

CITYLIFE  
CHURCH

# BE ABOUT IT.

JOURNEY GUIDE

[citylifesf.com/be-about-it](http://citylifesf.com/be-about-it)

YOUR NAME HERE:

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*"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 through all generations, forever and ever."*

**EPHESIANS 3:20-21**



# CITY LIFE CHURCH

*"Didn't you know that I must be about my Father's business?"  
- Jesus."*

**LUKE 2:49**

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# DEAR CHURCH FAMILY

*We are so thankful for each of you. It is our greatest honor to both serve and lead this church. We are incredibly humbled to shepherd this community of faith, as we are experiencing a fresh move of God in our time, in our city, and in our region.*

We started City Life with a dream to be a life-giving church for the unchurched and unreached. Since that time, hundreds of people have been saved by the grace of Jesus and discipled. We are witnessing miracles over and over again. Yet in all this, we still believe that the best is yet to come. We not only profess but believe to our core, that there truly is hope for everyone!

Our vision is to *"Lead people to become fully alive in Jesus."*

It is as relevant today as it was when we first began. As a church, we have accomplished a lot. Early in our history, we used the phrase **"BE ABOUT IT"** as a way to convey our commitment and calling to reach this city for Jesus. So much has changed since we started City Life, but one thing remains: God's steadfast love for San Francisco, the SF Bay Area, and the world. Now in 2023, we find ourselves being called by God to **"BE ABOUT IT"** even more. God is asking us to do more.

We are entering into a new season at City Life, called **"BE ABOUT IT"** which reflects our desire to see God do more in us, in our city, and in our region. Together, let's believe God is who He says He is and can do what He says He can do!



*"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."*

**Ephesians 3:20**

We are challenging you to “ **BE ABOUT IT** .” This means to pray more, engage more, and give more. We are pressing for more people to be saved by Jesus, and for a more complete transformation of our city and region. This goal will require us to fully commit to “ **BE ABOUT IT** ” in order to connect with more people and see them grow in Christ.

Over the next 2 years, we have the following generosity plan with **three key priorities**. Accomplishing this will accelerate our mission and vision to reach more people and help them grow their faith, hope, and love in Jesus.

## OUR THREE PRIORITIES TO FUND



### SECURE OUR FUTURE MINISTRY

Funding the purchase of our SF campus, being rooted in the city!



### STRATEGIC MINISTRY EXPANSION

Funding our prophetic vision, primarily focusing on the new East Bay campus!



### STRENGTHEN CURRENT MINISTRY

Funding more outreaches, church planting, missions, and next-generation outreach for the next 2 years through our different ministries.

TOTAL NEED:  
**\$5 MILLION**

*This represents 100% participation of all-in giving for two years.*

*One Vision  
Funded by One Fund  
By One Ask*

*This will require 100% participation of all-in giving for two years. ONE vision, funded by ONE fund.*

*All giving to City Life for the next two years will fund these three key priorities.*

*Let's do this! Together let's ask God for great things, and believe Him for so much MORE, so that together we can **BE ABOUT IT**.*

**WE ARE EXPERIENCING A MOVEMENT  
OF GOD IN OUR CHURCH,  
FOR OUR CITY,  
FOR OUR REGION.**



Many new people are getting saved,  
baptized, and discipled at City Life.

**PEOPLE'S** lives are being changed.

**PEOPLE** are engaged in life groups & community.

**PEOPLE** are stepping up in prayer and leadership  
in unprecedented ways.

**STUDENTS** are becoming fully devoted,  
passionate worshipers and followers of Jesus.

*And we believe our kids will become champions of  
the faith in our city, our region, and in our world.*

Yet God is asking us to **BE ABOUT IT**, even  
more.

We will respond.

He wants us to do more in our time, in our day, in  
our city. There is so much more to be done in the  
San Francisco and beyond.

So, we are calling you to do more, pray more,  
engage more, and give more as we will **BE ABOUT IT.**







WHAT IS **BE** ABOUT IT ?

starts

Here

HAVE  
DECIDED



of

# BE ABOUT IT.

God has given us a vision for the next steps so that God can do more through City Life. It involves strengthening our current ministry, strategizing for greater ministry impact, and securing our future ministry. It flows out of Luke 2:49 where Jesus said, "I must be about my Father's business."

Therefore, we are embarking on a 2-year, one-fund generosity initiative called " **BE ABOUT IT** ," from Ephesians 3:20. We are inviting every person in our church family to participate in a new, unified way of giving, called "one-fund."

This means ALL of our giving goes to ONE fund that will resource our 3 key priorities for our church family, our city, and our region. Over the next two years, we would normally expect to receive \$2.5M, and through expanded giving, we believe we will see this grow to \$5M for two years to accomplish the vision God has given to us.

**BE ABOUT IT** allows you to participate in a real God-story.

## IT WILL TAKE **ALL** OF US!

# PRIMARY GOAL

100% PARTICIPATION

*Regardless of our maturity in Christ, whenever we receive a call to sacrificial giving, there is usually a three-step process to get where God wants us to be:*

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## FEAR

*Often our first response as we ready ourselves to take a new step on our faith journey is fear. We think of all the reasons why this is a bad time.*

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## FUNCTIONAL

*Next, we carefully compute what we think we can give, given our budget, our lifestyle, and our current challenges*

---

## FAITH

*Finally, we reach a point of trust in God where our hands are wide open. Where God guides, God provides, through His people! **WE** are genuinely asking God to help us know what it means to be **ALL IN**.*

1

# SECONDARY GOAL

\$5 MILLION

*We are trusting God for \$5 million over the next two years to accomplish this God-sized vision He has given us.*

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## SECURE MINISTRY

*Fund our new building purchase, paying the mortgage and reducing our debt.*

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## STRATEGIZE MINISTRY

*Fund the expansion of City Life in the East Bay and in new impactful ministries.*

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## STRENGTHEN MINISTRY

*Fund and expand our current ministries while expanding outreaches, church planting, missions and reaching the next generation for the next 2 years.*

2

A photograph of two men laughing together in front of a car. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a light-colored Adidas tracksuit. The man on the right is wearing a dark cap and a dark jacket, holding a white cup with 'LIFE' and 'CH' visible. A large sign in the background says 'WELCOME'. The entire image has a teal color overlay.

**BE ABOUT IT.**

# DOING OUR PART IN FOLLOWING GOD'S HEART

How will **BE ABOUT IT** work?

The intent of **BE ABOUT IT** is to stretch our faith as we steward the resources God has given to each of us, and to join together to fuel a God-sized vision to reach the world with the hope of Jesus.

It's about making disciples while cultivating *generous hearts*.

As we journey over the next several weeks, you will learn how to grow in the areas of generosity and live a life that allows Jesus to do more through you. **BE ABOUT IT** will span 2 years.

This is a *one-fund* approach. Every dollar given over the next two years will be allocated to existing ministry multiplication, expansion for more impact, and funding our new building mortgage and debt. We are asking everyone who attends City Life to take the next step of faith in trusting God more fully with their finances.

This happens when each person approaches God and asks, "*What role do you want me to play?*" and then doing it with open-handed faith. Through strengthening our current ministries, strategizing future ministry impact, and securing our future, we will **BE ABOUT IT!**

# NEXT STEPS

We're challenging **every person** at City Life to join this journey, to pray about how God would have them give generously toward the vision He has given us, and to make an impactful financial commitment

*There are four steps that we are specifically asking you to take:*

## 1. PRAY SPECIFICALLY

Ask God to move you (and all of us) from fear to faith, as we are determined to do our part in following God's heart to our future.

## 2. COMMIT FULLY

Our goal is 100% participation. Stand side-by-side and shoulder-to-shoulder with your church family. Commit to DO whatever God asks. Trust God and step out of the boat on this one. Put your "yes" on the table.

