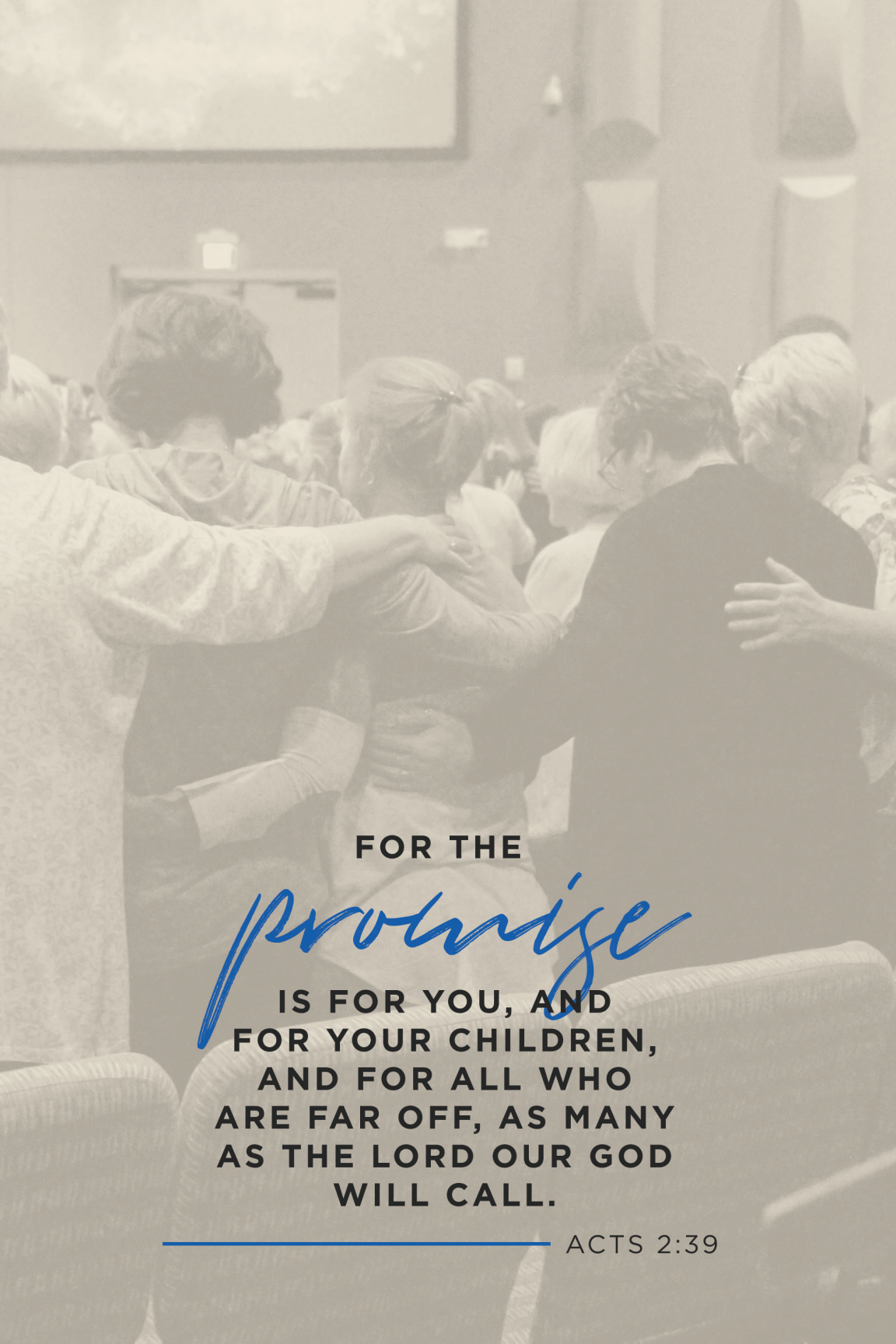




GENERATIONS

phase two





FOR THE
promise
**IS FOR YOU, AND
FOR YOUR CHILDREN,
AND FOR ALL WHO
ARE FAR OFF, AS MANY
AS THE LORD OUR GOD
WILL CALL.**

ACTS 2:39

GENERATIONS

This Generations Campaign vision began 11 years ago with the relocation and building of Phase 1. All based on Acts 2:39, “For the promise is for you, and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the LORD our God will call.”

That is what we’re seeing God continue to do even now. God recently called and saved two grown men and a teenage boy at First Cleveland. We saw 140 students pray to receive Christ at Fields of Faith. At the women’s event, The Well, over 600 women gathered to worship and hear the word, and lives were changed. God is moving!

If we expect God’s continued favor, continued blessing and continued movement, we have to be obedient to take the next step of faith in this journey.

GO THEREFORE AND MAKE *disciples* OF ALL NATIONS

MATTHEW 28:19

moving forward

Reaching people. Teaching people. Equipping people. Mobilizing people on mission. Raising up the next generation of people who want to GO FOR IT!

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus said, “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 everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

We want to be a family that is completely focused on living out the Great Commission in our lifetime. We want to continue making disciples that make disciples. We want First Baptist Cleveland to be *MAXIMIZED* for the Kingdom of God, but if that’s going to happen, we’ve got to continue moving forward.

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The Generations Guide has the information you need to go on the journey.

EXPANSION OVERVIEW

Take a look at the overview for Phase Two, complete with added space specifically designed for Students, College, Kids, Adults. A new worship center and commons area will provide much more room for the ever-growing church family, along with an administrative building for office space.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

You have the opportunity to make a pledge commitment, over and above your regular tithes. Commitment cards are available to help you do so. The worksheet provided on page 24 will help you calculate your pledge amount.

KEY DATES

God has completed what He started in Phase 1 and has now prepared our church to take its next step of faith in Phase Two, which will be as big of a commitment or even bigger than Phase 1. Take a look at the key dates outlining preparation leading up to the implementation and grand opening of Phase Two.



IN A WORD



GREAT COMMISSION



ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY



NEXT GENERATION



**EQUIPPING MORE PEOPLE
FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY**



ROOM TO GROW



ALL GENERATIONS



TOGETHER



IN REACH



OUTREACH



NEXT STEP OF FAITH



SHOULDERS TO STAND ON

CURRENT LIDS:



600

Teenagers are meeting off-campus at the YMCA. Students had to be split into two separate gyms and are at capacity.



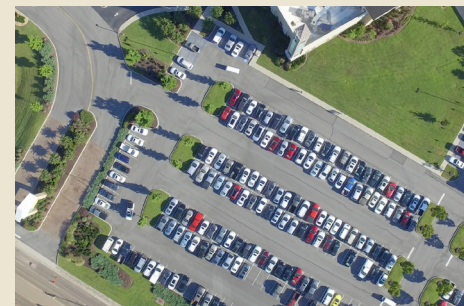
200

Senior adults are meeting off-campus at the Senior Center on Sunday mornings. Many face great challenges to go to a small group in one location and worship in another.



