

# UNFINISHED

UNFINISHED PEOPLE. UNFINISHED STORY.











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# OUR **UNFINISHED** VISION

We are prayerfully and humbly entering into a two-year generosity initiative at Eastside. This season of our church will be like no other. God is not yet finished with us as individuals, and He is not yet finished with us as a church. During this season we will seek to live out uncompromising faith, unprecedented hope, and unrelenting love as we continue to declare that God's mission is for everyone!



This year, as we celebrate 60 years of changed hearts and lives through Eastside, we prayerfully and humbly embark on a two-year generosity initiative we're calling UNFINISHED. We believe that God's work in us is unfinished and He is calling us to take our generosity with Him to new levels.

Our primary goal is 100% participation on this journey by everyone who calls Eastside home, because we don't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity. I can't wait to see all that God is going to do!

Our team created this guide as an outline of the two-year challenge set before each of us. Please write your answers to these questions in this booklet so you can refer back to them throughout the coming years. Our hope is that this simple set of questions and scripture, along with your prayer times, will become a catalyst to help you deepen your relationship with God during this special season at Eastside.

Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, we know God has more for you; and it's possible that the most life-changing, influential, and personally engaging days of your life could still be ahead. It is our privilege to walk beside you as you continue to navigate your journey with Him.

This season of our church will be like no other. We look forward with great anticipation to what God will do in and through Eastside as we seek to make an even greater impact on our communities, our nation, and our world. During this season we will seek to live out uncompromising faith, unprecedented hope, and unrelenting love as we continue to declare that God's mission is for everyone. Excited to be on this adventure with you!

*Together for Him,*





# HISTORY OF EASTSIDE



Eastside is born in a warehouse in Fullerton, CA

1962



New Fullerton campus opens

1966



Eastside moves to Anaheim, CA into a former Boeing Aerospace site

2012



Eastside becomes a multisite church launching its second campus in Park Rapids, MN

2015





Eastside Bellflower launches

2018



Eastside Redlands launches

2019



Eastside Online launches

2020



Eastside Las Vegas launches

2022





## WHERE WE ARE NOW

Over and over in the 60-year history of Eastside, God has made a way where there was no way. And we believe that He's not done with us yet. Far from it.

Coming out of a global pandemic, there has never been a more urgent need for Eastside to move boldly and to trust completely. The times are challenging, but, without a doubt, WE'LL SEE HIM DO IT AGAIN!

That's why we are embarking on a season in our church unlike any other – one that will require openness to God working deeply IN us and THROUGH us, in new levels of FAITH and GENEROSITY.

As God's UNFINISHED PEOPLE, we ask God to continue shaping us into His image as we grow deeper in our surrender to Him. As part of God's UNFINISHED STORY, we ask God to continue using Eastside as a powerful conduit to continue advancing the gospel one neighborhood at a time.

*And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

**PHILIPPIANS 1:6**



# GROW & HEALTH

## NUMBERS WORTH NOTING

Eastside is a church with a legacy of reaching people with the love of Jesus, serving the local community, and generously giving to share the gospel globally. Our heart beats to further expand connecting the unchurched and de-churched with the life-giving grace and forgiveness of Christ.

### 3,308

People in  
Small Groups

### 789

First Step Experience  
Graduates  
(2013 - 2016)

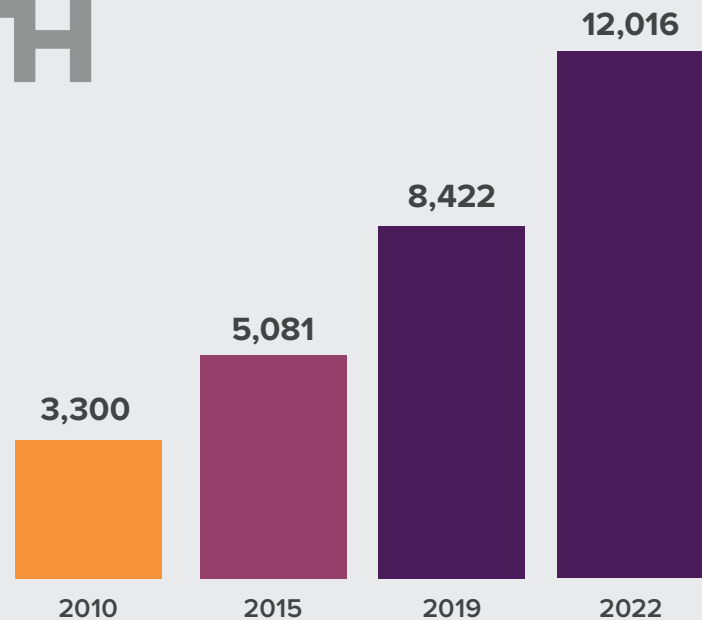
### 2,257

Next Steps  
Graduates since  
(2016 - present)

### 7,400

Baptisms since  
2012

## CHURCH GROWTH





# KIDS + STUDENTS

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

Since its inception, children and students have been one of the top priorities of Eastside.

Whether it is holding and cuddling newborns or keeping pace with teens at summer camp, we are committed to do what it takes to have a voice in the lives of the next generation. To that end, we have carefully developed a program—backed by top facilities and resources—that allow them to enjoy “the best hour of their week.”

WE SERVE MORE THAN **2,700** KIDS AND STUDENTS EACH MONTH

**780** BIRTH - PRE-K

**1,292** KIDS

**645** STUDENTS



## BIRTH-PRE-K

We give your youngest ones the love and attention that you want in a safe, secure environment with experienced workers.



## KIDS

Throughout these formative years, we offer age-friendly classes led by caring and qualified teachers that put your children first.



