

MOVING FORWARD.
STANDING FIRM.

**COMMITMENT WEEK
FAMILY GUIDE**



Dear Chapel Family,

As we approach Commitment Sunday for our "Moving Forward. Standing Firm." capital campaign on May 19, I am providing you with this brief family guide. The purpose of the guide is two-fold: (1) to help you revisit and consider once again key themes from our "Gospel-Focused Generosity" sermon series; and (2) to guide you and your family as you discern how you will commit to this endeavor.

For each day of this week you will find a brief devotional thought, some questions for reflection and discussion, and a suggested song to sing together. The songs are from Austin Finley Worship's "Moving Forward. Standing Firm." album, and are available from wherever you stream music. If you missed one of the sermons from the series, those are available on our website and on the "Moving Forward. Standing Firm." Church Center page.

I am very excited for all that God has taught us and done through us thus far in the campaign. With great hope and eager anticipation I joyfully long to see how He will provide for us as we keep joining together to **REAFFIRM OUR VISION, EXCEL IN OUR GIVING, and INCREASE OUR IMPACT**. While our hopes to secure a permanent facility for our church, to support an associate pastor, and to supply training for church leaders in Zambia are dependent on the results of this campaign, we know that God is able to do more than we can accomplish - far more abundantly than all that we can even begin to ask or think! (See Ephesians 3:20-21.)

With that in mind, let us not grow weary in seeking Him and asking Him to continue doing wonderful things among us. As you work through the guide this week, I trust that God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - will continue to lead you and your family in your commitment to Him and to this campaign. By His grace and strength, let's give courageously and consistently for His glory!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Dan Layman

"FIRST TO THE LORD"

The source of gospel-focused generosity is transforming and triumphant grace. But instead of allowing such grace to shape our generosity, we often allow fear to shape it instead. In fear, we imagine that we do not have a Father in heaven who loves us and has promised to take care of us. In fear, we obsess over all the potential troubles that could possibly come upon us. In fear, we sinfully covet the things of this world that we desire to have. In fear we choose to keep more and more for ourselves rather than give any of it away. In fear, our hands just keep closing tighter and tighter.

But if instead, like the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8, we commit ourselves "first to the Lord," we can find freedom to loosen that grip no matter what circumstances in which we find ourselves. By setting our eyes on the great and generous love that God has for us, we can have our fears cast aside and replaced with a deep and abiding trust in all that God is for us in Jesus. Then, and only then, will we truly open our hands in an explosion of generosity that both honors God and blesses others.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How can you know for sure that God loves you and will always take care of you just as He has promised?
2. How is God's grace transforming? How is it triumphant? How have you seen such grace at work in your own life?
3. Why are you afraid to be more generous than you already are?

Read

2 Corinthians 8:1-5
Luke 12:13-20
1 John 4:13-19

Sing

"All the Way My Savior Leads Me"

Pray

Ask God to help you embrace His perfect love that casts out fear.



Read

2 Corinthians 8:8-15
Mark 12:41-44
Philippians 2:5-11
1 Thessalonians 2:8

Sing

"Come Thou Fount"

Pray

Ask God to help you be ready to respond in your generosity to others.

"REAFFIRM OUR VISION"

The selfless, loving generosity of Jesus leads us to repond to His love with our own generous expressions of selflessness. That's why at The Granville Chapel we have as our vision to "glorify God by sharing our lives and the gospel of Jesus Christ with our community while standing firmly on His Word." This call to share flows from us as both a response to God's love for us through Jesus Christ, and as a proof of our love for God and for others (2 Corinthians 8:8).

But such generosity requires readiness on our part - genuine readiness to share with others - whether that be sharing our lives, sharing the gospel, or even sharing the gospel by sharing our lives. So, where does that readiness come from? Certainly not from within! Such readiness can only come from God Himself. And the good news for us is that it comes freely to us by the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that we are not our own, but rather that we have been purchased by the blood of Jesus and have been given every spiritual blessing through Him. If we have indeed been given so much, how could we ever withhold sharing it with others?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How have the people of The Granville Chapel shared their lives and the gospel with you? How have you shared your life and the gospel with others?
2. For you, what does it look like to be financially generous?
3. What is the ultimate purpose of any abundance that God has given to us (whether it be time, talent, or treasure)?



Read

2 Corinthians 9:1-11
Matthew 6:19-24
Ephesians 1:3-6

Sing

"Come My Soul"

Pray

Ask God to give you the faith needed to excel in your giving.

