

ABOUND

May the God of hope fill you...that you may *abound in hope.*

ROMANS 15:13

CLEARCREEK.ORG/ABOUND

Abound Series Guide
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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

In 1993, a group of families launched out in faith to establish a new church in the Bay Area of Houston. We devoted our time, money, talents, and spiritual gifts to start a church with the mission to help our family and friends experience the love of God in Christ and the beauty of life together in the church. And by God's grace, it worked.

Today, we are one church with six campuses. Over 10,000 adults, students, and children call Clear Creek Community Church home. And through the years, we have grown in our capacity to serve others in Greater Houston and around the world through partnering to plant more than 450 churches.

But we're not done. Because there is so much more to do.

This is why we are launching **Abound**—a two-year discipleship journey to help each of us grow as a disciple of Jesus and to help all of us fund the next season of God's work through his church.

Like me, and like every member of my family, you have a story of how Clear Creek has impacted your relationship with Christ. More than 4,400 people at Clear Creek have stories that include their baptism. They came to faith in Jesus here. Thousands of others have stories of other ways that God has changed their lives. *Abound* will allow us to multiply stories like yours at home and all around the world.

I hope you will join me for this journey. Together, we will abound!

GRACE AND PEACE,

Bruce Wesley



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WHERE WE'VE BEEN

A HISTORY OF GOD'S *Goodness*

A Place to Call Home

The people of Clear Creek Community Church, now a healthy congregation, sacrificed time and resources over the next three years to see the mission of the church expand.

Throughout *Seeds of Faith* and *Possess Our Land*, Clear Creek attenders prayerfully pledged over $700,000.

Using unexpected people and circumstances, God answered the church's prayer and provided the right land at an unbelievable price. After closing on the Egret Bay land in August of 1997, through God's provision and the congregation's obedient generosity, the land was paid in full roughly one year later.



CLEAR CREEK IS BORN

1993

Clear Creek Is Born

God called a small group of people to leave the comfort of their established churches and start something new, with a mission to lead unchurched people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

POSSESS OUR LAND

1996

Growing Commitment

On March 5, 2000, a special commitment service was held on Clear Creek's own land, where 312 families committed to give $2.8 million over three years to fund a new building in the hopes of further reaching the community.

With the new building, attendance quickly doubled and continued to grow over the next five years, requiring creative reworking of the auditorium and the addition of more buildings on site.

1999 — FIRST GLOBAL CHURCH PLANTING TRIP

2002 — EGRET BAY BUILDING

2003 — CELEBRATED 10 YEARS

2006 — CLEAR CREEK 2.0

Clear Creek 2.0

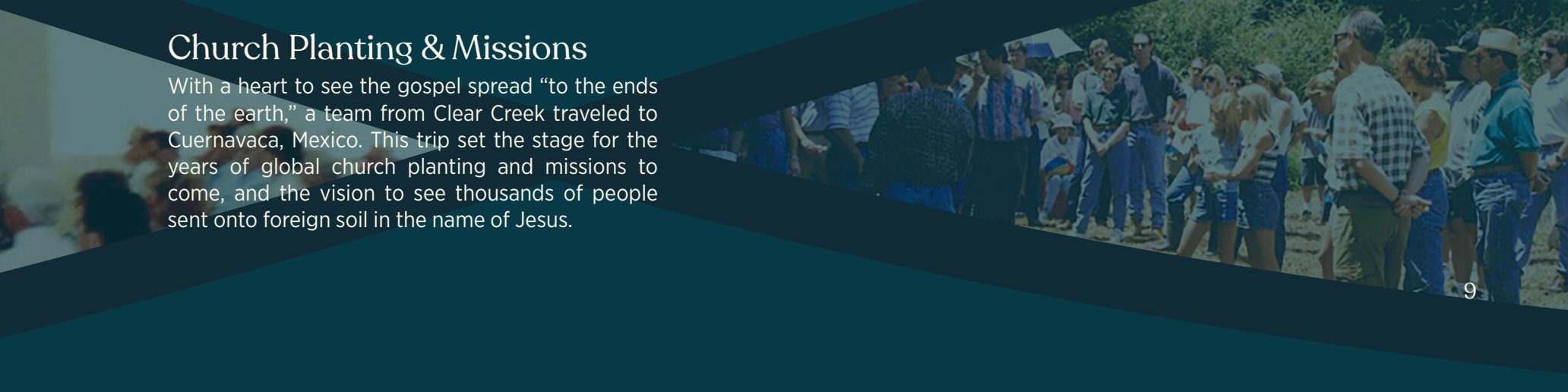
With continued growth, new data, and renewed focus, the church's elders made a defining decision: Clear Creek would become one church meeting in multiple locations.

Throughout another two-year effort, 626 generous families trusted God to move again by giving $4.9 million.

And he did.

Church Planting & Missions

With a heart to see the gospel spread "to the ends of the earth," a team from Clear Creek traveled to Cuernavaca, Mexico. This trip set the stage for the years of global church planting and missions to come, and the vision to see thousands of people sent onto foreign soil in the name of Jesus.



528 CAMPUS

2008

CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

2009

A People Not A Place

With the first campus established on Egret Bay Boulevard, Clear Creek launched its second campus (now called 528) on the west side of I-45 inside Clear Springs High School. Despite setbacks and location changes, people continued to faithfully show up and serve, and God continued to bless the vision.

Church Has Left the Building

In the spring of 2009, Clear Creek devoted an entire Sunday to serving the community through an event called *Church Has Left the Building*. Rather than gathering for services that Sunday, the congregation spent the day serving neighbors in Jesus' name.

Because of the belief that the Church is a people, not a place, Clear Creek has continued this event through what is now called *The Hope Initiative*.

