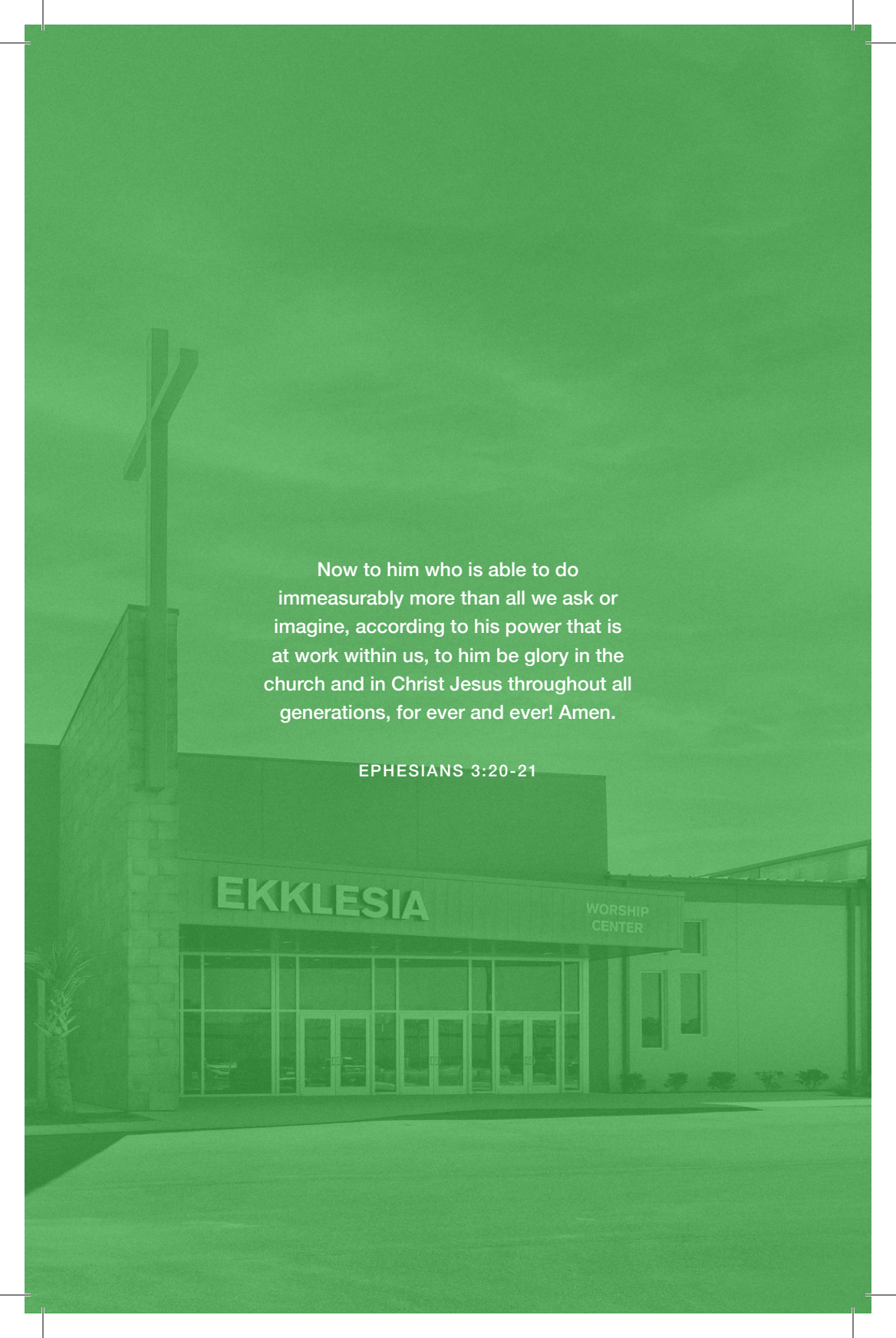


GAME CHANGER

EXPAND — EQUIP — PREPARE

SERIES PLAYBOOK

100% ENGAGEMENT IN GOD'S MISSION



Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine, according to his power that is
at work within us, to him be glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus throughout all
generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

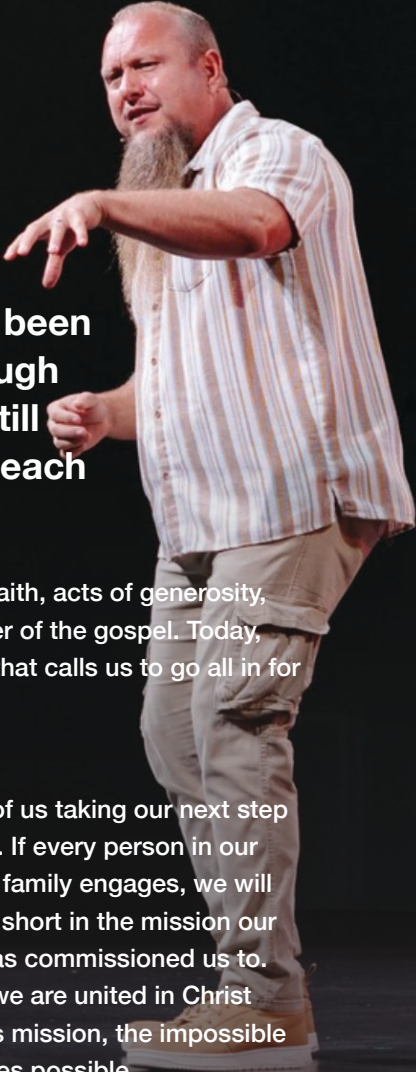
EKKLESIA

WORSHIP
CENTER

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This Book Belongs To:



Dear Ekklesia Family,

From the beginning, God has been writing a story of victory through His church. It is a story that still surprises me as I experience each new step.

Each chapter has been marked by steps of faith, acts of generosity, and countless lives transformed by the power of the gospel. Today, we stand at another defining moment—one that calls us to go all in for the mission of Jesus.

We are launching the *Game Changer* initiative because we believe God has placed before us an opportunity to impact more people than ever before—more lives changed and more souls redeemed. This is not simply about a financial goal; that's the easy part. It is about

100% of us taking our next step of faith. If every person in our church family engages, we will not fall short in the mission our King has commissioned us to. When we are united in Christ and His mission, the impossible becomes possible.

Imagine if we truly became a body of believers dedicated to the potential of each person being a world changer. That would be a real game changer in the battle for eternity.

Our prayer is that each of us will listen to God, respond with open hearts, and step boldly into obedience. Some of us will take a first step of generosity. Others will stretch into new levels of trust. Still others will discover ways to serve and lead that change the trajectory of their lives.