## STUDENTS

During one of the most challenging stretches in the life of a young adult, we serve as an encouraging voice and a social outlet.





## AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS

**EVERY WEEKEND, HUNDREDS OF CHANGE MAKERS GIVE UP THEIR TIME TO ENSURE THAT THE KIDS' PROGRAMS AND STUDENT MINISTRIES RUN SMOOTHLY AND SEAMLESSLY.**

### **A WIDE REACH**

Our programs for Junior High and High School serve over 500 students every week from 75 schools across all of our Eastside campuses!

### **CHOCOLATE**

Every year we go through nearly 1,400 chocolate candy bars during our awesome Choctober event!

### **HAPPY CAMPERS**

Every year over 300 kids and students go to one of our summer camps!

### **PIZZA**

Over the last year 6,000 slices of pizza have been consumed at our High School house group nights!

### **SPACE RACE**

We have dedicated space designed for kids and students' engagement.



# LOCAL & GLOBAL COMPASSION

Our dream is for Eastside to be a leader in finding solutions, building bridges and partnerships, and bringing the love and hope of Jesus to hurting communities. Because the needs are equally great in our own backyards as they are around the world, we seek to make a collaborative impact where we can be most effective.

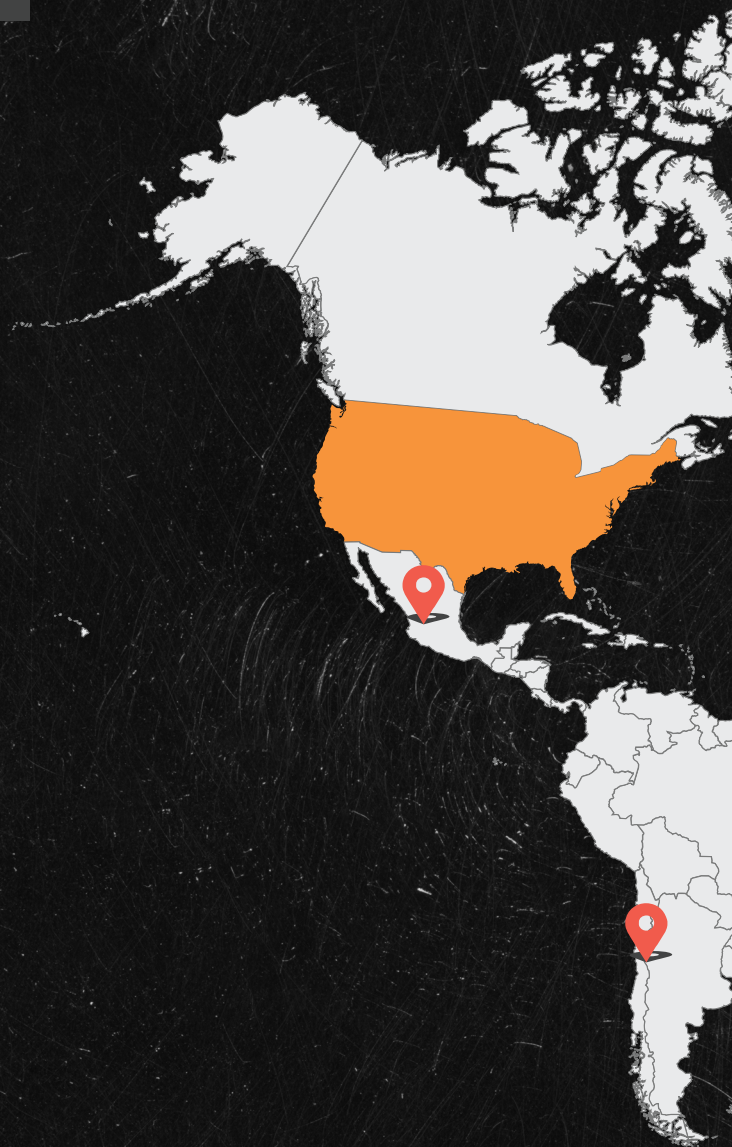
Our ability to make a lasting difference for those in need is fueled by our commitment to invest **fifteen cents of every dollar given to Eastside in Compassion causes**, excellent global and local partners, and Eastside families personally sponsoring roughly 3,000 kids around the world.

## Local Partners

Locally, we aim to develop partnerships with existing pillar organizations in the local communities where Eastside Campuses are located. Our goal is to empower kids to thrive and bring hope to families through various causes. We do this by listening and learning from key community partners, identifying gaps in services and intentionally mobilizing people and resources.

## Local Compassion Causes Include:

- Foster Youth
- Human Trafficking
- Mentorship
- At-Risk Youth
- Homelessness
- At-Risk Families
- Domestic Violence





# OUR PARTNERS



## Global Partners

**Here are just a few of our global partners:**

**Missions of Hope International, Kenya** // By serving 25,000 students and their families in 30 Kenyan communities, and giving 8,400 microfinance loans to date, MOHI is changing the face of poverty.