255 PEOPLE BAPTIZED IN ONE DAY

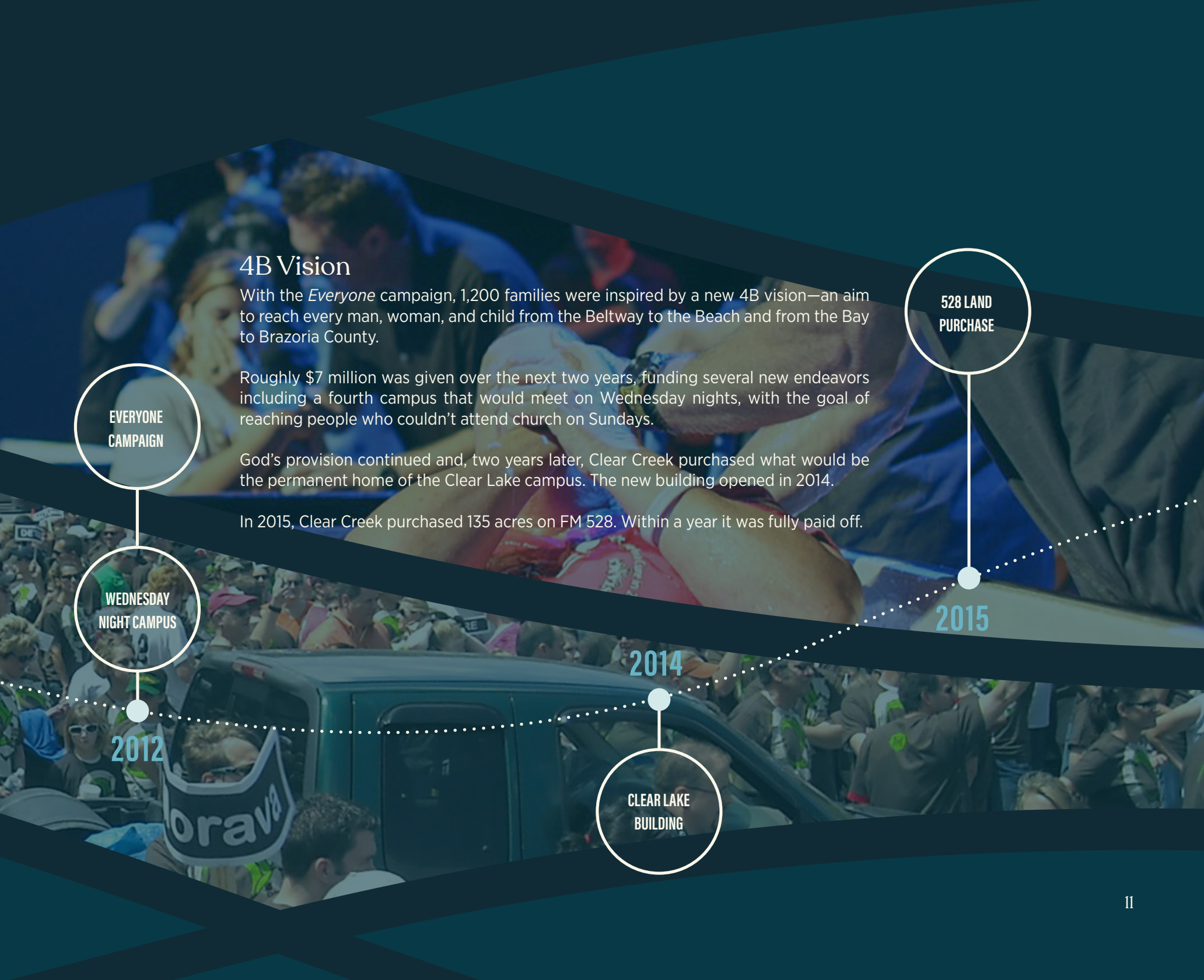
CLEAR LAKE CAMPUS

2011

Top 5

For months, the people of Clear Creek had prayed for the five people in their lives they most wanted to come to know Jesus (Top 5), and studied the importance of believer's baptism. On September 4, 2011, God answered those prayers when 255 people were baptized in one awe-inspiring day.

That same year, Clear Creek's third campus, the Clear Lake campus, launched inside Clear Lake High School.



4B Vision

With the *Everyone* campaign, 1,200 families were inspired by a new 4B vision—an aim to reach every man, woman, and child from the Beltway to the Beach and from the Bay to Brazoria County.

Roughly $7 million was given over the next two years, funding several new endeavors including a fourth campus that would meet on Wednesday nights, with the goal of reaching people who couldn't attend church on Sundays.

God's provision continued and, two years later, Clear Creek purchased what would be the permanent home of the Clear Lake campus. The new building opened in 2014.

In 2015, Clear Creek purchased 135 acres on FM 528. Within a year it was fully paid off.

