hosted Freedom Live concert event  
with 50,000+ in attendance

**2001**  
**2002**

Hosted first Global Focus Conference  
and launched GO Missions effort

**2001**

FBCBA celebrates 100th anniversary  
on March 14

**2004**







**2004**

FBCBA donates 40 acres to Baptist Village Communities for construction of independent housing and an assisted living/memory care facility

**2008**

Completed construction on the Gym and 17 adult classrooms

**2019**

Pastor Nick Garland retires after 33 years as Senior Pastor

**2019**

Dr. Matt Brooks becomes the new Senior Pastor of FBCBA in December 2019.

# Our Greater Still Vision

## **First Baptist Church Broken Arrow— taking our mission to reach BA & Beyond to a whole new level.**

For nearly 120 years, God has used the ministry of FBCBA to reach thousands of people for Jesus. From meeting in a railcar in the 1920s, to the “rock church” just off Main Street, and to sitting on top of the tallest hill in Tulsa County, God’s blessing has been on the ministry here.

That ministry has been saturated with the sharing of the Gospel—to reach BA & Beyond by multiplying disciples to follow Jesus.

The Gospel of Jesus has driven our ministry's effort. What God has done at FBCBA has been great. But we also believe that what God has for our ministry in the days ahead is Greater Still.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will engage in a generosity initiative to allow God to work in us and through us to seek GREATER Ministry, GREATER Missions, and a GREATER Future.





# PRIMARY 100% Engagement GOAL

## EACH OF US & ALL OF US

We challenge every person who calls FBCBA home to take the next step in following Jesus:

**THE NEXT STEP OF SURRENDER:** What are we holding back from the Lordship of Jesus and the need to relinquish control to Him?

**THE NEXT STEP OF FAITH:** What next step do we need to take that moves us away from our comfort zone and into a whole new experience of dependence upon Him?

**THE NEXT STEP OF GENEROSITY:** What next step of generosity do we need to attain to express our gratitude for what He has done for us?

# SECONDARY \$19 M Over The Next 2 Years GOAL

We are trusting the Lord to move through us to invest \$19 million over the next two years to further the vision of reaching BA & Beyond through Greater Ministry, Greater Missions, and Greater Future.

This \$19 million goal represents all that God has called us to do over the next two years.

It's a "combined goal" that includes all our regular giving (the annual ministry budget, the GO Missions offering, and the building fund) combined into one, unified goal. This approach takes the emphasis off a special project and places it on our entire mission, allowing anyone to participate, wherever they are in their giving journey.

One combined goal prompts us to better steward all the resources our people are providing for the work of the church by allocating the gifts to each area of focus in a way that maximizes the needs as the gifts come in. It's not just a "building campaign" but rather a vision that represents the totality of our ministry, our missions, and our future.\*

\*For a more detailed explanation of this "one fund" approach to the Greater Still giving initiative, see page 38.





# **GREATER MINISTRY**

*\$8.48 million over two years*



# Giving To Our Annual Ministry Budget To Enable Our Ongoing Ministries

First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow's mission is to reach BA and beyond by multiplying disciples to follow Jesus. As we provide ministry day-in and day-out, our focus is on multiplying disciples to follow Jesus. As we seek to make disciples, baptize believers, and teach God's Word, this fund fuels what FBCBA does daily to minister to children, students, and adults in BA and beyond. It includes our regular ministry expenses, including personnel, programs, worship, events, curriculum, materials, maintenance, operations, and more.

By God's grace and the faithful generosity of our church family, we already receive over \$4 million each year towards this fund. Over the next two years, (April 2022-April 2024), \$8.48 million will make our ongoing ministries possible. When you give to FBCBA, your generosity empowers the many ministries of our church to continue the beautiful and compelling work of fulfilling our mission.

\*This number represents an average annual budget goal of \$4.7 million for budget years 2022 and 2023, less the 7% contribution that we will continue to give from our operating budget to missions through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention and the 3% transfer to our GO Missions fund. Since these budget dollars are for missions efforts, both amounts are represented in the "Greater Missions" goal number and not included in the total ministry budget goal of \$8.48 million.







# GREATER MISSIONS

*\$1.52 million over two years*

FBCBA has a rich history of missions endeavors dating back to the 1990's. During this time, the church would invest in missions as never before and created a staff position devoted to overseeing this commitment to missions.

During the 1990s FBCBA would launch a church in Montana, begin an apartment ministry, and launch Slavic and deaf gatherings on the FBCBA campus. Throughout the 1990's FBCBA would continue to expand its missions focus by concentrating on church planting efforts not only within the states, but also around the globe in Mexico, Southeast Asia, China, and Romania.



In 2001, FBCBA would launch an Acts 1:8 strategy that continues today as Global Outreach Missions (GO Missions). The emphasis is on fulfilling the mission and vision of the church (multiplying disciples to follow Jesus) in Jerusalem (Broken Arrow), Judea (Oklahoma), Samaria (North America), and the ends of the earth (internationally). FBCBA now partners with church planting efforts on 5 of the 7 continents and in 9 different countries.

Annually, FBCBA schedules 15-20 strategic trips with its partners to assist them in fulfilling their missions to reach their communities. Hundreds of FBCBA members participate in these trips, while many more support them through prayer and giving as they go. Through these efforts, the Gospel is shared, lives are changed, and the Kingdom is expanded.

Through the faithful giving and generosity of its members, FBCBA invests over \$700,000 annually in local and global missions endeavors and partnerships. Since the 1990s, FBCBA has invested over \$22 million dollars in support of local partners, church planting, mission trips and the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

We currently support 40 areas of ministry focus. In the days ahead, we want God to move through our church to reach BA and beyond. We'll continue to support our missions partners, and we'll expand our efforts with new local & global ministry opportunities. We'll continue to send missionary teams throughout our city and around the world as we reach BA and beyond.

\*This number represents a 10% transfer from our annual operating budget as noted with the "Greater Ministry" goal in addition to the allocation to GO Missions that has been established in the past from designated giving to the GO Missions Fund.