## 3. GIVE GENEROUSLY

Ask God to show you what a sacrificial gift looks like over this time-frame. Then, take whatever bold steps are required to see it through. God doesn't want to exhaust our resources but multiply them. "Test Me in this, says the LORD God Almighty, and see if I do not open the floodgates of heaven..." Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

## 4. CHEER LOUDLY

Own the **BE ABOUT IT** vision. Become a cheerleader for it in your spheres of influence.

Engage in the **BE ABOUT IT** sermon and life group gatherings with your small group and family. After this, let's all make our **BE ABOUT IT** commitment. **Commitment Sunday is November 12th.**



# WHAT KIND OF GIVER ARE YOU?

*These stages focus on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts—our discipleship—rather than on an amount.*

*Each step represents growth in a lifestyle of **generosity** and **sacrifice** that transforms us into the likeness of Jesus who gave up everything.*

## BE ABOUT IT. GIVING CHART

### EXTRAVAGANT GIVER:

*Generosity above regular giving/tithing that will outlast you and bless the generations to come.*

### SURRENDERED GIVER:

*Your best as a tithe to the local church before spending and saving. All your assets are available to God.*

### CONSISTENT GIVER:

*Giving a percent of income on a regular basis.*

### OCCASIONAL GIVER:

*Giving only when you have margin after spending and saving.*

### FIRST TIME GIVER:

*Taking your initial step of faith and giving for the first time.*

1

## FIRST TIME GIVER

Kyle is new to the faith and has never given before. He is now starting several spiritual disciplines, including generosity. It's a huge step of faith for him, but Kyle has decided to give \$25 per week. Combined with \$500 from his savings, Kyle plans to give a total two-year contribution of \$3,100 to the **BE ABOUT IT** campaign.

What I/we normally give in one year  
*(general fund, benevolence, special gifts, etc.)*

\$ 0

+

My/our expanded annual generosity for BE ABOUT IT.  
*(general fund, benevolence, special gifts, etc.)*

\$ 1300

=

\$ 1300

X 2 YEARS

=

\$ 2600

My/our gifts(s) from stored resources  
*(stocks, real estate, savings, etc.)*

+

\$ 500

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT:  
DEC 2023 - DEC 2025

\$ 3100

## OCCASIONAL GIVER

Kayla has witnessed changes in her own life through the church. So far, she has been giving casually, if she has extra cash on hand during offering time. However, she now feels led to become more consistent in her giving by setting up a recurring gift online. Her plan is to increase her usual annual giving of \$500 by \$1,250, bringing her to \$1,750 a year. With the addition of \$500 from a vacation savings fund, in two years she will have given \$4,000 to the **BE ABOUT IT** campaign.

What I/we normally give in one year  
*(general fund, benevolence, special gifts, etc.)*

\$ 500

+

My/our expanded annual generosity for BE ABOUT IT.  
*(general fund, benevolence, special gifts, etc.)*

\$ 1250

=

\$ 1750

X 2 YEARS

=

\$ 3500

My/our gifts(s) from stored resources  
*(stocks, real estate, savings, etc.)*

+

\$ 500

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT:  
DEC 2023 - DEC 2025

\$ 4000

## CONSISTENT GIVER

Jose and Rebecca give consistently to the church at a steady 5%. With a combined income of \$120,000, they contribute \$6,000 each year. **BE ABOUT IT**, however, has prompted them to tithe a full 10%. It will require an adjustment to give \$12,000 a year, but they know God is calling them to do it. Also, they've been saving for a boat but have decided to give that \$2,000 as well. They are planning to give \$26,000 to the church over the next two years.

What I/we normally give in one year  
*(general fund, benevolence, special gifts, etc.)*

\$ 6000

+

My/our expanded annual generosity for BE ABOUT IT.  
*(general fund, benevolence, special gifts, etc.)*

\$ 6000

=

\$ 12000

X 2 YEARS

=

\$ 24000

My/our gifts(s) from stored resources  
*(stocks, real estate, savings, etc.)*

+

\$ 2000

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT:  
DEC 2023 - DEC 2025

\$ 26000





DON'T  
JUST  
TALK  
ABOUT  
IT

BE ABOUT IT.

LO  
NEVER  
FAILS

## SURRENDERED GIVER

Anthony developed the discipline of tithing years ago, and he has experienced God's provision again and again. Anthony will increase his giving percentage from 10% to 12% of his annual income of \$70,000, or \$8,400 a year. Over two years, with the addition of \$2,000 from the transfer of stocks that are no longer of interest to him. Anthony looks forward to giving \$18,800 to the **BE ABOUT IT** campaign.



## EXTRAVAGANT GIVER

Emma loves to give of her time, talents, and resources. She has set a lifetime giving goal for herself, and is excited to reach it. She has been giving 15% of her \$90,000 income (\$13,500) to the church in recent years, but is inspired to increase the annual amount to \$15,000. She has been considering the purchase of a new home recently, but she realizes that purchase may inhibit her ability to reach her giving goal. So Judy has decided not to move, and to give her down payment toward the **BE ABOUT IT** campaign instead.



# \$ 5,000,000 GIVEN OVER 2 YEARS

NO. GIFTS AT LEVEL	GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
1	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
2	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
3	\$150,000	\$450,000	\$1,450,000
4	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$1,850,000

10 Commitments = \$1,850,000 or 37.0% of Goal

NO. GIFTS AT LEVEL	GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
10	\$60,000	\$600,000	\$2,450,000
12	\$45,000	\$540,000	\$2,990,000
15	\$30,000	\$450,000	\$3,440,000
17	\$15,000	\$255,000	\$3,695,000

54 Commitments = \$1,845,000 or 36.9% of Goal  
 64 Commitments = \$3,695,000 or 73.9% of Goal

NO. GIFTS AT LEVEL	GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
25	\$12,000	\$300,000	\$3,995,000
33	\$9,000	\$297,000	\$4,292,000
54	\$6,000	\$324,000	\$4,616,000
100	\$3,000	\$300,000	\$4,917,000
Remainder	\$1,000 or Less	\$84,000	\$5,000,000

Remaining Commitments = \$1,305,000 or 26.1% of Goal  
 Total Commitments = \$5,000,000 or 100% of Goal



**BE ABOUT IT.**

**DAILY PRAYER  
AND DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

# DAILY PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**“ BE ABOUT IT ”** is a vision that has been birthed out of intentional prayer.  
*Prayer continues to be the key during this generosity journey.*

On the pages that follow are daily Bible verses to help guide you in prayer. Ponder on the scripture for each day and pray as the Holy Spirit leads. “If you do nothing but read your Bible, you will dry up; if you only pray, you will blow up. But if you read your Bible and pray, you will grow up.” - R. T. Kendall

*“Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...” - Ephesians 6:13-18(ESV)*

*“Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.” - Ephesians 6:13-18(MSG)*



# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## SURRENDER

### WEEK 1 • DAY 1

*Today's Scripture:*

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."  
Matthew 22:37*

**REFLECT:** The consecrated life recognizes idols.

It's been said that an idol is anything you cannot live without. It is what absorbs your heart and imagination more than God. We all have them. They form from the brokenness within our hearts and can keep us from fully surrendering our lives to Christ. Are you aware of yours? Will you allow the Holy Spirit to begin revealing them to you? If so, today, with confidence draw near to the throne of grace. Receive His mercy and grace that leads to freedom.

**PRAYER:** "Lord, open my eyes to anything within my heart that comes before You."

**FURTHER READING:** 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

### WEEK 1 • DAY 2

*Today's Scripture:*

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9*

**REFLECT:** The consecrated life embraces faith that works.

Through Jesus, we have a relationship with our Father. So, we don't work for acceptance from God. Instead, we live from the position of acceptance in Christ. It's from this place we live consecrated, faithful lives. Today, let's go deeper in that walk of consecration. Ask yourself: What is so central and essential to my life that if I lost it, life would not be worth living? If the answer is anything other than your relationship with Jesus, it's time for deeper surrender.