EVERYONE CAMPAIGN

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CAMPUS

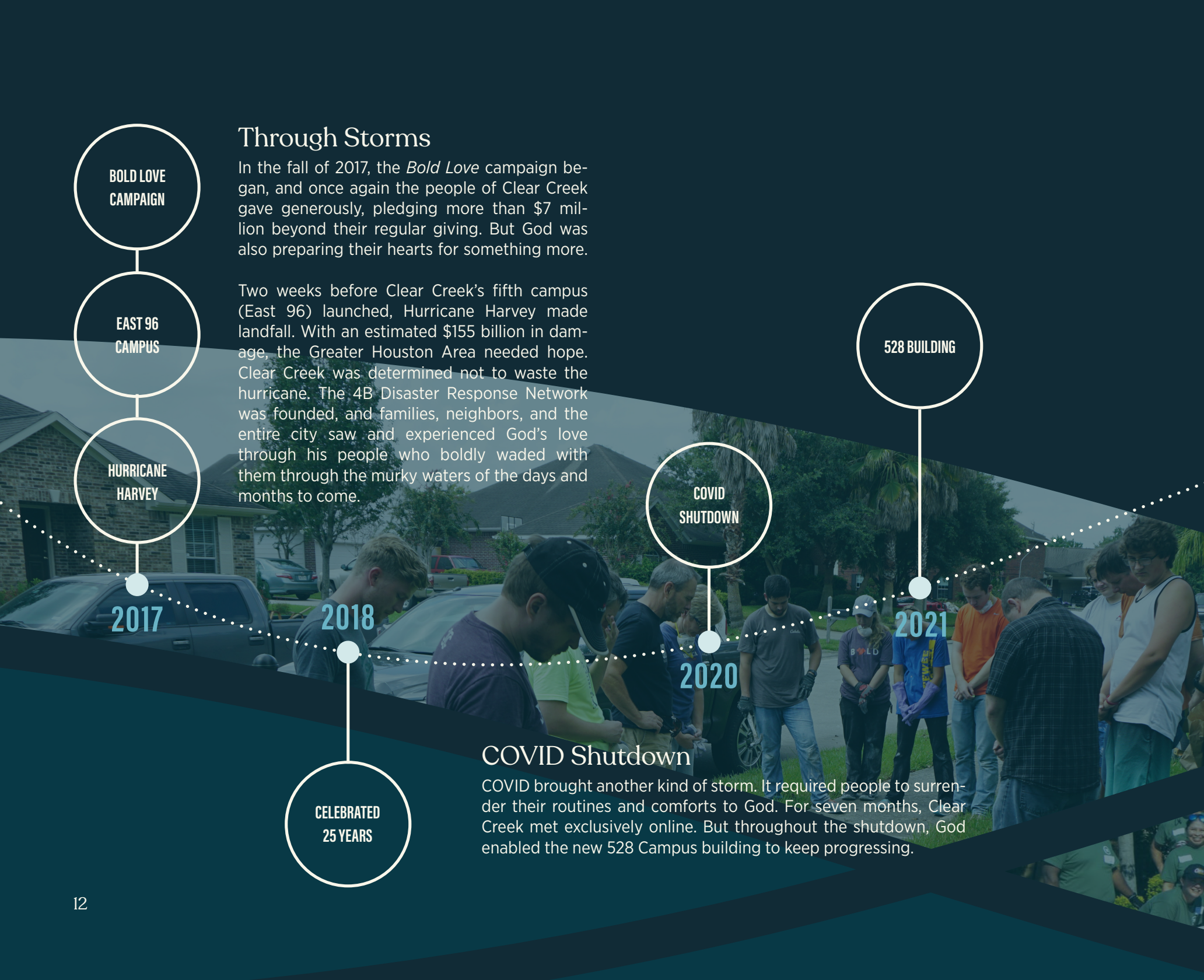
2012

2014

CLEAR LAKE BUILDING

2015

528 LAND PURCHASE



Through Storms

In the fall of 2017, the *Bold Love* campaign began, and once again the people of Clear Creek gave generously, pledging more than $7 million beyond their regular giving. But God was also preparing their hearts for something more.

Two weeks before Clear Creek's fifth campus (East 96) launched, Hurricane Harvey made landfall. With an estimated $155 billion in damage, the Greater Houston Area needed hope. Clear Creek was determined not to waste the hurricane. The 4B Disaster Response Network was founded, and families, neighbors, and the entire city saw and experienced God's love through his people who boldly waded with them through the murky waters of the days and months to come.

COVID Shutdown

COVID brought another kind of storm. It required people to surrender their routines and comforts to God. For seven months, Clear Creek met exclusively online. But throughout the shutdown, God enabled the new 528 Campus building to keep progressing.

2023

CELEBRATED 30 YEARS

A PEOPLE OF HOPE

2025

228 PEOPLE BAPTIZED ON EASTER

2026

EAST 96 BUILDING

517 CAMPUS



A People of Hope

In 2023, the five-year vision called *A People of Hope* began, calling people to fully surrender their hearts to God so they could live more fully devoted to Jesus and cast hope to the world around them.

Through surrendered hearts, God provided the means to grow and paved the way for Clear Creek's sixth campus.

Within just a few weeks of each other, the 517 campus held its first public service and the East 96 campus moved into its brand new building, welcoming more than 2,000 people on opening weekend.

WHERE WE ARE
BY THE *Numbers*

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

EVERY
Number
HAS A NAME

EVERY
Name
HAS A STORY

EVERY
Story
MATTERS TO GOD

6,400+ CURRENT AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

Across six campuses in what we call the 4B Area—the beltway to the beach, and the bay to Brazoria County.