550

Elementary kids only have 8 classrooms to host 550 kids on Sunday mornings.



2,000

The parking lot is designed to accommodate 2,000 people and is an immediate frustration for visiting guests during popular service hours.

EXPANSION OVERVIEW

This Spring it will be 11 years since we relocated to our current building. We are at capacity, but there are still adults, students, and kids who need Jesus and a home like First Cleveland. Saying “we’re full” is just not an option. We must expand to create more space to reach more people.

The Phase Two preview **reflects the original vision** of the 2008 master plan with updates to building orientation and new features to place **greater focus on the cross, baptism, and every generation** of people.

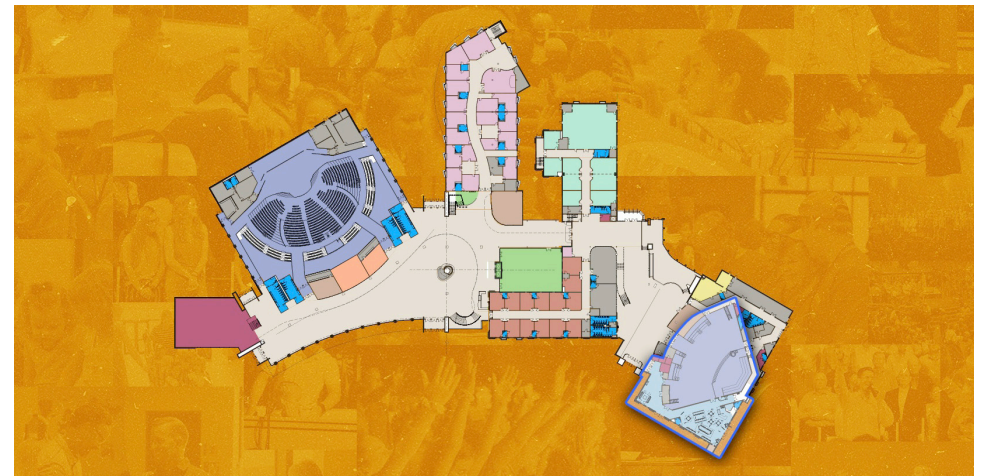
- Expand the Worship Center to 2,500 seats
- Additional Children’s Building (25-30k s/f)
- Expand the Commons (10-15k s/f)
- Add 636 more parking spaces

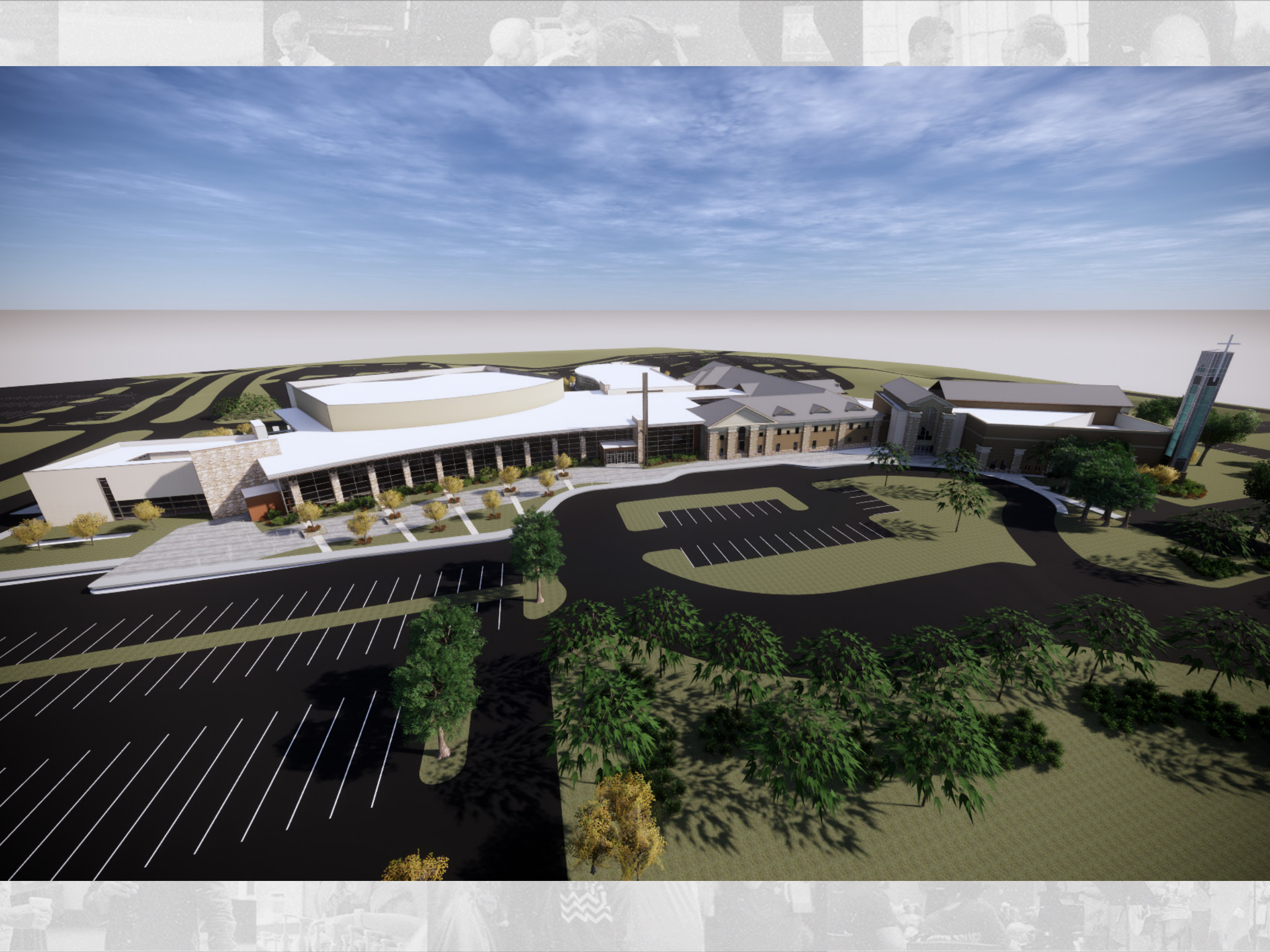
TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE

90k s/f (approx.)

CONSTRUCTION

16-20 MONTHS (approx.)





