

N E T

Moving the Mission Forward



ConcordChurch

The NEXT Generosity Campaign Workbook



Our Mission

People Growing People by connecting them to their next step with Christ.

Our Core Values

Boldness for Christ

Unapologetically representing Christ to the world.
(*Philippians 1:20*)

Passion for People

Intentionally cultivating life-giving relationships.
(*John 13:35*)

Catalyst for Change

Relentlessly transforming our city.
(*Jeremiah 29:7*)

Hunger for More

Radically pursuing what God has next for me.
(*Matthew 5:6*)



Women's Restroom Chapel

215
1984

Legacy Rejoins

In six months, we purchased the property at 3410 South
Park Street with a \$100,000 down payment. We had 25 to
30 people joining each Sunday and were labeled as one of
the fastest growing churches in America. We became one
of the best churches in the country to introduce staffing to
the African American church community. Our ministry was
built on expository preaching and service to the
community. Our early success led to the development of
the Institute of Church Growth and Development to assist
other churches in furthering their ministries.



History of Concord Church

1

Our founding pastor, the late Dr. E. K. Bailey had a vision for a church that would change lives and impact the community.

1975

Concord Church opened its doors on Sunday, June 22, 1975 with 230 “charter members”.

3410

Six months after being established, we purchased our first property at 3410 South Polk St. in Dallas, TX.

22

In 1997, after 22 years at Polk Street, we moved to 6808 Pastor Bailey Drive; formerly Boulder Street.

100,000

The amount raised to begin our scholarship program for students in the early 2000s.

2003

In October of 2003, Pastor Bailey went to be with the Lord after 28 years of service. He was succeeded by Rev. Bryan L. Carter; our current senior pastor.

2010

We shifted the motto of the church to “We Grow People” and redesigned our ministry around helping people to grow spiritually in their lives.

81,000

On March 16, 2013, we opened the newly constructed 81,000 square foot Faith Building that houses our worship sanctuary, administrative offices, Connection Bookstore and provides ministry support space.

9,000+

Our current membership exceeds 9,000 members. Every week 5,500 members attend Sunday worship on our campus and over 2,000 worship with us online.



Pastor Bryan Carter and
First Lady Stephanie

A Letter From Pastor Carter

Go on a spiritual journey with God.

In 2015, we celebrated our 40th church anniversary. During that time we reshaped our mission, vision, strategy, and measures to guide us through the next ten years of ministry.

To fulfill our new vision, we are launching a two-year campaign called “NEXT.” This campaign is driven by our desire to invest in the next generation, make campus improvements, develop discipleship resources, and reduce our debt by creating a culture of generosity.

The fiscal goal of NEXT is \$10,000,000. We are praying for

100% participation, where all of us will give generously to God. God promises that when we are generous, our lives will be enriched in all ways. Over the next few months, we are asking you to join us on a spiritual journey with God and your family to determine how God might call you to take the next steps in your generosity journey. We solicit your prayers as we embark upon this NEXT chapter together as a church family.

Sincerely,

Pastor Bryan L. Carter
Senior Pastor, Concord Church

What's Inside

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For more information and to watch powerful stories about our NEXT campaign, visit the campaign website at: ConcordNext.org

NEXT

What is the role of the church in our society today? In a time where there seems to be a world turned upside down, we are more in need of a beacon of hope than ever before. But one that is more than just symbolic; one that is a living, breathing, actively engaged element of God's goodness, love, and power in our communities.

NEXT is the evolution of Concord to further build on that legacy as an agent of change for his will. The younger generations today will not choose Christ simply because he was the savior of their grandparents, and the comfort of their mothers and fathers. There's a pronounced skepticism and a dogged cynicism created by constant projections of society's ills unlike we have ever had access to before.

They are desperate for answers, crying out for hope, and have increasingly turned to places other than the church to find them.

That's why NEXT's emphasis on building a foundation for the youth is one of the most compelling reasons to join this movement. With our investment today, we are planting seeds that will bloom in eternity for these young lives. We are setting hearts afire for Christ when the kindling is best quickened to His purpose. We are showing them with our time, our treasures, and our talent that their lives are worth more than the exponential sum of it all.

NEXT empowers our church body to go even further beyond the four walls and be the light in a dark world not simply by just declaring I'm a child of the King, but by empowering us with resources to know what that means, then sharing it with others. And through this radiating song of glory, enrapture the spaces and places where we live, connecting the next person with their next step in knowing our Jesus.

Join our family! Let's usher in this new age at Concord... together.

Investing in NEXT



Goal #1:

Space for the
next generation



Goal #2:

Resources to help
people grow



Goal #3:

Campus improvements



Goal #4:

Freedom from debt



Space for the NEXT Generation

- Renovate over 30,000 square feet to better serve our children and youth ministries
- Audio and visual enhancements
- Relocate the youth recreational area

Funds needed: \$2,500,000

Taylor Neely made the first move during youth church when she decided on her own to make Concord her new church home.

The Neely family had plans to tour the area churches in search of a new church home. But, on a visit to the Concord Church, young Taylor Neely made the first move during youth church when she decided on her own to make Concord her new church home. The friendliness in everyone we encountered here was unusual [to us] and made all the difference in the world.

After orientation, we jumped right into ministries and small groups where we made so many new friends. The children chose their own ministries, such as singing with the “Voices of Love” choir. Our son, Joshua, was so proud to be part of the children’s ministry and our youngest, Micah, amazed us when she received a “Fruit of the Spirit” award for kindness.

From the Family:

Michelle Neely (mom): It is the relationships that are important. The volunteers are so engaged with our children, and connected with us as parents, even outside of the church.

Adrian Neely (dad): Resources to make church fun for kids is an important investment, but it usually goes unnoticed until its missing.

Micah (youngest daughter): We’re never moving to another church!



ABOVE Ministry Student **Taylor Neely and Her Family**

Neely Family (l to r): Joshua, Michelle, Taylor, Adrian and Micah





Resources to Help People Grow

As you can see from our church motto, “**WE GROW PEOPLE**”, Concord Church is committed to making sure our members grow in their walk with Christ. Our goal is to develop customized curriculum and portable resources to better equip our members and help people connect to their next step with Christ.

Funds needed: \$500,000

My favorite thing is pouring into others and hearing their testimonies when they start to see [their] faith at work.

What made you join Concord?