Egret Bay Campus



Clear Lake Campus



528 Campus



East 96 Campus

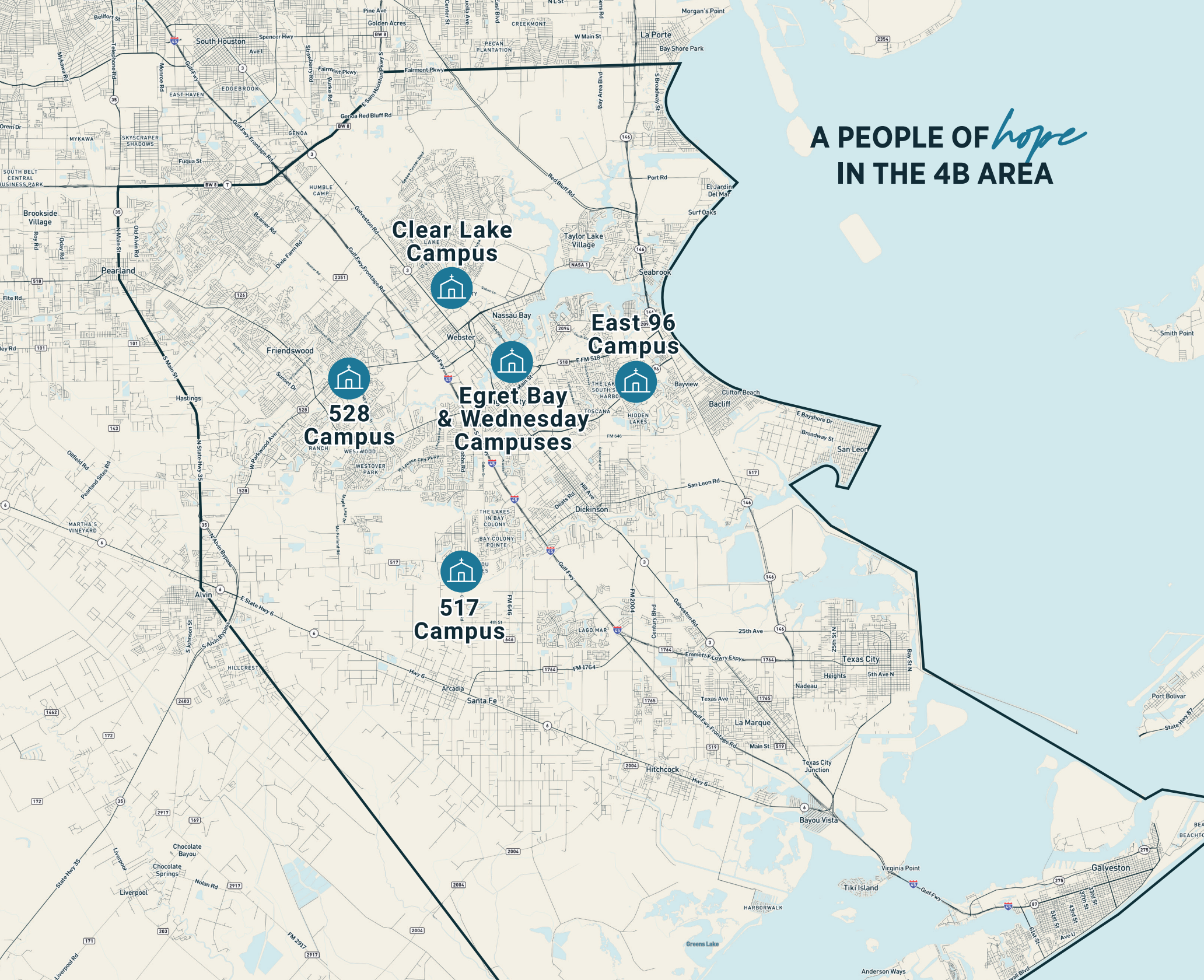


Wednesday Night Campus



517 Campus

A PEOPLE OF *hope* IN THE 4B AREA



4,400+
All-Time Total Baptisms

2,386
Adults Currently in Small Group

2,459
People Currently Serving in the Church



















700+
Students Weekly Average Attendance

1,173
Students at Camp Creek in 2026

1,141
Creek Kids Weekly Average Attendance

289
Kids at Creek Kids Camp in 2026





450

Church Plants

Throughout the United States, Mozambique, Honduras, the Iberian Peninsula, Cuba, and Brazil.

25

Local Ministry Partners

Together, bringing community transformation, care for children at risk, compassion for the hurting, and practical response in crisis.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

Abound DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

Abound is a two-year discipleship journey toward an abundant life that overflows with hope for the glory of God and the good of others.

It is an initiative with two goals: Discipleship in Generosity and Mission Advancement.

DISCIPLESHIP IN GENEROSITY is about shaping our hearts. Every generosity initiative that people participate in requires them to consider their relationship to money and consider their giving practices, deciding whether they will trust God and live with an eternal perspective.

MISSION ADVANCEMENT is about funding our mission to lead unchurched people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. God has been so generous to us, but, "to whom much is given, much is required." We are positioned for this next season to be the most fruitful season in the history of the church! Therefore, we are trusting God with a secondary goal of $46.7 million to accomplish three gospel-centered initiatives over the next two years.

PRIMARY GOAL

DISCIPLESHIP IN GENEROSITY

EACH OF US WOULD SEEK AN ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

"LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN ME AND THROUGH ME SO THAT I MAY *abound* FOR YOUR GLORY?"

WE ARE CHALLENGING 100% OF CLEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST IN THESE WAYS:

SURRENDER

Am I surrendered to God so that he can fill me to over-flowing? Do I live in a way that my hope in Jesus abounds for the glory of God and the good of others?

FAITH

Where is God calling me to trust him more and obey him courageously? Am I living like a person who believes that God is at work to save people and that he uses people like me in that work?

GENEROSITY

Does my giving reflect that Jesus is first in my life and that God has given me an eternal perspective? Is God challenging me to grow into a new level of generosity?

SECONDARY GOAL

MISSION ADVANCEMENT

$46.7 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

A *Thriving* CHURCH

$30 MILLION

ON A *Daring* MISSION

$12 MILLION

WITH *Extravagant* LOVE

$4.7 MILLION

OBJECTIVE 1

A *Thriving* CHURCH

$30 MILLION

OVER 2 YEARS

We will be a church committed to leading unchurched people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

WHAT DOES A THRIVING CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

A People of Hope

Continuing to be a church for unchurched people, casting hope to our Top 5 (the people we most want to come to know Jesus) one million times.

Biblical Community

Raising up willing and qualified Navigators to provide enough small groups for our current and growing congregation.

On Mission

People, equipped and mobilized, using their gifts to serve and make a difference in the world.

Campus Operations

Providing the staff necessary to lead the church and maintaining our facilities to fulfill our mission.

Kids and Students

Championing upcoming generations while supporting and funding new methods of retaining and sharing the gospel message.







OBJECTIVE 2

ON A *Daring* MISSION

$12 MILLION

OVER 2 YEARS

We will take daring steps to plant a new campus, to establish a school of ministry, and to mobilize leaders of the church of tomorrow.

WHAT DARING STEPS WILL WE TAKE FOR OUR TOP 5 TO BECOME FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST?

Add Campuses

Launch our seventh campus in 2028 because new campuses reach new people.

Financially Prepare

Replenish the "opportunity fund" so we will be able to say "Yes!" when gospel-advancing opportunities arise.

Start a School of Ministry

Raise up a new generation of healthy leaders for the church of tomorrow.

Update Facilities

Update aging facilities, including the Egret Bay Creek Kids Garage, to maximize the use of our space for reaching the next generation.



OBJECTIVE 3

WITH *Extravagant* LOVE

$4.7 MILLION

OVER 2 YEARS

We will show extravagant love to our community, and to people in acute need, as we plant new churches and continue sending 1,000 people on foreign soil in the name of Jesus.

HOW WILL WE BE PRESENT IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE WORLD?

Mobilize the Church
Serve our community through organic relationships, groups, campuses, and by partnering with local non-profits, with the goal of seeing our community transformed by gospel-centered service and evangelism.

Care for the Poor
Provide soul care and financial support for those in acute need.

Plant Churches Worldwide
Partner to plant 100 new churches here in Houston and around the world from 2027-2029.

