

IMPACT



UPSIDE
DOWN



But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world **UPSIDE DOWN** have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.

ACTS 17:5-7



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From Pastor Zenzo and Michelle.....	4
Impact Church By The Numbers.....	6
Upside Down Vision Summary.....	10
Our Campaign Goals	12
How Will You Respond	17
Daily Prayer Devotional	18
Small Group Curriculum & Sermon Notes.....	38
How? Commitment Guide.....	64
Commitment Card Explanation.....	80
More FAQs.....	82



LETTER FROM PASTOR ZENZO AND MICHELLE

Our Church family has been steadily growing since 2015. What began as a small launch team of 45 Christ followers now numbers more than 3,000 people in only 8 years. All this has happened while we've been a mobile church housed in the McGlynn Middle School in Medford, MA. We have come so far, God has done

such a quick and miraculous work, but we believe we have further to go to follow our Savior's command to bring His message and impact more people for Jesus. We believe we are just getting started. Our mission is to win the world for Jesus starting with New England first.

We see evidence of God doing incredible work here at Impact Church. We see it in many new decisions to follow Christ, changed lives, people experiencing healing, deliverance and transformation through our Hunger Nights and Freedom classes, and consistent attendance growth. Also, we just love our coat of many colors—the amazing diversity of Impact Church. It is evident that God has called this congregation to fill a unique role in the greater Boston area and the New England region.

We maxed out the capacity of our existing facilities and staff a long time ago. We are in 4 services on a Sunday and we are pulling in extra seats in some of those services. We had to add a 5th service for Easter as well as “overflow” at the 10am, 11:30am and 1pm on Easter just to accommodate the amount of people coming. That is an equivalent of 8 worship experiences in one building—we are maximizing in the year to maximize. We believe it's time for expansion! That is not only wisdom but also stewardship. We want to steward every soul well but also create room for more to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

Remember, Boston is the 5th most unchurched city in all of America. Also, about 7 of the most unchurched cities in the USA are all here in New England. There are still so many of our cities, communities and regions who are lost. So many kids who do not yet know Jesus; so many singles who are searching; so many parents who long to raise their families with values, and grandparents who want the best for their grandchildren. God, through Impact Church, holds the answers they are seeking, the hope they are longing for. We believe God has called us for such a time as this to impact our region and the world for Jesus.

This is the beautiful burden and heartbeat that compels us to move forward even more forcefully than ever before – to create a safe place where people will come face to face with God – a place where they will hear God's voice and choose to follow Him. A place where they can be impacted so that they can impact their world. Join me in this journey to turn cities upside down for Jesus! This Journey Guide will get you into the heart of God. What a God. What a Church. What a People. Let's go!

Pastors Zenzo and Michelle.



IMPACT CHURCH BY THE NUMBERS YEAR 2023

SMALL GROUP DATA

3 YOUNG ADULT GROUPS

3 MEN GROUPS

12 WOMEN GROUPS

5 EVERYONE WELCOMED GROUP

1 GROW GROUPS

3 MARRIAGE GROUPS

5 YOUTH CREWS

1,048

Average Weekly Attendance

248

iKidz Average Weekly Attendance

2,650

Easter Service Guests

543

New Guest Total

423

Serving Team Total

518

Salvation Total

151

Baptism Total

God is still moving, our current average weekly attendance is

1,277

IMPACT CHURCH TIMELINE



**SEPTEMBER
2015**

LAUNCH!

On September 20th, Impact Church launched with over 300 people in attendance.

**NOVEMBER
2015**

NEXT STEPS

Began our first Next Steps class

**MAY
2016**

LAUNCH!

iGroups Launched

**DECEMBER
2016**

NYE

First NYE Crossover Service

**APRIL
2017**

2 SERVICES

Easter 2017, went to 2 services

**APRIL
2018**

3 SERVICES

Easter 2018, went to 3 services
Sunday Attendance broke 1,000

**APRIL
2018**

YOUTH

Impact Youth Began

**JUNE
2019**

HUNGER NIGHT

Hunger Nights began

**JUNE
2019**

CAMP

Impact Youth Camps began

**JUNE
2019**

ONLINE

started online services

**DECEMBER
2022**

CHRISTMAS

first Christmas Spectacular

**AUGUST
2022**

FREEDOM

Freedom Ministry began (237 individuals have completed Freedom)

**SEPTEMBER
2023**

4 SERVICES

went to 4 services



UPSIDE DOWN

VISION SUMMARY

Turning Cities Upside Down for Jesus is a church-wide generosity initiative that is aimed at making disciples who live all of life all for Jesus. Our **primary goal** is that **100%** of people at Impact would engage in this initiative and be ready to experience a life-changing encounter with God.