NEW KID'S BUILDING



The new kids building will feature an **open concept floor plan** for small groups but will also include **age-specific worship venues** that are designed just for kids. Ministry will take place on two levels with **preschool ministry downstairs** and **elementary kids upstairs**.

The new building will also include a **preteen ministry space** for 4th and 5th graders, a **special needs facility**, and an **indoor playground** open throughout the week.



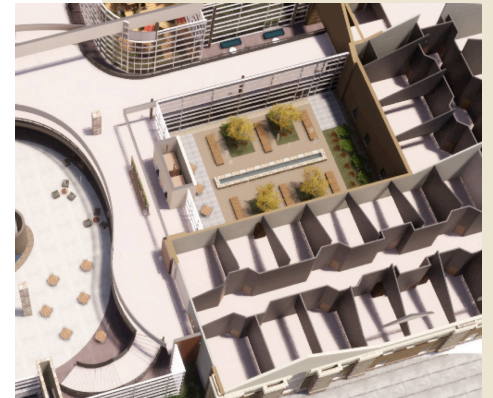
NEW WORSHIP CENTER

The new **2,500 seat Worship Center** will feature an expanded platform with a greater capacity for our choir & instrumentalists and will allow our family to be together on **Sunday morning in two services**, while continuing to maintain **three small group hours**.



ADULT EDUCATION

The adult education space will make use of the previous preschool ministry space—**doubling available space** for adult small groups.



ADMIN BUILDING

We currently have 57 staff members and hope to continue developing new leaders through Growth Track and the Lockerman Leadership Institute. To do this, the Admin Building will be a **dedicated office complex** for the team God has called to serve here



EXPANDED COMMONS

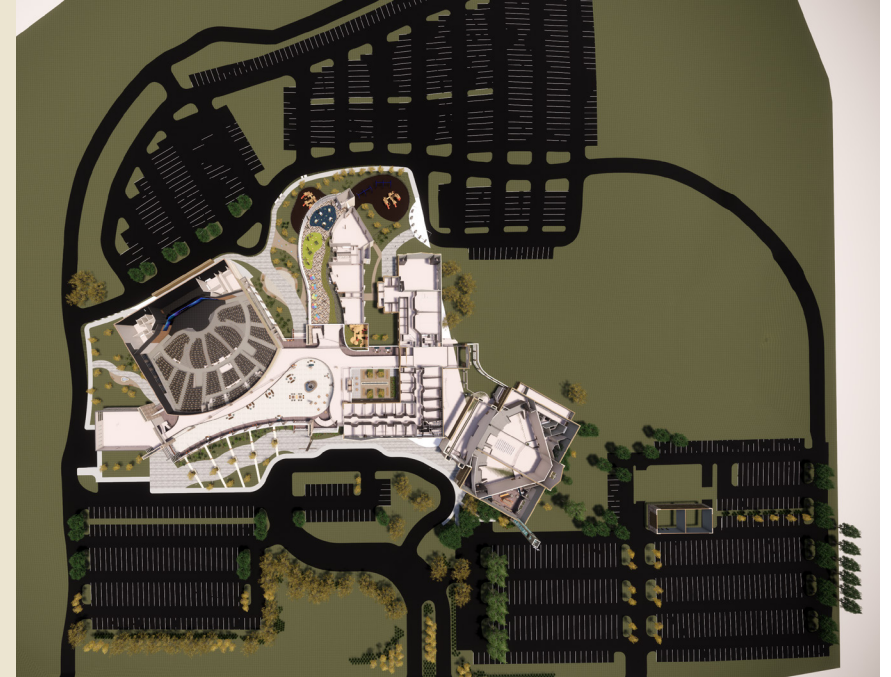


The greatly expanded Commons, with **Café open throughout the week**, will be a gathering space where people can meet in **open or sitting areas on two levels**. The Commons will also include dedicated guest reception space, a **decision counseling & prayer room**, and Resource Central.

One of the best features of the expanded Commons is **fountain baptistery**—which will be the centerpiece for the new space. No matter which door you enter, the Cross and the baptistery will be the focal point of the room.



ADDITIONAL PARKING

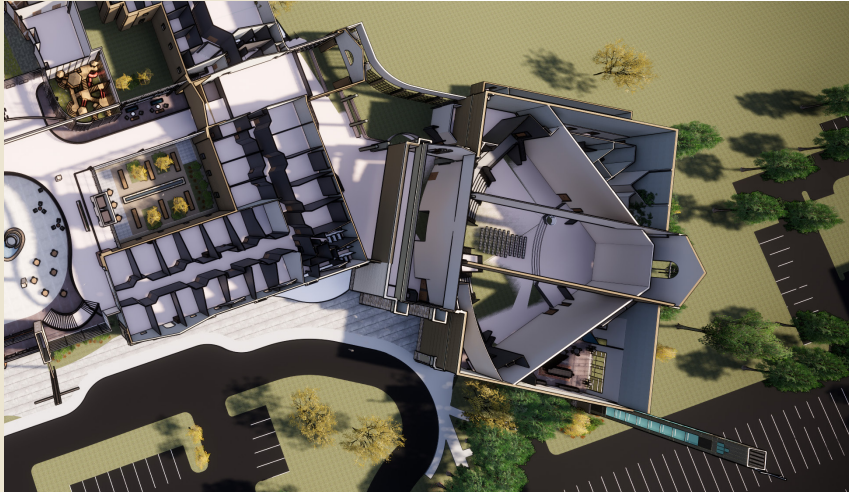


The guest experience begins in the parking lot, and because our church is a family, and families hang out, cars tend to stay in the parking lot longer. We love it, we just want to ensure a space for everyone.

PROJECT DETAILS

- 864 Current Parking Spaces
- Additional 636 Parking Spaces
- Wrap Around Parking

ADDITIONAL STUDENT SPACE



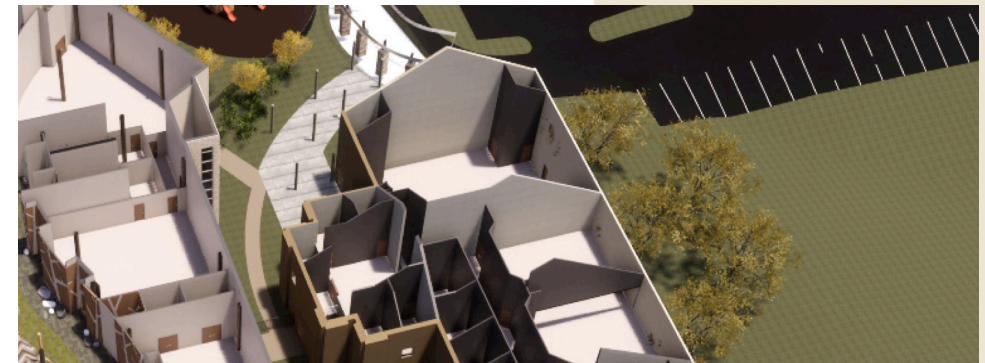
Students will move from meeting at the YMCA on Sunday to **meeting in the existing Worship Center** (as originally intended in the 2008 plan). A **revamped lobby space** with entrance from the outside will improve the experience.