"EXCEL IN OUR GIVING"

Often when it comes to financial giving, we believe that we can give generously OR cheerfully - but not both at the same time. We somehow believe that the more we give, the less cheerfully we will give because we have less for ourselves. But the exact opposite is true! As we grow in generosity, we grow in cheerfulness too!

Cheerful giving is both abundant and confident. It is abundant not because of the amount that we give, but rather it is abundant because as we grow in both personal consecration and gospel motivation, it is a grace in which we strive to excel for the sake of God's kingdom and the benefit of our own lives. And it is confident because it demonstrates our faith in the promise that God is able to take what we give and pour it back into our lives so that we are able to give even more. When we do excel in our giving for God's purposes we are not losing anything at all; we are sowing, and we trust in faith that there will indeed be a season of harvest to come.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Do you consider yourself a "cheerful giver"? Why or why not?
2. How does the principle given in 2 Corinthians 9:6 ("whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully") apply to generosity? How have you seen it work out in your own life?
3. If giving is an "act of grace" in which to excel (2 Corinthians 8:7), how might God be calling you to do just that?



"INCREASE OUR IMPACT"

The great aim of gospel-focused generosity is not that we would be celebrated. No, the great aim of gospel-focused generosity is that God Himself - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - would be praised. When we are generous; when we excel in our financial giving; when we faithfully respond to God's call and give back to Him what He has so freely given to us, trusting that He will take it and multiply it for His purposes; when we do this, we reflect His goodness, His grace, and His selfless service so that thanksgiving to Him arises from all those who benefit from such blessing - including us. (2 Corinthians 9:12)

Imagine for a moment if God wills, and we as a church are able to meet the goals we have set for this campaign. Can you imagine the impact that will have on our church families, our community, and our mission partners in Zambia? Can you imagine how praise and thanksgiving to God will erupt from among us? This should be our aim, brothers and sisters! May God work in and through and among us so that "all shall speak of the glory of God's kingdom and tell of His power"! (Psalm 145:11)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What excites you about the future of The Granville Chapel?
2. What ministries would you like to see our church engage in to increase our impact in the community and/or world?
3. How might you and your family show thanksgiving to God for what He will do in and through this "Moving Forward. Standing Firm." capital campaign?

Read

2 Corinthians 9:11-15
 Luke 19:11-27
 Psalm 145

Sing

"The Church's One Foundation"

Pray


Ask God to take the funds raised from the campaign and use them to make a great impact for His glory.

"THE CALL TO COMMIT"

You are invited to join with us in committing a financial gift above and beyond your normal giving to the "Moving Forward. Standing Firm." capital campaign. It is our hope that each and every member and regular attender will decide in their heart how much to give (2 Corinthians 9:7) and make such a pledge. By now you should have received a commitment card like the one to the right. Please take time and prayerfully consider how you can give: a one-time courageous gift; a consistent monthly pledge for 25 months; and/or a non-cash contribution. Please bring your card(s) with you for Commitment Sunday on May 19. May the Lord bless you and keep you as you seek His will in this matter.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Will you and other members of your family be making a commitment to the "Moving Forward. Standing Firm." campaign? Why or why not?
2. If you are making a commitment, discuss the ways in which you can give. Can you give a courageous, one-time gift? Can you make a consistent, 25-month contribution? Can you give a non-cash gift?
3. What are some things you can sacrifice in order to make your commitment? Discuss possibilities as a family and spend some time in prayer asking God to help you trust Him in your decision.



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COMMITMENT CARD

One-Time Contribution

\$ _____ To be given on or before
May 19, 2024.

Consistent Contribution

\$ _____ a month for 25 months.
25-month total: \$ _____

Non-Cash Contribution

Please describe contribution below:

\$ _____

Total Commitment

\$ _____ Total from above boxes.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Read

Psalm 139
 Romans 11:33-36

Sing

"Psalm 139"

JOIN US FOR OUR DAY OF PRAYER!

Please join us in prayer to God for the campaign, asking Him to work through our church to further His kingdom here on earth, and thanking Him for whatever He will accomplish.

We will praying on May 18th for 24 hours prior to Commitment Sunday. The church building will be open from 9am to 9 pm. Please sign up on Church Center or on the sheet in the foyer for a time in which you will remember to stop and pray.