OUR CALLING IS REAL

God has called Impact Church to turn cities upside down for Jesus Christ. Impact Church is a life giving church in New England where thousands of people who are far from God are encountering God and empowered to live the life they were made for impact. Every person who finds their way back home to Jesus finds out they can know God, find freedom from their past, discover purpose, and begin to live to make an eternal difference. This is what we imagined when God opened the doors for Impact Church to be born. Since that day thousands have come to faith in Jesus and are living to make a difference for God each and every day. We have seen our church grow from just a couple hundred people to the point of needing four services each Sunday to accommodate all the people God is bringing to Impact. As more and more people experience new life in Christ, cities will be turned upside down.

At this point in our journey, we could settle for what we've seen God do rather than make room for what we believe is the greatest harvest season we've ever seen. Yet, since God's not done, we're not done! Until the harvest of souls is complete, until every city is turned upside down for Jesus, the Impact Church family will always make room for more people to encounter Jesus and His transformative grace. That heart for the lost is our vision. The harvest dictates that we provide more room, more locations, more impact.

OUR RESULTS ARE ETERNAL

With four services there isn't room at the optimal times that new people will consider attending church. We prayed to become an Acts 2 church, where "daily God was adding to their numbers those being saved." That's us! That's our reality. So, once again, the time has come for Impact Church to rise to the need and find a permanent location to call home.



OUR VISION IS TURNING CITIES UPSIDE DOWN

Upside Down is a 2 year capital campaign designed to raise \$5 Million dollars above and beyond our current giving at Impact Church which will set us up to be ready to take advantage of what God has imagined for our next place to call home. Upside Down has been birthed out of a place of prayer and scripture reading from Acts 17:5-7 where it states,

⁵But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world UPSIDE DOWN have come here also, ⁷and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

The anticipation about the future is in knowing that as we make the space for all that God is doing and about to do, God will bring the increase, and it isn't just for us. This next move is also about a new building for all generations, building so that we can launch into other cities throughout the northeast so that all the generations will have access to have a place of hope and healing, freedom, and purpose. It's for durability, longevity, and legacy. It's a place for all future generations to call upon the Lord and be saved.

GOAL #1: 100% FULLY ENGAGED AND RESPONDING

That is why we are boldly asking every person in every household at Impact Church to go **ALL IN** as we step out in faith together to pursue what God has for us. We want all of us to pray fervently, commit fully, cheer loudly, and give generously.

If everyone does 100% of what God asks them to do, we will all grow as disciples and accomplish everything God has for us. And as we unite to build God's house, God will build our house. Our primary goal is 100% of people who are attending Impact Church will seek God in this season, hear God's voice, and respond courageously.



GOAL #2: \$5 MILLION IN OVER AND ABOVE GIVING

We are encouraging everyone to seek and follow God about investing financially in the future of Impact Church as we position ourselves for a new location. We are asking God to grow people in generosity and fund our new ministry home that will expand ministry space for kids, youth ministry, outreach ministry and so much more for greater ministry impact.

However, our response to *Upside Down* is to be born out of a season of seeking God, praying, and being challenged scripturally. So, we will first have a season of seeking God, then responding to His leading. As a church we want to do something spiritual before we respond spiritually; because our financial need will require “not equal giving, but equal sacrifice” from 100% of us.





HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God and your family—to take the biggest steps of generosity you’ve ever taken. To begin, let’s commit to taking these four steps together:

1. PRAY FERVENTLY

Pray that God would multiply our efforts to make disciples and make much of Christ. Pray that He will do abundantly more than we ask or imagine for His great name.

2. COMMIT FULLY

Help us reach our goal of 100% engagement. Stand side by side with your church family. Commit to do what God asks. Put your “Yes!” on the table.

3. GROW TOGETHER

Attend each Sunday from April 14 through June 2. Engage in the Upside Down Journey with your Small Group. If you’re not in a Small Group, fill out a Connection Card this Sunday and we’ll connect you with one!