The existing **Worship Center** will remain a **multi-use space** for events, weddings, funerals, and overflow worship for Easter and Christmas but will be retrofitted in the future to become the home base for student ministry.

COURTYARD



The outdoor courtyard will create a garden atmosphere where people can meet together and spend time with the Lord.



SENIOR ADULT SPACE

Senior adults will be able to utilize the **existing children's wing** with renovated classrooms in an easy to access, **central location on campus**— bringing many back from off-site locations used since 2010. A **dedicated parking lot and covered entrance** will make the experience much better for senior adults.





YOUR OPPORTUNITY

The Generations campaign is an **11-year journey** designed to **impact our region for Christ**. We recognize this is a God-sized task far beyond the ability of any one person. Reaching our goal will take sacrifices from all of us. What you are holding in your hand is a challenge to be prayerfully and financially involved in **the vision of the Generations Phase Two**.

You have the opportunity to make a pledge commitment, **over and above** your regular tithes.

Commitment cards are available to help you do so. To help you calculate your pledge amount, you can use the worksheet on the next page.

If you're feeling a little fearful, **pray and ask** God to help overcome your fear and to help you get behind the vision. As you begin to pray about how much God might want you to give, we encourage you to embrace this as a **spiritual journey with God**. We believe that God is going to bless you above and beyond your wildest expectations even as you step out in faith into the future of our church family.

THIS WORKSHEET SHOWS THE IMPACT YOUR GIFT CAN HAVE OVER 3 YEARS

TOTAL GIFT*	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	WEEKLY
\$1,000,000	\$333,333	\$27,778	\$6,410
\$750,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$4,808
\$500,000	\$166,667	\$13,889	\$3,205
\$250,000	\$83,333	\$6,944	\$1,603
\$100,000	\$33,333	\$2,778	\$641
\$75,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$481
\$50,000	\$16,667	\$1,389	\$321
\$25,000	\$8,333	\$694	\$160
\$10,000	\$3,333	\$278	\$64
\$5,000	\$1,667	\$139	\$32
\$2,500	\$833	\$69	\$16
\$1,000	\$333	\$28	\$6

*THREE (3) ANNUAL TOTAL GIFTS THROUGH FEBRUARY 2022.
CALCULATION APPROXIMATIONS BASED ON 36 MONTHS (156 WEEKS).

beyond

WHAT WE CAN DO,
TO WHAT GOD
CAN DO THROUGH
US

MAKING ROOM TO REACH PEOPLE

CAMPAIGN GOALS

- Everyone praying
- Everyone on the journey
- Everyone on campus
- Total 3-year faith commitments of \$30M

KEY DATES & EVENTS

NOV 3	PRAYER RALLY
NOV 10	VISION SUNDAY
DEC 1	LEADERSHIP EVENT
DEB 8	LEADERSHIP EVENT
JAN 5	BEGIN "FAITH STEPS" SERIES
JAN 5	CHURCHWIDE VISION NIGHT
JAN 8	CHURCHWIDE VISION NIGHT
JAN 12	CHURCHWIDE VISION NIGHT (Family Meeting)
JAN 20	BEGIN 20-DAY PRAYER JOURNEY
FEB 8	GENERATIONS PRAYER EVENT
FEB 9	COMMITMENT SUNDAY
FEB 16	BIG GIVE OFFERING
APRIL 10	GROUND BREAKING
FALL 2021	ANTICIPATED GRAND OPENING

20 DAYS OF FAITH STEPS

“Whenever God determines to do great work He first sets his people to PRAY.” C.H. Spurgeon

...OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES

2020 is going to be an exciting time in the life of First Baptist Cleveland. It is our vision to continue preparing and positioning our church for the next generation to love and lead our community by fulfilling The Great Commission. It is our prayer that the Holy Heritage we are striving to pass down will last for all generations until Jesus returns.

The purpose for taking these steps of faith in prayer is to prepare you for Phase Two of The Generations Campaign. Each daily step of preparation is designed to strengthen your relationship with God, and help you as you seek the Lord's personal direction in this campaign. God rewards a willingness to humble ourselves and seek Him, and He says He will stir our souls with His Holy Spirit, awaken our churches, and heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14). Fervent prayer and fasting have always been the precursor to unique movements of God. We are crying out for such a movement. This intentional and focused discipline will shape the lives of our families, our church, our nation, and our world. We are believing that The Lord is going to do exceedingly and abundantly beyond all that we ask or imagine.

Each daily step offers an applicable scripture to read and possible ways to reflect and pray. There are also prompts included to stimulate thoughts about how it can be applied to you, your family, and our church journey as we take these forward steps of faith. Please make this a priority for these 20 days. Set aside 20 minutes per day so that you can have time to take it in and truly walk through this prayer and reflection experience with our church. The Generations Project is a big vision, and Phase I has taken us this far with huge eternal impact and expanded territory. Now is the time to step out in faith to continue the vision. It will take every single one of us doing our own part, just as we find in Nehemiah when a city was rebuilt. Our practice will look like this:

read. reflect. pray. apply.

READ

The selected scripture and theme that will determine our direction for the days' step of faith.

REFLECT

On the key verse(s) of the day: Meditate on how this day's Faith Step affects and applies to you personally. Then combine your reflection with how it applies to our church and this God-sized undertaking as our journey of faith leads us into new territory.

PRAY

When God's People determine to pray anything can happen. God is The One that will reveal to you how He wants you to participate in this Generations Phase Two Campaign. Pray for you and your family, pray for our pastors and their families, pray for our people (both those already here and those that are not here yet). Pray a hedge of safety and blessings as we build on our campus. Pray for everyone that will fill every seat and every classroom that sits under Jesus teachings to be saved. Pray we are faithful in being obedient in the same direction The Holy Spirit is moving through it all.

APPLY

This daily intentional discipline to personal and corporate growth as followers of Jesus. This will help lead to Holy Spirit direction about how the growth in faith and obedience can be applied.

//
Therefore, we are

**AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST,
SINCE GOD IS MAKING HIS
APPEAL THROUGH US.
WE PLEAD ON CHRIST'S BEHALF:
"BE RECONCILED TO GOD."
HE MADE THE ONE WHO DID
NOT KNOW SIN TO BE SIN FOR
US, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT
BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS**

of God.

God instructs **us to pray**.

Jesus taught us **how to pray**.