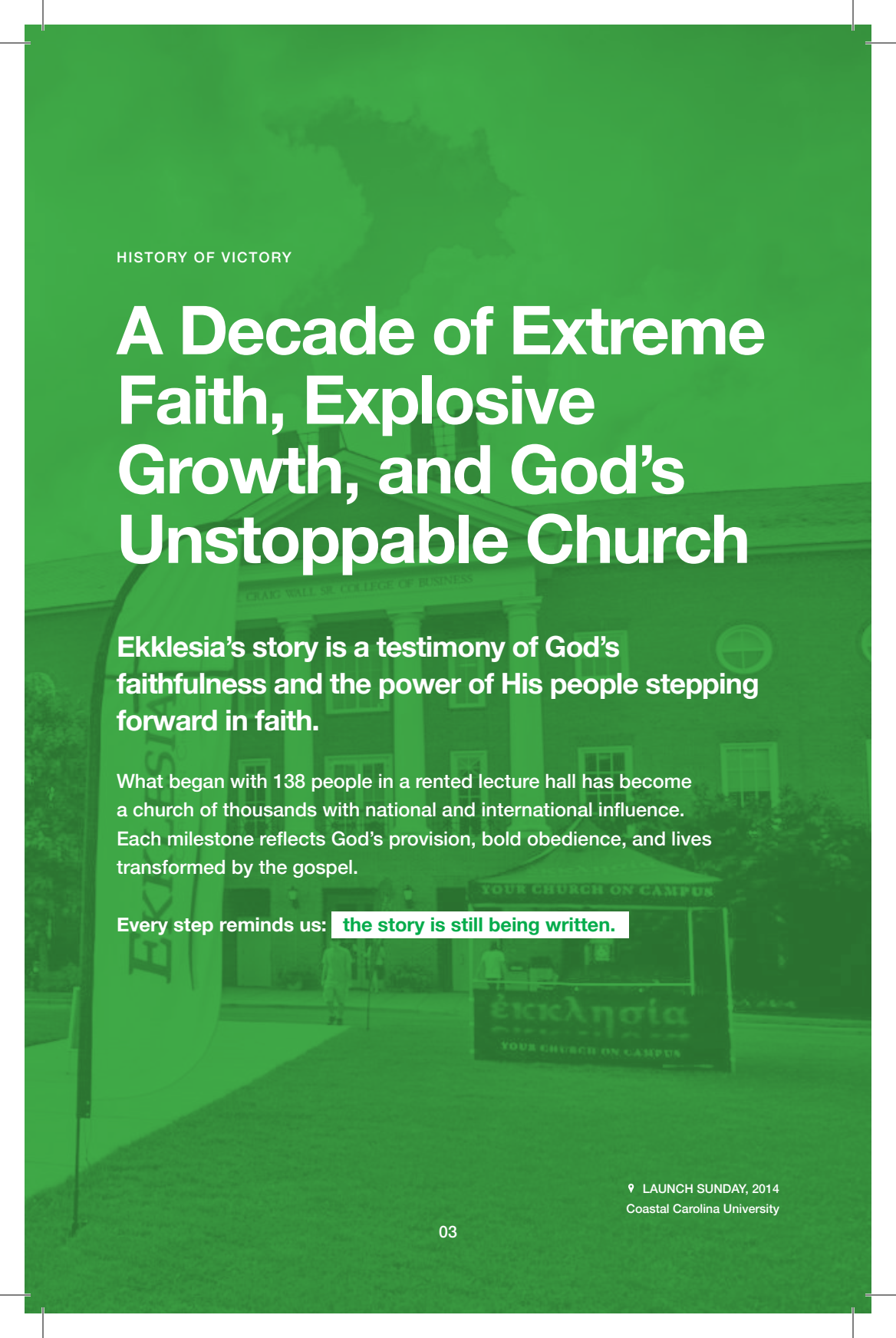
And all of us will grow in our journey and witness something truly amazing—the impact of every soul working together.

Together, we are one church, one body, with one mission and many parts (1 Corinthians 12). And when each part plays its role, the whole body thrives.

I believe this season will be a game changer, not just for our church, but for every one of us who says yes to Jesus. Thank you for joining me on this journey.

With gratitude and great expectation,


Pastor Matt



HISTORY OF VICTORY

A Decade of Extreme Faith, Explosive Growth, and God's Unstoppable Church

Ekklesia's story is a testimony of God's faithfulness and the power of His people stepping forward in faith.

What began with 138 people in a rented lecture hall has become a church of thousands with national and international influence. Each milestone reflects God's provision, bold obedience, and lives transformed by the gospel.

Every step reminds us: **the story is still being written.**

📍 LAUNCH SUNDAY, 2014
Coastal Carolina University



LAUNCH SUNDAY

With 138 people gathered in Coastal Carolina University's Wall Building, Ekklesia Christian Church held its very first service. Pastor Matt preached on the meaning of our name—Ekklesia—God's people called out from the world. It was the start of a new church family, stepping out in faith to follow God's calling.

FIRST EASTER ON FUTURE CAMPUS

On Easter Sunday, Ekklesia gathered for worship in an open field at 2469 East Highway 501, land we had just contracted to purchase. That morning, a student named Dakota—now a deacon—was baptized, the very first baptism on the property.

June 1, 2014 March 27, 2016



Fall, 2015

HOMESCHOOL CO-OP LAUNCH

Ekklesia launched its Homeschool Co-op to serve families with community and Christian educational support—years before we even had a building of our own. The Co-op has since served hundreds of families, remained strong through COVID, and today gathers more than 100 weekly.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Our first groundbreaking service marked a bold step of faith—yet even then, God’s vision proved bigger.

DEFINING OUR CORE VALUES

Congregational input revealed five guiding values still central today:

- Unite in love.
- Expand in influence.
- Disciple in truth.
- Give with generosity.
- Dare to believe.

A NEW GATHERING PLACE

Weekly services moved from CCU to Horry Georgetown Technical College’s 1100 Building as attendance grew beyond 200.

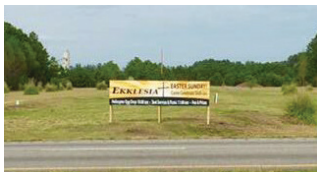
May 8, 2016

January 15, 2017

July 2018

June 8, 2016

June 29, 2017



A BIGGER VISION

In partnership with The Solomon Foundation, building plans grew from 15,000 to 30,000 sq. ft., more than doubling the original scope.

GOD PROVIDES THE LAND

Ekklesia closed on the purchase of the Highway 501 property, a prime location for a church less than two years old.



GRAND OPENING OF THE LAUNCHPAD

The Launchpad, our 30,000 sq. ft. community center, opened with 747 in attendance—more than double the previous space.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL MISSION



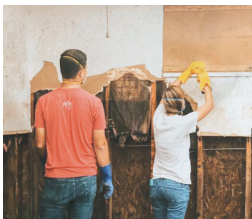
Partnering with IDES, Ekklesia packed 260,000 meals for Haiti in a single weekend, sparking a national movement.

January 6, 2019

May 2020

Fall, 2018

May 17, 2020



READY TO RESTORE

In the wake of Hurricane Florence, Ekklesia launched Ready to Restore from a tent on campus, providing food and aid to displaced families. Our first partnership with IDES began here.

REOPENING AFTER COVID SHUTDOWN

After ten weeks online, services resumed with safety measures and a third service added to meet demand.



THE HUB RENOVATION & SPECIAL NEEDS AUDITORIUM

Volunteers helped transform a vacant building into The Hub, including the area's first auditorium for adults with special needs.

SHINE MINISTRY LAUNCH



Shine began serving students and adults with special needs, with up to 40 participating each weekend.

2021

February 2022

March 2022

Summer–Fall 2022



FIRST FOREIGN MISSION TRIP

A well was drilled in Kenya, producing 530 gallons of clean water per hour.

PREPARING FOR GROWTH

Student and preschool spaces at the Launchpad were renovated to prepare for expansion.

GROUNDBREAKING FOR WORSHIP CENTER

Construction began on a 1,200-seat worship center with a large lobby for connection.