# JERUSALEM

**Tulsa Metro Baptist Network**

**Celebrate Recovery**

**Arms Around BA**

**Mend Medical Services**

**Campus Crusade for Christ**

**Hospitality House of Tulsa**

**Hope Pregnancy Center**

**John 3:16 Mission**

**Women's Missionary Union**

# JUDEA

**Oklahoma Baptists**

**The Spring**

**The Gideons International**

**FAITH Riders**

**Oklahoma Baptist  
Homes for Children**

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes**

# SAMARIA

**La Chapel**

Montreal, Canada Church Plant

**Towers Church**

Vancouver, Canada Church Plant

**Roots Community Church**

Seattle, WA Church Plant

**August Gate Church**

St. Louis, MO Church Plant



# ENDS OF THE EARTH

## **India Church Planting**

## **Called 2 Tell**

## **Cambodia**

Home of Grace

## **Vietnam**

## **Colombia**

Cucata and Pamplona Church Plants

## **Africa**

Senegal/Wolof Church Plant

## **Poland Church Plant**

Bełchatów Church Plant

## **Netherlands**

Refuge Ministry & Church Plant



# OUTREACH / MINISTRIES

## **BA & Beyond Outreach**

Strategic outreach and evangelism in Broken Arrow and Beyond.

## **Backpack Ministry**

Providing food for students who the school system has identified may not have meals in the home through the weekend.

## **Baptist College Scholarship**

University and seminary support for First Baptist Church Broken Arrow members that have accepted a call to full-time ministry and are attending Southern Baptist universities and/or seminaries.

## **Camino Villa Outreach**

A church plant ministry to the families of Camino Villa, a 400-unit mobile home park in East Broken Arrow, providing food and Bible study on a weekly basis with an emphasis on fulfilling the mission and vision of FBCBA.

## **FBCBA Benevolence**

Ministry to the members of FBCBA who have faced unexpected financial needs due to any number of extenuating circumstances.

## **FBCBA Mission House**

Providing accommodations and fellowship to Southern Baptist Missionary families who are on stateside assignment from an active missionary assignment.

## **Prison Ministry**

Ongoing outreach of FBCBA members who weekly take the Gospel to the state prisons.

## **Public School Outreach**

Outreach to the local school systems that includes meals to teachers or students, assistance with specific student needs, school supplies, and other resources otherwise not available to administrators, teachers, or students.







## ANNUAL DENOMINATIONAL OFFERINGS

### Supported By Our Go Missions Fund

**Edna McMillen Offering** (Oklahoma Baptists' Missions Offering)

**Annie Armstrong Offering** (North American Mission Board Missions Offering)

**Lottie Moon Offering** (International Mission Board Missions Offering)

## COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

FBCBA contributes seven percent of our general operating budget to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.

CONTINUE THE GREATER STILL JOURNEY AT: [fbcba.org/greaterstill](http://fbcba.org/greaterstill)





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
BROKEN ARROW

STUDENTS

# GREATER FUTURE

*\$9 million over two years*

The future of FBCBA is bright, and we desire to see God move in the next 20-25 years in an updated and renovated facility. God has blessed us with a tremendous campus in which to experience the community of the church family, worship Jesus Christ, equip the saints for the work of ministry, and from which to send disciple-makers and missionaries throughout BA, Oklahoma, and the world with the message of the Gospel.

Since our Spirit-led move to "the hill" over twenty years ago, our facilities have served us well as a resource for ministry. But over time, ministry strategies and programs change, expressions of worship adapt to new generations, and equipment, fixtures, and finishes deteriorate. This renovation will not only bring our aesthetics up to current standards but will also maximize our tremendous amount of square footage for better stewardship of available space.

A church facility is more than just a building. It's a place to foster community, build relationships, and grow in our faith. As we seek to minister to spiritually unconnected people and families within our reach, having a warm, attractive, and welcoming place to which these people will be drawn will help us in our mission of making them disciples of Jesus Christ. And, having an up-to-date worship venue that is intentionally designed to maximize flexibility for different expressions of worship and to use technology most effectively will enhance the worship experience for us and for those we are called to reach.

This plan seeks to convert unused and underutilized space on our existing campus to position our ministries and programs for success over the next 20-25 years. The proposed renovation impacts about 50% of our existing space and adds only about 10,000 square feet (about twice the area of a basketball court) of strategic "new space" to our campus. That new space is focused on families and children, and it will connect two of our existing buildings on both floors for better access and convenience.

The following images represent ideas and concepts for what a renovation project at FBCBA could look like. They do not represent completed plans or designs and are subject to change.



# EXTERIOR FACE-LIFT

Architectural styles adapt over time. Like any organization that intends to welcome and attract newcomers, the "first impression" is particularly important. This project will include updates to the exterior façade including more glass, new textures, updated colors, and better signage to welcome members and guests.

Since the interior renovation calls for a larger and more welcoming Atrium, this plan includes relocating the brick "wall of faith" in our existing Atrium to a new exterior location around the bell tower and above the memorial brick pavers, placing these historical memorial names and elements in one location. We will continue to honor those who have given in the past as we look to the leadership of future generations.











# ATRIUM

Our existing Atrium has been a place of connection and fellowship for more than two decades. But its 1990s design has run its course and doesn't meet today's standards of size, style, and use of natural light.

This proposal expands the Atrium by raising the ceiling, removing walls, adding larger windows, relocating the Café, and adding several seating groups. All these elements will foster a sense of family and community as a welcoming gathering space on Sunday mornings and throughout the week.

A focal point in the Atrium will be the "Next Steps Center" where anyone can be greeted in an attractive setting and assisted in finding the next step in his or her journey of faith.

The Atrium renovation will extend the full length of the public spaces, widening the area that currently creates a 90-degree turn, opening the space for greater visibility of each destination and a fresh, new aesthetic appeal from one end to the other.



# WORSHIP CENTER

The Worship Center is the “living room” of any church. It’s our primary gathering place. It’s where we meet regularly to express our faith by worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It’s also the “front door” for many people who come seeking, whether those exploring faith in Christ, new believers looking for a place to grow, or long-time followers of Christ who are new in town and wanting a place to call their church home.

Again, we’ve been blessed with a wonderful place to do these things. But not only was our Worship Center originally designed to be temporary, it’s also showing its age with 20-year-old carpet, chairs, and finishes. Much of the technology has been updated over the years and can be repurposed in a new space, but some of it needs updating as well.