The Holy Spirit says He will **help us when we pray**.

God says that when we pray, it can be POWERFUL and EFFECTIVE.

Prayer is a personal supernatural connection and communication with God and should be a priority in our lives. What a gift and a privilege we have been given, by The God of the Universe, to be loved and heard. Prayer, as Gods' People, is how we will continue to receive fellowship, blessings, wisdom, healing, spiritual growth, and all good things He has for us. We must not neglect to pray.

We began Phase I by declaring that, "***We cannot and should not take one step of this journey until we have committed ourselves to be people of prayer power.***" So it's time that we make that declaration once more!

Oh, Lord,

WHEN I PRAY, LET ME FEEL IT
TO BE A PRIVILEGE,
NOT AN EXERCISE ONLY.

– HANNA WHITALL SMITH

AS WE GO

The common thread that runs throughout the entire Bible from Genesis to The Revelation is people stepping out in faith on personal journeys. The Scriptures are full of people on the move. This is true from Abraham and his people in slavery, to many generations later entering The Promised Land, to Paul and the apostle's journeys' over the entire Roman Empire. Biblical history shows us how stepping out in faith has always been central in Scripture as Gods' people take action on His leading. This long standing pattern of His people moving makes it very simple to understand how we got to where we are today.

We have also been a blessed people along the way, and God often asks something of us. The NKJV translation says it this way, "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:48. The Message translation says it this way, "...Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities Luke 12:48. We would all agree that a blessed life demands that we remember where God has brought us, and the God-sized things He has done. A life on the move, a people on the move, requires accurate mapping and direction. Then the only thing left to do is prepare and go in faith and courage. Are you ready for this? Will you step out in faith and take it on with us?

LET'S
go for it!

FAITH STEP 1

HOLY MINDSET

READ

"They said, 'Let's start rebuilding,' and their hands were strengthened to do this good work."

NEHEMIAH 2:18

"'I gave them this reply,' 'The God of the heavens is the one who will grant us success. We, his servants, will start building, but you have no share, right, or historic claim in Jerusalem.'"

NEHEMIAH 2:20

REFLECT God will strengthen us to accomplish what we are setting out to do. He is the one who grants us success and we have no claim to the vision; it is His. But it took everyone working on their part to finish the job as we read in Nehemiah. There was a big God Thing that happened and He's still working- So Let's Go!

PRAY Father, as our church gets ready for this great work to continue the vision that was cast years ago, we are asking for another move of your Hand and another Big God Thing! I pray we are soberly aware of our responsibility to this and the following generations to hear and believe The Gospel. Lord please help me as I go through these days of prayer and steps of faith to hear from you, have fellowship with you, and set time aside to participate with my church family in this journey. Help me to "build my part of the wall" as everyone did in Jerusalem. Lord I'm asking that you bless my earthly and human efforts to fulfill your Holy and Kingdom purposes- in Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Do you have a holy mindset toward what is about to happen in our church and community? Dream big when you pray about the impact for generations to come!

FAITH STEP 2

HOW TO PREPARE

READ

"Ask and it will be given to you, Seek, and you will find, Knock, and the door will be opened to you."

MATTHEW 7:7

REFLECT This verse is a very good compass when it comes to searching out the best route when taking a journey and what we'll need along the way. Asking for God's help and direction shows our dependence upon Him and our surrender to Him in this step of preparation. We need Him with us and He says He will be if we only ask. He also promises to show us the way as we search. We are knocking on our future, and His Promise is that it will be open unto us. Ask, Search, Knock. What are you hoping to discover about yourself as you step out?

PRAY Father, will you show us the way and the route to take as we begin to take these steps of faith? Will you help us to have all of the provisions and tools necessary to face whatever comes up against us as we go? Help us to notice and remember the motives and purposes that you have urged us to have as the reasons that drive such a big vision. You are the One that gave it to us, and I pray we trust you will see it to completion just as you promise. Lord, help me to not forget to ask, search, and knock. Help me to seek you early and often because I believe you are waiting and anticipating that I seek communion with you. I'm already looking forward to this routine with you, so help me to make it a priority. Help me to trust that you will grow and bless my faith- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Remember that faith the size of a tiny seed can move mountains from here to there.

FAITH STEP 3

OUR FAITH
WILL BE TESTED

READ

"You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 PETER 1:6-7

REFLECT Faith untried may be true faith, but it is sure to be little faith, and will stay that way as long as it is without trials. Faith never prospers so well as when all things are against her, and no faith is so precious as that which lives and triumphs in adversity. Tried faith brings experience. As we begin this journey remember that He is with us through the floods, fires, and deserts. As odd it sounds in the natural don't forget that our Faith is precious, and its trial is precious too.

PRAY Father would you help us as a family of Christ-Followers as we join hands and link arms to move forward step by step together. Help us to grow in our unity and solidarity. Help us as our faith is tested and attacked by the enemy. Help us to remember that tribulation and trouble is what exercises our faith in solid assurance and intensity. Lord I want to travel and step well. I want to give you my best and lead out well. Help me to grow and mature as I travel- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Think about some of the times your faith has been tested and God has been faithful.

FAITH STEP 4

WALKING &
ABIDING

READ

"So walk ye in him."

COLOSSIANS 2:6

REFLECT When we receive Jesus himself in our inmost hearts, our new life will manifest its intimate acquaintance with Him by a walk of faith in Him. Walking implies action and action implies progress. Our religion is not to be confined to our closet; we must carry out what we believe into practical effect. If a man walks in Christ, then he so acts as Christ would act; for Christ being in him, his hope, his love, his joy, his life, he is the very reflex of the image of Jesus. Walking also implies continuance. There must be a perpetual abiding in Christ. We should always be with Him, treading in his steps and doing His will. Walking also implies habit or the constant tenor of our life.

PRAY Lord Jesus, help me to walk with you and in your ways. Help me to persevere in the same way in which I have begun and Holy Spirit please help me to obey this heavenly precept. As our church family takes these fresh new steps of faith, I pray that we remain kingdom minded and forward focused. Maybe it is time that First Cleveland is accused of thinking too big. And if so, let it be because you are the trust of our faith, you are the source of our lives, and you are the joy of our spirits. So let us walk with you, let us run with you, and as we rest, let us rest with you. Father, help me remember that I can abide with you and walk with You at the same time. Whether we walk through valleys together on this journey, or when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death at my earthly end, I pray you are our same trust, our same source, and our same joy always- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Being close to Jesus requires we walk and abide at the same time. It's like resting while we are doing. If we abide in Him, we will walk like Him. Think about where His steps took Him.