What made me come to Concord was a dating relationship. While searching other churches to grow in Christ, I was told to visit her church. Once the relationship ended, it wasn't easy to end the relationship with Concord.

How did you get involved in a Grow Group?

Once I started seeking the Lord wholeheartedly for myself, I was hungry to seek Him anywhere possible that would grow me in the midst of where I was. So I joined Iron Sharpens Iron (ISI) for help with being a better man, Uplift for help in how to walk in my singleness, and I took part in Mentoring Brother2Brother to become a mentor to pour into someone else.

What made you become a leader?

God's calling on my life. In my growth with the Lord, I asked "How do you want to use me?" and the response I got was "Leadership." After putting off his answer for a month and a half (knowing it was outside of my comfort), I only agreed to it if He would lead me. And all the doors started to open.



Grow Group Leader Johnathan Miles

How has it helped make you a better man and/or grow you in your Christian walk?

It challenged me by giving me a focus to study God's word. As I took what the grow group was discussing, I would study what the Word has to say about it, make it an application for my daily life and, by the Holy Spirit, share my experience with the group.

Interested in joining a Grow Group?

Visit ConcordDallas.org/grow for more information.



Campus Improvements

From July 2014-July 2015 the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex gained 144,702 new residents. As our city continues to grow, Concord Church is determined to serve our community. We're taking the time to look ahead and assess what we need to do today to position ourselves for tomorrow's community.

Funds needed: \$2,000,000

Areas of Focus



1.

Add 400 New
Parking Spaces



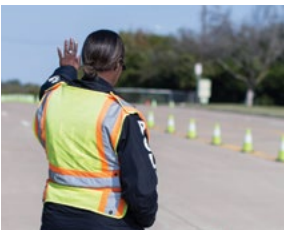
2.

Add more
adult classrooms



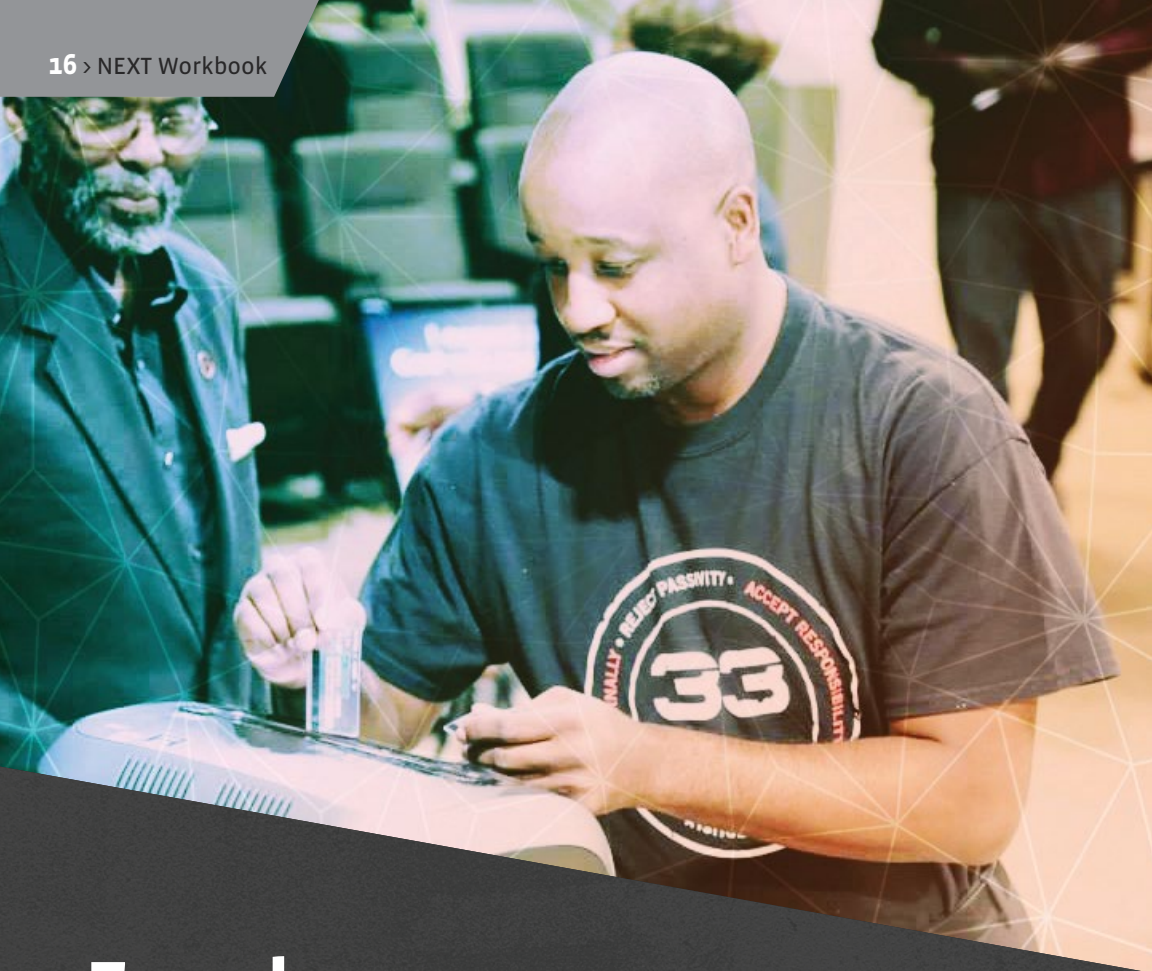
3.

Acquire land
for development



4.

Enhance security



Freedom From Debt

In 2015, the Concord Church family joined together in a 21 Day Financial Fast. Members were encouraged to rearrange their financial spending habits and focus on gaining freedom from debt. As the church, we want to do the same. We plan to allocate 50% of the campaign funds raised towards our current debt.

Funds needed: \$5,000,000

What the Bible Says About Debt

Hebrews 13:5

Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you."

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Proverbs 22:7

... the borrower is slave to the lender.

Matthew 6:31-33

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice

For the next 24 months, we want you to go on a giving journey with God towards a life of generosity. Before beginning any journey you must identify two things: where you are now and where you want to go.

The Giving Levels graphic is your guide to increased giving. Generosity happens one step at a time, like building blocks.

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, ask God to inspire and challenge you towards a life of greater generosity.

The Giving Levels



Shekeira Ward and her mother joined Concord Church in 2006 after searching for a church home where they could grow in their spiritual walk.