4. GIVE GENEROUSLY

Ask God to show you what it looks like to give in a way that changes you. Take whatever steps are required to see it through.



PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

As a church, on April 14th, we are embarking on a 7 Week Daily Prayer Devotional. This has the potential to dramatically change your life and the culture of our church.

“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” – 2 Chronicles 7:14

This prayer guide is an adaptation of the 365-day devotional “New Morning Mercies” by Paul David Tripp

DAY 1: SHOW ME YOUR GLORY

Psalms 115:1 – Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory, for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!

“It really is the struggle of struggles. It is counterintuitive for us all. It is the thing that makes our lives messy and our relationships conflictual. It is what sidetracks our thoughts and kidnaps our desires. It is the thing below all the other things that you could point to that argues for our need for grace. It is the one battle that one never escapes. It is the one place where ten out of ten of us need rescue. It is the fight that God wages on our behalf to help us to remember that life is simply not about us. It is about God—His plan, His kingdom, and His glory”

The Christian life, the church, our faith are not about us, they’re about Him—His plan, His kingdom, His glory.

DAY 2: ESTABLISHED BY GOD

2 Corinthians 5:7 – For we walk by faith not by sight.

“Human beings have a deep desire to know and understand. We spend much of our daily mental time trying to figure things out. We don’t live by instinct. We don’t live our lives alone. We are all theologians. We are all philosophers. We are all archaeologists who dig into the mounds of our lives to try to make sense of the civilization that is our story. This God- designed mental motivation is accompanied by wonderful and mysterious analytical gifts. This drive and those gifts set us apart from the rest of creation. They are holy, created by God to draw us to Him, so that we can know Him and understand ourselves in light of His existence and will.”

Your rest is not to be found in figuring your life out, but in trusting the One who has it all figured out.

DAY 3: ETERNITY

Matthew 6:19 – Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...

“There is no doubt about it—the Bible is a big-picture book that calls us to big-picture living. It stretches the elasticity of your mind as it calls you to think about things before the world began and thousands of years into eternity. The Bible simply does not permit you to live for the moment. It doesn’t give you room to shrink your thoughts, desires, words, and actions down to whatever spontaneous thought, emotion, or need grips you at any given time. In a moment, your thoughts can seem more important than they actually are. In a moment, your emotions can seem more reliable than they really are. In a moment, your needs can seem more essential than they truly are. We are meant to live lives that are connected to beginnings and to endings. And we are meant to live this way because all that we do is meant to have connection to the God of beginnings and endings, by whom and for whom we were created.”

If eternity is the plan, then it makes no sense to shrink your living down to the needs and wants of this little moment.

DAY 4: MYSTERIES OF GOD

Isaiah 40:28 – Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.

“God is with you in your moments of darkness because He will never leave you. But your darkness isn’t dark to Him. Your mysteries aren’t mysterious to Him. Your surprises don’t surprise Him. He understands all the things that confuse you the most. Not only are your mysteries not mysterious to Him, but He is in complete charge of all that is mysterious to you and me.”

The best theology will not remove mystery from your life, so rest is found in trusting the One who rules, is all, and knows no mystery.

DAY 5: NAIL IT TO THE NOW!

Galatians 3:2 – Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

“The fact is that sin is a bigger disaster than we think it is and grace is more amazing than we seem to be able to grasp that it is. No one who really understands what scripture has to say about the comprehensive, every-aspect-of-your-personhood-altering nature

of sin would ever think that anyone could muster enough motivation and strength to rise to God's standard of perfection. The thought that any fallen human being would be able to perform his or her way into acceptance with God has to be the most insane of all delusions. Yet we all tend to think that we are more righteous than we are, and when we think this, we have taken the first step to embracing the delusion that maybe we're not so bad in God's eyes after all."

If you obey for a thousand years, you're no more accepted than when you first believed; your acceptance is based on Christ's righteousness and not yours.

DAY 6: CONTENTMENT

Psalm 73:25-26 — Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

"Here is one of the most beautiful fruits of grace—a heart that is content, more given to worship than demand and more given to the joy of gratitude than the anxiety of want. It is grace and grace alone that can make this kind of peaceful living possible for each of us. Won't you reach out today for that grace?"

Contentment celebrates grace. The contented heart is satisfied with the Giver and is therefore freed from craving the next gift.