January 1, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY IN NEW WORSHIP CENTER



The first services were held in our new 1,200-seat worship center. Within three weeks, attendance reached 1,700—by Easter, 2,200; and on Easter 2025, more than 3,000 gathered to celebrate the risen Christ.

January 14, 2024

November 5, 2023

1,000TH BAPTISM

Three baptisms marked a milestone of 1,002 lives transformed in 10 years.





FIRST CHURCH-WIDE REVIVAL

After a season of prayer and fasting, 81 people were baptized in one week during Pentecost, a powerful move of God's Spirit.

June 2025

Epilogue: GAME CHANGER →

From 138 in a lecture hall to thousands worshipping in a 1,200-seat auditorium... from one baptism to over 1,000...from local service to global missions—and the best is still to come.

Game Changer is our next bold step:
100% engagement for 100% of God's mission.

WHO WE ARE: OUR VISION

Make Christ and His church famous in South Carolina and beyond.

Our Mission

- LOVE people like Jesus
- LEAD people to Jesus
- LAUNCH people for Jesus

OUR CORE VALUES

We UNITE in love

We function as a family, caring for God and one another.

We EXPAND in influence

Growing God's kingdom so Christ and His church are made famous.

We DISCIPLE in truth

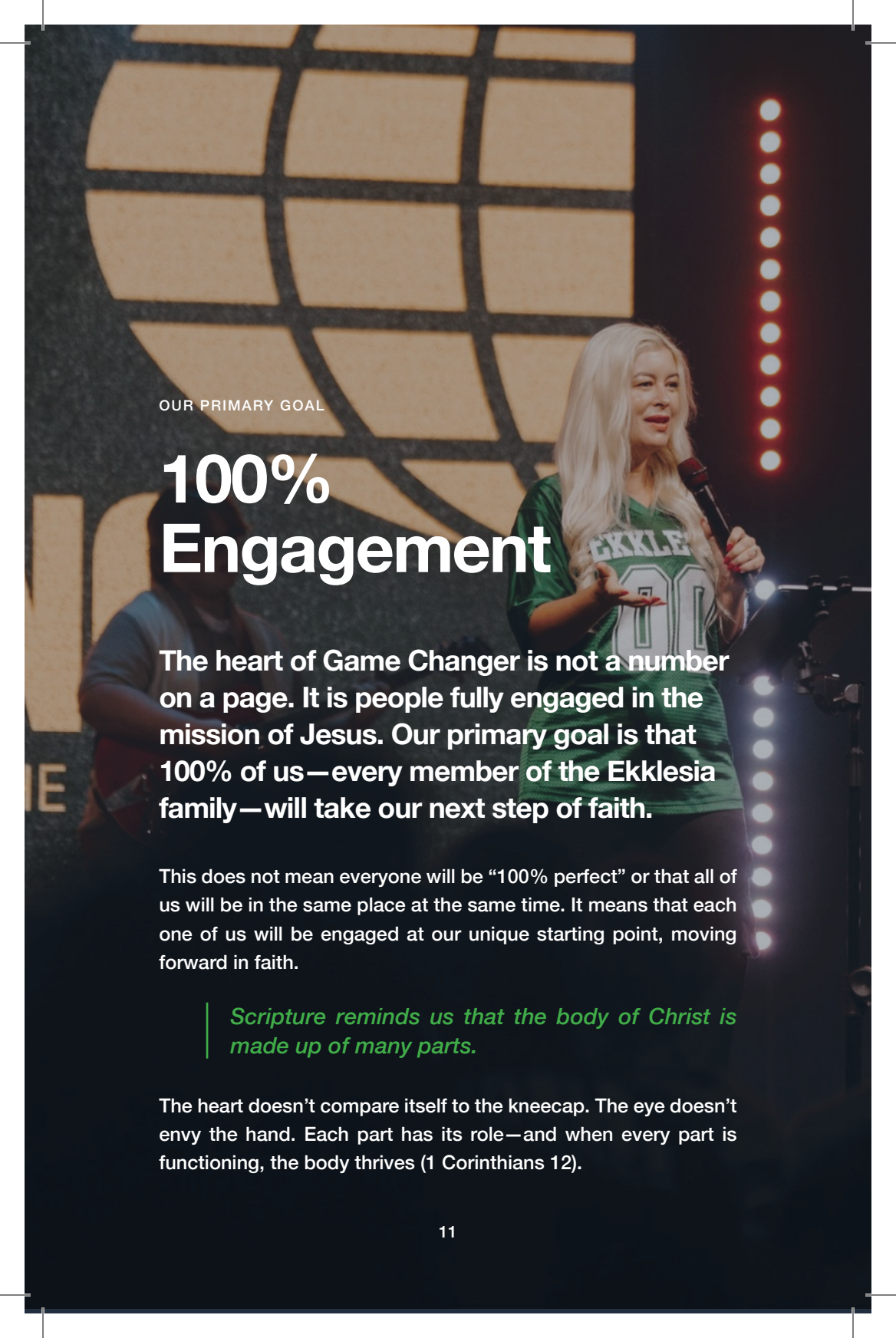
Upholding Biblical truth; teaching people to teach others.

We GIVE with generosity

Sacrificial with our money, time, and talent.

We DARE to believe

Taking faith-filled, audacious steps, trusting God's ability.



OUR PRIMARY GOAL

100% Engagement

The heart of Game Changer is not a number on a page. It is people fully engaged in the mission of Jesus. Our primary goal is that **100% of us—every member of the Ekklesia family—will take our next step of faith.**

This does not mean everyone will be “100% perfect” or that all of us will be in the same place at the same time. It means that each one of us will be engaged at our unique starting point, moving forward in faith.

Scripture reminds us that the body of Christ is made up of many parts.

The heart doesn't compare itself to the kneecap. The eye doesn't envy the hand. Each part has its role—and when every part is functioning, the body thrives (1 Corinthians 12).

Our primary goal is simple:

100%
ENGAGEMENT

When 100% of us engage,
the church will never fall short.

**We want every person at Ekklesia to take a bold next step
in their discipleship journey.**

That means:

- Putting Christ first in everything
- Engaging in personal generosity
- Serving consistently in the mission of the church
- Sharing the gospel and making disciples
- Keeping prayer at the forefront—we believe a praying church is an unstoppable church

Together, we will see God's mission move forward
with unstoppable momentum.

OUR SECONDARY GOAL

\$6.5M in Generosity

Over the next two years

While our primary goal is 100% engagement, our secondary goal is to see every one of us take our next step in generosity.

This generosity goal supports the health and future of our ministry—ensuring that we are sustainably staffed and fully operational while remaining mission-focused.

Game Changers breaks down into three major areas
over the next two years:



EXPAND MINISTRY IMPACT — \$5M

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more...”

- Increase staffing to meet our rapid growth
- Sustain and strengthen core ministry operations
- Expand local and global outreach efforts as God enables through a healthy, funded foundation



EQUIP THE NEXT GENERATION — \$500K

“Train up a child in the way they should go...”

- Renovate existing kids’ spaces to ensure quality, safety, and effectiveness
- Strengthen student ministry infrastructure
- Recruit and develop leaders who will share the future of the church



PREPARE FOR FUTURE EXPANSION — \$1M

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”

- Strategically position Ekklesia for church planting or campus launching
- Explore opportunities in surrounding communities where we are already making an impact
- Invest in tools and spaces that send us outward with the gospel

ONE FUND EXPLAINED

One Church. One Mission. One Fund.