The pandemic has reinforced the reality that more people will be reached in the future through technology. We must create an environment that not only serves those in the worship room but also those in their living room. Our vision is to create a worship environment that maximizes the quality of the experience in the room and the quality of the experience of those worshipping at home or elsewhere through web streaming.

While this renovation repurposes the “extensions” on each side of the room for new classrooms and offices, it adds stadium-style seating in the back of the room, bringing those in the rear “closer” to the platform through better sightlines, enhancing their worship experience.

Maintaining the flexibility of movable chairs on the floor will continue to allow for multiuse of the space and the accommodation of a total of 900 seats in the room. This number will not only serve us well currently but will allow for a near-tripling of our current worship attendance in three Sunday worship services in the future.

In more recent years, churches have recognized the value of a more intimate and personal setting for baptism. New facility designs are abandoning “up high and far away” baptism pools and placing them lower and closer to the people. Our proposed design includes this change as well, allowing families to experience the baptism of their loved ones “up close and personal.” This also allows for the back wall above the choir to be better utilized for more optimum video screen display.

We anticipate these changes to the Worship Center to serve our people and our potential for growth for at least the next 20 years.





# NEXT GENERATION ATRIUM

Another focal point of the renovation is a new "Next Generation Atrium." This indoor, two-story space extends from the existing Café space into the outdoor passageway between the gym building and the education building.

As a centerpiece of our renovated campus, this area will primarily serve families with children and preschoolers. It will have an indoor playground, check-in stations for kids and preschoolers, new entrances for the Preschool Ministry and the Special Needs Ministry, and a new staircase to access the second floor of the gym building (where most of our Adult Sunday School spaces are located) and the second floor of the education building, the home of our Kids Ministry and the new home of our Student Ministry.

This new space will connect the existing, central, Southwest-facing "main" entrance of the church (closet to the bell tower) through to the North side of the campus next to the existing gym entrance with a consistent, two-story structure. This new "spine" will run through the heart of our facilities and serve as a hub of activity and community.













# STUDENT MINISTRY

With the largest high school in Oklahoma less than two miles away, our Student Ministry has tremendous potential for growth. The existing Student Center, while functional, sits three football fields away from the rest of the campus.

While a separate, detached facility for students might have been appealing in the past, church growth experts have concluded that an "out of sight, out of mind" approach to student ministry is not healthy for a church that desires to be multi-generational with every generation discipling the next generation.

This proposal seeks to accomplish a "ONE ROOF, ONE MISSION" approach to multi-generational disciple-making by relocating the Student Ministry to the second floor of the education building where we have an abundance of underutilized space.

By opening the walls around an existing "hidden staircase," at the West entrance, as well as opening the staircase that is currently used

to access the Kids Ministry space on the second floor, each of these ministries will have their own, intentionally designed access to their newly designed spaces.

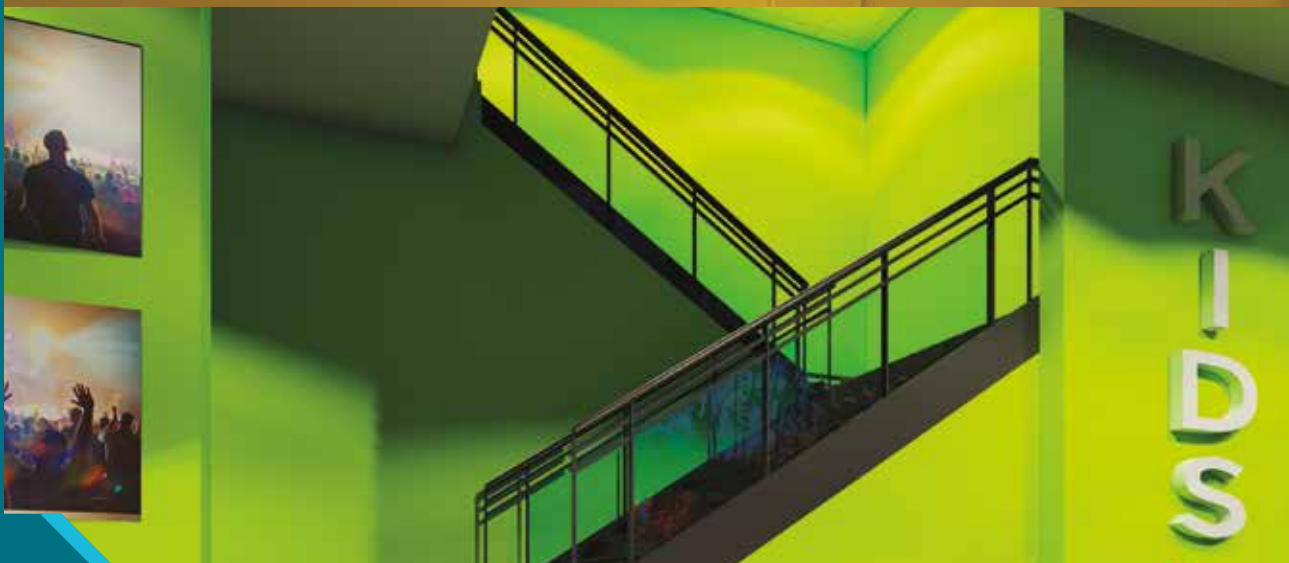
The South side of the second floor with underutilized classrooms will be converted into a new Kids Ministry worship space, and the existing Kids worship space will be redesigned to serve the students. For security, the two spaces will not be accessible to each other.

An added benefit of this move for the Student Ministry is that they will be able to use half of the numerous, large classrooms that already encompass the outer areas of the floor. This will allow for small group gatherings, something the existing Student Center does not provide.

With all our Next Generation ministries in one place, we'll be poised to provide ministry to families, preschoolers, children, and students in a way that we've never done before.

*Blessed  
is the  
Blessing*





# KIDS MINISTRY

As part of the renovation of the second floor, the Kids Ministry entrance will remain the staircase and elevator they currently use. They can also use the staircase in the new Next Generation Atrium to access their floor. Their worship venue will relocate to the newly opened South half of the second floor and be reimagined for a new generation of kids.







# OFFICES

For twenty years, our church offices have been housed in a collection of double-wide trailers. While they have served their purpose, this temporary building has outlived its usefulness. Their age has made them increasingly difficult to maintain, to heat and cool, and to keep from leaking. They are an unattractive and unappealing place to receive members and guests for meetings with the staff.