Global Missions
Complete the vision to see 1,000 people on foreign soil in the name of Jesus by October 31, 2028.





“LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN ME AND THROUGH ME SO THAT I MAY *abound* FOR YOUR GLORY?”

HOW WE'LL GET THERE

NEXT *Steps*

PRACTICE receiving from God the hope, peace, and joy he fills us with (Romans 15:13). In every situation, consider what it would look like for you to be full of hope for your sake and for the sake of others.

ASK God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and with gratitude for all that he has done in your life. Ask God to give you courage to listen for his leading and to obey him joyfully.

SURRENDER every area of your life to God, especially those areas you tend to protect or control like time and money.

RESPOND with generosity for the sake of helping unchurched people become fully devoted followers of Jesus. Pray for God to give you an eternal perspective for furthering God's mission in the world.

ONE FUND

You may have been part of previous giving initiatives in which you were asked to give a second financial gift that was in addition to, or "above and beyond," your regular giving so the church could buy land or build a building. Over the last thirty years, we've done numerous initiatives like that. Normally, you gave that second offering to a building fund and you continued to give your regular giving to the general fund of the church.

In contrast, *Abound* combines everything we do into one fund. With what's given through *Abound*, we care for people in need, we send kids to camp, we build buildings, we pay salaries, we fund church planting around the world, we start new campuses, etc. **With every dollar you give, you are participating in everything we do.** You are helping Clear Creek Community Church abound as a *thriving church on a daring mission with extravagant love.*

The Difference Between Cain and Abel

> *In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.*
> *Genesis 4:3-5*

A predictable consequence of a season focused on financial giving is that some people in the church get angry. Some people change churches or even stop attending church altogether. Sometimes even people who are otherwise very involved get upset when they are challenged to give financially to the local church.

If you personally have negative emotions in response to the challenge to give financially to the church, we pray that you will recognize the opportunity to grow spiritually. The way to begin is to honestly and prayerfully consider the roots of your frustration.

There are many potential reasons we can struggle with the challenge to give financially, but the story of Cain and Abel reveals the common roots. Genesis 4:3-5 challenges us to answer two questions: Why did God look favorably on Abel's offering and not Cain's? And why did Cain get so angry? Answering these two questions teaches us something about God and helps us think carefully about ourselves.

The people of Israel who first received the story of Cain and Abel would have immediately understood why the Lord looked favorably on Abel's offering but not Cain's. They knew from the Mosaic Law that God owns the first. He owns the first fruits of crops, the firstborn of the flocks, even the firstborn children of the Israelites. God also taught them that the fat portions of animal offerings belonged to him. They understood the first and the best belonged to God.

God looked favorably on Abel's offering simply because Abel brought to God what God said already belongs to him. To give God what belongs to him is the definition of worship—whether the offering is time, crops, money, praise, or your physical body. Abel worshiped God because he brought his offering based on how God defined worship.

GROWTH BEGINS WHEN WE EXAMINE OUR DEFINITION OF WORSHIP—ARE WE STARTING WITH OURSELVES OR STARTING WITH GOD?

Cain, on the other hand, brought an offering to God based on how he defined worship. He had earned his crops toiling in ground that had been cursed to produce thorns and thistles. Maybe he measured their value based on the effort required to produce them. Maybe he was thinking of saving some so he wouldn't have to work as hard next season. Maybe he wanted to trade the best of his harvest for other things he needed. Whatever the motivation, Cain defined for himself what constituted worship and offered that to God.

The truth is that very often we react negatively to a challenge to give financially to the church because we tend to think like Cain. We begin with how hard we work for our money, potential future needs (retirement, college, etc.), lifestyle expectations—and we bring God an offering that has first been filtered through these considerations. The problem is that when we begin with ourselves, we overconsume current resources and overcommit future resources; we create a personal economy that dictates where our resources must go. Then, when we are challenged to give to the church, the request seems unfair and unreasonable because our personal economy has no capacity to spare what God says already belongs to him.

This is the answer to the second question. Cain was angry because he wanted to define what worship looked like after he first accounted for the resources required to support his personal economy. Cain was angry because he wanted God to be satisfied with less than what God said already belonged to him. Cain was angry because God wouldn't settle for Cain's definition of worship.

The hope for growing through frustration over giving does not begin with getting angry or changing churches. It begins with understanding the difference between Cain and Abel. Growth begins when we examine our definition of worship—are we starting with ourselves or starting with God? Will we give God what he says already belongs to him? Will we let God define worship? We can only start from where we are, but we must begin with God.

God showed us the way. He gave his first and best on the cross so that we might be forgiven and set apart for his use. We will grow in both the willingness and joy of giving financially when we accept that God asks nothing from us that he hasn't already given. God told us long ago what it means to worship, to give him what is already his. May he soften our hearts to his definition.

Lord, what do you want to do in me and through me so that I may abound for your glory?

GIVING JOURNEY

This tool is designed to help you move money from being an idol to being a tool for God's kingdom. The journey focuses on the condition of our hearts, further transforming us into the likeness of Christ. Each step of the journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice.

Initial Giver

HEBREWS 11:8

An Initial Giver is someone who is compelled by Scripture to give for the first time. This can often feel like a "leap of faith" as it requires courage to trust the truth of God's Word and trust the leaders of his church. The Initial Giver is someone who chooses to take a first step of obedience to God in an effort to grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus.

Consistent Giver

1 CORINTHIANS 16:2

A Consistent Giver is someone who makes a deliberate effort to grow in generosity through repeated acts of discipline. They recognize how much they have received in Christ and are compelled by the gospel to reflect his generosity in the world. Therefore, they work to develop the habit of giving on a regular basis.

Intentional Giver

LUKE 14:28-30

An Intentional Giver is someone who aims to be 100% engaged in the mission of leading unchurched people to become fully devoted followers of Christ. They are intentional about participating in that mission through their generosity—prayerfully planning ahead of time how much they will give, and intentionally prioritizing giving in relation to their other spending as they steward their resources.

