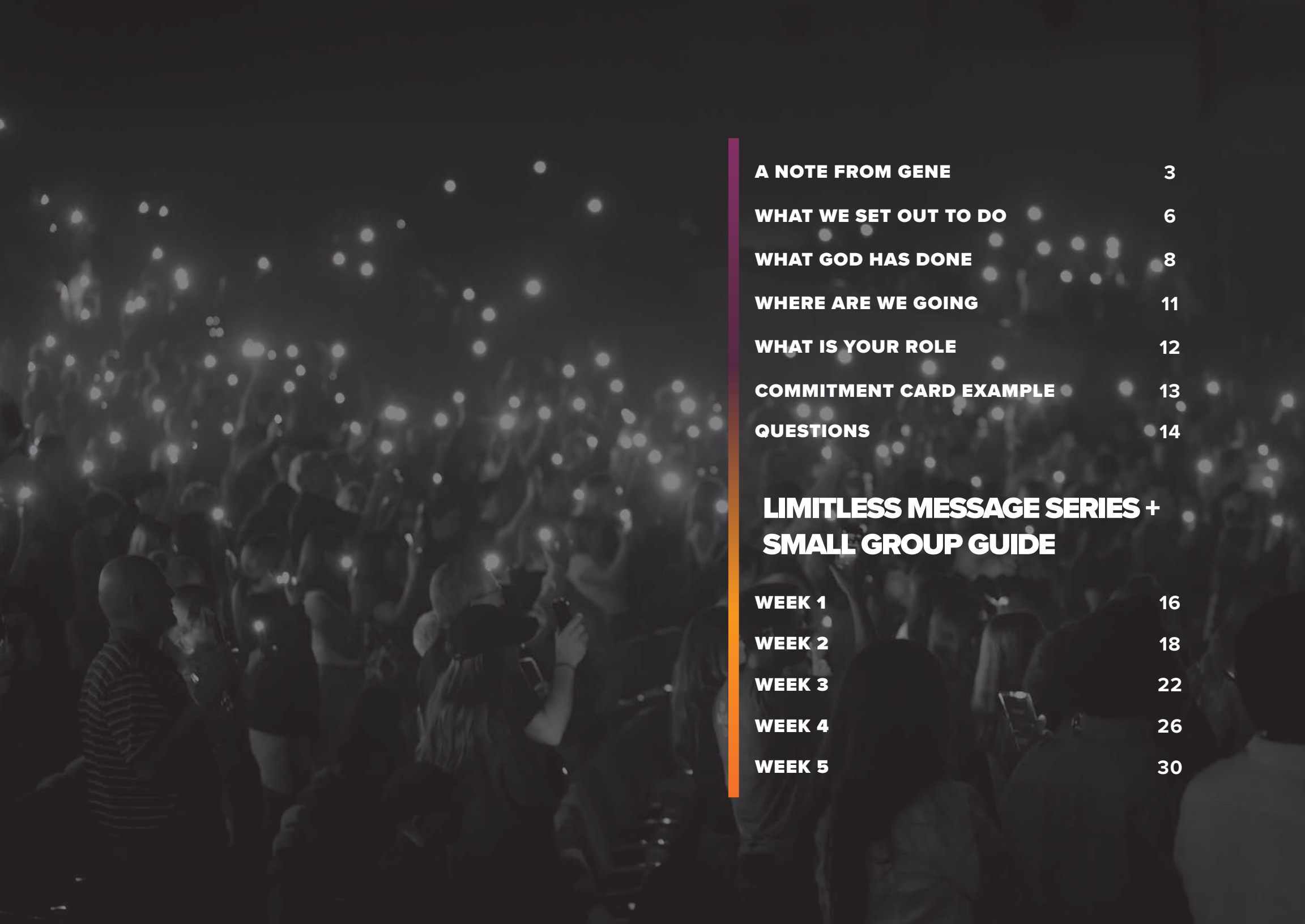


The background is a dark, cosmic scene. A bright, vertical beam of light, resembling a nebula or a distant star's glow, runs down the center. It has a gradient from white at the top to a deep blue at the bottom. Several thin, white, concentric circular lines are overlaid on the image, some centered on the light beam and others slightly offset. The right side of the image is filled with a field of small, distant stars of varying brightness.

LIMITLESS

**MIDPOINT OF THE UNFINISHED INITIATIVE
AND SMALL GROUP SERIES GUIDE**



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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

In the fall of 2022, we began a two-year
UNFINISHED initiative.

Our Primary Goal has always been to have 100 percent of Eastsiders trust Jesus with their generosity through Unfinished. Many of you stepped up to that challenge and 4,644 people at Eastside made commitments to the Unfinished initiative!

Our Secondary Goal was \$54 million over two years. At the start of this Unfinished initiative we received \$54,712,416 in commitments and anticipated giving! We are excited to share a glimpse of what God has done because of your generosity.