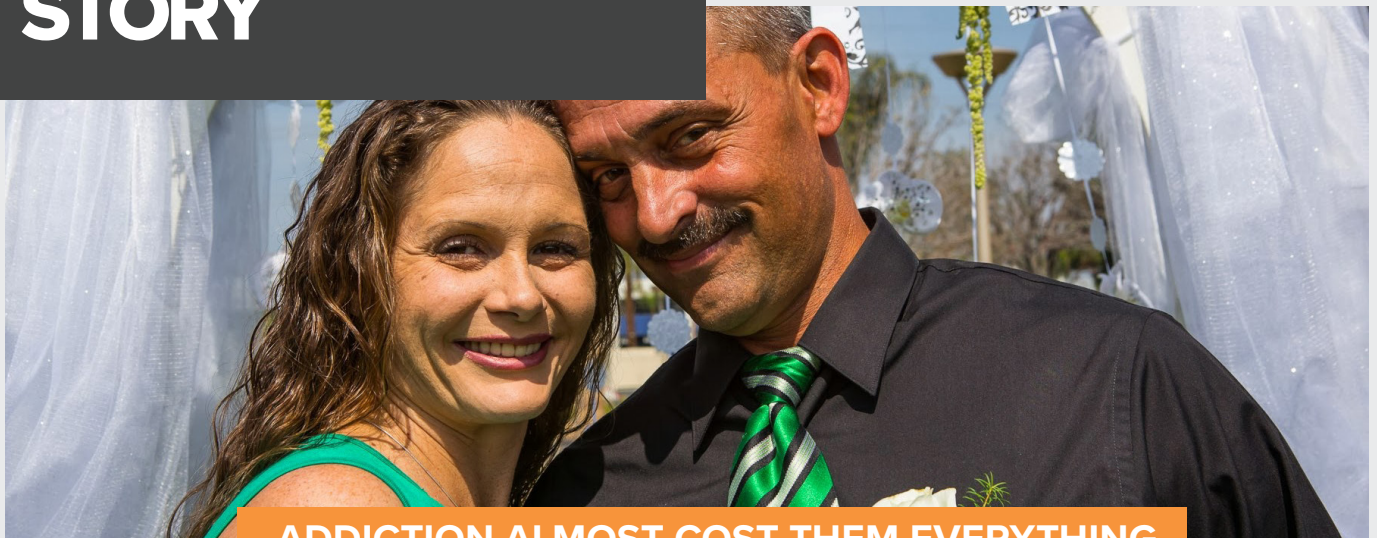
**IberoAmerican Ministries, Chile & Ecuador** // IAM works to see people, communities and nations transformed by Christ and expands His Kingdom to other parts of the world.

**Tijuana Christian Mission, Mexico** // For over 60 years TCM has served the at-risk youth of Mexico, providing a loving, Christlike family environment for children who have experienced abuse, neglect and poverty.

**Joni & Nangsar Morse, Thailand** // The Morse family makes disciples and starts churches in Thailand where they've seen nearly a million people follow Jesus over decades of ministry.



# STORY



## ADDICTION ALMOST COST THEM EVERYTHING

**LEXIE AND MIKE'S LIVES WERE NEAR THE BOTTOM WHEN SOMEONE AT A SOUP KITCHEN SUGGESTED THEY SEE IF EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH COULD HELP.**

Addiction had them in an endless cycle of homelessness and despair. Despite being told 'no' by many churches in the past, and being judged for their lifestyle, Lexie and Mike took the two-hour bus ride to Eastside. What they found was unconditional love. For the first time, they were not judged for living together without being married. They were not judged for being addicted to meth. Instead, they found compassion. Not just compassion in emotion, but compassion with a hand of grace.

Eastside helped them stay in the motel where they were close to being evicted. Mike and Lexie began attending Eastside, first out of a sense of obligation for what had been done for them, then because of the overwhelming love and acceptance of the people at Eastside. They realized when Pastor Gene said, "Everyone's welcome," he meant it. They had found their home!

During the ups and downs of the addiction cycle, jail, and soberness, Mike and Lexie were supported in every step. "They have

always treated us like we mattered," says Lexie. "Eastside is our home away from home."

As Mike and Lexie grew in their faith, they began to see prayers answered. They went from living in a motel, always on the brink of being evicted, to living in a van, to currently renting a very nice apartment that brings stability. In each step, Eastside was there. Eastside staff offered rides to court, gave bus passes, and helped Mike find a drug treatment program. When he graduated eighteen months later, Pastor Arty was there with Lexie to celebrate.

In a society that judges based on outward appearance and social standing, Eastside stands out as being different. Just as Jesus made friends with the outcasts of society, Eastside embraces those who are lost in their addictions and sins. Mike and Lexie admit if it wasn't for the Lord, they would either be in jail or dead.

"Eastside literally saved our lives," Lexie says. "Thirteen years later, we're not looking back."

After eleven years of sobriety, Mike and Lexie are still in recovery and serving the Lord at Eastside.

***" Just as Jesus made friends with the outcasts of society, Eastside embraces those who are lost in their addictions and sins. "***



# PRIMARY GOAL

*Unfinished People:*

***The Primary Goal is 100% ENGAGEMENT***

We believe that God's work in us is unfinished and He is calling us to take our generosity with Him to new levels.





# SECONDARY GOAL

*THE SECONDARY GOAL IS \$54 MILLION*

## **UNCOMPROMISING FAITH: \$26 MILLION**

We will not compromise in our day-in, day-out ministry. This number represents our ministry operating budget for the next two years as we pursue God, build community, and unleash compassion.

## **UNPRECEDENTED HOPE: \$8 MILLION**

The needs have never been greater in our communities and around the globe, especially as we experience the long-term impact of a global pandemic. Over the coming two years, we will offer unprecedented levels of hope as we serve our global and local partners, including new initiatives to launch an international Eastside campus.