At Ekklesia, everything we do flows from one mission: to love, lead, and launch people for Jesus. That's why Game Changer is built on a One Fund model.

Instead of separating “regular giving” from “campaign giving,” the One Fund unites everything into one vision. Every dollar given over the next two years goes into a single fund that fuels:

- All of our current ministries (worship, discipleship, outreach, missions).
- All of our new Game Changer initiatives (local impact, global missions, expansion, future growth).

This means when you give to Ekklesia, you are giving to all of it.

One offering. One mission. One body moving forward together.

WHY ONE FUND?

✓ SIMPLICITY

You don't have to choose between "tithe" and "campaign." Every gift counts toward God's mission.

✓ UNITY

We are one church with one vision, not divided projects competing for resources.

✓ CLARITY

All giving fuels discipleship, mission, and expansion — nothing is set aside or left out.

✓ DISCIPLESHIP

The focus is on our hearts and our obedience, not just a dollar figure.

Q: Does this replace my tithe?

No. Game Changer includes our regular giving (tithes) and the expanded giving we believe God is calling us into for the next two years.

Q: What if I already give faithfully?

We're asking you to pray about taking your next step. For some, that means giving for the first time. For others, it means increasing or stretching their generosity.

Q: What if I can't give a large amount?

This is about engagement, not equal amounts. If 100% of us take our next step, God will multiply the outcome.

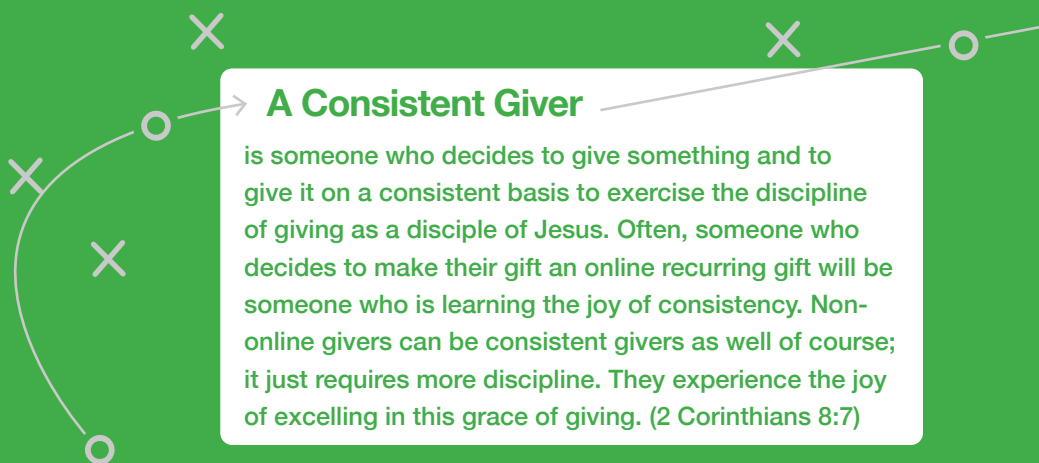
Q: What happens after the two years?

Your commitment fuels ministry for this two-year season. Beyond that, our prayer is that generosity becomes a lifestyle, not just a campaign.

Everyone has a next step. What's yours?

**Generosity is not about equal gifts
but about equal sacrifice.**

Each of us is at a different place in our journey of giving—and each of us has a next step. Game Changer is an invitation for every person at Ekklesia to move forward in faith.



A Consistent Giver

is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the joy of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well of course; it just requires more discipline. They experience the joy of excelling in this grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7)

An Initial Giver

is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift. They experience the initial joy of putting Jesus' words into action. (Matthew 7:24)

An Eternal Giver

is someone who sees the eternal impact of their giving—on them and on others—not just the immediate programs and ministries it helps accomplish. This giver has been captivated by the knowledge that the more they are led to “do good, to be generous and ready to share,” the more they “take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:19). This encourages them to keep growing! They make all decisions (big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, areas of service) in light of how it will affect their eternal impact.

A Priority Giver

is someone who understands the pre-eminence of Christ and that He is before all things—that all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him, and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and their saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving. They experience the freedom of serving “one master” and declaring Jesus is first. (Matthew 6:19-24 and Colossians 1:15-20)

A Surrendered Giver

is someone who recognizes that Christ surrendered His whole self for us, and therefore we desire to surrender our whole selves to Him, in love (Ephesians 5:1-2). This giver would say, “My giving is not just changing my spending and saving. It’s also changing me!” They also look at what they’re not giving away and ask, “Is it surrendered too?” This informs how they use everything they’ve been blessed and entrusted with—whether that be through direct monetary giving or through a God-honoring use of an existing resource (i.e. honoring God with the use of your home, etc.).

Two-Year Gift Chart

As you pray and seek God's guidance on your giving during this time, let this gift chart serve as a discipleship tool. May it inspire and challenge you to step into greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom as we commit to giving our all for Him.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$500,000
1	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$250,000
2	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$300,000
2	\$125,000	\$62,500	\$5,208	\$250,000
4	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$400,000
7	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$525,000
8	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$520,000
12	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$600,000
20	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$700,000
25	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$625,000
30	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$450,000
40	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$400,000
50	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$375,000
65	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$325,000
Many	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$280,000
TOTAL GOAL: \$6,500,000				

Commitment Card Sample

On Commitment Sunday, our entire church family will gather to make commitments for the next two years of Game Changer. This will be a defining moment in our story—not because of numbers on a page, but because of hearts fully surrendered to God’s mission.

Use this Commitment Card sample below to help you prayerfully consider what level of generosity God is calling you as a game changer. You’ll get a fresh, new card to fill out on that day.

GO ALL IN

\$

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

+

\$

My/Our expanded annual generosity as
part of the Game Changer initiative

=

\$

x 2 years

\$

Gifts from my/our stored resources
(savings, stock, property, possessions, etc.)