I love hearing stories of your personal Unfinished journey because that is the heart of this initiative. I am so proud of the faith our Eastside family has shown so far in Unfinished, and I am anticipating many great things as we continue on this Unfinished journey together. God is doing, and still going to do, great things in and through the people of Eastside.

Our best days are yet to come!

Together for Him,




*As part of God's **UNFINISHED STORY**, we ask God to continue using Eastside as a powerful conduit, advancing the gospel one neighborhood at a time.*

BABA DOGO PROJECT



Together, in partnership with Missions of Hope International, we are building a state of the art special needs center in Mathare Valley, Kenya. This center will care for well over 500 children with special needs each day.

A special groundbreaking took place in May 2023, and excavators are now onsite getting the ground ready for the building foundation.

It is because of your Unfinished commitment that this project was able to begin. Your faithful generosity will provide not only the bricks and mortar for the center but will also equip the classrooms with supplies to care for the children. We expectantly anticipate the completion of the special needs center by the spring of 2025.

Mathare Valley is home to a million people, including 200,000 children. The Mathare slum is the second largest in East Africa.

Because of the spirit in which Eastsiders across the country give through the Unfinished initiative, we will be able to create a safe haven to help hundreds of children with special needs.

We are thankful to provide resources through the Unfinished Initiative – offering unprecedented hope for a higher quality of life in the name of Jesus.



WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

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.



The Secondary Goal is \$54 million over two years

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 next year, we will continue to offer unprecedented levels of hope as we serve our global and local partners, including new initiatives to launch an international Eastside campus.

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.



WHAT GOD HAS DONE

654

baptisms since December 2022

27,839

Christmas 2022 attendance



EASTSIDE LAS VEGAS LAUNCHED

22,255

people have walked through the doors of Eastside Las Vegas

66

people baptized



328

people have attended Next Steps

23,134

Easter 2023 attendance

11,089

Acts of Compassion during 21 Days of Serving



EASTSIDE IRVINE LAUNCHED

5,708

people have walked through the doors of Eastside Irvine

11

people baptized

165

people have attended Next Steps



2,800

kids sponsored by Eastsiders

457

patients treated by the Peru Medical Team this summer

580+

global travelers this year



MATT & RACHEL'S STORY

Growing up, money was hard to come by for Matt's family. They didn't talk about money because there wasn't a lot of it, and it made them feel uncomfortable.

Then, when Matt grew up, he didn't know any better, so he found himself in consumer debt with a car loan and credit cards a plenty. But, that's where Matt's Eastside story begins.

In 2015 he heard Gene give a sermon series called the "ABCs of Financial Freedom." It was then that he learned about financial stewardship. Matt started living by the Give 10, Save 10, Live on 80 percent rule.

As Matt leaned into that philosophy, he was blown away because he started having more than he had ever had, but he was giving away more than he ever had!

Matt's journey continued as he married his wife Rachel. Rachel grew up similar to Matt, but since money was hard to come by for her family, she did the opposite of Matt. She saved everything she had. She rarely let herself do anything extra because she never wanted to be without.

As Matt and Rachel learned each other's histories with money, and leaned into the give, save, live philosophy, they saw their money start to make a difference in the lives of those around them.

That's when Gene announced the Unfinished initiative. Both Matt and Rachel felt called to give but they didn't know what to commit. Giving above and beyond their regular tithe was a big deal, especially for two people who came from hardly having enough to get by.

They went back and forth for 10 weeks without a decision on what to commit. But, when they finally came together during Eastside's 60th Anniversary and Advance Commitment Night in October 2022, **Matt and Rachel landed on a commitment amount that together made them both uncomfortable.** They were going to have to sacrifice some of the things they were accustomed to in order to fulfill their commitment.

Looking back over the last year and even more so ahead at the remainder of their commitment, it has proved to them that they are still Unfinished People and that God is writing an Unfinished Story. They may not know what all God has in store, but they do know that they are all in!



WHERE WE ARE GOING

We will continue to take radical risks to reach people far from God.

We will continue to pursue God, build community, and unleash compassion in our day-in, day-out ministry.



We will continue to focus on reaching the **next generation.** Kids and students are the future of our church, and we're committed to reaching them in safe, fun, and meaningful ways.

We will continue to offer unprecedented levels of hope as we serve our local and global partners.



WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

NEW COMMITMENT

You recently started attending Eastside and are wondering, “What is the Unfinished initiative, and how do I become a part of it?” Unfinished is for anyone who calls Eastside home. Our hope is that everyone at Eastside will live and give in a way that stretches us to take our faith to a whole new level of generosity. God is doing amazing things, and we can’t wait to see what He’ll do next! We invite you to prayerfully consider making a one year generosity commitment to Unfinished.

FINISH STRONG

Others made a commitment one year ago and perhaps for some of us, this journey has been difficult - or possibly more difficult - than we had envisioned. Maybe you went to a completely new level in your generosity and are still adjusting your life to your commitment. Maybe you have experienced job loss, job change or unexpected financial stress. Commit to finish strong on the journey you began!