Part of our goal of maximizing every square foot of existing space is the realization that we can accommodate all our existing staff, and leave some room for staff growth, in underutilized space.

The large room adjacent to the Worship Center on the South side that has been used for a few things in the past but is not currently utilized consistently will become the new weekday entrance to the church offices. It will house the reception area and a large conference room for meetings.

A key component of this renovation is the capturing of the Worship Center's left and right "extensions" that constitute "dead space" for those sitting in those areas for worship. Sight lines to the platform and sound coverage are undesirable.

The South side of the Worship Center that was originally designed with a lower ceiling to accommodate movable walls for classrooms will be repurposed as offices for Senior Pastor and Executive Pastor as well as the Business office and Communications. (The corresponding space on the North side of the Worship Center will be new, permanent classrooms, replacing those lost by the removal of classrooms in the Atrium as part of its expansion).

The remaining ministry offices will be relocated to other existing spaces, including behind the Worship Center in existing Worship Ministry space for the worship staff, the existing rooms in the hallway between the Worship Center and the Gym for the Next Steps and Spiritual Development staff, and in existing preschool space on the first floor of the education building for the Next Generation ministry offices. Space will also be captured under the new stadium seating in the Worship Center for media production and offices and a new prayer room for closer proximity to the Worship Center.





# WHAT'S NEXT?

## **PRAY PERSISTENTLY**

Pray that God will work in the hearts of His people at FBCBA and that we will listen with the intent to obey.

## **CELEBRATE LOUDLY**

God is going to do amazing things in your life during this season. Share His handiwork enthusiastically with those around you.

## **COMMIT FULLY**

Help reach our goal of 100% engagement by putting your "yes" on the table and encouraging others to do the same.

## **GIVE GENEROUSLY**

Live and give in a way that stretches you to take your faith to a whole new level of generosity.

**AN INITIAL GIVER** is someone who decides to give for the first time out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the church with this gift.

**A CONSISTENT GIVER** is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well of course; it just requires more discipline.

**AN INTENTIONAL GIVER** is someone who understands the pre-eminence of Christ and that He is before all things – that all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him, and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and their saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving.

**A SURRENDERED GIVER** is someone who recognizes the power of the Gospel and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A surrendered giver is someone who gives in a way that changes them; in a way that reflects that the totality of their resources belongs to God. A surrendered giver isn't just concerned with what they ARE giving but is more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why. They seek to honor God with 100% of what He has given them, whether that means direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource.

**AN ETERNAL GIVER** is someone who is thinks about the long-term effects of generosity rather than month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. An eternal giver makes decisions in light of eternity for the long-term rather than earthly short-term. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, or how much savings they choose to keep all in relations to the impact of their generosity capacity. An eternal giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal which governs their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a surrendered giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, an eternal giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases like homes, cars, and investments.

# GIVING JOURNEY



## WHAT IS A "ONE FUND/ ONE GOAL" INITIATIVE?

You may have been part of church campaigns in the past during which you were asked to give a second gift "above and beyond" your usual gifts to make special initiatives like new buildings and new ministries possible.

Normally, you gave that gift to the "building fund" or "campaign fund" as you also continued to give offerings to the "general fund." This type of giving is potentially confusing to people who either don't have a baseline for their "usual giving" or who aren't able to really celebrate the total giving they are engaging in at FBCBA in one single number.

We believe that it is all ONE MISSION that we're on at FBCBA – the mission to reach BA and beyond with the hope of the Gospel. So, our leadership, including the Finance Ministry Team, the Advisory Ministry Team, and the pastoral staff have determined that our gifts through FBCBA over these next two years will all go into one fund for this next season of ministry expansion – to celebrate the totality of our generosity growth as disciples of Jesus.

The Greater Still initiative will last for two years. In those two years, every gift that is given to FBCBA will go to the three key components of this initiative – to reach BA and Beyond in our ministry operations through Greater Ministry, to continue and expand the support to our local and global mission partners through Greater Missions, and to renovate and enhance our current ministry facility through our Greater Future.

We've included a commitment card so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God. Please take time to think and pray through this, and then we will provide you with a new one on Commitment Sunday, March 6.

\$		What I/we would normally give in a year (regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)
+	\$	My/Our expanded annual generosity as part of the Greater Still initiative.
=	\$	
	<b>x2</b> <small>Years</small>	\$
	<small>Gifts from my/our stored resources</small>	\$
	<b>TOTAL 2-YEAR GREATER STILL COMMITMENT</b>	\$
		<i>April 2022 – April 2024</i>

# GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool—let it be something that inspires and challenges you towards greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom as we seek to give it all for Him.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 83,333	\$ 2,000,000
1	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 1,500,000
1	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 41,667	\$ 1,000,000
2	\$ 500,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 20,833	\$ 1,000,000
4	\$ 250,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 10,417	\$ 1,000,000
5	\$ 150,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 6,250	\$ 750,000
7	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,167	\$ 700,000
12	\$ 75,000	\$ 37,500	\$ 3,125	\$ 900,000
20	\$ 65,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 2,708	\$ 1,300,000
25	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,083	\$ 1,250,000
45	\$ 35,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 1,458	\$ 1,575,000
50	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 1,042	\$ 1,250,000
85	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 625	\$ 1,275,000
105	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 417	\$ 1,050,000
130	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,750	\$ 313	\$ 975,000
150	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 208	\$ 750,000
Many	\$2,500	\$ 1,250	\$ 104	\$ 725,000



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **1) If we are committing to Greater Still, how does this change my giving to missions, the general fund, and other special offerings or designated gifts?**

During this two-year period, every contribution to God through FBCBA is a contribution to our Greater Still initiative. Every aspect of the ministry vision God is calling us towards for the next two years will be funded through Greater Still.

Every gift that is given to FBCBA will go to the key components of this initiative – to reach BA and Beyond in our ministry operations through Greater Ministry, to continue and expand the support to our local and global mission partners through Greater Missions, and to renovate and enhance our current ministry facility through our Greater Future.

## **2) Will we incur debt to accomplish the renovation project?**

For decades, our church has been committed to being debt-free. This commitment is part of our DNA, and there is no intention for that to change. As with previous projects, we will not borrow money, and we will not commence with the project until 60% of the funds have been received.