+

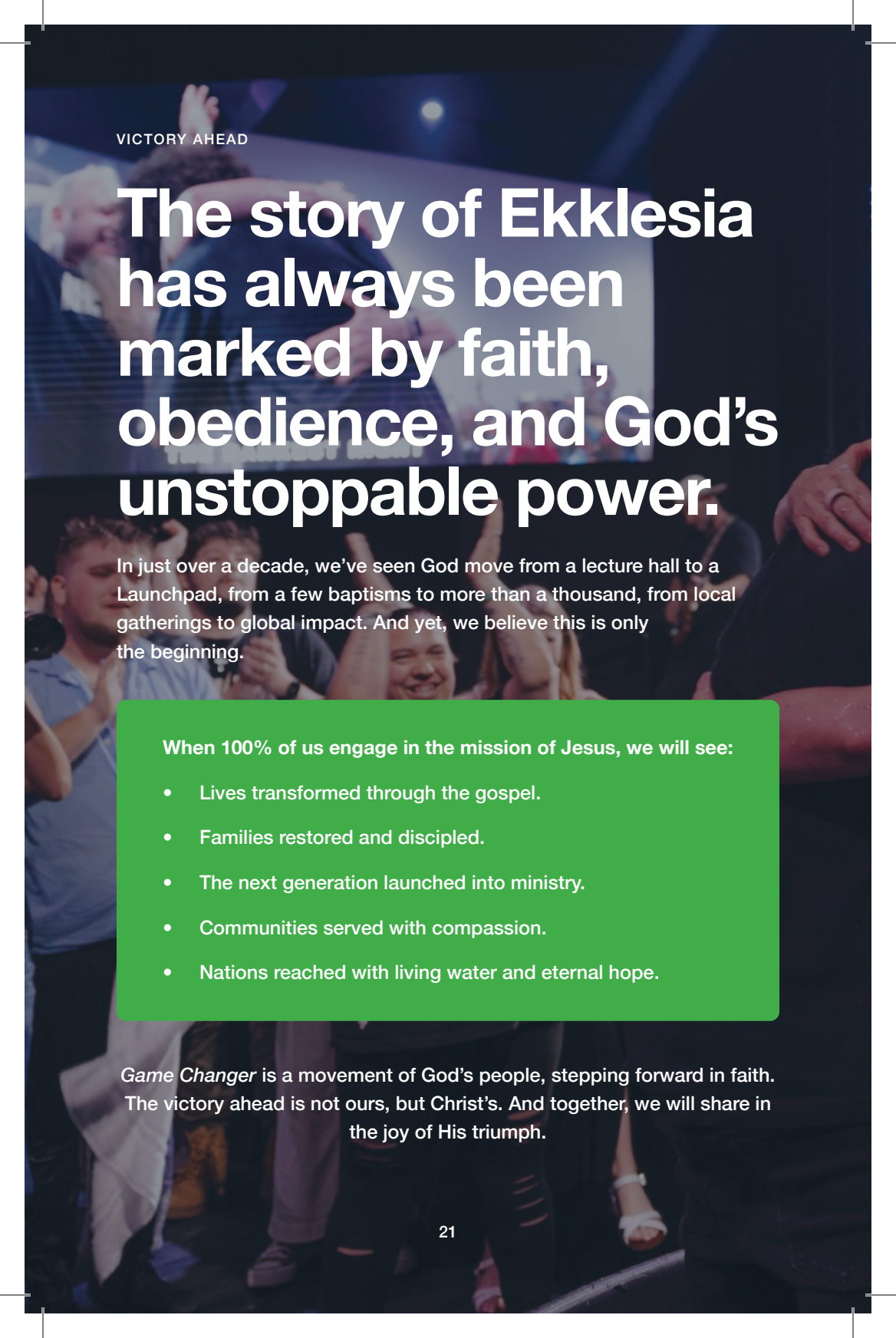
\$

MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR COMMITMENT

\$

DECEMBER 2025 — DECEMBER 2027

COMMITMENT SUNDAY
November 16



VICTORY AHEAD

The story of Ekklesia has always been marked by faith, obedience, and God's unstoppable power.

In just over a decade, we've seen God move from a lecture hall to a Launchpad, from a few baptisms to more than a thousand, from local gatherings to global impact. And yet, we believe this is only the beginning.

When 100% of us engage in the mission of Jesus, we will see:

- Lives transformed through the gospel.
- Families restored and disciplined.
- The next generation launched into ministry.
- Communities served with compassion.
- Nations reached with living water and eternal hope.

Game Changer is a movement of God's people, stepping forward in faith. The victory ahead is not ours, but Christ's. And together, we will share in the joy of His triumph.



WHAT'S NEXT

So How Do You Engage in Game Changer?

Here's the pathway for every person at Ekklesia:

ASK

God to show you your next step in this initiative, spiritually and practically.

TRUST

that God will provide what you need to follow Him with boldness.

RESPOND

with generosity and obedience, using your time, talents, and treasure for eternal impact.

PRAY

for Ekklesia, your family, and our community to experience transformation through this movement.

#getinthegame

KEY DATES

Mark Your Calendar

GAME CHANGER SERMON SERIES

October 19 — November 16

9AM & 11AM

ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT

November 7

7:30PM

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 16

9AM & 11AM

GAME CHANGER

EXPAND – EQUIP – PREPARE

A 6-WEEK JOURNEY OF FAITH AND GENEROSITY

Series Playbook

Each week aligns with the sermon theme. Every day, we invite you to read Scripture, reflect on God's Word, and pray.

OCTOBER 19

Week 1

Game Changer

OCTOBER 26

Week 2

Engagement

NOVEMBER 2

Week 3

Generosity

NOVEMBER 9

Week 4

Trust

NOVEMBER 16

Week 5

Surrender

NOVEMBER 23

Week 6

Victory

Family Experience: A Legacy of Faith

We believe God wants to use Game Changer not only to grow our church, but also to shape the next generation. That's why families will be equipped with resources to walk through this journey together.

For Kids

- Game Changer Kids Devotional—A simple weekly guide with Bible verses, prayers, and activities.
- Generosity Jar—A fun way to save and give as a family.
- Prayer Prompts—Child-friendly cards to help them pray for the church and the world.

For Students

- Youth Group Integration—Weekly conversations that align with the adult sermon series.
- Personal Commitments—Encouraging students to make their own giving or serving commitments.
- Faith in Action Projects—Opportunities to serve locally during the campaign.

For Families Together

- Table Talk Questions—Conversation starters for parents and kids.
- Family Worship Nights—Engaging all ages in prayer and worship at home.
- Commitment Together—Parents and kids bringing their cards side by side on Commitment Weekend.

Game Changer is not just for adults—it is for the whole family. When kids and students learn generosity, prayer, and obedience now, they carry it for life. This is the legacy we want to pass on.

WEEK 1: GAME CHANGER

Sermon Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

God can do immeasurably more.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 3:20

**Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine, according to his power that is at
work within us.**

WEEKLY RECAP

From the beginning, God's plan has been for His people to change the world. Jesus prayed that His followers would live in unity so that the world would believe (John 17:20–23). Scripture reminds us that in Christ we already have the victory—through His death, resurrection, and promised return (1 John 5:1–5, 1 Corinthians 15:57–58).

But this victory isn't something we wait for someday in heaven—it's something we live in now. To be a "game changer" is to step into God's mission with faith, courage, and hope for a broken world. This week we will remember the victory we already have in Christ, expect the promises He's given us, and commit to living as the answer to Jesus' prayer.

Day 1 — Victory Is Already Won

Read: 1 John 5:1–5

REFLECTION:

The world measures victory by achievement, money, or status. But John reminds us that real victory comes through faith in Jesus Christ. No matter what opposition we face, our faith overcomes the world because it is rooted in the One who already conquered sin and death.

APPLICATION: Live today with the confidence that you are already victorious in Christ.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You that in Jesus I already have victory. Help me walk today with boldness and hope.

Day 2 — Living in Resurrection Power

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:20–28

REFLECTION:

Jesus' resurrection wasn't just a miracle of the past—it is the guarantee of our future and the power for our present. His victory over death means our faith isn't in vain. When we live surrendered to Him, our lives become a testimony of resurrection power in action.

APPLICATION: Ask God to show you one place in your life where you need to live in resurrection hope instead of fear.

PRAYER: Jesus, thank You for conquering death. Bring resurrection power into my fears and struggles today.

Day 3 — Standing Firm in the Struggle

Read: [1 Corinthians 15:57–58](#)

REFLECTION:

Victory doesn't mean we won't struggle. But it does mean that our work in Christ is never wasted. Paul urges us to stand firm, always giving ourselves fully to God's mission. When we stay faithful—even in difficulty—we trust that God is multiplying our obedience for eternal impact.