How has God taught you to live generously over the years? And what have you learned?

He has shown me that if I just start now with the little that I have, he will make the increase happen. Everything that I have, my talents and possessions all belong to him. He has given it to me so that I can bless others.

How do you cultivate your attitude towards generosity?

For me, it's about taking it from a big picture to a funnel approach. What is the one thing I can do, just in my realm of control, with what I have, and not worry about 'God I don't have this'. What do I have that God can use? Such as talent, resources, and time and starting from there.

How have you seen God respond to your generosity?

Just by starting to be generous in whatever capacity I can, my prayer life has changed. Now I'm not praying from a position of 'I can't' or 'I'm unable to'. Now I pray from a position of expectation and with a different mindset of 'I can' rather than 'I lack'.

Visit ConcordNext.org/stories to watch this powerful story.



Concord Family Member
**Shekei'ra
Ward**

Watch this powerful story at:
ConcordNext.org/stories



Participation Model

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, allow this giving chart to be a tool for you. Use it to inspire and challenge you towards greater generosity **to help the NEXT person take their NEXT step with Christ.**

NEXT 24 Month Participation Model				
Pledge Level	Total Pledge Amount	Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
Level 1	\$300,000	\$12,500	\$5,769	\$2,885
Level 2	\$100,000	\$4,167	\$1,923	\$962
Level 3	\$50,000	\$2,083	\$962	\$481
Level 4	\$20,000	\$833	\$385	\$192
Level 5	\$10,000	\$417	\$192	\$96
Level 6	\$6,500	\$271	\$125	\$63
Level 7	\$3,250	\$135	\$63	\$31
Level 8	\$2,000	\$83	\$38	\$19
Level 9	\$1,500	\$63	\$29	\$14
Level 10	\$500	\$21	\$10	\$5

Pledge / Commitment Card

You will receive your pledge/ commitment card throughout the sermon series. Below is an example of the card. We ask that you pray about your commitment to the campaign for the next several weeks. **Please complete your card and bring it on Sunday January 29, 2017 for the Commitment Sunday Celebration.** This will be a special time as the entire Concord Church family unites behind the NEXT vision.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Total pledge amount: \$ _____

I/ we plan to give accordingly:

☐ \$ _____ Monthly for 24 months (2 years)

☐ \$ _____ Bi-Weekly for 52 weeks (2 years)

☐ \$ _____ Weekly for 104 weeks (2 years)

☐ \$ _____ One Time Gift

Signature: _____

A Lifestyle of Stewardship

The NEXT campaign will rely on church members giving over and above their current level of giving. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where we set our hearts on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from the spiritual priorities.

One way of defining this is “Lifestyle Stewardship”, a term used to describe a level of giving that affects one’s living. There’s the temptation to give in such a way that makes little impact on how we live. The challenge of Lifestyle Stewardship is to boldly and prayerfully let our giving touch our living!

King David declared,

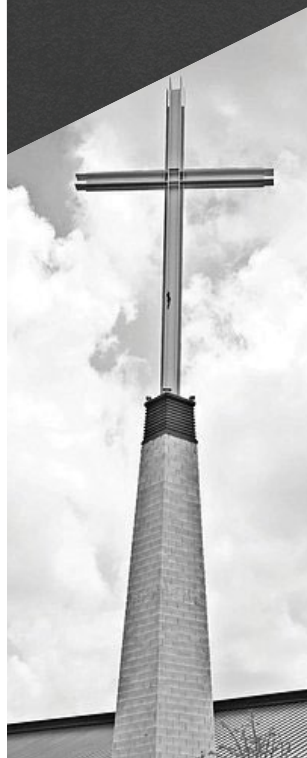
“I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” 2 Samuel 24:24 NIV

David understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver. The greater the gift’s value and significance to the giver, the greater its worth before the Heavenly Father. The gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the heart of the giver! This is the Spirit of Lifestyle Stewardship. “If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me.”

Lifestyle Giving is a level of giving that affects me, my plans, my activities, my attitude, and my approach to life. It means giving up something in one area so that I can give more of myself in another.

Many Christians have been amazed at how much more they could give after going through this process.

**Giving up
something
in one area
so that I
can give
more of
myself in
another.**



Ways to Make an Over & Above Gift

1.

Priority Budgeting > Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, home remodeling, or other major purchase. Many Christian people find a way to give more through sacrificial commitments made in faith coupled with priority budgeting.

2.

Increased Income, Increased Giving > Some people receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from their employers. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. In many instances, families have decided that they will commit the full amount of salary increases.

3.

Unexpected Cash > A couple had been praying for weeks about their commitment to the church capital campaign. Much to their surprise, they received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. They gave the entire amount to their church as part of their commitment.

4.

Extra Work > Some family members have extra time they are willing to use in a part-time job to be able to give more to the church. One man was in the process of retiring when his church entered a campaign. He and his wife secured new jobs and gave the first three years of their retirement income to the capital campaign.

5.

Appreciated Assets > Many people own assets that have achieved unrealized gains in value over the years. That is good news. The bad news is that if these assets were sold, a significant portion of the gain would be lost to taxation.



Your Personal Guide to 21 Days of Worship, Bible Study, and Fasting



Fasting 101

Fasting is to deny myself food for spiritual purposes. It is a spiritual discipline that allows one to reset and refocus on God by removing things we normally enjoy. We will be practicing a Daniel fast, which is a vegetarian fast.

- Fasting is a Christian's voluntary abstinence from food for spiritual purposes.
- Fasting does not have to be specifically food, but the denial of any legitimate desire for spiritual purposes.
- Scripture describes the fasting of numerous individuals including Jesus (*Matthew 4:2*), Daniel (*Daniel 1:12*), John the Baptist (*Matthew 3:4*) and Esther (*Esther 4:16*).

FASTING TIPS

- Drink 6-8 glasses of water daily throughout the fast. This is very important!
- Anyone with a medical condition related to eating or under the treatment of a physician must consult their doctor before proceeding.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

- **Side effects:** You may experience moderate to severe headaches for the first day or two as your body rids itself of caffeine, salt, sugar, and various impurities. You may need to take Advil or aspirin. If your doctor has advised against Advil or aspirin, please contact your doctor for an alternative.
- **Important exceptions:** Use your discretion along with the advice of your physician and prayer to modify the Daniel Fast to adhere to your medical needs. Anyone with a medical condition related to eating or under the treatment of a physician must consult their doctor before proceeding. Also, if you have extreme difficulty with the fast, such as an impairment of your ability to work at your job, you will have to make adjustments. Utilize wisdom. Seek the Lord and discuss it with other Christians involved in the fast, to find alternatives.