## **3) Can the renovation project be phased?**

Our prayer and our expectation is that our people will respond to this vision in a way that allows us to do the entire project at one time. As a renovation project, it would be difficult and more expensive to divide it into phases. But, we will respond as the Lord leads and as our people faithfully commit and give.

## **4) What are you asking me to do?**

First and foremost, we are asking that you pray and seek God's leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says. Engage with your small group in the Greater Still study. If you're not already in a group, we'd love for you to join one. Engage in

personal reflection with God in the Greater Stills study in this booklet. Talk with your group, your spouse, your family, friends, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life.

We are asking that you make a commitment to Gospel-driven, surrendered generosity – whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading.

Finally, prepare to be amazed. It is an awesome God that we serve, and we anticipate He will move in huge ways as we seek an unprecedented impact from our collective Greater Still commitments – something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday on March 6, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and for our own faith.

## **5) Are there additional ways besides cash that I can give more towards Greater Still?**

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards Greater Still. You might have some stocks, property, or other items of that nature. Or you may have some stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He might be calling you to give out of during this time.

Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you with that.

You can contact Susan Clawson at [sclawson@fbcba.org](mailto:sclawson@fbcba.org) or 918.258.4575 to make a gift of this type.

## **6) How long is my commitment?**

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our First Big Give on Sunday, April 3, 2022 and it will culminate in April of 2024.

### **7) What if I don't have a job right now? What does that mean for my Greater Still commitment?**

Greater Still is about your total, prioritized, Gospel-driven generosity to God's mission at FBCBA. We believe that God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance, and that looks different for every person. Greater Still is about a heart surrender - one that is only accomplished by seeking the Lord and responding to His call and His Word. That may mean that you are being challenged to sell things, to pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you don't quite know how to fulfill right now but that you believe God will provide for as you seek for ways to sacrifice and work towards that commitment.

We would love for 100% of us to be a part of Greater Still so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually-stretching season at FBCBA.

### **8) What if I'm moving within the next two years or if I am uncertain about how long I'll be a part of FBCBA?**

The truth is that none of us know exactly what our future will hold. That's the beauty and challenge of taking steps of faith! We want to encourage you that even if you're not sure if you'll be a part of FBCBA for the full span of the next two years, we invite you to still commit to generosity and be a part of this life-changing endeavor God has for our church in this season. If needed, you may modify your commitment at any time. But often, people will continue to support FBCBA, even after they've left the area - as a ministry they continue to be a part of into the future. If you happen to move out of the area, we would love for that to be your story!

### **9) What if I am significantly in debt right now? Am I still supposed to give?**

If you are someone currently seeking to make payments to pay off debt right now, we commend you for making progress on that. And you should continue to do so. We would be happy to help you in this journey and/or to recommend a budgeting class that might minister to you. Being in debt does not, however, make someone "excused" from giving. Giving isn't about what God wants from you; rather, it's about what God wants for you. So, it should be our joy and privilege to give at all times, regardless of the amount

or percentage. Please contact us if you need assistance with paying off of debt while still giving or if you would like to speak with a budgeting counselor, and we would be honored to help.

### **10) What if I have never even given to FBCBA before?**

Greater Still was crafted specifically with you in mind. Greater Still is a "one fund" generosity initiative, meaning that it is different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving - thus creating two steps for people who aren't yet giving. Greater Still is a call to surrendered, Gospel-driven generosity for absolutely everyone at FBCBA. If you have never given before, this is your chance to get in the game with committed giving. We really hope you will.

### **11) What if I am new around here?**

Greater Still is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give towards, and we would really love for you to make FBCBA your home and join us in Greater Still. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your church. We need you on the team!

### **12) What if I haven't been baptized yet?**

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

Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19) Whether you have taken the spiritual step of baptism or whether you haven't yet, we would encourage you to still join us in this Greater Still initiative. We firmly believe that it will draw you closer to God and hopefully to a place where you are ready to make the decision to become baptized and to surrender your life to the Lordship of Christ.







# GREATER

BIBLE STUDY *Still*

**WEEK 1** Greater Prayer

**WEEK 2** Greater Devotion

**WEEK 3** Greater Purpose

**WEEK 4** Greater Impact

**WEEK 5** Greater Legacy





# GROUPS SESSION 1

## *Greater Prayer (John 17:20-23)*

For the next several weeks, our Sunday morning curriculum will be aligned with what Pastor Matt is preaching from the pulpit. It won't matter whether you hear the sermon or attend Sunday School | Small Group first. What is important is that we are unifying around these themes as we enter into this season of Greater Still. The focus of our Bible application over the next five weeks is generosity. Today we begin with Greater Prayer.

### OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when God answered an important prayer in your life. How did the way God answer your prayer affect your relationship with Him?
2. In seasons when your faith in Christ has grown, how has your view of generosity grown? Have your views on generosity grown more during seasons of financial struggle or seasons of plenty?

### DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

This session's Bible passage is John 17:20-26. In John 17 we read Jesus' prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before the cross. Immediately following what Jesus prays here, the soldiers will come and arrest Him putting into motion Jesus' final approach to the cross. On questions dealing with deeper issues of the heart, you may want to give your group a moment to write their answers before discussing. To guide your prayers in the days to come, take notes on the discussion as things are said that you want to think about more later.

## JESUS PRAYED FOR US

John 17:20— "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word..."

1. Jesus had just prayed for Himself and then for His disciples. Then in verse 20, something incredible happens. Jesus prays for all future believers. If you've trusted Christ in salvation, your name belongs where you see the word "those." That night, Jesus prayed for you. How does it encourage you to know that Jesus prayed for you then and still prays for you today (1 John 2:1)?
2. Knowing what you know about Jesus, what are four or five things you think Jesus is praying for our church as we begin this two-year journey of Greater Still?



3. To say today is a big day in the life of our church is an understatement. Today we begin a two-year generosity initiative. We are believing God to enable 100% of us to engage in this season and trusting Him to move through us to invest \$19 Million over the next two years to accomplish the vision of reaching BA and beyond through Greater Ministry, Greater Missions, and a Greater Future. As you begin to consider those three aspects of Greater Still, what things are at the top of your personal prayer list for this season in the life of our church?