INCREASE

Some of us made our Unfinished commitment one year ago, and it’s possible that we had an increase in faith or finances. Keeping that commitment hasn’t been easy and has likely required a lot of sacrifice. Maybe you feel like God is encouraging you to take an additional step of faith in your generosity. We challenge those of you to respond to His generosity by increasing your commitment. Generosity is not a one-time event, it is a journey. Consider asking yourself these questions: Am I still giving in a way that challenges me? Am I still trusting in Him? Pray and ask yourself if He is inviting you into another step of faith with an increased commitment.

COMMITMENT CARD + GIVING CHART

We’ve included an example so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God as we approach the midpoint of Unfinished. Please take time to think and pray through this, and we will provide a new hard copy on Commitment Weekend, November 18/19.

I am **NEW** to Unfinished

☐ I would like to make a one year commitment to Unfinished in the amount of:

\$

December 2023 - December 2024

**This includes your regular giving over the next 12 months, as well as your expanded giving and stored resources.*

I am **ALREADY** committed to Unfinished

My current two-year commitment is:

\$

December 2022 - December 2024

At the midpoint of Unfinished, I would like to:

☐ Confirm my commitment to finish strong

☐ Increase my two-year commitment to:

\$

December 2022 - December 2024

NAME

CHURCH CAMPUS

EMAIL

PHONE

GIFT CHART

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ONE-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	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
TOTAL GIFT GOAL				\$54,000,000

KEY DATES

Limitless Series Begins **October 21/22**

Unfinished Commitment Weekend + Global Impact Weekend **November 18/19**

Unfinished Celebration Weekend **December 2/3**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Contact us at 714-871-6844 or email us at
unfinished@eastside.com.

LIMITLESS

MESSAGE SERIES + SMALL GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 1: LIMITLESS VISION

MESSAGE NOTES:



SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play Small Group Video for Week 1. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for the people who shared their story before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at eastside.com/unfinished.

SCRIPTURE & DISCUSSION

Read the following Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1. What did you learn about God through this week's message?
2. What difference does this make to your life?
3. Share what challenged you from the teaching? What encouraged you?
4. What is one thing you can apply to your life this week?
5. Share something from the story shared that encourages you in your Unfinished journey?

PRAY

As you enter into this Limitless series, what are some things on your heart right now and how can your group be praying for you? Pray as a group for what God will do in each one of us through this Limitless series and what He will do in our church.

WEEK 2: LIMITLESS COURAGE

MESSAGE NOTES:



SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play Small Group Video for Week 2. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for the people who shared their story before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at eastside.com/unfinished.

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 3 + 4

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw

Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.’

“Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and,

because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.”

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

1. What did you learn about God through this week's message?
2. What difference does this make to your life?
3. Share what challenged you from the teaching? What encouraged you?
4. What is one thing you can apply to your life this week?
5. Share something from the story shared that encourages you in your Unfinished journey?

WEEK 3: LIMITLESS SURRENDER

MESSAGE NOTES:



SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play Small Group Video for Week 3. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for the people who shared their story before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at eastside.com/unfinished.

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 9

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly

a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed

with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

1. What did you learn about God through this week's message?

2. What difference does this make to your life?

3. Share what challenged you from the teaching? What encouraged you?

4. What is one thing you can apply to your life this week?

5. Share something from the story shared that encourages you in your Unfinished journey?

PRAY

Share where you feel God is calling you to surrender. Pray for each other to have the wisdom and courage to take your next steps.

WEEK 4: LIMITLESS LEGACY

MESSAGE NOTES:



SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play Small Group Video for Week 4. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for the people who shared their story before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at eastside.com/unfinished.

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 10

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He

distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked.

The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

“Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon’s house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter, was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”

Peter went down and said to the men, “I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?”

The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.” Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.” While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”

Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’ So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

1. What did you learn about God through this week's message?
2. What difference does this make to your life?
3. Share what challenged you from the teaching? What encouraged you?
4. What is one thing you can apply to your life this week?
5. Share something from the story shared that encourages you in your Unfinished journey?

PRAY

Pray as a group for what God will continue to do in each one of us through this Limitless series and what He will do in our church. Pray for the upcoming all-church Commitment Weekend, November 18 & 19.

WEEK 5: LIMITLESS GENEROSITY

MESSAGE NOTES:



SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play Small Group Video for Week 5. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for the people who shared their story before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at eastside.com/unfinished.

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 20

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, where he stayed three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to

sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. He was accompanied by Sopater, son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. But we sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him.

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “He’s alive!” Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

“Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of

the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

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PRAY

Pray for each person in your Small Group as they live out this second year of Unfinished in their faith and in their generosity. Pray specifically that God would challenge each one of us to be relentless in how we pursue Him, pursuing unity, sacrifice, peace, and generosity on this journey together.

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