DAY 7: YOU NEED IT!

Romans 8:11 — He gives life to your mortal bodies.

"I need the Holy Spirit living inside me because sin kidnaps the desires of my heart, blinds my eyes, and weakens my knees. My problem is not just the guilt of sin; it's the inability of sin as well. So God graces His children with the convicting, sight-giving, desire-producing, and strength-affording presence of the Spirit."

Every day you need it. You and I simply can't live without it. What is it? The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

DAY 8: GOD-SIZED

Hebrews 11:6 — And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

"There is no more counterintuitive function to the average, sin-damaged human being than faith in God. Sure, we'll put our faith in a lot of things, but not in a God we cannot see or hear, who makes 20 promises so grand they seem impossible to keep. God gives us

the power to first believe, but He doesn't stop there. By grace He works in the situations, locations, and relationships of our everyday lives to craft, hammer, bend, and mold us into people who build life based on the radical belief that He really does exist and He really does reward those who seek Him."

God calls you to believe and then works with zeal to craft you into a person who really does live by faith.

DAY 9: NO FEAR

2 Chronicles 32:7 — Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed...

"There will be a moment when you will ask, 'Where is courage to be found to face what I am facing?' Hezekiah gives you your answer: 'Look up and remember your God.' As God's child, you are never left to battle on your own."

For the believer, fear is always God-forgetful.

DAY 10: GRATITUDE

Psalm 107:1 — Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!

"Entitlement has ravished our culture. Our joy is robbed when we see ourselves as entitled and deserving rather than grateful. The truth is that every breath is a gift from God. Every moment is an opportunity for praise. The good, bad, and the ugly. Let's give thanks to the Lord today for He is good and His love endures forever."

The DNA of joy is thankfulness.

DAY 11: FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

2 Timothy 6:12 — Fight the good fight of faith.

"It is a wonderfully encouraging name for the God you serve, yet it's possible to let it pass through your eyes and into your brain without stopping to celebrate its glory. In Romans 15:5, Paul calls your Lord "the God of endurance." This title really gets at the center of where your hope is to be found. Let me state it plainly: your hope is not to be found in your willingness and ability to endure, but in God's unshakable, enduring commitment to never turn from His work of grace. Your hope is that you have been welcomed into communion with One who will endure no matter what."

God calls you to persevere by faith, and then, with powerful grace, he protects and keeps you.

DAY 12: EVEN IF

Timothy 2:13 — If we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.

“This verse pictures a radically different way of living, one not natural to most of us. Most human beings buy into a view of life characterized by the ‘life is on your shoulders,’ ‘you make or break your life,’ ‘pay your money and take your choice,’ or ‘you have no one to look to or blame but yourself’ outlook. In this view, you are the master of your fate. You have little to rely on other than your instincts, your strength, the wisdom that you’ve collected over the years, your ability to anticipate what is around the corner, your character and maturity, and the natural gifts that you have been given. It is a scary ‘you against the world’ way of living. But your welcome into God’s family turns all of this upside down. God not only forgives your sins and guarantees you a seat in eternity but welcomes you to a radically new way of living.”

Yes, it is true—God will remain faithful even when you’re not, because His faithfulness rests on who He is, not on what you’re doing.

DAY 13: NO FAVORITES

Luke 12:22 — Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.

“Real, sturdy, lasting peace, peace that doesn’t rise and fall with circumstances, isn’t to be found in picking apart your life until you have understood all of the components. You will never understand it all because God, for your good and His glory, keeps some of it shrouded in mystery. So peace is found only in trust, trust of the One who is in careful control of all the things that tend to rob you of your peace. He knows, He understands, He is in control of what appears to be chaos, He is never surprised, He is never confused, He never worries or loses a night’s sleep, He never walks off the job to take a rest, He never gets so busy with one thing that He neglects another, and He never plays favorites.”

Don’t be discouraged today. You can leave your “what-ifs” and “if-onlys” in the hands of the One who loves you and rules all things.