## JESUS PRAYED FOR OUR UNITY

John 17:21-22—"that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one..."

4. Jesus' prayer in this passage brings us face-to-face with what theologians call the Trinity. It's the Trinity that sets apart the one, true God from every other false religion. Scripture reveals that there is one God who has chosen to reveal Himself in three distinct "persons." The Father, Son, and Spirit are not each one-third God. Each is fully God and equally God. This is true always and forever. Critics say the Trinity is illogical. But remember that we are creatures with finite minds trying to understand the Infinite. Perhaps it's best not to think of the Trinity as illogical but super-logical—beyond what we can fully understand. Since God's Word teaches it, we believe it.

Jesus used His unity with God the Father as the goal for the church unity He prayed to see. Jesus prayed that our union with Him in salvation would unify us in fulfilling His mission. What does it look like when a church experiences unity? In what ways has Jesus' prayer for the unity of believers seemingly gone unanswered? In what ways has Jesus' prayer for unity been answered?

5. How should the greatness—bigness—of Jesus' prayers shape the way we pray? How might praying "big" apply to us as we begin this two-year generosity initiative?

6. How dependent we are on God is revealed by how regularly we return to God in prayer. Respond to the following quote from Oswald Chambers: "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." What do you think Chambers means? In what ways is prayer the "greater work?" How does this quote reiterate that everything we do should begin with prayer?

# JESUS PRAYED OUR LOVE WOULD CONVEY HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

John 17:23— "I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

7. John 3:16 tells us God's love motivated Him to give Jesus to the world. Furthermore, our love for others should reveal that God's love is in us. How would you describe to a new Christian the connection between love and giving/generosity?

8. God's love motivated Him to send Jesus as a sacrifice. Would you define your regular giving as "sacrificial?" Why or why not? Has there ever been a time God's love in and through you has motivated you to give sacrificially? What happened? How did that experience of sacrificial giving grow your faith?

9. Our primary goal for Greater Still is 100% engagement from every person at FBCBA. How we each get involved may look different but it should look like something for each one of us. This generosity initiative isn't merely about funding God's mission through our church. It's about God moving each of us to a greater level of generosity and faith as a way of life.

Take a few moments to read through the GIVING JOURNEY below. Prayerfully consider these steps on the journey and where you are currently. (You do not have to share that info with your group unless you desire to do so, but be encouraged that you do not need to share amounts or percentages – in fact, we would discourage sharing those - in order to share where you are on your giving journey.)

KEEP YOUR FINGER ON THIS PAGE AND TURN TO PAGE 37 (GIVING JOURNEY PAGE). CONSIDERING WHERE YOU ARE CURRENTLY ARE ON YOUR GIVING JOURNEY ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

**For how long have you been at the level of generosity you are currently?**

**What might it look like in your life to move to a greater level of generosity? What changes would be required? How God might want to grow your faith as you grow in generosity?**





# GROUPS SESSION 2

## *Greater Devotion (Luke 18:18-30)*

### OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the strangest or most random thing you've ever heard of someone saving up money to purchase?
2. What physical possession of yours is most important to you? Why?

POINT: Worship is well-defined as our response to what we value most. Everyone worships something. Each one of us has some ultimate thing we center our life upon. We all have someone or something we value most that we hope will give our lives purpose and significance. Some people center their lives on the efforts of religion. For some it's the accumulation of wealth. Others center their lives on pleasure, power, knowledge, beauty, popularity, success, love, sex, or family. God's Word tells us that all things were made by Jesus and for Jesus. It is only when Jesus is our primary devotion that our lives fulfill God's purposes.

### DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

This session's Bible passage is Luke 18:18-30. Please read each passage and discuss the questions as a group. On questions dealing with deeper issues of the heart, you may want to give your group a moment to write their answers before discussing. To guide your prayers in the days to come, also take notes on the discussion as things are said that you want to think about more later.

## THE QUESTION OF QUESTIONS

Luke 18:18— "And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

1. The idea of inheriting eternal life is synonymous with entering into God's kingdom. It means to receive salvation. A recent Pew Research survey found that almost three-fourths (73%) of Americans believe in heaven, but there is wide disagreement about who can go there. What kinds of things (true or false) do people count on to get them into heaven?



# WHO IS GOOD? ARE YOU GOOD?

Luke 18:19—"And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.""

2. In Jesus' time, the word 'good' was typically used in this way of God Himself, not of Jewish rabbis. To be clear, Jesus isn't denying that He is good for He is God. He is instead pressing whether the man fully understands the identity of Jesus. What are ways people today are continuing to misunderstand who Jesus is?

## SINCERE BUT SUPERFICIAL

Luke 18:20-22— "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich."

3. Had this young man really obeyed all those commands to perfection? Probably not. The ruler's reply may have been sincere, but it was also superficial. In response, Jesus spoke a question directly into one aspect of the man's sinfulness. In actuality, the ruler loved his possessions more than he loved God. That is why Jesus asked the question so pointedly. It's been said that an idol is anything less than God that becomes the most important thing in our lives. By that definition, is idolatry still a sin-problem today? How so? What evidence do you see in our culture of modern-day idolatry?

4. How might idolatry be slipping into your life today? Discovering that answer is easy. Just look at your calendar and bank account. What do the ways you spend your time and money say about your priorities? How clear is it that Jesus is of highest value in your life? Are there any of your current priorities God may be calling you to reshuffle?

## THE DANGER OF WEALTH AND THE GLORY OF GRACE

Luke 18:24-27— "Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God.""

5. Jesus saw wealth as a great hinderance to people recognizing their need for salvation. What are some of the reasons that is true?

6. There have been many attempts to understand the analogy of a camel going through the eye of a needle. Essentially, Jesus is making His point through exaggeration. We know Jesus' hearers understood the punchline by their response at the beginning of verse 26. In that time, wealth was understood as a clear sign of God's blessing. In their minds, "If riches don't help with salvation but hinder a person receiving it, what hope can we have?" Do you think that mindset is still around today? Why is verse 27 such good news? How have you seen God's grace set you free from sins such as materialism and selfishness?

7. Respond to the following statement: "With every dollar, we either become more of a worshiper or more of an idolater." Are there ways you've experienced the truth of that statement in your own life? How can wealth be a danger to our souls? How does our generosity reflect the greatness and goodness of God?