**PRAYER:** "Jesus, by Your Spirit, take me to that fuller place of surrender today."

**FURTHER READING:** James 2:14-26

**BE ABOUT IT.**

DEVOTIONAL

**SURRENDER****WEEK 1 • DAY 3***Today's Scripture:**"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf." Hebrews 6:19-20a***REFLECT:** The consecrated life carries a hope that stays.

Hope is a confident expectation of good. It carries with it the power to resist fear, relinquish idols, and run our race with endurance. This hope makes us immovable and steadfast. It helps us release our fears and doubts, and turn back to the true One, the living God. Then we are willing to put action behind our confession of faith and to live sacrificially. Today, let the Holy Spirit renew Your hope.

**PRAYER:** "God, I believe Your plans for me are good. Fill me with hope. Move me in faith."**FURTHER READING:** 1 Timothy 6:3-19**WEEK 1 • DAY 4***Today's Scripture:**"Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth." Matthew 19:21-22***REFLECT:** The consecrated life runs deeper than culture.

We live in a materialistic society where money often determines value and identity. Many times, it's easier to trust our retirement account more than God with our future. This desire for money or the concern about not having enough can outweigh our commitment to God and His mission. However, when we turn to Jesus our identity is now securely found in Him. He is our Source. He never leaves us and never fails us.

What are the triggers that cause you to overspend, obsess about not having enough, or keep you from trusting God? Surrender those and receive freedom from God.

**PRAYER:** "God, show me where my trust is misplaced. Then, recalibrate my heart to fully trust in You."**FURTHER READING:** Matthew 19:16-30

# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## SURRENDER

### WEEK 1 • DAY 5

*Today's Scripture:*

*"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller."  
Proverbs 11:24-26 The Message (MSG)*

**REFLECT:** The consecrated life speaks louder than comfort.

There is power found in the life of a believer who is fully devoted to Christ. This is the person who doesn't always look for a comfortable road. Instead, they first look for the Gospel road. They know there is something more compelling than their comfort. This ready and willing attitude to give flows from a heart that knows God is the ultimate Giver. Today surrender your craving for comfort and open your heart to God's grace for giving.

**PRAYER:** "Lord, increase my devotion to You by enlarging my heart of generosity."

**FURTHER READING:** Luke 10:25-37

### WEEK 1 • DAY 6

*Today's Scripture:*

*"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart."  
Ecclesiastes 3:11a*

**REFLECT:** The consecrated life lasts longer than time.

The truth of eternal life fills the heart of every follower of Christ. It frames our entire perspective and reorients our priorities. It means that I can choose to sacrifice over instant gratification. I can focus more on my heart growing closer to God than my bank account growing bigger and bigger. It allows me to choose the unseen approval of heaven over earthly applause. Today, spend time worshipping the God who sets you free from all the idols that used to control you.

**PRAYER:** "Jesus, I am grateful that You exchanged Your perfect life for my broken one. This is what I live for."

**FURTHER READING:** 2 Corinthians 4





# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## SACRIFICE

### WEEK 2 • DAY 1

*Today's Scripture:*

*"As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 'Truly I tell you,' he said: 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'" Luke 21:1-4*

**REFLECT:** Always begin with what you have.

The economy of grace says to begin with what you have. Remember the boy who gave his five loaves and two fish to Jesus and fed thousands? Or Moses offering his staff when God asked him what was in his hand? How about the widow who gathered all the jars she had for Elisha? Each simply began with what they had. And each was part of an incredible miracle! As you give your resources to the mission of Jesus, He transforms our dollars and cents into redeemed lives, restored marriages, broken hearts made whole, and much more! Today, allow God to show you how to begin with what you have.

**PRAYER:** "Lord, help me see clearly how You desire me to sacrifice for Your mission."

**FURTHER READING:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

### WEEK 2 • DAY 2

*Today's Scripture:*

*"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers, and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26*

**REFLECT:** What holds supreme value in my heart?

In today's reading passage, Jesus deals with the most important calculation of your life. He asks the question all for us to answer: What holds supreme value in my heart? He says that relationships, family, and even our own life must not be first. Our plans, dreams, and desires need to come second to following Him. Do the math! Being His disciple will cost everything! Honestly, our hearts long for this depth of commitment to Him. Today, what part of you may be hiding from this? What part of you is protecting 'what's yours'? The truth is absolute devotion leads to ultimate joy.

**PRAYER:** "Jesus, all I have belongs to You."

**FURTHER READING:** Luke 14:25-33

# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## SACRIFICE

### WEEK 2 • DAY 3

*Today's Scripture:*

*"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6*

**REFLECT:** A surrendered heart redefines sacrifice.

When we catch a glimpse of the power of God's grace, sacrifice takes on a new meaning. His grace inspires us to give ourselves first to the Lord. We stop struggling with what should we give and now we see everything as belonging to Him. Today, will you surrender your heart even more and allow the Holy Spirit to redefine sacrifice for you?

**PRAYER:** "Lord, I lay my heart before You. I open my heart to the influence of Your grace."

**FURTHER READING:** Acts 4:32-35

### WEEK 2 • DAY 4

*Today's Scripture:*

*"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere." 2 Corinthians 2:14*

**REFLECT:** My sacrifice releases the fragrance of God.

In Mark 14, we meet a woman who displays extravagant devotion. She recognized a unique moment with Jesus and poured out what she had. Mary didn't donate to Jesus; she sacrificed in a way that impacted her financial future. What inspired this? Is it possible that she somehow got a glimpse of the sacrifice Jesus was about to make? The only truth powerful enough to motivate such sacrificial love is the truth of Jesus giving His life for mine. How does God want to spread His fragrance through your life?

**PRAYER:** "Lord, guide me in the sacrifice that releases the fragrance of the Gospel."

**FURTHER READING:** Mark 14:3-9

# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## SACRIFICE

### WEEK 2 • DAY 5

*Today's Scripture:*

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder, and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-3*

**REFLECT:** His love motivates my sacrifice.

As followers of Christ, we are no longer motivated by guilt. In Christ, all striving for God's approval has ceased. Our choices aren't based on cultural acceptance or personal convenience. Instead, the love of God compels us. We live and give in direct proportion to what Christ has given us. Do you find yourself still responding out of fear, guilt, or anything other than God's love for you? Lay those things down today. Receive a fresh filling of God's love for you.

**PRAYER:** "Lord, I believe in the love you have for me. I open my heart to You fully right now."

**FURTHER READING:** Philippians 3:12-21

### WEEK 2 • DAY 6

*Today's Scripture:*

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." John 13:34*

**REFLECT:** Sacrifice matures love.

Genuine love is the most captivating force on earth. And God has called us to reveal that love. The challenge is it can be costly. Opening your home, caring for others, serving your city, and giving your resources – all these things are counterintuitive. We fear that giving will leave us with not enough. But the truth is, in Christ, we have a reservoir of abundance! Choosing this higher love causes us to spiritually grow. Every time we give it away, our souls expand. God's love within us grows when we act in faith and obedience to Him.

**PRAYER:** "Lord, teach me how to mature in love by giving and serving others."

**FURTHER READING:** Romans 12:9-21



# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## COMMITMENT

### WEEK 3 • DAY 1

*Today's Scripture:*

*"And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time." 1 Kings 8:61*

**REFLECT:** Do I consistently apply what I profess to believe?

Having Jesus in your life changes everything! The practices of genuine Christianity must be applied to our daily lives for them to be real. This means our highest commitment in life is to live authentically for Jesus. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you answer today's reflection question. What is He showing you? What practical changes do you sense Him prompting you to make?

**PRAYER:** "Lord, may my heart be first and wholly committed to You."

**FURTHER READING:** James 1

### WEEK 3 • DAY 2

*Today's Scripture:*

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy, he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Matthew 13:44*

**REFLECT:** When grace prevails in your heart, you leave all to follow Him.

This verse goes against the grain of a world filled with skepticism and half-heartedness. Our culture champions that 'one foot out the door' way of life. Instead, Jesus calls you to dig deep roots of commitment to Him. How will you live? Non-committal and unsure? Or joyfully lay down all for Jesus and His mission?