FOODS INCLUDED:

- **Whole Grains:** Brown Rice, Oats, Oatmeal, Barley and Pasta
- **Legumes:** Dried Beans, Pinto Beans, Split Peas, Lentils, Black Eyed Peas
- **Fruits:** Apples, Apricots, Bananas, Blackberries, Blueberries, Boysenberries, Cantaloupe, Cherries, Cranberries, Oranges, Figs, Grapefruit, Grapes, Guava, Honeydew Melon, Kiwi, Lemons, Limes, Mangoes, Nectarines, Papayas, Peaches, Pears, Pineapples, Plums, Prunes, Raisins, Raspberries, Strawberries, Tangelos, Tangerines, Watermelon (Limit your intake to 2 citrus fruits per day i.e. lemons, limes, grapefruits and oranges)
- **Vegetables:** Artichokes, Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chili Peppers, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Ginger root, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Mustard Greens, Okra, Onions, Parsley, Potatoes, Radishes, Rutabagas, Scallions, Spinach, Sprouts, Squashes, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress, Yams, Zucchini, Collard greens, Turnip greens
- Vegetables, such as potatoes, beans, and soybeans will help provide substance. Fresh or frozen vegetables are recommended. If canned vegetables are desired, use sodium free or drain and wash prior to cooking.
- Individuals who have an intolerance to beans should substitute with soy products. It is advisable to take a multi-vitamin/mineral supplement during the fast (1 per day). You may also include various nuts to serve as a protein supplement.
- Seeds, Nuts, Sprouts, Olive Oil, Seasonings, and Spices
- **Liquids:** Spring Water, Distilled Water, 100% All-Natural Fruit Juices, 100% All Natural Vegetable Juices (apple juice, orange juice, grapefruit juice, cranberry juice, etc.) No sweetened drinks or sweetened fruit.
- To maintain portion control, refer to the USDA Food Pyramid on www.mypyramid.gov for the recommended servings per day. For example, limit fruits or vegetables to 7-10 per day and nuts to 12-15 per meal.

FOODS NOT INCLUDED:

- Sugar, sugar substitutes and sugar products, desserts, soft drinks, etc.
- Table or box salt
- Drinks including caffeine (coffee, tea, etc.)
- Bread, enriched grains, and rice
- Meats, fish, poultry, dairy, eggs
- Fried foods
- Margarine, shortening, high fat products

Week 1 › January 8

#WEGROWPEOPLE

Sermon Notes

Date: _____ Speaker: _____

Title: _____

Scripture: _____

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

God has strategically planted us, equipped us, and blessed us with what we need to help with HIS kingdom building. We are HIS earthly hands, feet, and voice. As Christians we should always ask God to order and direct our NEXT steps in HIM. Inquiring, “What is our purpose in this season?”

So, when Pastor Carter outlined the vision God had laid on his heart, we felt excited and led to join the team and help our Concord family make preparations for its next 10 years in ministry. It is a privilege to be a part of a campaign that has the potential to expand the ministry of the church for many years to come! We see the positive impact and influence the campaign can have today and on future generations.

Concord is a church that has been a resource for God’s people in the past and it’s a joy to see that Concord will go into the future fulfilling that role with generations that follow. As a catalyst for change in the surrounding community, a unifier and difference maker in the city, and a “think tank” for the issues of the day, Concord strives to be a blessing to all God’s children! “We are a church where, “We Grow People!”

The NEXT campaign allows for the growth and advancement of the mission God has called Concord to and we feel humbled, blessed and excited to contribute a small part.



Campaign Chairs **Bert & Pam Maxwell**

Hear more from our campaign chairs at: ConcordNext.org/stories



GROW PEOPLE



Week 1 >

What can I expect from God?



Key Thought: God gives us too many blessings to count

Jan. 8

Scripture: Psalm 103:1–5 (NLT)

¹ Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. ² Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. ³ He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. ⁴ He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. ⁵ He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

As we look back over last year, we cannot help but remember all the good things God has done in our lives. Every day he has given us new blessings and new reasons to praise him. His love is unfailing and his forgiveness is immeasurable. Beginning the new year with a spirit of gratefulness is the best way to ensure that our focus is in the right place.

Reflection: Count Your Blessings

Praise God for all the good things He does for us personally, (Psalm 92; Isaiah 40:30-31)

- _____
- _____
- _____

List some ways you have known God to bless you:

Prayer: Lord we praise you for your goodness, for being a loving Father and for the blessings you provide each day. Great is your faithfulness. Lord, help us to live our lives with a grateful heart and to be a blessing to those around us. Amen.

**Scripture: Proverbs 11:24 (MSG)**

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

Have you ever just looked around and started to take inventory of all the things you have accumulated over the years? Most of us have a lot of stuff! In fact, sometimes we can go months and even years without using some of it, because we just have too much. Someone around us may be in need or could benefit from some of the extra stuff we have. Let us make a commitment this week to be generous by giving away something to someone else who we know could benefit from some of our stuff.

Reflection: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

1. Where is my money, time, and talent going?
2. What am I giving to God?
3. Am I giving God my best or am I just giving God “something”?
4. What is my attitude toward giving?

Prayer: *Lord, help me to be a cheerful giver. Help me to reflect on the generous gift you gave to mankind through Jesus’ life and to become motivated to give myself and my things to others. Help me not to be a holy hoarder, but to give generously because you love a cheerful giver. Amen.*



Scripture: Luke 12:15 (NLT)

*Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed.
Life is not measured by how much you own."*

Have you noticed that although we talk about heaven, we often live like earth is our final destination? Luke warns us about becoming too attached to the things of this world because he knows that we can become consumed by materialism. If an independent investigator had access to your checkbook, personal finances, your itinerary, and your spiritual gifting, where would they conclude that your home was? Do you ever feel like you have enough? We can only become satisfied with our earthly positions when we realize that we are mere travelers on earth. Life is not about how much we have, but rather about how much we give. God has prepared a place for us and we must live as temporary dwellers in this foreign land, because heaven, not earth is our home.

