

WEEK 1: UNFINISHED FOLLOWERS

MESSAGE NOTES:



SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play Teaching and Testimony Video for Week 1. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for this testimony before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at eastside.com/unfinished.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ① Describe a time God called you to do something that seemed crazy or impossible for you to do.
- ② As God began to work through you to do the impossible, what did you find the most surprising?
- ③ How did this experience prepare you for the next time God calls you to do something impossible?

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read the following Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the provided space before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

GOD CALLS US TO THINGS WE CANNOT YET SEE

Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

- 1 God called Abraham (Abram at the time) to a life he could not yet see - to a path that was "unfinished." Have you given God a 'blank check' with your life? Do you allow Him to do with your life what He wishes to do? Or do you seek too much to 'chart your own path?'

- 2 Where do you look in order to ensure that your path tomorrow will be ok? Family? Friends? Money? Your career? Your talents and abilities? In what lies your security for the present and for the future?

- 3 What things prevent you from truly being able to follow where God leads? How so?

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GOD DOES NOT WANT GENEROSITY FROM US. HE WANTS IT FOR US

Colossians 1:3-14

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- 4 This step of faith for Eastside is the largest thing we have ever done as a church. It is literally going to change our church, and it is a risk we are willing to take in light of God's word and God's leading. We believe that God's work in us is unfinished and He is calling us to take our relationship with Him to a new level. What would it mean for your generosity if you had a full view in mind of what it looks like to truly follow God like Abraham did and like Paul did? What would giving generously in light of that actually mean?

- 5 Do you feel that you have already 'arrived' in the area of generosity, or do you still have room to grow?

- 6 What would it look like for your journey of generosity to inspire others in a way that honors God and draws more people to Him during this UNFINISHED season? In what ways do you need to change in regard to your generosity?