DAY 14: UNFAILING LOVE

Psalms 136:1 — Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

“Why does God repeat, over and over through the pen of the
22

psalmist, ‘for his steadfast love endures forever?’ There are two answers to this question. First, there is no reality more radical and foundational to a biblical worldview and a personal sense of identity than this. What is the biblical story? It’s the story of a God of love invading the world in the person of His Son of love to establish His kingdom of love by a radical sacrifice of love, to forgive us in love and draw us into His family of love, and to send us out as ambassadors of the very same love. The entire hope of fallen humanity rests on this one thing—that there is a Savior who is eternally steadfast in redeeming, forgiving, reconciling, transforming, and delivering love. Without this, the Bible is a book of interesting stories and helpful principles, but it is devoid of any power to fix what sin has broken.”

Unlike human love, which is often fickle and temporary, God’s love never fails, no matter what.

DAY 15: NEW MORNING MERCIES

Lamentations 3:22-23 — The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

“Since sin means that you are a bigger danger to you than anything else in your life and since it is impossible for you to run from you, there is only one hope for you. It is that Someone with power, wisdom, and mercy will invade your life, forgive your sins, and progressively deliver you from the hold that sin has had on you. That mercy comes to you in a person, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His mercy is always fresh, uniquely fashioned for the sin struggles of this new day.”

There’s not a day without sin rearing its ugly head and not a day in which God’s abundant mercies are not new.

DAY 16: NEVER ALONE

Galatians 2:20 — I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

“What does the gospel say you have been given right here, right now, so that you can be what you’ve been called to be and do what you’ve been called to do? The answer is Christ! He is in you. He is with you. He is for you. In Him, you really do have everything you need. You simply have not been left to yourself.”

If you’re God’s child, you will never again have just you to depend on.

DAY 17: HOPE IS A PERSON

Haggai 1:13 - I am with you, declares the LORD

“But here is the radical truth of the gospel. Hope is not a situation. Hope is not a location. Hope is not a possession. Hope is not an experience. Hope is more than an insight or a truism. Hope is a person, and his name is Jesus! He comes to you and makes a commitment of hope: ‘And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’ (Matt. 28:20)”

Where is hope to be found? In five life-altering words: I am with you always.

DAY 18: LOVE

Ephesians 4:2-3 — With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

“Theology is never an end in itself, but a means to an end, the end that we would progressively become like the One who is the ultimate definition of what love is and what love does. In His grace, he provides everything we need to be a loving community and theologically pure at the same time. To forsake either is not only a failure to love, but bad theology as well. It both compromises God’s truth and rejects his call. It is in a community of humble love that we are best positioned to understand all that God has said to us in His word.”

Theology without love is simply very bad theology.

DAY 19: MEMORIAL OFFERINGS

Psalms 103:14 — For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

“It’s simply not natural for us. It’s natural to make sure all your needs are met. It’s natural to hoard what you have in the fear that at some point you won’t have enough. It’s natural to carry around with you a long catalog of things you want for yourself. It’s natural to be more in tune with your feelings than with the feelings of others. It’s natural to want mercy for yourself but justice for others. It’s natural to be very aware of the sin of others, yet blind to your own. If we are ever going to be people of mercy, we need bountiful mercy ourselves, because what stands in the way of our being a community of mercy is us!”

Mercy for others will reveal your ongoing need for mercy, driving

you to the end of yourself and into the arms of your merciful Savior.

DAY 20: I AM NOT MY OWN

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

“We’re all slaves; the question is, to whom or to what? Everyone is willing to make sacrifices; the question is, to whom or for what? We all follow sets of rules; the question is, whose and for what? We all give our hearts to something; the question is, to whom or to what? We were never hardwired to be free, if by ‘freedom’ we mean an independent, self-sufficient life. We were created by God to be connected to something vastly bigger than ourselves. We were designed to have our lives organized and directed by an agenda that is bigger than our truncated personal desires and goals. We were carefully built by God to have every aspect of our personhood connected to Him and His plans for us, and when we reject Him, we don’t live autonomously; we replace Him with something or someone.”

God’s call to obey is itself a grace. In this call, he is actively rescuing you from you.

DAY 21: ABANDONMENT

Romans 6:4 — We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

“The one prayer Christ calls us all to pray requires us to let go of our momentary agendas and take up His eternal one. It requires us to surrender our distorted sense of need to His perfect sense of what is best. It is the ‘forever-you’ model of prayer. It requires you to take the long view—to let go of your hold on your life and surrender to the kingship of another. It is captured by a few dangerous words. Why ‘dangerous?’ Because they have the power to turn your life upside down, to make you a very different you than you have been. Here is what we have been called to pray: ‘Your kingdom come, Your will be done, right here, right now in my life as it is in heaven’ (see Matt. 6:10). It is only in the context of the surrender of these words that Jesus welcomes you to pray about your right-here, right-now needs.”