Reflection: Read Luke 12:13-21

- Our Reality: A change of home address
- Our Need: A change of perspective

How do we measure our lives?

Earthly Currency

- Rich in possessions
- Power from prestige
- Worshiped for talents

Heavenly Currency

- Rich towards God
- Power from the Spirit
- Talents are for worship

What purpose, passion, resource, talent, or time has the Lord given you to be a blessing to a world that needs an address change?

Prayer: Lord as I assess my life, help me to approach life with open hands. Help me to focus on the changes I need to make in my life to have an eternal focus. Replace my desire for earthly significance, with the desire for eternal significance so that I can be used to impact the world for you. Lord make me a blessing today, Amen.

**Scripture: Psalm 24: 1-2 (NIV)**

¹ *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;* ² *for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.*

God is the sole Owner of all and has never relinquished His ownership. He has never transferred ownership of one acre of land or one ounce of gold. **Haggai 2:8** explains, *'The silver is mine, and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty.* **Psalm 50:10** explains further: *"For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills."* God's ownership extends far beyond the mountains and valleys of the earth. Most significant is His ownership of us – body and soul! First **Corinthians 6:19** *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own."*

Reflection:

- All stuff comes from God. **Read Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8**
 - I am just a manager of God's stuff. **Read Matthew 25:14-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
1. Knowing or coming to accept that God is the owner of all things, how will this change your personal management style of His resources?
 2. What do you think God means when he tells us to honor him with our bodies?
 3. In what ways are you honoring God with your body?
 4. In what ways are you dishonoring God with your body?

Prayer: *Lord, thank you so much for everything that you have blessed me with. I am so grateful. I know sometimes I forget that everything I have is because of you. Lord, help me to live with a grateful heart and to remember that you own it all. Even me. God there are areas in my life where I fail to honor you with my body, and I ask forgiveness right now. Sometimes I am weak and I do not act like I belong to you. God, I pray for your strength to manage my life and my body in a way that pleases you. Amen.*



Key Thought: God always provides
for his own

Jan. 12

Scripture: *Psalm 37:25-26 (NIV)*

²⁵ I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. ²⁶ They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.

David takes the time to reflect on his life as he writes this Psalm. He realizes just how good God has been to him. David has seen a lot in his lifetime and he pauses to remember the faithfulness of God. God is always faithful to the righteous and he will provide for his own. Even more so, God will also provide for their children so that they will be a blessing to others. Setting an example of faith and trust in God is the best legacy for future generations.

Reflection: *Read Hebrews 11*

1. In what ways, have you seen God be a faithful provider in your life?
2. In what ways, have you seen God use you to be a faithful provider in the life of someone else?
3. Do you believe that God will provide for every need in your life?

Prayer: *God, thank you so much for always providing for me. There have been times in my life where I did not know how I was going to make it through because what I had was not enough, but you made a way. Thank you for always making a way. You have met my financial needs when I lacked the resources, you have met my spiritual needs when I was sad and confused, and you have met my physical needs when I was sick and you healed me. Thanks for being all that I need at all times. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.*

**Scripture: Habakkuk 1:5 (NIV)**

Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

The Bible is full of miracles. The birth of Jesus, his death, and his resurrection are the best miracles of all. The human mind cannot even truly comprehend the awesome capabilities of All Mighty God. In Habakkuk, God prepares the people to be amazed by his power. Are you ready to be amazed by God? We sing the song by Hezekiah Walker, Amazing and the words are so true because we do not deserve his amazing blessings, but he gives them to us so freely, so willingly, and so eagerly simply because he loves us. I stand amazed at His Power, His Glory, and His Strength!

Reflection: Read Mark 9:14-29

1. Do you or someone you know need a miracle from God?
2. Are you willing to ask Jesus for help?
3. Do you believe he can do it?
4. What does this passage teach us to do if we are struggling with believing that God can perform a miracle for us?

Prayer: *God, I need a miracle from you. I have tried everything, but you are the only one who can help me. I ask forgiveness for coming to you as my last resort, instead of coming to you first. I know that there is nothing you cannot do, but sometimes I struggle believing that you can do it for me. Help me to have the faith to believe and trust that you can perform a miracle for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Key Thought: God never overlooks
our sacrifice of giving

Jan. 14

Scripture: Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)

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

Have you ever had a desire to give, but was embarrassed because you could not give as much as someone else? Jesus teaches us that it is not the size of the gift that matters, but the sacrifice. The widow did not have much to give, but she gave what she had and Jesus recognized her sacrifice. God is not calling us to compete in our giving with one another, but he does recognize when we are truly making a sacrifice to give.

Reflection: Read Mark 14:3-9

1. Compare the story of the widow and the story of the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. Who gave more? Explain.
2. What made each gift important?
3. How were the women alike in what they gave?

Prayer: God, help me to not focus on the amount that I can give, but rather on the sacrifice that I make to give. Lord, you own everything I have. Help me to not hold on to it so tightly. You like a cheerful and generous giver. Lord, I know there are times when I give hesitantly or I am not as generous as I could be. I ask your forgiveness. Give me a heart of generosity. Help me to become a generous giver with my time, talent, and treasure. Amen.

Week 2 › January 15

#WEGROWPEOPLE

Sermon Notes

Date: _____ Speaker: _____

Title: _____

Scripture: _____

The NEXT campaign, for our family, is about legacy.

When we decided Concord would be our church home, one of the most important factors was authenticity. Every interaction we had, from premarital counseling, men's group, grow group, and more was experienced with a love that showed this church body was about people.

As members of Concord we would go through some of the most challenging times in our lives – loss of a parent, birth of two beautiful children, dramatic personal mission changes, and career redirections. Through it all, Concord has been there.

We decided to join the NEXT campaign because it was an opportunity to participate in building the next stage of this powerful community that has invested so much in us. It was at Concord that we learned principles that emboldened our faith to continue to tithe when we had very little to our name and an emergency medical procedure for our daughter – God showed up in a miraculous way. It was Pastor Carter's teaching about personal purpose that helped crystallize self-identity – a defining moment that set our family off on a completely new trajectory. And now, NEXT turns Concord's eye toward a focused intent to reach more souls, sooner in their lives. And as followers of his most ancient and precious truth, there is no greater calling.



Campaign Chairs

**Byron & Celeste
Sanders**

Hear more from our campaign chairs at: ConcordNext.org/stories





Week 2 >

What does God expect from me?



Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV)

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

Wow! Many of us have believed the myth that money can satisfy us, but the author of Ecclesiastes clearly writes in this verse, that money will never satisfy us because we will always want more. Can you relate to always wanting more? If I just had more time, more money, more opportunities, more friends, and the list goes on. More is not always better!

Reflection: Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Earthly Myths About Money:

- Wealth brings **satisfaction**, v. 10
- **Money** will solve every problem, v. 11
- Wealth brings **peace of mind**, v. 12
- Wealth provides **security**, v. 13-17

Proverbs 16:3 (NLT)

³Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.

1. What is your plan for living for Heaven and not for the stuff?

Prayer: Father, you know my heart inside and out. Many times, I hang on to my earthly possessions because I get caught up in trying to prove something, or simply because I am selfish. Without realizing it, I find myself focused on accumulating earthly wealth instead of things of eternal value. God, help me to experience the pleasures that can only be found in you. Lord, I want to be different and I want my life to be focused on pursuing those things that matter most to you. Lord, create in me a clean heart and give me a desire for you above all else. Amen

**Scripture: Matthew 6:21 (NLT)**

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Have you ever been consumed with obtaining something or someone? You wake up thinking about “it” and you go to bed thinking about “it.” Before you know it, you have rearranged your life with the hopes of acquiring “it.” Being consumed is only good if we are consumed with God because anything else will cause us to lose our way.

Reflection: Read Matthew 6:19-24

My heart always goes where I place my treasure.

- An **obsession** with stuff will lead my heart away from God, **Matthew 6:21**
- My heart cannot be **divided**, **Matthew 6:24**
- **Consider** how stuff is influencing your life, **Psalm 139:23; Proverbs 2:6; 8:11; Haggai 1:5, 7; Matthew 6:22-24**

1. What material thing would it be difficult for you to give away?

2. What is Jesus' words in verses 19-21 saying to you?

Prayer: Lord give me a heart change. Help me to change my priorities! Help me to give you my best because you are worthy. God, you know my heart and you know the things in my life that have taken priority over you. Reveal those things to me and give me the courage to make the necessary changes so that my time, talent, and treasure reflect my commitment to live for you In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Key Thought: God expects us to give according to our own resources

Jan. 17

Scripture: I Corinthians 16:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

In this passage Paul is teaching the Corinthian church how to give. It is important to see that he instructs them to set aside a sum of money, which denotes that Paul is instructing them to make giving a priority. He goes on to say that the sum should be “in keeping with your income” which clearly says to them that they are not required to give based on another’s income, just their own. I am grateful that God does not hold me to someone else’s standard of living. He just asks me to give according to my own income. God knows what I can give, and all he wants me to do is to give it freely and cheerfully!

Reflection: Read II Corinthians 8:1-5

1. Did the Macedonians have a lot to give?

2. Is giving just about money?

3. Do you believe it is a privilege or a burden to give? Explain.

Prayer: *God, there have been times in life where I have not given freely or generously. Sometimes I am worried about what the person or organization will do with the money. Help me to trust you when I give. God remove the feelings of angst that come when I am asked to give. I do not want to be stingy when it comes to your kingdom. Lord, there are people all around me who need me to be generous with my time, talent, and treasure. Help me to see them and give me the courage to respond with compassion and generosity as you use me to meet their need. God, I want to join you in your work. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.*

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)**

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Are you a spender or a saver? Some people love to spend, and some people love to save. Do you know that just because you spend freely, does not necessarily mean you are generous? The question is who do you spend most of your resources on? Is it you, or is it others? Giving freely to others is the essence of generosity. You can be a saver and even frugal, and still be generous. Generosity focuses on what we do for others and not what we do for ourselves

Reflection: Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. Why does God warn us to not put our hope in material things?
2. Why does God want us to put our hope in him?
3. What does God expect us to do with what he blesses us with?

Prayer: *Lord, I love to receive good things, but sometimes I do not always give the best that I have. Help me to remember that being generous is what you expect of me and that you will reward my generosity. Help me to not give to receive, but to do so because I love you. Lord, I pray that I will find joy in giving. In the name of Jesus, Amen.*



Key Thought: God does not want me to brag about my giving

Jan. 19

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV)

¹ “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

No one likes a bragger. Do you remember growing up as a child and that one kid in your neighborhood who bragged about everything? They bragged about how much money their parents made, how big their house was, and how nice their car was. If you are honest, that kid was a nuisance because he was always talking about himself. In this passage of scripture, Jesus is talking about the braggers. He is telling the people that they should not do things to be seen. Rather, they should quietly spread their generosity to others without wanting to receive credit from others. Sometimes we want people to know what we gave, but Jesus reminds us that he knows what we give and he will reward us.

Reflection: Read Luke 4:36-37

Does this mean that you should never tell anyone what you give and who you give it to? No.

1. What did the believers do in this passage?
2. Did they keep it a secret?
3. What is the difference between what the believers were doing in Matthew and what they were doing in Luke?

Prayer: Lord, create in me a spirit of humility. I know that you love the humble, but hate the proud. Help me to be satisfied with the fact that you know how much I give. God, when others ask me for help, help me to have a heart to give and to keep to myself who I have helped. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**Scripture: Matthew 25: 14-15 (NIV)**

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

Have you ever wondered why God chooses to give some people a lot of talents and resources, and others only a few? In this parable, Jesus is talking about the owner who gave his servants various amounts of gold. Notice, the owner gave them each “according to his ability.” The owner knew how much each of his servants could handle. Jesus’s words are instructive for us because he knows how much we can handle. We are not able to tell Jesus how much he should give us, but we can use what he gives us for his glory.

Reflection: Read Matthew 25:16-30

1. Can God trust you with what he gives you?
2. Which servant in the parable most resembles you? Why?
3. How does knowing that God will hold you accountable for how you manage your time, talent, and treasure change your perspective on giving?

Prayer: God, thank you for choosing to bless me. I know that sometimes I take your blessings for granted, and I am not always grateful for how you have blessed me. Help me to resist the temptation to compare what I have with what others have. Show me how to use what you have given me to be a blessing to others. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.