APPLICATION: Commit one specific action today to God's work—serving, encouraging, or giving—knowing it matters for eternity.

PRAYER: Father, help me stand firm in faith and serve You wholeheartedly, trusting that nothing I do in You is wasted.

Day 4 — Promises for the Overcomer

Read: [Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26–29; 3:4–6, 21–22](#)

REFLECTION:

Revelation reminds us that God has eternal promises for those who overcome. The reward of victory is not temporary success but eternal life, belonging, and authority with Christ. Every sacrifice we make now is preparing us for a greater inheritance.

APPLICATION: Reflect on one of God's promises for overcomers. Write it down and keep it before you this week.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for the promises You've given to those who overcome. Help me hold fast to them with endurance.

Day 5 — The Invitation to Believe

Read: 1 John 5:6–12

REFLECTION:

At the heart of victory is an invitation—to believe in the Son of God. Eternal life is not found in what we achieve, but in who we receive. The testimony of the Spirit, the water, and the blood all point us to one truth: real life is found in Jesus alone.

APPLICATION: If you've never surrendered to Jesus, take that step today. If you already believe, invite someone else into the victory you've found.

PRAYER: Jesus, I believe that life is in You. Help me walk in that truth and share it with others.

End-of-Week Reflection Prompt:

How would your daily life change if you lived every moment as though victory was already secured in Jesus?

Sermon Notes

[illegible]

Every part matters.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 3:20

**Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine, according to his power that is at
work within us.**

WEEKLY RECAP

Last week, we learned that victory is already ours in Christ. But how do we live that victory out together? The first step is **engagement**.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that the church is one body made up of many parts, and each part has a role to play. Unity is not uniformity—God has uniquely designed every believer to contribute to His mission.

When we disengage, the whole body suffers. When we step in, the whole body thrives. From praying faithfully to serving quietly, from giving generously to encouraging consistently—every step matters. Jesus prayed in John 17 that His people would be one, and the book of Acts shows us what happens when God's people live this out: unstoppable impact.

This week we'll explore what it means for every believer to be engaged—no one on the sidelines, no one left behind.

Day 1 — One Body, Many Parts

Read: [1 Corinthians 12:12–20](#)

REFLECTION:

We often compare ourselves to others and think our contribution doesn't matter. But Paul makes it clear: if one part of the body is missing, the whole suffers. God placed each member exactly where He wanted them. Your presence and your part are essential to the health of the church.

APPLICATION: Identify one way you can use your unique gifts this week to serve the body of Christ.

PRAYER: Father, thank You for making me a needed part of Your body. Show me how I can use my gifts to serve.

Day 2 — United in Christ's Prayer

Read: [John 17:20–23](#)

REFLECTION:

Jesus prayed for us before we were even born—that we would be one so the world would know Him. Our unity isn't just about getting along—it's about making the gospel believable. Division weakens our witness, but unity shows the world that Jesus is alive.

APPLICATION: Take one step toward reconciliation or unity this week—encourage someone, forgive someone, or build a bridge.

PRAYER: Jesus, make me an answer to Your prayer. Help me live in unity with my brothers and sisters so the world will see You.

Day 3 — The Power of Together

Read: Acts 2:42–47

REFLECTION:

The early church was unstoppable because they were fully engaged together—in teaching, fellowship, prayer, generosity, and worship. As a result, God added to their number daily. Engagement multiplies impact. When we lean in together, we create a movement of transformation.

APPLICATION: Join one communal practice this week—Bible study, prayer gathering, serving team, or meal with other believers.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for the example of the early church. Help me lean into community so I don't miss what You are doing.

Day 4 — Breaking Excuses

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:10

REFLECTION:

One of the biggest barriers to engagement is the lie that “I don't have enough to offer.” But Paul urges us to agree together and avoid divisions. God doesn't call us to be perfect; He calls us to be faithful. Whether you're a talker or a listener, a leader or a servant, your role matters.

APPLICATION: Write down one excuse you've believed about why you can't make a difference. Then write God's truth to replace it.

PRAYER: God, forgive me for listening to excuses that keep me sidelined. Help me step into the part You've given me with confidence.

Day 5 — Fully Engaged, Fully Alive

Read: Ephesians 3:20–21

REFLECTION:

Engagement isn't about doing more—it's about trusting God to do more through us. When each person takes their next step, big or small, the whole body comes alive. Anything closer to Jesus is farther from hell. That's the power of engagement.

APPLICATION: Commit your next step today—praying, serving, giving, encouraging. Don't wait for perfect conditions. Just begin.

PRAYER: Lord, I believe You can do more through me than I can imagine. Help me take my next step with faith.

End-of-Week Reflection Prompts:

Where have I been “on the bench” spiritually? What's holding me back from engaging?

Who in my life needs encouragement to take their next step, and how can I help them?

How would my church look different if every single person engaged in prayer, serving, and giving?

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY

Sermon Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Freedom through faithful giving.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7

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.

WEEKLY RECAP

Anything powerful enough to do great good also has the potential to do great harm. Money is one of those things. In the hands of a surrendered heart, money fuels ministry, serves the poor, and advances the gospel. But in the wrong place, it can control us, divide us, and even become a false god.

Jesus spoke directly about money—not because He wanted people's wealth, but because He wanted their hearts. From the rich young ruler (Mark 10) to the widow's mite (Mark 12:41–44), we see that what matters most is not the amount we give but the posture of our hearts.

Generosity is not God's way of taking from us—it's His way of freeing us. This week we'll learn how giving loosens money's grip, builds kingdom impact, and transforms us from consumers into contributors.

Day 1 — Where Your Treasure Is

Read: [Matthew 6:19–21](#)

REFLECTION:

Jesus warns us that our hearts follow our treasure. Money reveals what we trust most. If our treasure is stored up in earthly things, our hearts will always be anxious, defensive, and self-protective. But when we invest in God's kingdom, our hearts align with His mission.

APPLICATION: Review your last month of spending. What does it say about your heart?

PRAYER: Lord, show me where I've put my treasure in things that won't last. Help me invest in what matters to You.

Day 2 — Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler

Read: [Mark 10:17–27](#)

REFLECTION:

The rich young ruler thought he was close to eternal life because of his obedience. But when Jesus asked him to release his wealth, he walked away sad. Jesus didn't want his money—He wanted his heart. The man's wealth revealed the one area he wouldn't surrender.

APPLICATION: Ask yourself: If Jesus asked me to release something today, what would be hardest for me to let go of?

PRAYER: Jesus, I don't want to hold anything back from You. Help me surrender fully, even in the areas I've clung to most tightly.

Day 3 — The Widow's Mite

Read: [Mark 12:41–44](#)

REFLECTION:

The widow gave two small coins, and Jesus praised her above all the wealthy donors. Why? Because she gave all she had, trusting God completely. In God's economy, the size of the gift matters less than the size of the faith behind it.

APPLICATION: Don't measure your giving by what others can do. Instead, ask God to lead you to generosity that stretches your faith.

PRAYER: Father, give me the faith of the widow—to trust You enough to give even when it feels small.

Day 4 — Freedom From Money's Grip

Read: [Matthew 23:23–24](#); [Luke 19:1–10](#)

REFLECTION:

Jesus didn't condemn tithing—He condemned empty tithing that ignored people in need. Generosity is meant to be both worship and compassion. Zacchaeus shows us this: once transformed by Jesus, he didn't just give—he gave sacrificially and joyfully. Generosity is freedom from money's control.