## **GOD SMILES ON GENEROSITY**

Luke 18:28-30— "And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

8. The more generously we give to God, the more graciously God blesses and gives to us. He is not obligated to do so but delights to do so. The blessings we experience here and now might be financial but often are not. What are ways God blesses us that might be more important than finances?

9. Respond to this quote from William Carey the so-called "Father of the Modern Missions Movement." He gave the following testimony about giving financially to the Lord's work: "I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when I had first given to the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him." Have you ever experienced God's blessing on your life in a similar way? Share your story with your group.

10. In what ways can our church's Greater Still initiative be a catalyst to a greater level of generosity and faith in your own life? What do you think motivates most people to start giving financially to the Lord's work? What prompts so many who've already given much choose to give even more? Where do you find yourself on this giving journey?





# GROUPS SESSION 3

*Greater Purpose (2 Corinthians 5:14-21)*

## OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a hobby or activity you enjoy that you wish you had time more to do?
2. Share a time you were so excited about something you couldn't help but tell others about it. How did others respond to your excitement?

POINT: The more excited we are about something the more we'll talk about it. In fact, we can hardly get ourselves to stop talking about the things that are important to us. We freely tell stories about our parents, kids, grandkids, friends, and accomplishments in our lives. We always seem ready to share about our favorite sports team, movie, musician, or politician. No one has to tell us to talk about these things, right? Telling others about the things that matter most to us is simply what we do automatically.

## DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

All of this session's scriptures are from 2 Corinthians 5. Please read each passage and discuss the questions as a group. On questions dealing with deeper issues of the heart, you may want to give your group a moment to write their answers before discussing. To guide your prayers in the days to come, also take notes on the discussion as things are said that you want to think about more later.





# CHANGED AND CONTROLLED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:14-17— "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

1. As a caterpillar goes into a cocoon and transforms into a butterfly, so does every person who trusts Christ in salvation become a new creation. How has your daily life changed since you became a believer in Christ? What things from your old life have passed away? What new things have come into your life since you received Christ?

2. After becoming a new creation in Christ, the apostle Paul lived boldly for Christ. The word "controls" in verse 14 speaks to "a desire or an impulse that affects a person's actions." Because Paul had been captured by Christ's love, he became consumed with Christ's love. As a result, his telling others about Christ was controlled by Christ's love. What are ways we can mobilize more believers to share their faith? Is the solution found in evangelism training alone or is there a deeper heart issue holding us back? Has the love of Christ ever compelled you to tell someone about Christ? How did you know it was Christ at work in you? What happened in that situation when you did share Christ?

3. Respond to the following quote from missionary Henry Martyn (1781-1821): "The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary we must become."

4. Verse 16 says that salvation creates a change in how believers are to think of one another. Because the believer in Christ has died to the old life, the labels from the old way of life don't matter anymore. Colossians 3 says that being a believer makes obsolete labels like Jewish or non-Jewish, religious or irreligious, insider or outsider, educated or uneducated, rich or poor, powerful or powerless, slave or free. From God's point of view, there are only two categories of people: those who are dead in sin and those who are alive in Christ. How can visualizing each other without the labels that we assign in our minds unify us through this season of Greater Still? How does this transform us all into connected, vital, necessary parts in the Body of Christ?

# WE'VE BEEN RECONCILED TO BE RECONCILERS

2 Corinthians 5:17-20— "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

5. Verse 18 begins by reminding us that the offer of salvation begins and ends with God. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again to make right with God every sinner who will turn from sin and trust Christ in salvation. And then God calls every person He's reconciled to Himself to the ministry of helping others know how they can also be reconciled to the Lord. What are some of the reasons many believers never become active ministers of reconciliation?

6. Verse 20 declares that every believer is an "ambassador for Christ." Our modern perception of an ambassador as an official of the highest rank chosen and certified by a government to represent it before another helps us appreciate the magnitude of Paul's claim. He is Christ's spokesman. He does not act on his own authority but under the commission of a greater power and authority who sent him. He has been divinely authorized as an ambassador of Christ! How should knowing we've likewise been commissioned and empowered by God to be His ambassadors encourage us in the mission we've been given? How does the idea of God making His appeal through you make you feel?

7. Respond to the following quote from Robby Gallaty's book *Growing Up*: "The gospel came to you because it was heading to someone else. God never intended for your salvation to be an end, but a beginning. God saved you to be a conduit through whom His glorious, life-changing gospel would flow to others."

8. What are specific ways that knowing "the gospel came to us to be passed on to others through us" can shape the way we as individuals, and as a church, approach the next two years of our Greater Still initiative? In what ways does our calling to be ambassadors for Christ call us to ever-increasing generosity in giving to the work of the Lord?





# GROUPS SESSION 4

## *Greater Impact (James 2:22-25)*

### OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Author Mark Twain is often quoted as saying, "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand." What truths of God's Word do you find most difficult to accept and live out?

2. When you think of generosity what Bible passages come to mind?

POINT: Perhaps you've noticed in the Gospels that Jesus talked about money and possessions a lot. Sixteen of His 38 parables and 25% of His teachings deal with money or possessions. Jesus spoke of money 109 times in Matthew, 57 times in Mark, 94 times in Luke, and 88 times in John. Why did Jesus talk so much about money and possessions? Answer: Because how we manage our money and possessions makes or breaks our effectiveness for God's Kingdom in this life. Faith and finances cannot be separated. Generosity is not something God wants from us but for us.

### DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

This session's Bible passage is James 1:22-25. Please read each passage and discuss the questions as a group. On questions dealing with deeper issues of the heart, you may want to give your group a moment to write their answers before discussing. To guide your prayers in the days to come, also take notes on the discussion as things are said that you want to think about more later.





# BE A DOER OF THE WORD NOT A HEARER ONLY

James 1:22— "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

1. James is obviously not opposed to our listening to the Word of God. His concern is that too many believers hear the Word but then don't live the Word. For too many believers, the truths of God's Word fail to make it from our heads to our hearts and then from our hearts to our actions. James says that hearing the Word only is to deceive yourself. What are some of the challenges we face when it comes to making following Jesus a daily way of life? Why does it often seem so difficult to follow Jesus? What are some solutions to those challenges?