As you point your life towards the supreme value found in Jesus, God wants to speak specifically and uniquely to you. Ask Him what this type of full commitment means for you.

**PRAYER:** "Lord, what number on a commitment card would say - I am committed to you with everything?"

**FURTHER READING:** Luke 12:35-48

# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## COMMITMENT

### WEEK 3 • DAY 3

*Today's Scripture:*

*"David said to Saul, Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."  
1 Samuel 17:32*

**REFLECT:** The chains of the ordinary are only broken by acts of extreme commitment.

God is inviting you to a life of greater things. To do this we must let go of the temporal things we cling to, take our focus off self, and embrace extreme commitment. The good news is that in Christ, you have the capacity for this kind of determination. As you recognize that everything you do echoes in eternity, your spirit produces a grit that fully commits to God and His mission. Are you willing to accept His invitation today into a life of greater things?

**PRAYER:** "Jesus You are my example of extreme commitment. Help me to follow You."

**FURTHER READING:** 1 Samuel 17

### WEEK 3 • DAY 4

*Today's Scripture:*

*"Do not be conformed to this world,[a] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2*

**REFLECT:** I can make an eternal impact with temporal resources.

Biblical Christianity drastically changes the lens through which finances are viewed. God's Word renews your mind to the truth that God is your Father and He owns everything. Soon you discover that the joy of Christ far outweighs the happiness of possessions. Fear and selfishness lose their grip on your heart. Now your choices and commitments are made in light of the truth of eternity. Continue to surrender your life to Him.

**PRAYER:** God, I desire a life that is compelled by Your love for me. Today guide me and renew my mind.

**FURTHER READING:** Galatians 6:1-10

# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## COMMITMENT

### WEEK 3 • DAY 5

*Today's Scripture:*

*"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" Romans 8:32*

**REFLECT:** You can't take your old pattern into your new calling.

Have you ever gone back to an old pattern of life? Maybe a dysfunctional relationship, past addiction, or an old way of reacting to life's circumstances? Today, God wants you to surrender the old. He desires you to turn from that past identity and step into a deeper relationship with Him. What's keeping you from fully living in your new identity in Christ? Remind yourself today that nothing is too difficult for God, and that God is for you.

**PRAYER:** "God, I release the old and embrace the new."

**FURTHER READING:** Romans 8:31-39

### WEEK 3 • DAY 6

*Today's Scripture:*

*"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

**REFLECT:** Nothing is impossible when 100% of the Church gives 100% of themselves.

Each week at City Life, God is moving in powerful ways. And we are just getting started! Together, what could we accomplish in SF for the glory of God? Could we see thousands saved? Entire cities transformed by the Gospel? Social problems solved? Family trees changed? Yes, this is possible! But every spiritual movement has gone hand in hand with a generosity movement. How is God prompting you to commit to His mission?

**PRAYER:** "Lord, grip my heart with Your mission today."

**FURTHER READING:** Matthew 5:13-16





# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## GENEROSITY

### WEEK 4 • DAY 1

*Today's Scripture:*

*"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." Isaiah 12:3*

**REFLECT:** You exist to display God's glory by living from the well of His divine love.

It's the love of God that compels you to live a radical sacrificial life. His grace empowers you to deny yourself and live for His kingdom. By that same Spirit, City Life exists for the glory of God and the transformation of cities. It's possible to see SF spiritually awakened in our lifetime. The extraordinary generosity needed comes from ordinary people who chose simply to live differently. How is God leading you to give? Allow your giving to be a work of the love and grace of God that influences your heart.

**PRAYER:** "Lord, let my generosity flow from a heart that's been changed by Your love."

**FURTHER READING:** John 4

### WEEK 4 • DAY 2

*Today's Scripture:*

*"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air." 1 Corinthians 9:24-26*

**REFLECT:** True generosity is fueled by grace.

An encounter with grace leads to new ambitions. A new passion fills your heart. The desire to love and serve God and live for another world consumes us. It's important to understand God wants you to enjoy your life and His blessings. He also calls you to a higher form of happiness that is found when you live with a full heart and an open hand. Today, come before God with a grateful heart for all He has done for you. Then, open your hands and ask Him to guide you into greater generosity by His grace.

**PRAYER:** "God, I live freely with a heart full of grace and open hands of generosity."

**FURTHER READING:** 1 Corinthians 8

# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## GENEROSITY

### WEEK 4 • DAY 3

Today's Scripture:

*"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,[a] the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers." Psalm 24:1-2*

**REFLECT:** Everything belongs to God.

One of the first steps to a generous life is the realization that your life, health, mind, strength, job, and even the air you breathe belongs to God. Do you struggle with surrendering to this truth? Are you still attempting to keep areas of your life under your control? Today ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything you're keeping from God. Release those areas and trust God for freedom.

**PRAYER:** "Lord, You have begun a good work in me. I trust you to complete it, and I yield to Your hand."

**FURTHER READING:** Acts 20

### WEEK 4 • DAY 4

Today's Scripture:

*"For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ." Romans 5:17*

**REFLECT:** God is a Giver.

Many view God as a taker. Sometimes we all believe that He wants to take our fun, our friends, our joy, our identity, and our money. This misunderstanding of grace comes when you fail to recognize that God's actions display His character. Before you turned to Him, He came to you. Jesus took your place and forever freed you from sin. God is the Ultimate Giver. Failure to see this keeps us all grasping for control. What thoughts come to mind when you think about God? Take some time today and answer that question. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal more truth about who God is.

**PRAYER:** "God open my eyes to see You in truth."

**FURTHER READING:** Romans 5

# BE ABOUT IT.

DEVOTIONAL

## GENEROSITY

### WEEK 4 • DAY 5

*Today's Scripture:*

*"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..." Ephesians 3:20*

**REFLECT:** God entrusts the generous with more.

God is looking for His Church to step out in obedience to His Word. He wants you to live like you believe that He can do more than you could ask or think. Do you believe that today? Do you know Him as your Provider? Have you discovered the divine joy found in eternal investment? Is your heart beating for His agenda? Spend some time reflecting on these questions. Let the Lord speak to you.

**PRAYER:** "God I desire to allow You to work great things through my life. Help me live for You."

**FURTHER READING:** Matthew 14:22-33

### WEEK 4 • DAY 6

*Today's Scripture:*

*"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine." Proverbs 3:9-10*

**REFLECT:** Generous giving produces the surplus that enables the Church to transform cities and regions.

The dream to see SF and the Bay Area spiritually alive is possible if 100% of His Church give 100% of themselves. Over these past 4 weeks, God has been waking your heart for what breaks His heart. How will you respond? Will you allow Him to stretch your faith and trust Him on a whole new level? As you do, you will discover that sacrificial giving leads to abundant blessing, not overwhelming lack.