Surrendered Giver

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3

A Surrendered Giver is someone who has a fully surrendered heart and is committed to giving God their first and best. They hold every resource they have with open hands and are eager to honor God with all of it. They no longer consider how much they have to give, but they first ask God how much he wants them to give. This is evident in the way their lives have been transformed by generosity and their giving determines their spending, not the other way around.

Eternal Giver

1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19

An Eternal Giver is someone who is committed to storing up their treasure in heaven because they have put their hope in God and not the things of this earth. They think about the impact of their generosity in longer terms than a monthly or even annual amount and let their eternal perspective guide the financial decisions they make today. They see every act of generosity as investing in eternity. Their giving inspires others and leaves a legacy of generosity.

Why Give to the Local Church First

> *Now concerning the collection for the saints... you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper...*
> *1 Corinthians 16:1-2*

Every follower of Jesus is called to live a life of generosity. The question is not whether Christians should give, but how we should steward the resources God has entrusted to us. While Scripture encourages generosity in many directions, it also gives priority to one particular place: the local church. Supporting missionaries, caring for the poor, providing for our families, meeting the needs of fellow believers, and investing in other gospel-centered ministries are all worthy causes and godly expressions of Christian generosity. But why would we give to the church first?

The short answer is because the local church is God's primary redemptive agent and the means by which he accomplishes his mission in the world. When God's people faithfully support God's work through the local church, they become active participants in everything God is doing.

Jesus promised, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18), and Paul describes the church as the means through which God's wisdom is made known to the world (Eph. 3:10). Through the local church, the gospel is preached, disciples are made, the next generation is shaped, missionaries are sent, churches are planted, communities are served, people are cared for in both spiritual and practical ways, "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," (Matt. 16:18).

For this reason, we believe Scripture presents the local church as the primary place where Christians should direct their regular, ongoing financial giving.

This conviction is rooted in the pattern of the whole Bible.

In the Old Testament, God's people brought their tithes and offerings to support the priests and the ministry of the temple. In the New Testament, that same principle continues as churches are instructed to provide for those who devote themselves to preaching and teaching the gospel (1 Cor. 9:14; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18). The earliest Christians regularly entrusted their gifts to spiritually qualified church leaders, who faithfully distributed resources where they were needed most (Acts 4:34-35).

Giving through the local church also multiplies our kingdom impact.

While individual generosity can accomplish much, a united church can accomplish far more. Together we can support missionaries around

the world, meet the needs of struggling families, invest in the next generation, strengthen marriages, care for the hurting, and proclaim the gospel both locally and globally. Our individual gifts become part of something much larger than ourselves—a shared mission that advances the kingdom of God.

Just as importantly, giving shapes our own hearts. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21). Every act of faithful giving to the local church deepens our love for the bride of Christ and aligns our hearts with his mission. Generosity is not merely about funding ministry; it is one of God's primary tools for forming the hearts of his people.

believers should establish the local church as the foundation of their regular giving and allow their generosity to overflow from there.

Ultimately, this is not about budgets or buildings—it is about worship. Everything we have belongs to God, and every dollar we give is an opportunity to participate in what God is doing in the world. When we faithfully give to the local church first, we are doing far more than supporting a ministry—we are investing our lives in the very mission Jesus has called us to.

WHILE INDIVIDUAL GENEROSITY CAN ACCOMPLISH MUCH, A UNITED CHURCH CAN ACCOMPLISH FAR MORE.

Giving to the local church first does not mean giving only to your local church. Scripture also calls us to care for the poor (Prov. 19:17), support missionaries (Phil. 4:15-18), provide for our families (1 Tim. 5:8), meet the needs of fellow believers (1 John 3:17-18), and invest in other gospel-centered ministries (Rom. 15:25-26). Faithful Christians should be eager to do all of these. But just as a family wisely prioritizes caring for its own household while remaining generous to others,

Complete the commitment card and bring it to Advance Commitment Night on November 8, or a commitment service on November 15 or 18.



COMMITMENT WORKSHEET

Use the sample below as you consider your 2-year Abound commitment.

May the God of hope fill you...that you may *abound in hope.*

ROMANS 15:13

$ _____ What I/we **normally** give in a year

\+

$ _____ My/our **expanded** annual generosity as part of the Abound discipleship journey

=

$ _____ × 2 YEARS →

$ _____

\+

Gifts from my/our **stored** resources $ _____

MY/OUR 2-YEAR ABOUND COMMITMENT

$ _____

December 2026 – December 2028





ABOUND

MESSAGE NOTES + BIBLE READING PLAN

MESSAGE NOTES

The Key to Meaning

ROMANS 15:13 DATE / /

BIBLE READING PLAN

Monday
PSALM 24

Tuesday
1 CHRONICLES 29:1-22

Wednesday
MATTHEW 6:19-24

Thursday
GENESIS 1:26-31

Friday
1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

Saturday
LUKE 16:1-13

Sunday
PRAYER

Thank God that everything you have—time, resources, talents, and relationships—already belongs to him. Ask him to show you one thing you're still trying to manage on your own instead of trusting to his ownership.

MESSAGE NOTES

Jesus First

COLOSSIANS 1:13-23 DATE / /

BIBLE READING PLAN

Monday
PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6

Tuesday
GALATIANS 6:9-10

Wednesday
LUKE 14:25-33

Thursday
PROVERBS 3:5-10

Friday
1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-2

Saturday
1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

Sunday
PRAYER

Praise God for the extravagant generosity he's already shown you, and ask him to help you grow in generosity so you can reflect it to the world around you.

MESSAGE NOTES

Eternal Perspective

LUKE 12:13-21, 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19 DATE / /

BIBLE READING PLAN

Monday
PSALM 112

Tuesday
2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9

Wednesday
DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

Thursday
ACTS 4:32-35

Friday
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Saturday
PHILIPPIANS 4:14-19

Sunday
PRAYER

Thank God for the legacy of generosity others have poured into your life, and ask him to show you one way your giving today could point toward eternity.

MESSAGE NOTES

First and Best

GENESIS 4:1-7 DATE / /

BIBLE READING PLAN

Monday
MARK 10:17-22

Tuesday
LUKE 12:32-34

Wednesday
HEBREWS 11:1-6

Thursday
JAMES 1:19-25

Friday
LUKE 6:46-49

Saturday
MATTHEW 6:25-34

Sunday
PRAYER

Thank God that his love for you never depends on your performance, and ask him to replace one specific fear you're carrying with trust in his goodness.