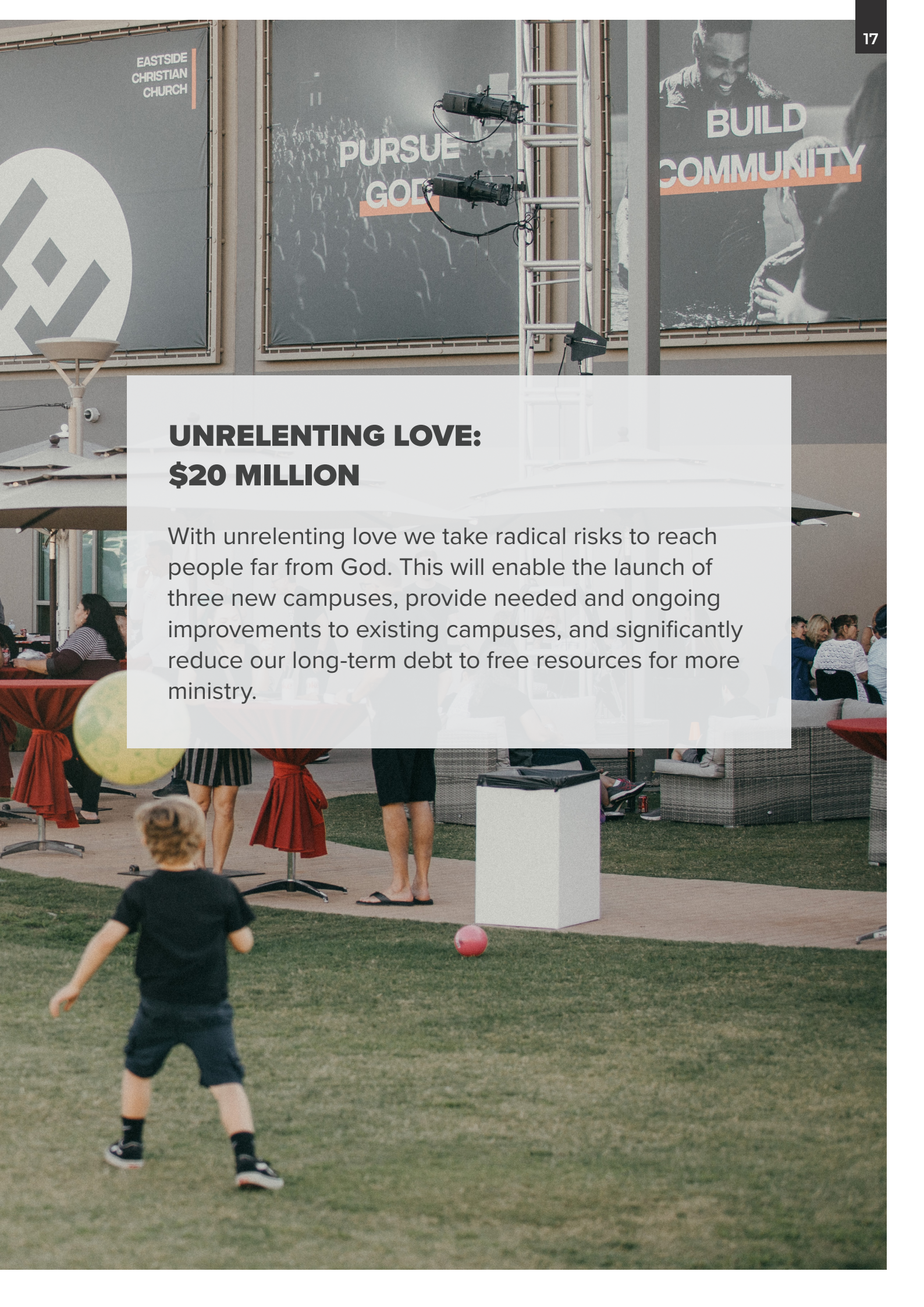
EASTSIDE  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH

PURSUE  
GOD

BUILD  
COMMUNITY

## UNRELENTING LOVE: \$20 MILLION

With unrelenting love we take radical risks to reach people far from God. This will enable the launch of three new campuses, provide needed and ongoing improvements to existing campuses, and significantly reduce our long-term debt to free resources for more ministry.





# UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

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\$13 million a year comes to Eastside through generosity toward our general fund. This would equate to \$26 million over two years. Our general budget is anything but general. Amazing things happen and lives change day in, and day out through ministries like Kidside, students, small groups, weekend services, Next Steps, and Care and Recovery groups.





# STORY

## THE DRIVE IS WORTH IT

Everyone has a different moment of breakthrough where they encounter God. For Mike and Beth, it was when their first child was born. Instantly, their values were re-prioritized. Beth felt the need to get her life in order, and that's when she surrendered to God.

As their family grew, Mike eventually served as an associate pastor for a local church. He performed the role for more than a decade. Finally, however, Mike began to feel God leading him to step away from this. As their youngest daughter graduated from high school in 2017, he took a step of faith and resigned from his position. The family wandered a bit and explored other churches. Later, they plugged back into the church where he had worked, but something wasn't right.

At this point, Mike felt lost. "Where should we go on Sunday?" he asked. Beth suggested they try Eastside and pulled up the website. The moment they got into their car after that first Sunday, they looked at each other and sighed in relief. Finally, they had found a new church to call home. Even with a 50-minute drive, Mike and Beth make the almost hour-long commute every week because

being part of such a vibrant church was worth it.

Initially, they both appreciated how engaging the sermons and teaching were. They weren't "zoning out" during the sermons like they'd done at their previous church. They were learning and growing in their faith. Then, as they got more involved and plugged into serving, they were pleasantly surprised to see what positive attitudes people had. No one was grumpy about serving, which made ministry fun. When Mike first attended, he was encouraged to hear people's stories and get to know them on a deeper level. The level of unity that developed from those relationships blew him away.

Just recently, Mike and Beth attended an event with other Eastsiders dreaming about the future, and Mike was moved to tears. He

felt they were truly a part of something bigger, something that mattered. They don't know all God has in store for them in the future, and they wish they could be closer to their four kids and four grandkids in the Montana area. Even though they are far from the rest of the family, their kids can still see how involved they are with church. "We can be role models for the kids. To see what it means to be faithful to the Lord and serve in our church," Mike said. They are thankful they can live lives showing the value of vibrant faith and a transformative church community like Eastside.