**PRAYER:** "God, wake my heart for what breaks Your heart."

**FURTHER READING:** Acts 4





**BE ABOUT IT.**

**DAILY PRAYER  
AND DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**











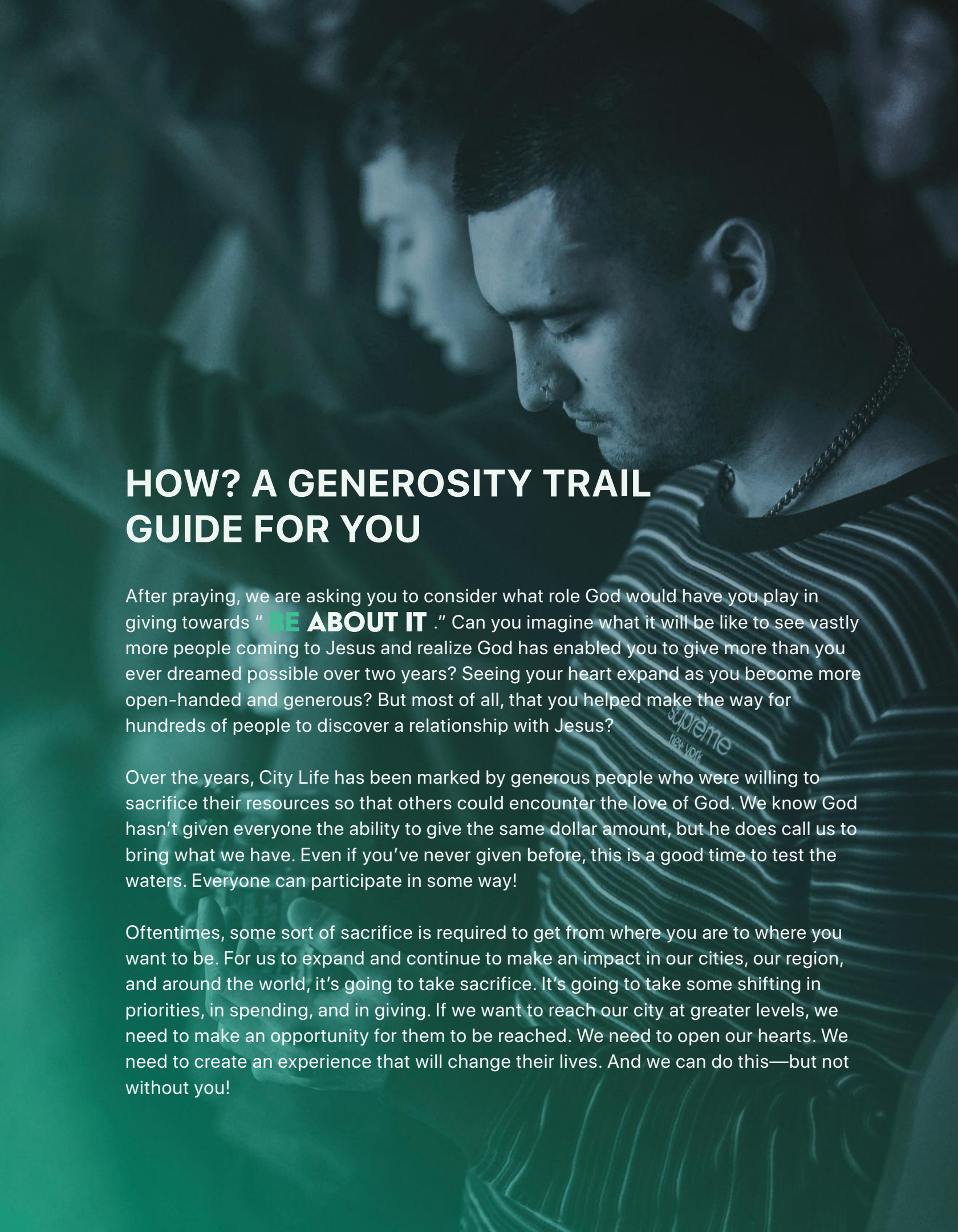


# LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM FOR **BE ABOUT IT.**

*THE BLESSED LIFE BY ROBERT MORRIS*



[citylifesf.com/groups](http://citylifesf.com/groups)



## HOW? A GENEROSITY TRAIL GUIDE FOR YOU

After praying, we are asking you to consider what role God would have you play in giving towards " **BE ABOUT IT** ." Can you imagine what it will be like to see vastly more people coming to Jesus and realize God has enabled you to give more than you ever dreamed possible over two years? Seeing your heart expand as you become more open-handed and generous? But most of all, that you helped make the way for hundreds of people to discover a relationship with Jesus?

Over the years, City Life has been marked by generous people who were willing to sacrifice their resources so that others could encounter the love of God. We know God hasn't given everyone the ability to give the same dollar amount, but he does call us to bring what we have. Even if you've never given before, this is a good time to test the waters. Everyone can participate in some way!

Oftentimes, some sort of sacrifice is required to get from where you are to where you want to be. For us to expand and continue to make an impact in our cities, our region, and around the world, it's going to take sacrifice. It's going to take some shifting in priorities, in spending, and in giving. If we want to reach our city at greater levels, we need to make an opportunity for them to be reached. We need to open our hearts. We need to create an experience that will change their lives. And we can do this—but not without you!

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH!

*This is our Commitment Sunday, where we'll be turning in our "BE ABOUT IT" commitments together as a church. The real journey will begin from there as we faithfully bring our gifts over the next two years..*



## WHERE TO START?

*The best place to begin is by talking with God about what is on your heart and mind, specifically concerning this giving commitment. Be honest and open about it. Even in the nuts and bolts of sorting out financial questions, this is a spiritual journey. It's not about guilt or obligation. Remember, the idea isn't to figure out a mathematical formula, it's about giving Jesus access to your heart and letting Him lead you in the financial decision.*

*In the next few pages, we have a generosity trail guide mapped out for you. Along the way, you will discover some principles and a worksheet to help you and your family decide what your next step in giving is supposed to be and what your gift chart number is.*

## GOD'S TRAIL GUIDE FOR **GIVING**

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

*"Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come."*

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**DON'T  
JUST  
TALK  
ABOUT  
IT**

### **1. EVERY BELIEVER IN EVERY CHURCH SHOULD GIVE.**

*Giving is a universal practice. The apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers, "Follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia" (1 Corinthians 16:1, NLT). In other words, Paul was saying, "They did it in Galatia—you need to do it in Corinth. They did it in Macedonia, and we need to do it here. Every church should do this." It was not just something the Corinthians were asked to do; it was asked of every believer. No one is exempt from giving.*

**BE ABOUT IT.**

## 2. WE LEARN THAT **GIVING IS TO BE DONE CONSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY.**

*“On every Lord’s Day,” Paul said in verse two, “put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned” (1 Corinthians 16:1, NLT). The idea is to consistently take a percentage of your income and set it aside for the work of God. This is what the Bible tells us we ought to do. And then, as you do this, you can invest it in His Kingdom.*

## 3. GIVING IS A **PERSONAL ACT.**

*Notice that Paul says, “Each of you should put aside some amount of money” (1 Corinthians 16:2, NLT). Paul’s point is that every one of us should set aside an amount of money to give. Even children ought to be taught this. God wants a personal relationship with all of us. Giving to God’s work is a personal act for every single believer.*



## 4. WE SHOULD **PREPARE OURSELVES TO INVEST IN THE WORK OF GOD.**

*The apostle Paul told the believers “Put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering” (1 Corinthians 16:2, NLT). Paul is saying to prayerfully consider how much to give. Do it in advance. It should never be a last-minute or flippant practice. Paul also says, “in relation to what you have earned.” In other words, not all of our gifts will be equal, but our sacrifice should be. Our giving should be in proportion to what we earn. Giving is an opportunity to be an obedient Christian. Take it seriously but do it cheerfully.*





### **Deliberate — Talk with God**

Go to God and ask that His will be done in your life. It's important that you strive to follow the direction He has for you and that you find the doors He wants you to walk through.

### **Determine — Your Starting Point**

**BE ABOUT IT** is not based on equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. In other words, not all of our gifts will be of the same amount, but every one of us can meaningfully invest in proportion to the resources God has given us to work with. Determine where you are on the giving ladder and what is the next step God is asking you to take.

### **Define — What Sacrifice Looks Like for You**

What changes can you make in your life that will better enable you to invest in what you believe in? How can you give in ways that will make a difference in you? These are often personal and specific to your lifestyle, budget, and areas where you know God is asking you to make changes and sacrifices.

### **Decide — Create a Personal Giving Plan**

We thought it would be helpful to explain what commitment IS and IS NOT. A commitment IS a heartfelt decision to get behind what City Life is doing—and it's a commitment you make between you and God. A commitment is NOT a contract or legal agreement. Therefore, decide, trust, and work out your giving plan.