FAITH STEP 5

TAKING ON
WARFARE

READ

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

EPHESIANS 6:17-18

REFLECT When trouble comes, when temptation comes, when attacks come, and they will all come, let's agree that we're going to fight them the way Jesus did; with Scripture. Jesus shot Satan down time after time with God's Word. Of course, this means you have to be familiar with what Scripture says. The pieces of armor referenced in the letter to the Ephesians represent physical body armor and are also symbolic of the spiritual elements that God gives us as His children to defend ourselves. Think about the parallels here and what is needed in the natural walk and the spiritual walk: shield/faith, helmet/salvation, breastplate/righteousness, belt/truth, feet/gospel of peace, sword/spirit. Try to capture the spirit of what this means for all of us.

PRAY Father, thank you for your Holy Word that leads us, speaks to us, teaches us, and inspires us. Please help me to develop a love for it and hide it in my heart. I want to be well suited for the steps ahead and the days ahead for myself and my family and friends. Lord I know so many people that don't know you and I want our church to thrive in reaching and teaching them. I want to be a part of your army Lord, will you help me? Help me to find meaning and be encouraged by your Holy Word. As we take these steps together please outfit us with your armor, and help us to be alert and aware of taking it up daily- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Find a verse that is particularly meaningful to you and put it in some common places where you'll see it often this week. Think and meditate on what it means to you.

FAITH STEP 6

WHY WE TRAVEL

READ

"Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother: To Philemon our dear friend and coworker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home."

PHILEMON VERSES 1-2

REFLECT Is there a church in your house? Let's take a break for a bit and let the question go around- Am I a member of the church in my house? Can you even imagine how the heart of every father would thump, and the joy of every mother's tears, to know that every one of their children are saved? This was the greatest desire of Philemon to have his entire household saved. Let's take inventory and a head count of our own house. Is everybody here? Is anyone missing? If so, pray for them, and then trust them to God for protection until they catch up.

PRAY Father, help me remember that the reason we travel is so we can tell others. Help me to remember that being the church means I should study holiness, be kind and diligent in life and business, and live with integrity. I know Lord that you expect families to worship together and love each other with warmth and togetherness. You also expect your children to live in the world like we are not of the world. Please show me grace as I try to reflect your love to my family. Please help me to remember also that my family will grow, and then their family will grow, from generation to generation. Thank you for family Lord-In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Our ancestry and genealogy are fascinating and are an important part of what determines who we are. But think about your legacy- How do you want to be remembered? What will be your finest contribution to this world?

FAITH STEP 7

SWEATING IN
OTHERS' MORTAR

READ

"During those days he went out to the mountain to pray and spent all night in prayer to God. When daylight came, he summoned his disciples, and he chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles."

LUKE 6:12-13

REFLECT I cannot imagine that Jesus would have had an all-night mountaintop prayer for Himself; can you? It's hard for us to believe sometimes that God spends such time and takes such care of us isn't it? Why would He give us so much? Why does He plan for our future and have good in store for us? Why would He let me have understanding, and having heard His Truth, given me the heart to believe?
Answer: L-O-V-E

PRAY Father, we are in awe of you and how much you love us. Thank you that you have already gone before us and know exactly how and when our journey will end. Thank you for these steps of faith I am getting to experience with my church family. Thank you that we are embarking on a historic journey in the life of our community. Lord, help me to keep the main thing the main thing, and help me to not get distracted and wander of the trail and get lost. Help me to keep looking up and looking out so I don't stumble and fall. Today I'd also like to thank you for the generations that have come before us and have made so much of our life possible. Thank you for the people in my life that have modeled an absolute trust in you, and for the ones that taught me how to try to do the same. Please help me to pray for others more. Help me to intercede for those who can't pray for themselves, for those that might be struggling even in these steps of faith, and especially pray for those who don't know Him - In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Who in your life has taught you to trust The Lord? Have you ever had a mountaintop prayer experience, and was it for you or someone else?

FAITH STEP 8

THE STEEPEST CLIMB

READ

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he answered. "Take your son," he said, "your only son Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

GENESIS 22:1-2

REFLECT This is one of the hardest tests God ever leveled toward man. Oh how Abraham could have said okay I will soon, but I need more time. But what God wanted was a now commitment or an instant acknowledgement. Take now- not soon, do at once not eventually, is what God demands from us. This climb can be the steepest to reach the summit. During these times be careful with whom you ask advice. This is a personal prayed-through choice of personal will, or else we have competing things that can hinder our obedience. Remember that God has chosen our path and He chooses the sacrifice; we choose if we will trust and obey, and if we will climb. These we must do alone.

PRAY Lord, help me to guard against self-sacrifice for my own sake which is from pride. You are the one that gives a sweet drink or a bitter one; you give the hard step or the easier one. Father, help me as I travel today to drink with grace and in communion with you every step of the way. If your providence is for me to have a steeper climb today then give me what I need to accomplish it well and make it through. I know that these are the times that will be looked back on and remembered as milestones and spiritual markers of our faith for us individually and as a church family. Help me to remember that this journey is about our generation and the generations coming after us. We climb to know You more, and believe that you are working for your highest ends until Your purpose and our purpose become one- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Think on these days of sacrifice and obedience and how they might be remembered.

FAITH STEP 9

OUR PENTECOST
PURPOSE

READ

“When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

ACTS 2:37-39

REFLECT This is our call to repentance. This is our reminder that The Holy Spirit is at work in us and through us. And the Holy Spirit has pierced our hearts to go travel, and then build when we get there. He is also asking us to be mindful that we must not only be about the destination, but He wants us to enjoy the daily steps and to sow and plant along the way. In order to accomplish that, we must repent so we can be on our way forgiven and clean and filled with The Spirit. This gives us a very simple and compact vision, not only for our children and their children, but for all the people we'll never meet but will be impacted, because we said yes. We pray the nations will be shown God's Love and Light because we took more land. This is our purpose!

PRAY Our Father you are so good and so faithful. Help each one of us taking these steps of faith to put our hope in you and remember today that our lives and your mercies will never end; you are our portion. Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins and ask for your Holy help in becoming more like you today than I was yesterday. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for filling my heart, soul, spirit, and mind, with your presence and transformation. I live to love you more and tell others about you. It is hard for me to express how grateful I am for your Promise to Generations and Nations. I pray I can be a blessing to others on this journey- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Thank God today for paying your sin debt through His Son, Jesus Christ.

FAITH STEP 10

THE WATCHMEN'S
WARNING

READ

“So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.”