MESSAGE NOTES

Ready to Give

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-12, 9:6-15 DATE / /



STUDY GUIDE + REFLECTION QUESTIONS + EXERCISES

STUDY GUIDE

God Owns Everything

God owns everything—every dollar, talent, relationship, and hour of your time was his before it reached your hands, and it's still his now. We're simply the managers he's entrusted to care for it. That means every financial decision is a question of faithfulness, not ownership. True stewardship means holding what he's given loosely, using it for his purposes, and trusting him to provide.

WATCH THE STUDY VIDEO

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

God Owns Everything

1. This week, we discussed that God owns everything and we are his stewards entrusted to manage it. Where have you caught yourself treating something on loan from God—money, time, a relationship—as if it truly belonged to you?

2. Pastor Randy Alcorn says, "If Jesus is not Lord over our money and possessions, he is not our Lord." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

3. What's one practical way you can tell if money is becoming an idol or instrument in your life?

4. Think about the steward's rhythm: give, save, live on the rest—in that order. Which of these three do you currently practice first, and what would it take to reorder your budget so "give" comes first?

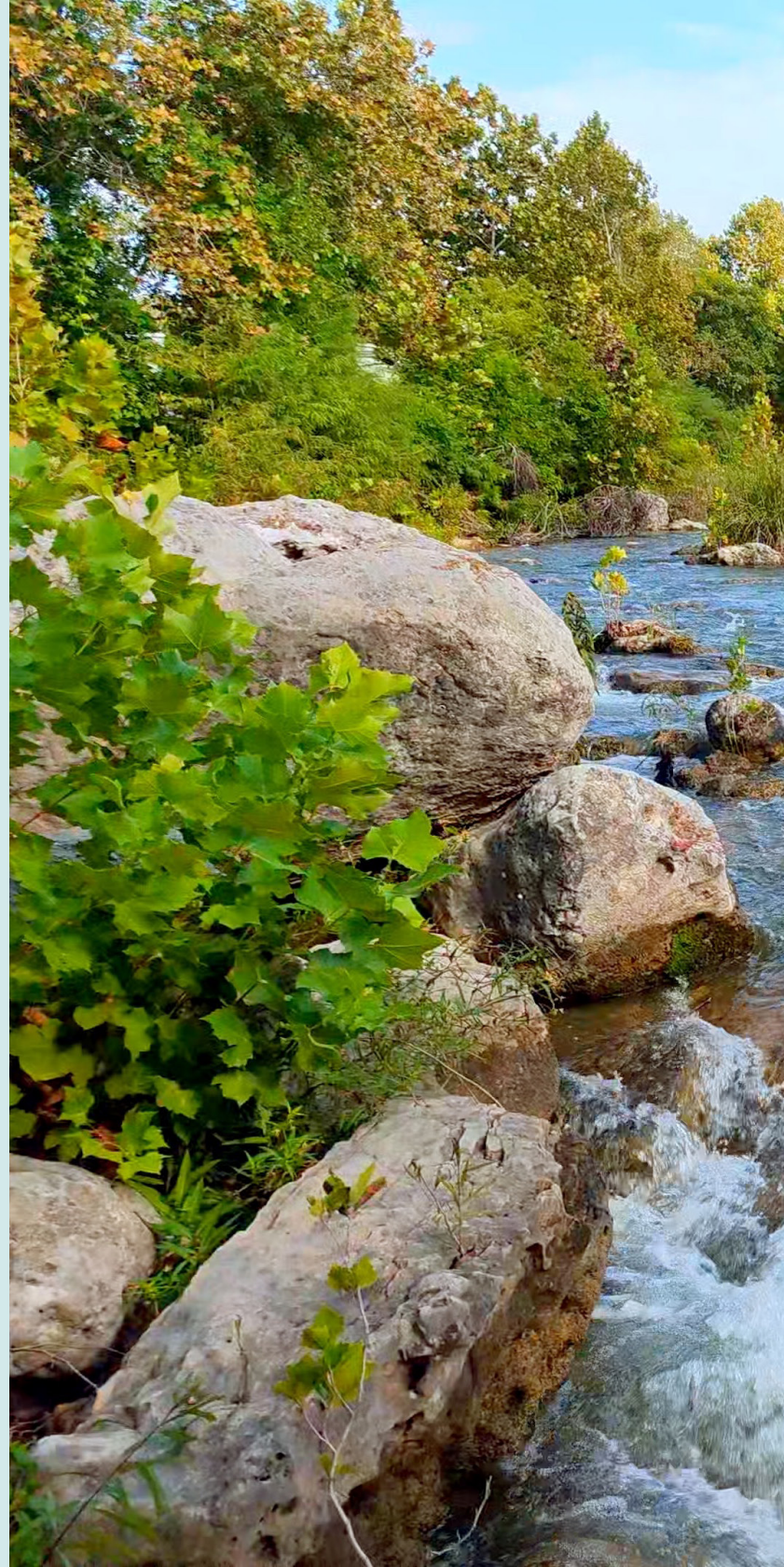
5. Proverbs 22:7 describes the borrower as "the slave of the lender." Has debt ever limited your freedom to be generous or spontaneous with what you have?

6. Giving our first and best is a tangible way of acknowledging that God owns everything. What's one practical step you could take this week to live that out?

GROW IN GENEROSITY EXERCISE

God Owns Everything

Grab a bank statement or budgeting app from the last 30 days. Sort every transaction into four buckets—Give, Save, Live, Debt. Total each one and turn it into a percentage of your income. Before you react to the numbers, ask God to show you what they reveal about where your trust currently lives.





STUDY GUIDE

The Journey of a Generous Heart

Every giving journey starts the same way—with a first, uncertain step of trust. From there it deepens through consistency, intentionality, and surrender, until we give freely because our hope is anchored in what lasts forever.