2. Respond to the following A. W. Tozer (1897-1963) quote from the book *The Root of Righteousness*: "So wide is the gulf that separates theory from practice in the church that an inquiring stranger who chanced upon both would scarcely dream that there was any relation between them. An intelligent observer of our human scene who heard the Sunday morning sermon and later watched the Sunday afternoon conduct of those who had heard it would conclude that he has been examining two distinct and contrary religions. It appears that too many Christians want to enjoy the thrill of feeling right but are not willing to endure the inconvenience of being right. Truth sits forsaken and grieves till her professed followers come home for a brief visit, but she sees them depart again when the bills become due."

3. Concerning the area of generosity, why are we often so resistant to what the Bible says about managing our resources—even when Scripture is convicting us to move toward a more biblical way of generosity and trusting God fully with our financial picture?

## THE DECEPTION OF FORGETFUL HEARING

James 1:23-24— "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like."

4. This man's issue wasn't in the looking but in the remembering. The parallel of our tendency to read the Word then walk away unchanged is uncomfortable. If you're honest with yourself, what are some areas of your life where a gap has formed between what you believe and how you live? (For example, maybe you believe God can be trusted with the affairs of our daily lives but you still worry all the time.)

5. What Jesus said in Matthew 6:21 can be memorably stated as "where your treasure flows your heart goes." Considering your current giving practices, is that truth encouraging or discouraging?

6. Jesus ended one of His parables on possessions this way: "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." —Luke 16:10-13.

Personally consider for a moment your current Kingdom giving practices then answer this question: If you were God, would you give you more money?

## THE BLESSING OF OBEDIENT RESPONDING

James 1:25— "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

7. James described God's Word as both perfect and the law of liberty. There is joy and freedom in obeying the Lord! If you feel like God's Word is always restricting your freedom, it's time for a check-up on your heart. 1 John 5:3 says that for the believer in Christ, the Lord's commands are not burdensome. What aspects of what God's Word says about money and possessions feel burdensome to you? What about it is a burden to you? What emotions are at play in your heart? Fears? Doubts? Something else?

8. Those who experience the blessings of obedience also start by looking—i.e., hearing the Word—but then they take the next step by obeying the Word. More than merely hearers, they become doers. Share about a time you experienced God's blessing because you obeyed His Word. Is there a time this happened to you that was specific to generosity?

9. Respond to the following quote: "Without biblical application, there can be no spiritual transformation." How might greater obedience in giving become a catalyst for spiritual growth in your own life? How might expanding your generosity become a catalyst in the lives of others?

### Prayer Requests and Closing




# WEEK 5 MESSAGE NOTES

# GROUPS SESSION 5

*Greater Legacy (1 Timothy 6:6-9, 12-19)*

## OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to "leave a legacy?" How has your life been shaped by the legacy of someone else? Who was that person? How does their legacy continue to affect your life today?
2. When you think of someone who has left a legacy of generosity, who is that person?
3. If you could speak to past generations of FBCBA who gave sacrificially to advance God's mission through our church, for what would you most thank them?

**POINT:** A legacy is something we leave behind that affects those who come after us. Our church has a wonderful legacy. We should be inspired by the courageous actions previous generations of FBCBA members have taken.

## DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

This session's Bible passage is 1 Timothy 6:6-9, 12-19. Please read each passage and discuss the questions as a group. On questions dealing with deeper issues of the heart, you may want to give your group a moment to write their answers before discussing. To guide your prayers in the days to come, also take notes on the discussion as things are said that you want to think about more on your own time later.





## THE BLESSINGS OF CONTENTMENT

1 Timothy 6:6-10— "But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content."

1. In the preceding verses, we learn that Timothy was dealing with people who claimed that godliness is a sure-fire way to become wealthy. In contrast, Paul redirects us toward the spiritual gains we've already received in Christ. The idea of contentment here refers to an internal confidence in God that keeps us at peace despite our circumstances. It speaks to God's faithfulness to give us what we truly need exactly when we need it. What are some reasons we struggle to be content with the money, stuff, house, car, etc. we already have? Why is seeking contentment in material things foolish? Have you ever experienced a time of complete contentment in Christ beyond whatever circumstances you may have been facing?

2. Respond to the following statement: "Money cannot be managed until it has been mastered." What do you think it means to have "mastered" your money? Can a person experience contentment until they have done so? Why or why not?

## THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF GREED

1 Timothy 6:9-10— "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

3. It's important to note here that Paul does not say money itself is evil. The trouble comes from our love of money. Love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. What are some signs a person has come to value their possessions more than Christ? What snares in those signs are capable of plunging that person into ruin and destruction? What are some of the pangs a person might experience when love of money drives his/her life?

4. So many of us are too focused on what we don't have, which hinders us from honoring God with what we do have. What desire of things or possessions is causing you to wander away from God? Do you have your stuff or does your stuff have you? How do you know the difference?

# GENEROSITY IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

1 Timothy 6:17-19— "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

5. Paul makes it clear that having wealth isn't wrong or bad. In fact, wealth can be a powerful tool for God's kingdom when handled in a right and godly fashion. This Greater Still journey is about so much more than the \$19 million dollars. To think this is primarily about money is to miss the point entirely. Greater Still is about God doing something in us as much as it is Him doing something through us. What aspects of your part in this feel intimidating to you? What aspects of this are you wrestling with in your heart? What are you most excited about as we begin this two-year journey together? What might God be wanting to do in you as you consider your giving commitment to Greater Still?

6. When our priorities are right, giving determines spending. When our priorities are wrong, spending determines giving. Many of us give out of duty not devotion. What kind of giver to the things of God would you say you are today? Are you newer to giving? Are you a consistent, regular giver? Have you ever given in a way that would be considered sacrificial?

7. One of the boxes on the generosity initiative Commitment Card reads, "Gifts from my/our stored resources." God is challenging all of us to consider what those might be. What resources has God already given us—savings, possessions, stock, property, etc.—are we holding onto for earthly purposes but could be better utilized if released to God for eternal purposes?

Refer to the giving chart on page 39.

***Have questions about giving stocks or other stored resources? Reach out to Director of Operations Susan Clawson. She can be reached at [sclawson@fbcba.org](mailto:sclawson@fbcba.org) or 918.258.4575.***

What would it look like for your story of generosity to create a witness that draws more people to Him during this Greater Still season?












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