Key Thought: God expects me to trust him to meet my needs

Jan. 21

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-27 (NIV)

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Worry is a real emotion. It can be a good thing if it prompts us to act or to resolve a problem. However, worry becomes problematic when we allow it to consume our thoughts. Many people cannot enjoy life because they are always thinking about the “what-if” or the worse possible scenario. Jesus tells us not to worry because he will take care of us. What are you worrying about today? I encourage you to give it Jesus because he can handle it. Whenever I am tempted to worry I remember the words in the song What a Friend We Have in Jesus:

*Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer
Don't worry, Pray!*

Reflection: Read Matthew 6:25-34

1. Why does Jesus ask us to place seeking Him above our physical needs?
2. What does Jesus promise to do if we seek Him first?
3. Why do you think Jesus tells us not to worry? What does worry do to us?

Prayer: God, thank you so much for meeting all my needs. I am so grateful that you are the one person who will never fail me. Lord, help me to trust you when I am tempted to worry. I know that you are in control of all things and help me to remember that you know my needs before I ever say a word. Lord, I trust you. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Week 3 > January 22

#WEGROWPEOPLE

Sermon Notes

Date: _____ Speaker: _____

Title: _____

Scripture: _____

The best investment anyone can make to build the Kingdom of God is to give your time, talent and temple to God – ALL of you!

The NEXT Campaign gives us the opportunity to invest in the NEXT Generation – Millennials and beyond. What we give today by way of our time, talent, treasures and testimonies will go a long way showing how much we love God and are willing to obey His Word by loving, providing and investing in others.

That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. Psalms 78:6-7

We find it important to invest in the NEXT Campaign, build a spiritual foundation, strengthen the NEXT Generation, and carry on the Concord Legacy by growing people, communities, and cities.

Generosity is an action from the heart – one to release and one to receive. This action is not for our own gratification but that others will see Christ in us, our spiritual growth, and maturity. Our desire is that God would receive the glory and honor!



Campaign Chairs **Derek & Sylvia Woodson**

Hear more from our campaign chairs at: ConcordNext.org/stories





Week 3 >

**What is my
next step?**



Scripture: 1 John 3:16–18 (NLT)

¹⁶ We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So, we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

John challenges believers to demonstrate their love to others in need. As followers of Christ, this passage reminds us of several key words such as sacrifice, blessings, compassion, and truth. God calls us to be the living embodiment of Jesus Christ. We are His arms, legs, and feet. In order to take our next step, we must move beyond talk. We demonstrate sacrifice by giving away some of the blessings that God has so graciously given to us. Compassion is an expression of God’s love and truth.

Reflection: Read 1 John 3:11-24

1. This passage speaks a lot about love. Why do you think it is important for love to be at the center of everything we do?
2. In what way, can you be the living embodiment of Jesus Christ today?
3. Write down the name of one person the Holy Spirit is tugging at your heart to show compassion to. Today, take the next step toward this person and be a blessing.

Prayer: *Lord, thank you. Father you allowed your son to move past words when He demonstrated his love for me. Thank you for your sacrifice. I praise you for the many blessings you have given to me. Help me to steward them well. Please help me to become a giver and not a stingy person. Today, help me to be courageous and to be a living example of your truth in action. Amen.*

**Scripture: Luke 6:27–30 (NLT)**

²⁷ “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. ³⁰ Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back.

Jesus commands His followers to be merciful. This can be hard for every believer at times, and if we are honest we wish this was not a command at all, but rather a simple suggestion. However, we are called to be merciful even to our enemies. Our hurts and disappointments can obscure Christ’s vision for our lives. We were enemies of God, yet he still loved us. Because he loved us, we can go the extra mile by making a call, sending a text, and praying for those who have hurt us. We can show Christ’s mercy. Someone today needs to experience God’s mercy, and you have an opportunity to be the vehicle that God uses.

Reflection: Read Luke 6:27-36

1. Who do I need to treat better today?
2. How can I help someone and expect nothing in return?
3. List how you can take your next step.

Prayer: Lord, please forgive me for the times I place myself in your role by making sovereign decisions on who receives mercy. Father, thank you for dispensing mercy to the just and the unjust. Help me to be merciful to all, to love my enemies, to trust you, and to do good. Help me to become a giver who expects nothing in return. Help me to treat all men the way you would treat them. Amen.



Scripture: Matthew 25:35 (NLT)

For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.

Scripture: Matthew 25:40 (NLT)

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

Jesus teaches believers to feed the hungry, give a drink to the thirsty, and clothed the naked. Fulfilling Jesus' commands may not always be convenient. Sometimes God will ask us to go visit the sick, loan someone some money, or visit someone in prison, but we may have other plans. When we serve by giving to the King's children, we are focusing on the Kingdom and we are loving like Jesus. We do not give to be noticed or just because it is the right thing to do. We give so that we can bring glory to our Father and to show his children that he cares for them. The world will know us because we love God and we love our neighbor.

Reflection: Read Matthew 25:34-46

1. How will God respond to those who give to those in need?
2. How will God respond to those who ignore the needs of others?
3. How does knowing when you give to those in need, you are giving to Jesus change your perspective on giving?

Prayer: *Lord, thank you for your many blessings. You have provided everything I need. Open my eyes and heart to the needs of others. Lord cover your children who are in need and allow me to give to you by giving to your children. Amen.*

Jan. 25



Key Thought: Just be willing

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:11–12 (NLT)

¹¹ Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. ¹² Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.

Paul encourages the Christ followers in Corinth to give according to what they have with joy! Paul calls them to live out this act of generosity by: 1) Finishing what they started 2) Allowing their enthusiasm to result in action, and 3) Giving with the proper posture and attitude. Our gifts are acceptable to God when we give with a generous heart and when we give within our ability.

Reflection: Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

1. How does the passage describe the financial situation of the Macedonian churches?
2. What can you learn from their example?
3. What do you need to do to become a generous giver?

Prayer: Lord, help me to be a committed follower who stays committed until the end. Give me the proper attitude and posture to honor you in my giving. Make me a cheerful giver. Father, reveal the areas where I may have fallen short, and renew my resolve to serve you better. Amen.



Scripture: Haggai 1:2–6 (NLT)

² “This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: The people are saying, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.’” ³ Then the LORD sent this message through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ “Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?” ⁵ This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: Look at what’s happening to you! ⁶ You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!