### **Donate — Evaluate Stored Resources**

Another way you can contribute to "**BE ABOUT IT**" is by giving from stored resources. Most likely your commitment will be from giving that's done over the two years, plus from stored resources that you liquidate and give in lump sums.



# GIVING WORKSHEET

*Now that we have the principles of biblical generosity down and a general map of how to go about it, let's go deeper in the journey and fill out your GIVING WORKSHEET.*

*We encourage you to sit down and go through this worksheet with your family (if applicable). Put pen to paper as a response to our prayer of, "Dear Lord, what do you want to do through me?" As you work through these seven steps it most likely will be an eye-opening experience, you will discover the possibilities in determining your level of generosity.*

## **STEP ONE: Pray**

Yes, it is true, you will have to do more than pray, but do not do anything until you pray! Begin by using the following as a guide:

**1 minute: Adoration** Celebrate how great God is.

**1 minute: Confession** Admit areas in your life that may be outside of God's will for you or areas that may not be pleasing to God. You can even confess your hesitation to engage in this process.

**1 minute: Thanksgiving** Think about the many aspects of your life for which you can be grateful, i.e., a car to drive, a place to live, food to eat, clothes to wear, a job that provides an income, etc.

**1 minute: Surrender** Relinquish all that you have. This may be the hardest part of this prayer progression. The physical action of turning your open palms upward may help you visualize your willingness to let go of what God has given to you.

*"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21.*

## **STEP TWO: Evaluate your income**

It's important to have a realistic starting point, so start with what is known, your income.

Salary #1:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

+

Salary #2

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

+

Year 1 potential raise/bonus/commission:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

+

Year 2 potential raise/bonus/commission:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Now, determine what portion of that God is asking you to commit:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sub-total: \_\_\_\_\_

*For most of us, income alone will not take us where we want to go toward making a sacrificial type commitment to our church.*



### STEP THREE: LIFESTYLE CHANGES AND/OR ALTERED SPENDING

SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU THINKING:

- LESSEN CAR PAYMENTS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- SELL YOUR CAR & PURCHASE A USED CAR WITH NO PAYMENTS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- EAT OUT LESS OFTEN ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CUT BACK ON SUBSCRIPTIONS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- REGULATE THE AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF GIFTS GIVEN ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- SCALE BACK CELL PHONE & INTERNET USAGE ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- MODIFY TYPE AND NUMBER OF VACATIONS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ADJUST CABLE TV/DIRECT TV COVERAGE, PACKAGES DOWNWARD..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TRIM DOWN ENTERTAINMENT..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COFFEE RUNS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- DECREASE NEW CLOTHING PURCHASES ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- PAY OFF A BILL AND CONTINUE THE PAYMENT TO "BE ABOUT IT"..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- DO YOUR OWN HOUSEKEEPING, LAWN CARE ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- SUB-TOTAL

**STEP FOUR: ACTIVELY CONSIDER YOUR ASSETS (STORED RESOURCES)**

THIS INCLUDES SEVERAL DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES:

PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS THAT HAVE APPRECIATED  
IN VALUE SUCH AS...

- HOME ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- LAND ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TIMESHARES ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- APARTMENTS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CONDOS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- VACATION HOMES ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- STOCKS AND BONDS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- DIGITAL CURRENCY (CRYPTO) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

COLLECTIBLE ITEMS SUCH AS...

- CARS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- STAMPS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TRADING CARDS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- COINS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- MEMORABILIA ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DEPRECIATED OBJECTS SUCH AS...

- MOTORCYCLE ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CLOTHES ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- BOATS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- JEWELRY ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ARTWORK ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- THINGS THAT COULD BE SOLD ON EBAY ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SUB-TOTAL

**STEP FIVE: TIME AND TALENT  
CONSIDER PUTTING YOUR TIME AND/OR TALENT INTO PLAY TO GENERATE  
RESOURCES...**

- GO BACK TO WORK ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- WORK ONE ADDITIONAL DAY A WEEK ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- START A NEW BUSINESS TO GENERATE INCOME ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TAKE AN OUTSIDE "SEASONAL" JOB OPPORTUNITY ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- WORK OVERTIME ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- WORK AN EXTRA SATURDAY ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC HOBBIES, JEWELRY MAKING, POTTERY, .. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SUB-TOTAL

**STEP SIX: DENIAL OR A GENUINE ACT OF SACRIFICIAL FAITH**

AS SEEN IN THE BIBLE, GOD OFTEN TAPS PEOPLE ON THE SHOULDER AND ASKS THEM TO DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY. THIS IS THE SORT OF OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY FAITH THAT CAN ONLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO A PROMPTING OF GOD'S SPIRIT. IT'S THE TYPE OF COMMITMENT THAT A FINANCIAL PLANNER MAY THINK IS FOOLISH, BUT GOD MAY VERY WELL CONSIDER THE OPPOSITE. IT'S HARD TO SUGGEST WHAT THIS OPPORTUNITY MAY BE FOR YOU, BUT WE BELIEVE GOD WILL LEAD SOME OF US TOWARD THIS VERY PLACE.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

YOU DECIDE TO RETIRE, BUT YOU DELAY IT FOR 2 YEARS TO GIVE THOSE RESOURCES TO THE CHURCH. YOU POSTPONE OR SLIDE BACK RETIREMENT BY TAKING MONEY OUT OF YOUR 401K/403B/IRA.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SUB-TOTAL**

IT COULD VERY WELL BE THAT THERE ARE DOLLAR AMOUNTS THAT CAN BE ASSIGNED TO EVERY ONE OF THESE STEPS/CATEGORIES. TOTAL THEM UP AND GIVE THAT OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. YES – IT IS GOING TO TAKE GOD'S HELP TO ACCOMPLISH IT, BUT IF WE COULD DO IT ON OUR OWN, THEN WE VERY WELL MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO TAKE THE CREDIT FOR WHAT GOD AND ONLY GOD CAN DO!

**GRAND TOTAL AVAILABLE \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL 2-YEAR COMMITMENT (WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO THROUGH ME/US)**

	\$ _____	CURRENT GIVING
+	\$ _____	EXPANDED GIVING
=	\$ _____	ANNUAL GIVING
X 2 YEARS =	\$ _____	
+	\$ _____	STORED RESOURCES ESTIMATE
=		GRAND TOTAL FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS

## STEP SEVEN: THE COMMITMENT...TRUST GOD!

THE REAL JOURNEY WILL COME OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. WE HOPE YOU'LL KEEP A JOURNAL OF THE AMAZING AND UNEXPECTED WAYS GOD WILL WORK AND PROVIDE IN YOUR LIFE TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR COMMITMENTS.

# QUESTIONS?

### Always Welcomed.

At City Life, we strive to be transparent, engaged, and available to our church body so that we all can be on the same page and accomplish God's purposes through City Life in unity and with much joy. Q/A helps accomplish that "same page" goal and serves as an effective way to communicate information to everyone at City Life that one-on-one or after-service conversations can't accomplish. Your [Vision FAQ Booklet](#) (available in the lobby) had an initial round of FAQs and this section serves to add to that. You can submit additional questions to: [isaac@citylifesf.com](mailto:isaac@citylifesf.com)

## BE ABOUT IT.

*For more information visit our webpage at:*

[citylifesf.com/be-about-it](http://citylifesf.com/be-about-it)

### JOIN THE VISION



## TELL ME IN SHORT WHAT " BE ABOUT IT " IS ABOUT?

In short, "BE ABOUT IT " is a two-year generosity campaign that enables us to accomplish the vision God has given us at City Life. Through discipleship in generosity, we believe we can see our family raise \$5 million over the next two years.