*" He felt they were truly a part of something bigger, something that mattered. "*





# UNPRECEDENTED HOPE

Our plan is to invest **\$8 million** into local and global compassion initiatives. This number is in addition to the nearly **\$3 million** Eastsiders will give to sponsor over **3,000 children** in the next two years!



Our top priorities for this \$8 million include:

- Partnering with existing global partners to launch an Eastside International campus in either Santiago, Chile, Chiang Mai, Thailand or Nairobi, Kenya
- Build both a K-12 school and special needs center for the developmentally disabled with our partner, Missions of Hope International in Kenya
- Expand much-needed medical and dental clinics with our global partners
- Increase our housing assistance for people in need in all communities with an Eastside campus
- Extend care to caregivers including social workers, case managers and foster parents serving our communities
- Further expand our strong support for human trafficking survivors locally









# UNRELENTING LOVE

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**Think of this category as the great multiplier. Instead of adding new followers of Jesus, adding new baptisms, adding new efforts to unleash compassion...this is the category that will multiply growth!**

\$5 million of the Unrelenting Love initiative will go to the launch of three new Eastside campuses. God has used Eastside to help turn around churches that were in danger of closing their doors, and we've learned that when we strategically position ourselves to be ready for these new opportunities, God brings them. And we believe He will bring more.

**\$3 million of this initiative will go towards campus improvements.**

We will address normal wear and tear, technology upgrades and signage changes. We're going to update and enhance the parking lots on our Bellflower, Park Rapids, and Redlands campuses as well as create new playgrounds and outdoor areas that will make for a much better guest experience. We also plan to make technical and ministry improvements to our biggest campus of our six - the Online campus.

**We also plan to reduce our debt by \$12 million. Debt slows us down from doing more to reach more people, and by reducing our debt we'll save thousands of dollars in interest and free up more dollars for ministry in the long run.**

It's a \$54 million dollar vision over the next two years.

**God will keep writing an unfinished story in us and through us. This includes both our general budget as well as these expanded items. Your commitment will include everything that you give.**



# WHERE TO START



## PRAY PERSISTENTLY

Pray that God will work in the hearts of people at Eastside, and that we will listen with the intent to respond.



## COMMIT FULLY

Be part of the 100% engagement by saying YES and encouraging others to do the same.



## CELEBRATE LOUDLY

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



## GIVE GENEROUSLY

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



# STORY

## OUR UNFINISHED STORY



**JUDI AND PAUL MAY HAVE NEVER MET IF JUDI HADN'T LEFT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AS A TEENAGER AND BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR WHAT WAS MISSING. SHE FOUND JESUS AT THE END OF HER SEARCH, ACCEPTED HIM, AND WAS BAPTIZED.**

Paul grew up in a Christian home and knew that finding a Christian woman who shared his faith was non-negotiable. After dating for three years, they got married and have been married for thirty-eight years!

Paul and Judi's journey to Eastside was anything but a straight line. They were involved with an acapella church for 12 years before the church merged with Eastside. The attendance had dropped significantly and the church was no longer attracting young people.

Then the merger with Eastside happened. They loved that the pastors taught scripture without sugarcoating the truth. The community of believers grew and established a real sense of connection. They call their small group "a little piece of heaven." Everyone is encouraged to be real and vulnerable, resulting in amazing personal and spiritual growth. Everyone is also encouraged to volunteer in some way,

whether through the children's ministry, greeting team, or by going on a missions trip.

Paul and Judi aren't just active members of Eastside. In addition to serving in various roles, they also try to give generously to the church. Because God has blessed them financially, they are able to help meet the needs of the church and its members. They explained, "We've done well with our finances, and we just love to be able to give." Early in their marriage, they committed their money to the Lord by their tithes and offerings. When the opportunity came for Eastside to plant a church in Las Vegas, Paul and Judi stepped up and made a financial gift. **"We love the focus Eastside has on reaching more people and expanding more campuses,"** said Paul.

Eastside is home for Judi and Paul. They're planted and continue to grow, even though they've been followers of Jesus for many years. To them, "it feels like family." They love to serve and find it fun to give. They love seeing how their time, talent, and resources can help feed hungry kids or make a difference in the community through Eastside.

***" We love the focus Eastside has on reaching more people and expanding more campuses. "***





# COMMITMENT CARD

\$

What I/we would normally give in a year  
(regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)

+ \$

My/our expanded annual generosity  
as part of the Unfinished initiative

= \$

x 2 years

\$

Gifts from my/our stored resources +

\$

## MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

\$

December 2022 - December 2024





## ONE FUND

### ROLLING OUR GIVING INTO ONE

It's possible you've been part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift "above and beyond" your regular giving. We've found that "over and above" giving is potentially confusing to people who don't have a baseline for their "normal giving". It also has the potential to diminish the significance of the ongoing generous giving of so many people at each of the Eastside campuses.

The Unfinished Initiative will last two years. In those two years, every gift given to any of the campuses of Eastside will go to the Unfinished Initiative to help us reach our goals of uncompromising faith, unprecedented hope, and unrelenting love. We've included a sample commitment card so you can see how a "one fund initiative" works. Please take the time to fill this out, but don't worry, you'll get a shiny new one on Commitment Weekend, which is November 5 and 6, 2022.