WATCH THE STUDY VIDEO

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

The Journey of a Generous Heart

1. What tends to hold you back when it comes to giving?

2. Have you ever believed—even subconsciously—that generosity was a way to get something from God?

3. The Initial Giver takes a "leap of faith" with no past experience to draw from. Where is God currently asking you to say "yes" before you feel ready?

4. Have you ever treated the 10% tithe as a religious box to check? How are you being challenged to change your view?

5. Instead of asking, "How much do I have to give?" the Surrendered Giver first asks, "God, how much do you *want* me to give?" What would change in your budget if you started from that question instead?

6. The Eternal Giver's legacy is something that inspires others and funds gospel work long after the giver is gone. What kind of legacy do you want your own giving to leave behind?

GROW IN GENEROSITY EXERCISE

The Journey of a Generous Heart

In order to identify where we are on the Giving Journey, we have to understand our relationship with money. Take a few minutes to mark how you feel about each of the following statements.

-5 = STRONGLY DISAGREE | 5 = STRONGLY AGREE

1.	The details of my finances should be kept private from family and friends.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
2.	My salary and my belongings are an indication of my success.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
3.	The more money I have in savings, the more secure I feel.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Some kinds of debt are okay.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Once I have everything I need, I should be generous with what I have left.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
6.	Money is meant to be spent because I can't take it with me when I die.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
7.	Carrying a balance on my credit card(s) is okay.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
8.	I should not need financial assistance from anyone else.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Providing financially for my family is one of my most important responsibilities.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
10.	I want to give my children more than I had growing up.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
11.	It's important that my children have the same things and opportunities as their peers.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Children should be told the details of our family finances.	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5

Review the Giving Journey on pages 36–37. Write down the stage you sense God inviting you toward next. Write one small, concrete step you'll take in that direction this month. Ask someone you trust to walk with you through it and celebrate whatever God does along the way.



STUDY GUIDE

Investing in What Lasts

An eternal perspective reframes generosity as an investment that outlasts us. We learn to store up treasure in heaven instead of clinging to what fades. That perspective is missional—it fuels the gospel rather than stopping at our own comfort. And that same open-handedness becomes the legacy others inherit from watching our lives. Generosity, seen this way, turns a private financial decision into a life poured out in ways that matter forever.

WATCH THE STUDY VIDEO



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Investing in What Lasts

1. What's something in your life right now that feels urgent but, in light of eternity, probably isn't as important as it feels?

2. Paul says the Macedonians "gave themselves first to the Lord" before giving any money. Why does surrender have to come before generosity, rather than the other way around?

3. How does Jesus' example of being the first and most generous giver challenge the way you currently think about giving?

4. Where do you notice the "see, desire, take" pattern from Genesis 3 showing up in your own daily habits?

5. Consider this statement: "God created us to love people and use things, but materialists love things and use people." Has wanting something material ever negatively impacted a person or relationship in your life? Or, have you ever felt used by someone in their pursuit of wealth?

6. Generosity and justice are inseparable. We can't be transformed by the gospel and indifferent to the vulnerable at the same time. What's one specific need, in your church or beyond it, that you feel God nudging you toward?

GROW IN GENEROSITY EXERCISE

Investing in What Lasts

This week, individually or as a group, ask God to open your eyes to one person in front of you and find a way to serve them generously. For example, cook a meal for a neighbor, offer to babysit for tired parents needing a break, or serve together at a local homeless shelter or food pantry. The goal is to simply notice someone and meet their need generously.

Then reflect: What did it stir in you to participate in the mission of generosity? How does that small taste of generosity help you picture the far bigger, lasting reward of a life spent investing in what God calls eternal?



STUDY GUIDE

Holding Nothing Back

Giving God our first and best communicates that he deserves priority over everything else vying for our hearts. He doesn't need anything from us, but because he is worthy of our full devotion, we don't merely give what's left over. Giving before we know there will be enough requires trust. Obeying when that trust feels costly is an act of surrender. Fear tells us to wait until it feels safe; faith gives first because God can be trusted. Giving our first and best isn't a formula for earning God's favor; it's the natural response of a heart that trusts him more than it fears the cost.

WATCH THE STUDY VIDEO

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Holding Nothing Back

1. Jesus looked at the Rich Young Ruler and "loved him" before asking him to sell everything. Why do you think Jesus led with love before making such a hard ask? How does that change the way you hear this story?

2. The tragedy of the Rich Young Ruler wasn't that he had money. It was that his money had him. How can you tell the difference between having wealth and wealth having you?

3. Trust and obedience are connected. We obey because we trust God will provide for us. Which of those two, trust or obedience, feels harder for you right now?

4. What fears currently keep your hands closed rather than open?

5. How does the relationship between faith and works challenge you to take actions motivated by your beliefs?

6. Think back to everything we've discussed over the past few weeks—ownership, the giving journey, legacy, generosity and justice, faith over fear. Which idea has stuck with you the most, and why?

GROW IN GENEROSITY EXERCISE

Holding Nothing Back

List your ten most valuable "stored resources"—money, property, retirement accounts, vehicles, possessions, time, and skills—anything of value you have. Next to each one, ask God how he wants you to steward it for his glory. Then, prayerfully complete the commitment card at the back of this book.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Ready to Give

1. How has this study shifted the way you think about generosity?

2. Which of the five giver types (pp. 36-37) did you most relate to at the beginning of this study, and which do you want to grow toward next?

3. Who in your life will you ask to check in with you on this next step and when?

4. Tell us about a time someone else's generosity met a real need in your life. What did that experience teach you about how God cares for people?

5. Tell us about a time you participated in meeting someone else's need through your own generosity. What did that experience teach you about how God works through you to care for people?

6. Read Romans 15:13. Write a prayer in response to the ways God has been shaping your heart throughout this study. Ask him to fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the God of hope fill
you with all joy and peace
in believing, so that by the
power of the Holy Spirit
you may *abound* in hope.

ROMANS 15:13

KEY DATES

The Hope Initiative

OCTOBER 31, 2026

A churchwide effort to serve our community.

Advance Commitment Night

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

A time to worship and lead the way in making commitments to Abound.

Commitment Services

NOVEMBER 15 & 18, 2026

A service to make our financial commitments for the two year discipleship journey.

CLEARCREEK.ORG/ABOUND