## OK, HOW DOES THAT COMPARE TO WHAT WE TYPICALLY SEE GIVEN TO CITY LIFE?

We currently receive around \$1.25 million in gifts. Over the next two years, we would typically expect to receive around \$2.5 million. With the purchase of our building, along with the launching of our East Bay Campus, and other expanded ministries we believe God is calling us to, it requires another \$2.5 million to be given over the next two years. So, that is a total of \$5M to fund all we believe we are to " BE ABOUT IT " in the next 2 years. Yes, that is challenging, but historically churches that have challenged their church in giving initiatives like this one have seen their church rise to the occasion with remarkable success. We have that same expectation.

## HOW DID " BE ABOUT IT " COME ABOUT?

"BE ABOUT IT" is our response to the call of God to fund our future profoundly. Simply said, we are responding to God's leading. For weeks, months, and years we have been praying, seeking God, asking Him to move upon our church, and He has responded. Open doors presented themselves that we believed God opened and invited us to walk through. So, in great faith, we said YES to the purchase of our building. What a rare thing if not a miracle for a church in downtown SF to be able to purchase a building. This is not just any building; this is the building we have been meeting in. We also said YES to launching a second City Life location in the East Bay. And then in January of this year, Pastor Jon Jon shared a prophetic word from God about more strategic new ministries He intended for us to be a part of. From these open doors, it became clear to us that God wanted us to " BE ABOUT IT " and to move forward in strengthening our current ministry, strategizing new ministry opportunities (especially the East Bay Campus), and securing our future by funding our new building purchase. Thus, " BE ABOUT IT " was born, and is our vision from God to [SECURE OUR FUTURE, STRATEGIZE NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES, AND STRENGTHEN CURRENT MINISTRY](#). This requires a greater level of generosity from our church body which led to our current " BE ABOUT IT " Generosity Initiative.

## WHAT ARE THE GOALS THE BE ABOUT IT CAMPAIGN INITIATIVE?

Our goal for " BE ABOUT IT " is that 100% of our congregation will pray and participate in sacrificial generosity for our vision of (1) strengthening our current ministry, (2) strategizing new ministry opportunities, and (3) securing our future. All of this will enable us to reach, connect, and disciple for generations.

## WHAT SHOULD I ANTICIPATE?

Remember, we have an adversary that will do everything possible to try and convince you that "BE ABOUT IT" isn't for you. He knows that if he can shut off the flow of generosity, we won't be able to move forward in our mission and calling. So, commit that you WILL go on the spiritual journey with your church family.

## WHAT IS THE EXPECTATION OF BE ABOUT IT ?

Our prayerful expectation is for everyone to take the next step on the spiritual and generous journey God has set before each of us. Yes, it will require God to awaken our hearts to the lostness of our world, and for each of us to let God leverage our lives to build His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. These two years are about growing in our walk with Jesus, personally and collectively as a church. If we all take a step forward in our discipleship journey, we will have achieved becoming a church of people who have a heart for what God has planned for City Life.

## I AM SOMEWHAT **RELUCTANT** BECAUSE OF PAST EXPERIENCES.

We get that. Churches do disappoint us at times, and it stings. We intend that we will be responsible in our asking, in our approach, and our follow-through. From the outset we wanted to challenge our church to “*grow in the grace of giving*” (2 Corinthians 8:7), leading them to engage spiritually with God and respond as He guides. Growth is what we are after. The financial is the response to that growth. That is why our primary goal is 100% participation in the spiritual journey – seeking God, praying, freshly surrendering our lives, making our stuff available to God, and then walking it out in faith.

## WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE MUCH **EXPERIENCE** IN GIVING BEFORE?

We have all been there, where we came to Jesus and had to be challenged to grow into being generous Christians. The apostle Paul exhorted Pastor Timothy to “encourage” his people to be generous and not be delinquent in doing that. So those who have not participated in giving much, or at all, take the plunge! Start creating and expanding your generosity story. We encourage you to use the “**BE ABOUT IT**” Campaign as your “test” to see how faithful God is in return. Place your treasure into City Life and your heart will follow, your faith will expand, your trust in God will grow, and your DECLARATION that God is FIRST will deepen. Ephesians 3:20-21 says, “*He will do exceedingly abundantly above and beyond all that we can ask, think or imagine.*” That blessing can be a full range of blessings, yet it can be a financial return to you. But for many, they testify to blessings that are far greater than just a financial return, including breakthroughs in relationships, health, vocations, attitudes, habits, hand-ups, healings, etc. That’s the generosity story that you are creating for you and your family. Paul, in Philippians 4:17, gave his motivation for why he exhorted generosity so much to the New Testament churches, “*I am not trying to get something from you, but I want you to receive the blessings that come from giving.*” That’s our motivation as well, to see YOU blessed, even as we BUILD the Kingdom together in our region.

## HOW THEN DO I GROW MY HEART IN **GENEROSITY**?

First and foremost, you pray and seek God’s direction on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and then listen to what He says. Engage in personal reflection with God in this Journey Guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life. Recognize that this may involve a struggle as you sense God’s call to rearrange life priorities, spending habits, and giving from stored resources. But don’t be afraid, Luke 6:33 says, “*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*” Expect your commitment to grow over time from token, to generous, to sacrificial generosity. That is called gospel-centered generosity. Follow God’s leading. Finally, prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome God and He is going to move in huge ways. We anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective “**BE ABOUT IT**” commitments—something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, November 12th, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and our faith.

## WHAT SHOULD I **KNOW** ABOUT MY **BE ABOUT IT** COMMITMENT?

In BE ABOUT IT, we are challenging you to grow in the practice of giving. As you consider your financial commitment over the next two years you will want to factor in the following:

- (1) Your commitment is to include your current giving,
- (2) Your expanded giving,
- (3) That new total X 2 years, plus
- (4) Stored Resources (estimate), equals

All In Giving, meaning what you will be giving over the next two years to City Life.



## ANY HELP IN FIGURING THAT OUT?

Well, yes. Remember is (1) it's discerned by prayer, (2) it's not equal giving, but equal sacrifice, and (3) planned from income, altered spending, income generation, and stored resources. The 'How?' section in this Journey Guide is designed to be a great tool to help you arrive at your faith commitment. Briefly, people find it helpful to think through their commitment by using the five D's of sacrificial commitment: 1) What can I **do away** with? 2) What can I **delay**? 3) What can I **do more** of? 4) What can I donate? 5) What can I **deny** myself? You can readily see why this is a discipleship journey over multiple weeks. It takes time to be led by the Spirit, increase faith and courage, and discover God's will.

## WHAT ARE "STORED RESOURCES"?

Stored resources are the funds or assets you have other than income. You may want to explore unique ways you can give toward this campaign initiative. For example, you may have savings, stocks, bonds, or other investments that you decide to give to the church. You may have a boat, a vacation home, or a collection that you let go of. Or you may want to consider whether God is calling you to simplify your lifestyle in a way that frees you to give more to God. What would your life look like if you let go of some of the "stuff" you've been holding on to?

## WHAT IF I AM CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL STRESS OR HARDSHIP?

If you are currently struggling with unemployment, or if you are carrying a heavy load of substantial debt, we are here for you. An excellent resource for you is Financial Peace University, a course that helps you develop a plan for taking control of your finances. If you need care, we have care ministers and pastors who can meet with you to discuss your current situation. As you work to overcome financial barriers to giving, consider that **giving isn't about what God wants from you; rather it's about what God wants for you.** "**BE ABOUT IT**" is fundamentally about a heart change - one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God -- and that looks different for all of us. Ultimately, we would like for 100% of us to be a part of "**BE ABOUT IT**" so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually stretching season at City Life.

## ISN'T GIVING TO OTHER CHARITIES THE SAME AS GIVING TO THE CHURCH?

As followers of Jesus, God calls us to give first to His church for the work of the body of Christ. At City Life, we know firsthand that the church changes people -- we regularly hear stories of transformation. Giving directly to specific causes helps people in need and that is awesome, however, the gospel of Jesus transforms for all of eternity and causes a redemptive lift that is experienced practically in this life. When you give to the church, you are investing in people who will be transformed and will in turn transform our world. "**BE ABOUT IT**" then 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 love for you to make City Life your home and join in on "**BE ABOUT IT**". If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your priority. We need you on the team!