# GIVING CHART

| GIFTS NEEDED           | TWO YEAR GIFT LEVEL | ANNUAL GIFT | MONTHLY GIFT | GIFT LEVEL TOTAL    |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1                      | \$5,000,000         | \$2,500,000 | \$208,333    | \$5,000,000         |
| 1                      | \$2,500,000         | \$1,250,000 | \$104,167    | \$2,500,000         |
| 2                      | \$1,500,000         | \$750,000   | \$62,500     | \$3,000,000         |
| 4                      | \$1,000,000         | \$500,000   | \$41,667     | \$4,000,000         |
| 7                      | \$500,000           | \$250,000   | \$20,833     | \$3,500,000         |
| 12                     | \$250,000           | \$125,000   | \$10,417     | \$3,000,000         |
| 15                     | \$150,000           | \$75,000    | \$6,250      | \$2,250,000         |
| 25                     | \$100,000           | \$50,000    | \$4,167      | \$2,500,000         |
| 50                     | \$75,000            | \$37,500    | \$3,125      | \$3,750,000         |
| 65                     | \$65,000            | \$32,500    | \$2,708      | \$4,225,000         |
| 95                     | \$35,000            | \$17,500    | \$1,458      | \$3,325,000         |
| 105                    | \$25,000            | \$12,500    | \$1,042      | \$2,625,000         |
| 140                    | \$15,000            | \$7,500     | \$625        | \$2,100,000         |
| 210                    | \$10,000            | \$5,000     | \$417        | \$2,100,000         |
| 300                    | \$7,500             | \$3,750     | \$313        | \$2,250,000         |
| 450                    | \$5,000             | \$2,500     | \$208        | \$2,250,000         |
| MANY                   | \$2,500             | \$1,250     | \$104        | \$1,875,000         |
| <b>TOTAL GIFT GOAL</b> |                     |             |              | <b>\$54,000,000</b> |



# KEY DATES

**OCT 1/2** Unfinished Series Begins

**OCT 14** Advance Commitment Night and  
60th Anniversary Celebration  
IN PARK RAPIDS

**OCT 21** Advance Commitment Night and  
60th Anniversary Celebration  
at Anaheim for all Southern California  
campuses

**OCT 26** Advance Commitment Night and  
60th Anniversary Celebration  
IN LAS VEGAS

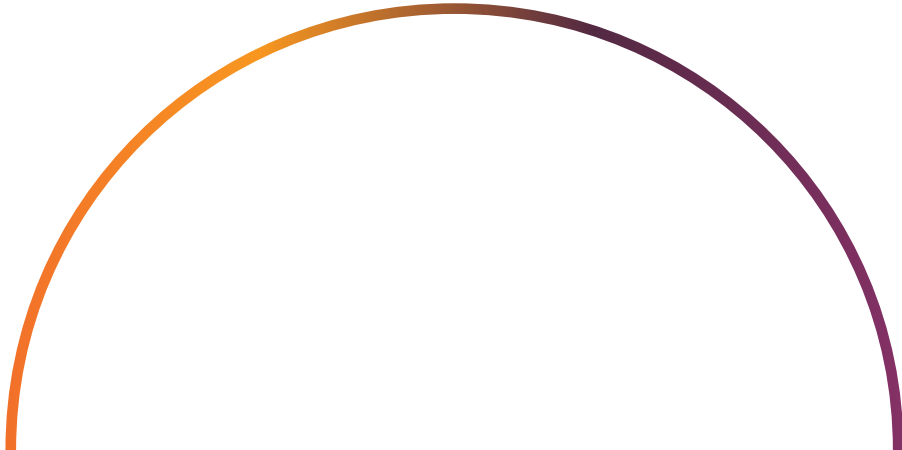
**NOV 5/6** Commitment Weekend





**UNFINISHED MESSAGE NOTES &**

**SMALL GROUP STUDY**









# 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?’

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- 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?

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

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# WEEK 1: UNFINISHED FOLLOWERS

## 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?

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

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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?

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# TRUSTING IN GOD MEANS NOT LOOKING ONLY AT OUR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCE, BUT AT GOD’S PROMISES OF OUR FUTURE

## Genesis 15:1-6

*The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.*

- 1 Abraham’s wife was barren and thus could not conceive a child for many, many years. In fact, Abraham went through many trials with the Lord before God finally gave Abraham and his wife Sarah their own son (Genesis 21). In fact, Abraham was one hundred years old at this time... Imagine that! But God kept his promise and indeed Abraham and Sarah had their own son. Is there a circumstance in your life or in someone else’s life in which God revealed himself in this type of way and made the seemingly impossible possible?

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- 2 Or potentially you are still in a waiting and trusting mode about something God has promised to you through His Word. Is this your situation? Share if you are able.

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## WEEK 2: UNFINISHED TRUST

### GOD CALLS US INTO PLACES WE CANNOT ARRIVE AT ON OUR OWN, SOMETIMES EVEN WITH A NEW NAME

Genesis 17:1-8

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

- 3 Why do you think it was so important that God changed Abram's name?

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4 Do you ever feel that you have been “named” by a situation of your past and that it limits your trust in God's promises for your future? How might God be trying to “change your name” in how He is leading you forward and asking you to trust Him?

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5 As you think about this Unfinished journey, and specifically the Unfinished commitment God is asking you to make, what barriers, situations, or “names” from your past are preventing you from trusting in God fully as you make this Unfinished commitment?

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6 How can your Small Group be praying for you in this, that God would release this barrier from you and “give you a new name” as He leads you into this new path for your future?

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## PRIORITIZING THE THINGS OF GOD REQUIRES SELFLESSNESS AND RELENTLESS COMMITMENT

### Genesis 13:1-17

*So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.*

*Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.*

*So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."*

*Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.*

*The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."*

## WEEK 3: UNFINISHED PRIORITIES

- 1 Abraham clearly had different priorities than Lot in this situation. What were Abraham's priorities as outlined in this passage?