APPLICATION: What step of generosity could you take this week that demonstrates freedom from money's grip?

PRAYER: God, free me from the lie that money can provide security or identity. I trust You as my provider.

Day 5 — One Gift, Many Impacts

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6–11

REFLECTION:

Paul reminds us that generosity multiplies. What may feel small to us becomes abundant in God's hands. The widow's mite, Zacchaeus' restitution, even your faithful tithe—all are joined with others to become one powerful gift for kingdom impact.

APPLICATION: Pray over your next step of generosity. Whether it's first-time giving, consistent tithing, or above-and-beyond sacrifice, ask God to use it for His glory.

PRAYER: Lord, take my gift and multiply it. Use it to meet needs, spread the gospel, and free me to live joyfully in Your provision.

End-of-Week Reflection Prompts:

What has money promised me that only God can truly provide?

How has fear, guilt, or past hurt shaped my view of giving?

What would it look like for my generosity to move from *duty* to *delight*?

Write a prayer of surrender specifically about money, asking God to realign your heart.

WEEK 4: TRUST

Sermon Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Trusting God, ourselves, and others.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

WEEKLY RECAP

Trust is the glue of relationships—with God, with ourselves, and with others. But it's also one of the hardest things to give. We've all been let down, and we've all let others down.

The Bible is full of stories of people wrestling with trust. Jonah didn't trust God's plan for Nineveh. The disciples abandoned Jesus in His most painful hour. And yet, through every betrayal and failure, God proves Himself faithful.

This week we'll lean into what it means to trust God even when life doesn't make sense, to trust His grace even when we fail ourselves, and to trust others even though relationships are risky. Trust is not naïve—it's courageous faith.

A TESTIMONY OF TRUST

Over the years, growing up in the church, I always believed in tithing and practiced it in some form. When I entered the insurance business five years ago and became financially stable, I knew giving was important, but I chose to do it on my own terms. I wanted to give directly to people rather than through the church. Looking back, I see that it was an issue of control and trust.

Then, a little over a year ago, everything I had built in my insurance business was stolen overnight. My income stopped and years of work were gone in an instant. I was left wondering what to do next. Thankfully, I found another company and began the process of rebuilding.

During that same season, Tina began sharing her Sunday morning messages on tithing. Her words stirred something in me.

“I realized I had been withholding from God. He had blessed me, yet I had not honored Him. I came to understand that just as quickly as He gives, He can take away. That realization shook me.”

I made the decision to begin giving faithfully, setting aside my tithe even when I felt like I could not afford it. At times it felt like I was giving from a deficit, but I knew I needed to obey. Within months, something remarkable happened. Many of the people I had trained began transferring their contracts to join me again. Anyone in the insurance industry knows how rare that is, yet God made it possible.

Now, a year later, my giving has remained consistent, and God has restored my business. Not only has He rebuilt what I lost, but He has expanded it beyond what it was before. All glory belongs to God. I am thankful for the second chance and for the lesson that everything I have is His to entrust.

—MIKE CURRY

Day 1 — Trusting God When It Doesn't Make Sense

Read: [Jonah 4:1–11](#); [James 1:13–18](#)

REFLECTION:

Jonah grew angry when God forgave people he didn't think deserved mercy. Sometimes our distrust of God comes from unmet expectations—when He doesn't act the way we think He should. But God is faithful, even when His ways don't fit our categories.

APPLICATION: Where have you been disappointed with God? Write it down, then pray honestly about it.

PRAYER: Lord, I confess that I don't always understand Your ways. Help me trust that You are good, even when I don't see the full picture.

Day 2 — Trusting God With Myself

Read: [Jeremiah 17:9](#); [Romans 6:11–14](#)

REFLECTION:

Our hearts are deceptive, and our own strength will fail us. But God's grace is bigger than our failures. Trusting Him means refusing to let sin or shame define us, and choosing instead to walk in His Spirit.

APPLICATION: Identify one area where you've been leaning on your own strength. How can you release it to God's grace?

PRAYER: Father, I trust Your grace more than I trust my own strength. Teach me to walk in freedom.

Day 3 — Trusting Others in Community

Read: Galatians 6:1–10; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

REFLECTION:

People will fail you. You will fail people. But God designed us for community anyway. Trust in others isn't about perfection; it's about faith that God works through His body. Together, we are stronger, sharper, and safer.

APPLICATION: Take a relational risk this week—share honestly with someone, offer help, or invite accountability.

PRAYER: Lord, give me courage to trust others and humility to let others trust me.

Day 4 — Trust That Withstands Betrayal

Read: John 13:1–38; Hebrews 12:2

REFLECTION:

Jesus was betrayed, denied, and abandoned by those closest to Him—yet He loved them to the end. True trust is not built on others never failing, but on God's unfailing love working through broken people.

APPLICATION: Who in your life has failed you? Ask God for the strength to forgive and rebuild trust where possible.

PRAYER: Jesus, thank You for trusting the Father even when others failed You. Help me follow Your example.

Day 5 — Trust That Builds Victory

Read: [Hebrews 10:23–25](#); [Proverbs 3:5–12](#)

REFLECTION:

Trust isn't a one-time decision—it's a daily surrender. As we keep showing up, keep leaning in, and keep trusting God's Spirit in us and through others, our faith grows strong. The cord of three strands doesn't break easily. Neither does a church united in trust.

APPLICATION: Write one way you can practice trust daily—in God, yourself, or others.

PRAYER: God, help me to live a life of daily trust, so that my faith and my church are strengthened together.

End-of-Week Reflection Prompts:

What unmet expectation has most tested my trust in God?

In what ways have I failed myself, and how does God's grace redefine those failures?

Who do I need to risk trusting again, even if it's uncomfortable?

WEEK 5: SURRENDER

Sermon Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Laying everything down.

Memory Verse: Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

WEEKLY RECAP

The greatest obstacle to God's power in our lives is our own control. Surrender isn't weakness—it's the key to strength. Romans 12 calls us to lay down our lives as living sacrifices, offering every part of ourselves to God.

Surrender doesn't mean giving up responsibility; it means releasing control to the One who knows us best. When we stop clutching the wheel of our lives and let God direct us, we discover true freedom, purpose, and joy.

This week is all about dying to self daily and allowing Christ to truly be Lord.

When I was asked the question, “How is God calling you to be a game changer?”—what came to mind was this:

God is always reminding me that I am His. I belong to Him. My life, my children—everything I have—is His. He constantly finds ways to show me that He lives inside of me. He reminds me that I’m safe in His arms and that I can give it all to Him. And yet... I still carry weight I do not need to.

I can’t say I’ve fully surrendered every part of my life to Him—not yet. But my journey with Ekklesia started nine years ago. It actually took a few years before I said yes to serving. But I’ll never forget that one discipleship service—something just shifted in my heart, and I felt called to volunteer in the children’s ministry. I started leading the two-year-olds, and honestly, I think they ended up teaching me more than I taught them. I’ve seen how He’s worked on my heart through community, prayer, discipleship, devotion, and discipline. I’m so thankful. Because each year, I can see how I’ve grown... how I’ve surrendered a little more.

Most of my life, I’ve been pretty reserved—reluctant to open up to others. But last year, I stretched myself. I led a women’s table at Bible study and at our women’s conference. I never, ever would have imagined myself doing that. But I did—and it changed me.