The Prophet Haggai speaks as clear to us today as he did to the people of Israel centuries ago. He reminds God’s people that they need to consider how they are treating God. It is clear in the passage that the people were focused on using their personal resources to fulfill their personal desires while God’s house laid in ruin. The prophet warns that if we place the Kingdom of God before our own wants, God will provide because he is the Lord of the Harvest. Don’t miss how the people had planted much, but harvested little. Because they chose to give God the leftovers, they missed out on the abundant blessings of God.

Reflection: Read Haggai Chapter 1

1. How can you make Jesus and his work a priority in your life?
2. Please list 7 of your expenses. Now list 3 fun activities you spend money on regularly. Review your list. How can you reprioritize this list to make God a priority?

Seven Expenses

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | |

Three Fun Activities

- | |
|----|
| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |

Prayer: Father, I confess my ways are not always in line with your ways and thoughts. Lord, forgive me. Heavenly Father give me a clear mind to consider my ways and help me to have the mind of Christ. Guide me toward actions that make you my number one priority. Give me a heart that desires to please you in every way. Amen.

**Scripture: Acts 20:35 (NLT)**

And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Marketing campaign slogans influence our thoughts and actions daily. "You deserve a break today!" "Have it your way!" We buy in and believe that we should receive exactly what they promise. Paul, however, reminds us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. God gives us health and strength to work hard. There is nothing wrong with enjoying the fruits of our labor, but our Father expects us to give to those in need. You are the answer to someone's prayer today.

Reflection: Read Malachi 3:7-10

1. How did the people respond to God?
2. How do you respond to God?
3. Can you think of a time where you experienced the blessing of it being far more rewarding to give rather than to receive?

Prayer: *Father, allow me to be a blessing to someone in need. Help me to be sensitive to those around me. Please give me the courage to demonstrate love, compassion, and grace. Father, let me share the Gospel today by meeting the need of someone else. Heavenly Father, thank you for leading the way by demonstrating this principle through the sacrifice of your Son. Amen.*



Scripture: Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

*Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need.*

Jesus made a promise that if I place His Kingdom first, I will not have to worry about anything. What does it mean to place God's kingdom first? I place God's kingdom first when I love God and others with all my heart, mind, and soul. I place the kingdom first when I am concerned about the poor, the orphans, and the widows in my community. I place the kingdom first when I choose to live by God's law rather than my own. When I seek His kingdom, I am assured of all of God's provisions. Today, place first things first.

Reflection: Read Matthew 6:28-33

1. What role does faith play in putting first things first?
2. What examples are provided in this passage to show you that God will take care of you?
3. How can you place the Kingdom of God first in 2017 with your time, talent, and treasure?

Prayer: *Father, I desire to put first things first. I want to give you more of me in 2017. Everything I have belongs to you. Help me to use my time, talent, and treasure for your Kingdom. Father, convict me when I stray away from putting you first. Lord, take control of every area of my life so that I may honor you in all things. Amen*

Week 4 › January 29

#WEGROWPEOPLE

Sermon Notes

Date: _____ Speaker: _____

Title: _____

Scripture: _____

Brady and I chose to support the NEXT campaign because first we love our church and second we believe in the vision that has been placed upon Pastor Carter's heart.

For Brady, Concord is the only church he's ever been a member. As a charter member, he grew up in this church and has witnessed church growth in many ways within Concord including what we see now. Church growth has always been a motto of our founding Pastor E.K. Bailey and that was embedded in the leadership as well as the congregation. For us, there have been several NEXT in the development and growth of our church. Growth is necessary if we as a church are going to be able to do God's will and meet the needs of His people.

Our children have personally benefited tremendously from the ministries of this church and the amenities Concord has offered. From having the necessities in baby land where Brady and I volunteered when our kids were tots, to the children and youth ministry, where they participated in Jubilee, the Usher Ministry, outreach projects, and various trips. All this could not have happened if there was not a NEXT that enabled this to be possible.

So for us, we want this generation and future generations to benefit and realize that there will always be a NEXT as long as there is Growth in the life of the church. NEXT will prepare and minister to others for the NEXT step in their life.



Campaign Chairs

**Brady &
Connie Willis**

Hear more from our campaign chairs at: ConcordNext.org/stories



Questions About NEXT

1.

What are you asking me to do? > First and foremost we are asking that you pray and seek God's leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says. Make time to engage in personal reflection with God in this workbook. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life. We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to radical generosity – whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, January 29th, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service! We are trusting this will be a defining moment for our church and for our faith.

2.

How long is my commitment? > We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment, totaling 24 months. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with First Fruits Sunday on February 19th and will culminate in February of 2019.

3.

What does a 24 month commitment look like? > We believe that everybody has the ability to give something. As a church we are striving for 100% participation, above your regular giving, for the next 24 months. Page 18 has a graphic of giving levels so you can see how you can take your giving to the next level. Page 20 has a Participation Model to help outline examples of different giving levels.

4.

I'm in my early 20s. Do I need to participate? > Yes! Living a life of generosity is part of maturing in your faith. You can start to practice the gift of giving at any age.

5.

What if I don't have a job right now? What does that mean for my commitment to NEXT?

> NEXT is about your sacrificial generosity to God's mission at Concord Church.

We believe that God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance, and that looks different for every person. We believe God will use NEXT to bring about a heart change in many people as they surrender their lives completely over to God in the area of giving. So that may mean that you are being challenged to sell things, to pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you don't quite know how to fulfill right now, but that you believe God will provide for as you seek to please him.

6.

I'm not sure I can make a commitment?

> We completely understand. Going above and beyond in financial given can be a challenge. We encourage you to participate in the 21 Day Fast and Study Guide that begins on page 26. Also, in 2017, our Faith & Finance Ministry will host classes through Financial Peace University to equip you with scripture, prayer, and testimonials to help you in your journey toward increased generosity.

7.

How does this change my giving to the general fund, to missions giving, community outreach, or to other Concord Church initiatives?

> During this two-year period, we are asking that you make an above and beyond sacrificial gift that is in addition to your regular giving. We want to foster a generation of generous disciples. Therefore, turning our hearts towards what God is doing in us and through us to **help the next person take to their NEXT step with Christ!**

A Time of Reflection

You made it through the NEXT Generosity Campaign Workbook and 21 days of fasting and prayer! Take a few moments to journal what God has spoken to you in this time. Also, if you would like to share your story, please fill out the form at:

<http://concorddallas.org/story>

*Entrust to reliable people who will
also be qualified to teach others.*

2 Timothy 2:2



#WEGROWPEOPLE