EZEKIEL 33:7

REFLECT A watchman is a guard or a sentry watching out for trouble and then warning others. The Lord assigned the prophet Ezekiel the task of warning God's chosen people of a message coming from God. As we travel, we need to be alert to the tricks and lies of the enemy. He does not want us to succeed. If the watchman fails his duty to warn, then he shares in the fault of those experiencing the consequences. This is a pertinent and relevant instruction for us today as we continue stepping forward. We, as a part of the church universal, have been assigned the responsibility as watchmen of the Word of God. We are to express its warnings of judgement, as well as its promises of hope and salvation to all generations. In this careless world, if we stand by and assume that it's not up to us, we will fail in our Christian duty.

PRAY Father, as true believers in Jesus Christ I pray that we march on determined not to shy away from what you have said. Help us to draw closer to you and to each other having been in battle together. Help us to realize it will rage on in our world between good and evil. Lord, help me to take my watch and never dilute or abandon your Truth and my need for it. Apart from you I can do nothing, but in you I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I pray our trust in you and resolve to do what is right will keep our caravan moving. Please give us the courage to sound the alarm for our families, our friends, and to any and all in the world that will listen for the victory is yours- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY How can you serve as a guard or watchmen for God in your everyday life and routine?

FAITH STEP 11

REFRESHING
PRESENCE

READ

...“that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah. Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things, which God spoke about through his holy prophets from the beginning.”

ACTS 3:20-21

REFLECT God fulfilled what He had predicted that Jesus would suffer and that our sins would be wiped out. Our step today takes us through His refreshing presence and fountains of flowing water to quench our thirst and fill our spiritual canteens. This renewed life, and heart, through grace is a mysterious life lived from within made outwards. We drink from uncommon waters that are kept and preserved by its secret place, and so it is with the spiritual life. The chosen of God, your special people, you have deemed separate in the eternal decree in the day of redemption. Help us to begin to yearn for the things you yearn for during this process. Let me ask of you what you would want of me.

PRAY Lord Jesus, I come being refreshed in your presence by the eternal security you offer and the Promises you have made. Thank you for your protection and favor during these steps of faith and our journey so far. We are eager to have our time with you today and hunger for what you have to teach us during this leg of the journey. I pray I can linger here in this secret place in your presence in my inner life for a while today. Thank you especially for offering fresh living water that quenches the thirst of my soul and will forever. Let the whole earth sing to the LORD and proclaim your salvation from day to day. Declare your glory among the nations, your wondrous works among all peoples. For the LORD is great and highly praised; you are feared above all gods. I praise and glorify your Holy Name Jesus- Amen.

FAITH STEP 12

INSTANT REALITY

READ

“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”

JAMES 4:8

REFLECT The Truth of God requires action. As each of us walks out steps of faith, they must be deliberately our own. No one can live out your life or choices for you. Once we take our own steps we are never the same. What willful paralysis that stands in our way until we act. Then the moments when we truly live are the moments when we respond with the whole will. The weakest one is freed immediately when all of the almighty power is on his behalf. He says, “Come unto Me.” The last thing we do is to come, but it links us on to God and His redemptive power. There is great spiritual maturity and much growth that happens as we draw nigh to God. We have to move upon The Gospel, and then He moves upon our obedience and then gives us rest.

PRAY Father what an amazing reality that we have little comprehension of you at all. I know from your Scripture that we can never understand or comprehend all there is to you. But you have allowed us to be a part of your great plan and purpose and it is just overwhelming sometimes. You move in and around our lives and among us as your children and we are moved beyond words. Thank you for the supernatural economy of drawing close to you and you thereby drawing close to us. You do it for us as individuals and as your family. Your Holy Spirit comes toward the whispers, the cries, the groans of desperation, and to the shouts of praise just as a parent to a child’s sorrow, pain, or joy. Help me draw nigh today and want more understanding of you revealed. We are in search of more things of you today- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY There are no limitations on how much of God you can have today; but you.

FAITH STEP 13

BREAD FROM
HEAVEN

READ

"Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

EXODUS 16:4-5

REFLECT His instruction was to gather only that days' necessary manna and no more, trusting that He would provide the next day's ration. They were instructed that if they gathered more than they needed it would spoil. He wanted them to trust that He would provide sustenance, and that it would be delivered like rain every morning as promised. Likewise, as we take our steps forward in our journey, His single most desire is for us to trust Him. He wants us to hold to His Promises that His grace is enough, and that He will supply provision, rest, and a sure destination, He has always looked for the same kind of trust from His own. There may not be any left-over from one day to the next, but it will always be enough. He wants our trust that His mercies are new every morning and that they will fall like rain from above, and that the needs for the day have already been provided.

PRAY Heavenly Father, thank you so much for giving us all that we need. We pray we can find trust and assurance in your promises and your great faithfulness. You have proven your love for us on our journey for both the easier steps and the tougher climbs. Lord, help me do my part and not doubt that you are present in every detail so that I don't grab more than I need. Help me to stay convinced that as my need grows, so does your grace. Like the manna from heaven, you have given exactly what is needed to ultimately glorify yourself through these steps of faith. I pray you do not sense one motive or attitude of complaint from me, but instead a very humble thank you- In Jesus Name Amen.

FAITH STEP 14

ALL THINGS
IN COMMON

READ

They were earnestly seeking Him together "When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.

Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them."

ACTS 3:31-33

REFLECT Believers that seek Him earnestly, and see God move in such powerful and supernatural ways, often begin to bond in uncommon and powerful ways. The passage says, "They were together, they had prayed, they were assembled, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were of one heart, they held everything in common," It is apparent that great grace is being given to us. It takes being intentional. Let's determine to make they; we.

PRAY Lord, you have been unifying your people from the beginning to accomplish your plans. What an undeserved and unbelievable opportunity to be used for your purposes for generations to come. I pray we stand together and pray. I pray we assemble and are filled when we reach our destination. I pray we have one heart and hold in common all things you want to accomplish. You are shaking our place Lord. It is so evident you are giving great grace. Help us step out today knowing your favor and calling have fallen upon us. You are doing great and mighty things and there is more to come- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY The opportunity to change the destiny of a person or people appears for a moment. The test is whether they will recognize it and respond in obedience. Let's not miss it!

FAITH STEP 15

AIMING HIGH

READ

“God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.”

COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

REFLECT It's long been understood that our objectives determine outcome. You achieve that for which you aim. Paul wrote this letter to this particular church to warn them to not forget that most important contribution for the next generation was building into the life and opportunities of their current one. How fitting and applicable in summarizing why we are taking these steps of faith forward to begin with; to tell more people. We are building into the lives and opportunities of the current generation to reach the next ones. To sow a sapling now means future generations will enjoy it's shade. May we always be found faithful in planting.