I also used to tithe “when I could.” It was off and on. But now, nine years later, I can say that I’ve fully surrendered in that area. I’m a recurring tither. And as a single mother, that wasn’t easy—but Good always makes a way.

Honestly, I could go on and on about how God has blessed me each time I’ve surrendered something. I can see His hand over my life. I can feel His presence in my family. But if I shared it all, we’d be here all day and I might end up writing a book! I think about this often: If He’s already shown me this much love without full surrender... how much more will He do in and through my life with full surrender?

I’m just so grateful—for this journey, for Ekklesia, and for all the people here who are so committed to meeting others where they are, loving them, and leading them into real growth.

—JAYDE BARBER

Day 1 — A Living Sacrifice

Read: [Romans 12:1–2](#)

REFLECTION:

Paul urges us to offer our whole selves as living sacrifices. Surrender isn't a one-time act—it's daily worship. Transformation begins when we stop conforming to the world and let God renew our minds.

APPLICATION: Write one area of your life where you've been resisting surrender. Offer it to God in prayer today.

PRAYER: Lord, take my life as a living sacrifice. Transform my mind so I may live fully for You.

Day 2 — Daily Cross-Carrying

Read: [Luke 9:23–26](#)

REFLECTION:

Jesus says to follow Him, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and walk in His steps. Following Jesus isn't about comfort—it's about surrender. It's costly, but it leads to eternal reward.

APPLICATION: What “cross” is God asking you to carry today—an act of obedience, humility, or sacrifice?

PRAYER: Jesus, help me lay down my pride and take up my cross each day with joy.

Day 3 — Letting Go of Control

Read: Proverbs 3:5–12

REFLECTION:

We often trust God with words but cling to control in practice. Trusting Him means submitting our ways, even when we don't understand. Surrender is about who drives, not who rides along.

APPLICATION: Journal one situation where you've tried to keep control. What would it look like to fully trust God with it?

PRAYER: Father, forgive me for holding back control. I release this situation into Your hands.

Day 4 — Freedom Through Death to Self

Read: Romans 6:6–14

REFLECTION:

Paul teaches that our old self was crucified with Christ so that we no longer serve sin. True freedom comes when we surrender self-rule and live under Christ's reign. Dying to self leads to resurrection life.

APPLICATION: Write a prayer of release—naming the habits, fears, or idols you need to let die in order to live free in Christ.

PRAYER: Lord, help me die to myself so that Your life can flow fully in me.

Day 5 — Worship Through Surrender

Read: [Romans 12:9–21](#)

REFLECTION:

Paul describes surrendered living: genuine love, radical hospitality, blessing our enemies, and overcoming evil with good. Surrender isn't just personal—it transforms how we treat others and how the world sees Jesus in us.

APPLICATION: Choose one action of radical surrender this week—serve someone inconveniently, forgive an offense, or give sacrificially.

PRAYER: Jesus, make my life a reflection of Your surrendered love. May others see You through me.

End-of-Week Reflection Prompts:

What is hardest for me to surrender—time, money, control, reputation, comfort? Why?

What fears surface when I consider surrendering fully to God?

How might my relationships change if I truly surrendered my pride or preferences?

Write a “surrender prayer” that begins, “Lord, I lay down...” and fill it with specifics.

WEEK 6: VICTORY

Sermon Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Living in Christ's victory.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY RECAP

Victory isn't just something we hope for in heaven—it's something we taste here and now. Every step of engagement, trust, surrender, and generosity leads us to witness God's power breaking through in real lives, real families, and real communities.

Victory doesn't mean an absence of conflict—it means Christ has already won.

Through His death and resurrection, He secured eternal life for us, forgiveness of sin, and the promise that no struggle is wasted. As a church, we walk in that victory together.

This week, we look back in gratitude for what God has done, and we look ahead in expectation for what He will do as we continue to live as Game Changers.

A TESTIMONY OF VICTORY

Linda and I first came to Ekklesia in December 2018 (on Ugly Christmas Sweater Day!). From day one, we felt the love and friendliness that we had not experienced at other churches.

As we have grown in our walk with the Lord, we have seen works in our lives that only His grace made possible.

In the last six years, as we have trusted in God's plan and have continued to tithe, we have experienced so many blessings—especially this past year.

The recent "Vision Nights" presentations and "Game Changer" sermon have caused us to be more committed in both our giving and participation.

This Ekklesia family—its members and especially our pastors—are committed to their core values based on the Word. The message "Take One Step" is such a small yet powerful challenge. We will take two or more steps, trusting in God that our lives are according to His plan, and we walk by faith, not by sight.

—DON VISINTAINER

Day 1 — Endurance That Leads to Victory

Read: [Hebrews 10:36–39](#)

REFLECTION:

Victory is not for the faint of heart. We need endurance to do God's will and receive what He has promised. The Christian life isn't a sprint—it's a race of perseverance.

APPLICATION: What area of your life requires patient endurance right now? Journal about how God's promises fuel your perseverance.

PRAYER: Lord, strengthen me to endure so I may see the victory You have promised.

Day 2 — Heaven Rejoices Over One

Read: [Luke 15:1–7](#)

REFLECTION:

All of heaven celebrates when one sinner repents. Victory isn't measured by numbers or accomplishments—it's in lives changed, one at a time. Every testimony is a reason for heaven's celebration.

APPLICATION: Write the name of someone you're praying will come to know Christ. Commit to pray faithfully this week for their salvation.

PRAYER: Jesus, thank You for rejoicing over each lost one who is found. Use me to help bring someone home to You.

Day 3 — Love Covers Over a Multitude of Sins

Read: 1 Peter 4:7–11

REFLECTION:

Victory often comes through love—love that forgives, serves, and covers sin. The church’s greatest witness isn’t perfect people but redeemed people who live with grace.

APPLICATION: Who in your life needs to experience your love and forgiveness this week?

PRAYER: Father, help me extend love that covers wrongs, just as You have loved and forgiven me.

Day 4 — Joy in Restoration

Read: James 5:19–20

REFLECTION:

When someone turns back from wandering, it saves them from death and covers a multitude of sins. Restoring people to God and community is one of the church’s greatest victories.

APPLICATION: Reflect on someone you’ve seen restored in Christ. How has their story strengthened your faith?

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for the gift of restoration. Use me as an instrument to help bring others back to You.

Day 5 — Living in Victory Together

Read: [1 Corinthians 15:57–58](#)

REFLECTION:

Victory is ours through Christ. But Paul reminds us: this victory isn't passive—it fuels steadfastness and faithful work. Because Jesus has won, we don't labor in vain. Every act of faith, love, generosity, and service has eternal significance.

APPLICATION: Write down one victory you've already experienced during this Game Changer journey. Then write one area where you're still asking God to bring breakthrough.

PRAYER: God, thank You for victory through Jesus. Help me live steadfast and immovable, fully engaged in the work of Your kingdom.

End-of-Week Reflection Prompts:

How have I already seen God's victory in my own life during this series?

What testimonies from others have most encouraged me?

Where do I still need to hold onto the promise of victory even though the battle isn't over yet?

Write a prayer of thanksgiving, naming specific victories you've seen in your family, church, or community.

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a dark jersey with 'A-TEAM' and the number '88' in white. Their arms are raised in the air. They are in a crowd of other people, some also wearing 'A-TEAM' jerseys. The scene is lit with green stage lights, with beams of light visible in the background.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our
Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers,
be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the
Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57-58



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