## IF WE ARE COMMITTING TO **BE ABOUT IT**, HOW WILL THIS AFFECT OUR NORMAL GIVING AND OFFERINGS?

Your commitment to "**BE ABOUT IT**" will include all in giving to City Life for the next 2 years. So, Step 1 is to determine what you normally give to City Life. Then Step 2 is to pray about how God wants you to grow. Step 3 is to take that new total and multiply it for two years. Step 4 determines what will be given from Stored Resources. Step 5 is your two-year total.

We are focused on everyone at City Life seeing their giving as an integral part of the discipleship process and then being challenged by God to take the next step. The bulk of this Journey Guide is focused on helping us dig into some key biblical principles that guide us in this area as we follow Jesus. This is our first priority—100% participation in the process. Even if someone wrote us a check today for our goal of \$5 million, we would still do this campaign initiative. Whether we're just starting in our giving journey or we're very committed givers, we all have the next step to take and room to grow in this area.

## WHAT IS BIBLICAL TITHING?

If you are new to the idea of tithing, the following are five facts about biblical tithing: (1) The tithe is 10% of everything God provides through income, gifts, etc. (2) The tithe is to be the very first ten percent of your income -before taxes, bills, savings, house payment, etc. (3) The tithe is to be given to God's work around the world with priority given to His work through the local church. (4) The tithe was modeled by Abraham, Moses, Jesus, & Paul. (5) The tithe is supposed to be the floor and not the ceiling of our Christian generosity. We like to say that "tithing is the training wheels for a life of generosity" - where God begins teaching us how to be generous in all areas of our lives.

## CAN YOU DEFINE SACRIFICE?

A simple definition is: Giving up something I want, something I need, something that represents security. Most likely your commitment will come from excess income, decreasing spending, liquidating assets, generating more money through the use of time and talent, and sacrificing something. It is deciding upon what I can give up, do without, postpone, or alter to give to City Life over the next two years. And yes, this can seem daunting, and we have no desire for anyone to feel compelled, guilt, or coerce into anything. Our emphasis is upon praying and seeking God for what He wants us to do. So relax and just press into Jesus. He will guide you.

## WHAT DOES THE SLOGAN "NOT EQUAL GIFTS, BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE" MEAN?

It recognizes that we all have different financial capacities, so we can't do a fair share approach to giving, that would be more than what some could give and far less than what others could give. But we all can find the ground level when it comes to sacrifice. Everyone sacrificing is the goal. So, from the smallest gift to the largest gift, every person can say, "This gift is sacrificial for me." Thus, all gifts are received with great joy and are celebrated.

## IS IT OK TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GIVE AN AMOUNT THAT I DON'T HAVE RIGHT NOW?

Yes! That is called faith and it pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). In fact, the Macedonian Christians who were living in poverty insisted on giving to the struggling Christians in Jerusalem. Paul said of their giving that they "*gave what they were able, and even beyond their ability*" meaning they committed by faith future resources.

## IS THE SACRIFICE OF MONEY A BIBLICAL PRACTICE?

Absolutely - The book of 2 Samuel quotes King David as saying, "*I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.*" The essence of sacrifice is that it COSTS us something. This type of giving is pleasing to God because it demonstrates our reliance and faith in Him, and that is when BIG things begin to happen. Mary broke the alabaster jar of perfume upon Jesus that was worth one year's worth of wages. Jesus commended the widow who gave her last two coins. When Zacchaeus said he was giving half of all he owned, and repaying those he had defrauded, Jesus said, "*Salvation has come to this household.*"

## WHAT IF I TEND TO TAKE A RATIONAL APPROACH TO DECISION-MAKING?

It will be tempting to give based on REASON. That would mean looking at my budget and figuring out what I could afford - what's "reasonable." **It doesn't take any faith to give by reason.** Or, you could give based on REVELATION. Revelation asks, "How much am I willing to trust God?" When you make it a matter of prayer, your decision becomes an act of worship.

Here are some simple steps to consider during this process:

Think about ALL that God has done in your life since you have been part of the church, as well as how you've seen Him change others. Think about people you know who don't yet know God and His love for them. Let it sink in that people need Jesus as Lord and Savior. Talk it over with God, both individually, and together with your spouse. Pray constantly, "God, I invite you to guide us."

Discuss what sacrifice could mean for you. Pray, "Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish Your will in my church?." Decide in faith and commit to sacrificially give over the next 2 years.

## SO, WHAT IS AN AVERAGE GIFT?

There is no formula for determining that commitment nor is there an "average gift" kind of benchmark. Generosity is not about "equal gifts but about equal sacrifice." Instead of measuring your gift by the dollar amount, use the "measures" below:

Does this investment make a difference to me? Does this gift change me, change my whole commitment level? Was this a prayerful decision seeking God's will... did I even invite God to be a part of this decision process? Did I have a real conversation about this decision ... with my spouse, children, family, church family, etc.? Did I learn something about commitment and giving? Did I take a step of faith that deepens my discipleship? If everyone else in the church made a sacrifice equal to my own (in terms of commitment rather than dollars), would God be honored by that level of commitment/investment? Did I ask, "Where do you want us to go on the gift chart?"

## WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY FAITH COMMITMENT?

You most likely will start planning for your commitment to be an amount that fits within your budget. It will probably be a conservative amount that you believe you could give over the next two years. But it probably isn't sacrificial, nor will it stretch your faith to make that kind of commitment. A faith commitment will require you to grow your commitment number by thinking through how you could alter your spending, liquidate assets, and postpone spending. Now you realize you are sacrificing for the Kingdom and increasing your faith in God as provider and protector. As your commitment continues to grow, you come to Commitment Sunday and write a number on your card that will require 2 years of giving to fulfill that amount. It will require God to work in your life and circumstances to enable you to give that amount. You now realize you have to commit this amount by faith, believing God will enable you to fulfill your sacrificial commitment where you don't know where all the money will come from, or when it will come over the 2-year giving phase.

## CAN EACH MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY MAKE A SEPARATE COMMITMENT?

Yes – Even students and young children can learn the values of commitment, generosity, faith, and sacrifice by filling out their commitment cards.

## IF I MAKE A FAITH COMMITMENT, BUT MY CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, HOW DOES THAT WORK?

We know that a lot can happen in two years! Your commitment is not a contract, but a covenant that is between you and God. We do, however, believe that "*God is able to make all grace abound to you,*" and we believe this will be the most prosperous season of your life in every way. But life happens, and we understand that you may need to adjust. Have faith and excitement as you expect great things to come your way.

## WHEN DOES MY FAITH **COMMITMENT** BEGIN AND END?

The "**BE ABOUT IT**" Campaign Initiative goes from Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2025. We are also asking everyone to prayerfully consider bringing their first gift offering on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. This will also be the day we announce the total commitments. The idea of this offering is to give the campaign initiative a healthy boost out of the gate. We're asking you to pray about giving your best gift.

# A CLOSING THOUGHT FROM **PASTOR JON JON**

Way to go! You got in there and you went for it. If you took the time to listen, pray, read, journal, and contemplate what God has wanted to reveal to you, I trust that you are not quite the same person you were when you started this journey! God is looking and "*searching the whole earth for people who are totally committed to him*"

(2 Chronicles 16:9 MSG). I believe that's our church!

I believe that's **YOU**.

Just wait and see what God will do both through this church and in your own life! It's very possible that it will be far above what we have dared to ask, hope, or imagine. He's going to do it — but **NOT WITHOUT YOU**. Not without us.

**THANK YOU** for engaging in the "**BE ABOUT IT**" journey!

## **BE ABOUT IT.**



BE ABOUT IT.



**BE ABOUT IT.**

LIFE CHURCH



*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

**3 JOHN 1:2**



CITYLIFE  
CHURCH

**BE ABOUT IT.**