PRAY Father, thank you for giving us a big vision with an enormous eternal objective. We are aiming to reach more people for the cause of Christ than we have ever been able to before. Your scriptures speak of taking more land and enlarging our territory for your kingdom purposes. I want to be a part of what you have set in motion. What a bold and exciting time to be alive and belong to you. You asked whom should you send, and we said send us. Lord, I want to glorify you in all I do to influence our steps. Please give me your heart and renew my mind every step I take- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Have you ever planted something that you know will outlive you?

FAITH STEP 16

BATTLE
REQUIREMENTS

READ

“He is a shield to those who walk in integrity.”

PROVERBS 2:7

REFLECT Integrity from the original language means, wholeness, or healthy both inside and out. The Imperial Legate, or General as we call them today, walked the formation and inspected each soldier carefully to make certain he was battle-ready. The soldier would shout the battle cry as his outer battle gear would be inspected. The leader would know immediately if the soldier was outfitted with the regulated dress and armor, and he would be able to detect whether the soldier was weak from illness or fear, therefore making him unfit for battle that day. The soldier was considered to have integrity for fighting only when both his outside and inside requirements had been approved.

The picture that comes to mind of the soldier can easily be applied to us today. Whether we are considering the individual, or the congregation, wholeness and integrity are necessary. Our regulated dress and armor are Faith and Obedience. We fight out of a love for the lost and the hope of the church, for we have already been approved and the battle has already been won!

PRAY Father, you are so good. Thank you for sending your Son to redeem us. Help us to know we have been fought for and forever approved. Help us as we take each step of faith to remember the cost and to trust you at all times. Lord, please help me to keep it simple and do all that I do along the way with integrity- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Imagine yourself as a soldier being inspected both inwardly and outwardly. Would you be approved for battle? Do you have a sense of wholeness?

FAITH STEP 17

ALMOST HOME

READ

"The eternal God is thy refuge."
DEUTERONOMY 33:27

REFLECT Refuge translated "abiding-place" suggests that God is our Home. The reality of the metaphor is that He is our safe and dwelling place in whom we live, and move, and have our being. He is where we have found our rest after the fatigue and toil of this faith journey. Home with God is also the place of our truest and purest happiness. It is for this Home that we work and labor these days of prayer and faith. The very thought of Him being our home, or our destination, gives strength to bear the daily burden, and quickens to work with holiness and excellence.

PRAY Lord, as we consider our Redeemer, I pray we are reminded and constrained to our labor at the glimpse of His suffering face. Help us as we step forward to work because we have Brothers and Sisters not yet saved. Help our faith to be childlike inasmuch that we will be bringing home the wandering children to the sacred dwelling place. You are our refuge. You are our dwelling place. You are our eternal Father. You are our help. I am so excited about what these steps of faith mean for our church, our community, and beyond. I am asking that you do things that are bigger and greater than I could imagine asking. May we do all that this journey will require of us with clean hands and pure hearts. Please prepare us as we near the end of our prayer and reflection steps of faith. Help our intentional and disciplined campaign bring you glory, praise, and honor to your Holy Name- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Reflect on the trueness and purity of your heart and how you love the world around you.

FAITH STEP 18

COME HOLY
SPIRIT

READ

"Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching."
PSALM 34:23-25

REFLECT As we, First Baptist Cleveland, gather together we are doing something Supernatural. The Holy Spirit moves in unique ways when His people come to seek Him. He moves among us, and our worship and praises are inhabited by Him. His power and presence are so indescribable, and yet His absence is unmistakable. May we never be ashamed, but rather eternally convinced, that He is able to keep us, love us, and use us.

PRAY Our Good Good Father, in our steps today we come together unified in purpose and determination. We come acutely aware of your presence and that you let us be with you. We pray Lord that we would become more and more like the New Testament Church, so that if your Holy Spirit is removed, most of what we are doing would stop and our community and nation would notice. Help your light so shine through us that others are drawn to you without apology- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY How can you prevent becoming an inwardly focused Christian?

FAITH STEP 19

HE IS ALWAYS

READ

"I am the Lord, I change not."

MALACHI 3:6

REFLECT Change has always been the one constant. It will do us well, in the midst of these steps toward progress and the changing world, to remember God never changes. Change affects us all, but the One that is unchangeable. Though the sun and earth may dim with age and eventually pass away, there is only One who has immortality, His heart never alters, His years have no end, and in His person there is no change. Whatever His attributes were; they are now. In this glorious truth the Christians' hope is given precious assurance. God was, God is, and God will be.

PRAY Heavenly Father, thank you for being your fixed, established, and enduring Self. We are not naïve to believe that death and change will not affect us. But what we are surer of today than ever before is that your mercy never ends, and you are wisdom and love. And so it is that man decays, and ages move, you are the same. Lord, I pray that each step we have taken will accomplish the purposes you intend, and that we know your ways and thoughts are so much higher than ours. If it is to be good it must be done by you. Lead us Holy Spirit I pray- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY Imagine that through every age- God has been

FAITH STEP 20

... AND THEN
THESE

READ

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to The Lord and not to men, knowing that from The Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve The Lord Christ".

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

REFLECT As we end, at least these measured steps together, I pray we will continue to be in lock step with the Holy Spirit and with each other; our journey continues. As fellow laborers living out The Great Commission, may these be our standards of measure: All in Holiness: seeking and amazed by God Alone, with High Capacity; high expectations and achievements, urgent Hustle; as if our time is limited (because it is), personal Humility; others before self, having warrior-like Honor; conduct above reproach, and generous Hospitality; friendly reception to one and all. We must accomplish the first (holiness) to be Christ-like in the others. May God take us right into His purpose for the world through obedience to this vision for the generations. As we learned in Faith Step 1 from Nehemiah, our strength and success is His, but He uses our hands to build.

PRAY Father, we pray that you would catch us up for what you want without any hesitation or hindrance. We believe that prayers are instantly noticed in heaven so we pray carefully each time we make an offering or plea. After these intentional faith steps I pray each one of our prayers would say, "My goal is God Himself...At any cost, dear Lord, by any road." For we know that you simply ask us to have implicit faith in you and in your goodness. Help us to find your favor as we go about following your Spirit, doing your work that you've begun here in our midst, and as we trust you for even further steps of faith to come. You are moving and we trust you. May we be found faithful in this calling, this going and telling, this baptizing in your name, this discipling, which you have laid upon us. We are ready- In Jesus Name Amen.

APPLY God's revelation of Himself to us is determined by our character, not by His.

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HOW DO WE LOOK BEYOND WHERE WE ARE TO THE PLACE HE'S CALLING US TO GO?

No matter where we are in our walk with Christ, He's always encouraging and inspiring each of us to take the next step and do our part to reach people and build lives.

This Guide is designed to equip you for the journey, show you how to engage your faith in new ways, and help you grow in your relationship with Christ. Together, we'll learn how to look beyond where we are to the place He's calling us to go.

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