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...and what were Lot's priorities?

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- 2 There is a passage in Proverbs that states, "The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller." (Proverbs 11:24 MSG). How does this truth play out in this passage?

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- 3 In order for Abraham to be the generous man he was in this situation, he had to stay committed to following the ways of God. Do you feel you are committed to following the ways of God in terms of generosity? In what ways are you weak, uncommitted, or wavering?

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- 4 As you think about the priority of your generosity to building God's kingdom, do you feel you are committed to generosity above your other financial priorities? Another way to put this might be, does your level of spending control your level of giving, or does your level of giving control your level of spending? Be as honest as you possibly can.

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# WEEK 3: UNFINISHED PRIORITIES

## OUR RESOURCES CAN HAVE A MULTIPLICATIVE EFFECT WHEN WE PRIORITIZE GOD'S PATH AND NOT OUR OWN

### 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

*Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

- 5 Paul, a New Testament parallel to Abraham in many ways, impresses upon the early church at Corinth - and upon US as the Church of today - the importance of giving in such a way that we believe God will 'increase our store of seed' and will 'enlarge the harvest of our righteousness.' But focus in on verse 11: *You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.* Why does God give resources to us? So that we can have more money for ourselves? So that we can feel more secure? So that we can impress others and feel significant? NO! It's so that we can be generous on every occasion!

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- 6 So let's do a little soul searching and ask ourselves a question:  
If you were God, would you give you more money?

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- 7 See, we often say, "Well, if I had more resources, then I would give more."  
But here's the thing: If you cannot be trusted with little, why do you think  
God would trust you with much?

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**REFLECT AND PRAY ON WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO TRULY  
PRIORITIZE HIM AS IT RELATES TO OUR GENEROSITY IN  
THIS UNFINISHED JOURNEY TOGETHER...**





## GOD ASKS US TO SURRENDER TO HIM...FULLY

### Genesis 22:2-18

*Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"*

*"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.*

*"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"*

*"Here I am," he replied.*

*"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."*

*Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place *The Lord Will Provide*. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."*

*The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."*

## WEEK 4: UNFINISHED SURRENDER

- 1 Abraham has waited so long for a son, and now God asks him to be willing to sacrifice his son Isaac on the altar of the Lord. How would you expect Abraham to react? Why doesn't he object? What emotions are going through your head and your heart right now after reading this passage?

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- 2 It is tempting for Abraham (or any of us) to believe that anything given to us by God is OURS, not His. How does this passage remind you of things in your own life that you maybe do not view as completely surrendered to God but still as "yours"?

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3 What is preventing you from surrendering to God and His plan for your life, even though it seems UNFINISHED to you? What is preventing you from being fully surrendered to Him and trusting Him with faith beyond the horizon?

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4 Do you believe God can and WILL do something THROUGH you and IN you during this Unfinished season? How do you think God is seeking to use you and your resources in such a way that brings glory to Him and shines light on His name, even when you may not know the specific path ahead? He is asking you to trust Him and surrender to Him. Will you?

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# WEEK 4: UNFINISHED SURRENDER

## JESUS GAVE IT ALL FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM

### Hebrews 12:1-3

*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, 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. Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*

- 5 To run the race with Christ means committing to it and not growing weary. Jesus gave His life for us because of the joy set before Him in heaven. When you think about your response to that type of sacrifice and Jesus' call upon our lives to run the race as we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," how does that influence how you are thinking about your Unfinished commitment and the impact it might have?

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## BELIEVE BIG WITH A HUMBLE SPIRIT

### Genesis 18:16-32

*When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what He has promised him.”*

*Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”*

*The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*

*The Lord said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”*

*Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?”*

*“If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.”*

*Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?” He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.” Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?”*

# WEEK 5: UNFINISHED BELIEF

*He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."*

*Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"*

*He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."*

*Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?"*

*He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."*

- 1 The point of this story is relentless prayer for people who need to be navigated to God. Something to remember as we talk about this story is that Jesus had not come yet as an atoning sacrifice for the world. When Jesus came and the gospel story was fulfilled, He literally paid for the sins of the whole world - of every single woman and man - so that people in cities would not have to be destroyed as a result of sin. God uses this story to remind us that it is important for us to pray big, bold prayers, believing God will act in accordance with His Word. Are you a person of big belief in what God can do? Do you pray big, bold prayers?

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- 2 This Unfinished journey is not about raising \$54 million dollars. Any of us who still think that have missed the point. This Unfinished journey is about 100% of us going before God and determining what a big, bold, believing faith, a humble spirit, and a sacrificing heart looks like as it relates to our generosity. It is about 100% of us laying it on the line for God and holding nothing back. Is this what you're doing for Unfinished? Is this how you've been thinking about your giving and sacrifice? Are you going to believe big that God will use you to navigate unfinished people to Him in ways He has never done before in your life or mine? Reflect on this and share your heart, thoughts, nervousness, excitement, prayers with your group as it relates to this.



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3 How can this Small Group be praying for you as you make your Unfinished commitment this upcoming weekend?

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4 Big, bold, humble, sacrificial prayers are what move mountains for God. Write out some of those big prayers of belief you have for Eastside in the next two years. Write them out, and then pray with your group about each one in a bold fashion, believing God can and will fulfill these prayers in accordance with His Word. Write them below:

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## WEEK 5: UNFINISHED BELIEF

### COMMITMENT ALLOWS GOD TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN WE COULD ASK OR IMAGINE

Ephesians 3:14-19

*For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Allow this passage to be a final encouragement and inspiration as we seek to surrender to Him and His UNFINISHED path for us and to honor Him with our UNFINISHED commitments. All He is asking is that we boldly trust Him with faith beyond the horizon. He has provided promises to us, but He is now asking us to respond. Will we? Will we honor Him with all that we have and all that we are? Will our commitment be something that causes us to say we are standing before Him with confidence, knowing that we have made a decision that causes us to rely only on Him, for Him to chart our path? His power will be at work within us, so long as we commit our lives to boldly trust in Him. Immeasurably more generosity. Immeasurably more commitment. Immeasurably more impact both in us and through us. This is the UNFINISHED journey.





# WEEK 5: UNFINISHED BELIEF

## EXERCISE TO DO AT HOME PRIOR TO COMMITMENT WEEKEND

- 1 List the financial commitments you currently have – those that go beyond a one-time payment, but that have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cellphone contract, your child's tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.

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- 2 Now list the commitment you are planning to make for the Unfinished initiative. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments to be able to fulfill your Unfinished commitment? What if you wanted to raise your Unfinished commitment? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a sacrificial commitment to help rescue and empower disciples for Jesus?

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3 If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you value?

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4 Would that statement be true about you? Or is there something that needs to be explained or modified?

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## WEEK 5: UNFINISHED BELIEF

- 5 “Choose this day whom you will serve.” (Joshua 24:15). Choose to make your giving to God the priority you want it to be. What will that mean for your Unfinished commitment?

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- 6 If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what type of spiritual change will that cause in you?

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## The lives of some people are long remembered, while those of others are quickly forgotten.

What makes the difference? Could be any one of a number of things. Hank Aaron left a legacy of power at the plate; Eleanor Roosevelt, of dogged determination to do what was right for people whose rights were violated; Yo-Yo Ma, of consummate skill and deep understanding of the cello; Anne Frank, of intense longing to pursue her profound gifting during the Holocaust; Albert Einstein, of reasoning beyond the apparently obvious; Mother Teresa, of seeing Jesus in the suffering of the poor and dying; Muhammad Ali, of style, quickness, and a desire to be the greatest; and Abraham Lincoln, of unshakable resolve to end slavery. Among these, there is no single winning formula. Nor is any one legacy equally agreeable to all. One person's legacy is another's nightmare. The same is true of music, with its many artists, styles, and preferences.

### Hebrews 11:1, 8-16 (NIV)

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

*By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.*

*All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had the opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

# WEEK 6: UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

*Abraham left a legacy of faithfulness, but it did not come quickly or easily. Faith never does. Growth is messy and comes in spurts. The same Christ-follower who professed Jesus as the Messiah was soon thereafter told, “Out of my sight, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me” (Matthew 16:23). The one who denied Jesus three times was later asked three times to profess his love for the Lord (John 21:15-17). This disciple who returned to fishing (John 21:3) after long ago leaving his nets (Matthew 4:20) stood up on the Day of Pentecost to proclaim to his audience, “You, with the help of wicked men, put him [Jesus] to death by nailing him to the cross” (Acts 2:23), knowing full well that the death Jesus had suffered might also await him there outside Jerusalem on account of his bold proclamation of the truth.*

The list could go on. You get the idea. The question is not so much, “Do you want to be great?” No, the real question is, “Will you be faithful?” At a time when so many people are hurting and lost, how will your generosity create a legacy for them?

- 1 How is faith demonstrated in each of the three examples from Abraham’s life?

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- 2 How has your life changed because of faith in God?

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3 How did faith play a part in your decisions over Commitment weekend?

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4 Who comes to mind when you think of someone who has been restored and has left a legacy?

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5 What legacy will the decisions you make today leave our community better tomorrow?

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6 As we end this portion of our Unfinished journey, what is one thing that impacted you during this study?

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7 Close your time praying for one another as you take your next steps on the Unfinished journey.

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# FAQ

## ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

### **Q: WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?**

**A:** First and foremost, we are asking you to pray and seek God's guidance on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says. Join an Unfinished Small Group during this season, if you haven't already. Talk with your family about what it means for you to engage in Jesus' mission more fully. We are asking that we ALL make a sacrificial commitment through our generosity as we reach together to fulfill God's mission and vision for us. We are asking that our level of faith and obedience do not stay the same – because God is not done with us yet. Finally, we are asking that you prepare yourself to be amazed at what God is going to do! It is an awesome God that we serve. He is moving in huge ways, and we anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective Unfinished commitments. Please mark your calendar for our Commitment Weekend on November 5/6, 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.

### **Q: ARE THERE ADDITIONAL WAYS BESIDES CASH THAT I CAN GIVE MORE TOWARDS UNFINISHED**

**A:** Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards the Unfinished Initiative. You might have some stocks, property, or even some stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He just might be calling you to give out of during this time. ***Please contact Larry Winger at [lwinger@eastside.com](mailto:lwinger@eastside.com)*** if you have questions about non-cash generosity, and we would be happy to help you give in this way.

**Q: HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?**

**A:** We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment, which is 24 months of giving. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our Unfinished Commitment Weekend on the first weekend of November 2022 and will culminate in December 2024.

**Q: DOES IT MATTER WHICH EASTSIDE CAMPUS I ATTEND? WILL MY GIVING STAY TIED TO MY LOCATION?**

**A:** Unfinished is a one-fund initiative, meaning all of our giving is united, just like our mission to Pursue God, Build Community, and Unleash Compassion. We are ONE church with ONE mission, and Unfinished will help fuel our mission as ONE. However, we have campus-specific projects that are priorities for us and our mission. We all get the benefit of joined giving when we accomplish our mission together.

**MORE QUESTIONS?**

If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Contact us at 714-871-6844 or email us at [unfinished@eastside.com](mailto:unfinished@eastside.com).







**EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*[eastside.com/unfinished](http://eastside.com/unfinished)*