Prayer calls me to abandon the present as my only lens on life and commit to look at life from the perspective of reality.

DAY 22: GOD'S CHILD

Galatians 4:6 — And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying,

“Abba! Father!”

“What identity will you assign to yourself today?”

Will you deal with life based on what you assess you bring to the table or based on who you now are as a child of the King of kings and Lord of lords—the Savior who is always with you in power and grace? Will you live in timidity and fear or in the courage of hope? Will you avoid challenges of faith in fear or move toward them, resting not in your own ability but in the presence, power, and grace of the One who rules all and has become your Father? May God give you grace to remember your identity as His child in those moments when remembering is essential.”

If you're God's child, it's no more you against the world than it was David, by himself, against the great warrior Goliath.

DAY 23: THE DEATH OF DEATH

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 — For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

“If someone asked you, ‘What is God doing right now?’ what would you answer? I am afraid that many of us are confused when it comes to the present benefits and activity of Jesus. We get that we have been forgiven and we understand that we have eternity with Him in our future, but we're not sure what the agenda is in the here and now. Because we don't understand what God has committed Himself to in the present, we are tempted to question His wisdom and doubt His love. Our problem is not that God is inactive or that He has abandoned us, but that we are not on His agenda page. Left with confusion about his plan and carrying with us unrealistic expectations, we get disappointed and a little bit cynical, and we quit running to Him for help. It is a bit of a spiritual mess. The answer to the big question we have proposed is really quite easy and straightforward. What is God up to right here, right now? Redemption!”

God will not rest from His redemptive work until He has once and for all presided over the funeral of sin and death.

DAY 24: THE FUTURE OF GRACE

Philippians 1:6 — And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

“We don't have to live plagued by the anxiety of the unknown. We don't have to go to sleep wondering what the next day will bring or wake up working our way through all the ‘what ifs’ we can think of. We don't have to seek some means to figure out what we will never be able to figure out. No, we can have rest when we are confused. We can experience peace in the face of the unknown. We can feel an inner well-being while living in the middle of mystery. Why? Because our peace of heart does not rest on how much we know, how much we have figured out, or how accurately we have been able to predict the future. No, our rest is in the Person who holds our individual futures in His wise and gracious hands. We have peace because we know that He will complete the good things that He, in grace, has initiated in our lives. He is faithful, so He never leaves the work of His hands. He is gracious, so He gives us what we need, not what we deserve. He is wise, so what He does is always always best. He is sovereign, so He rules all the situations and locations where we live. He is powerful, so He can do what He pleases, when He pleases.”

You don't have to be anxious about the future. A God of grace has invaded your life, and He always completes what He starts.

DAY 25: NO REGRETS

Philippians 3:13-14 — But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

“All of us should daily celebrate the grace that frees us from the regret of the past. This freedom is not the freedom of retraction or denial. It's not the freedom of rewriting our history. No, it's the freedom of forgiving and transforming grace. This grace welcomes me to live with hope in the present because it frees me to leave my past behind. All of what I look back on and would like to redo has been fully covered by the blood of Jesus. I no longer need to carry the burden of the past on my shoulders, so I am free to fully give myself to what God has called me to in the here and now.”

Quit being paralyzed by your past. Grace offers you life in the present and a guarantee of a future.

DAY 26: THE POWER OF CHRIST

1 Thessalonians 5:17 — Pray without ceasing

“You and I weren't created for independent living. We were created to be dependent on God. Add to this the fact that sin leaves us broken and weak. We all need strength beyond our own and power that we'll never independently possess. So God, in grace, grants us

power in the Person of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside each of His children. We simply are no longer left to the resources of our own strength (see Eph. 3:20–21). To remind us of who we are, what we need, and what we’ve been given, God will walk down the hallway and let us experience our weakness once again so that we will seek and celebrate the strength that is only ever found in Him. When He does this, it is not an act of divine anger but a response of tender parental grace—the kind of grace you and I will continue to need until grace has finished its work.”

There’s not a day that you won’t need it; there’s not a situation that won’t demand it. What is it? The power of Jesus.

DAY 27: DOUBLE CIRCLE

John 1:5 — The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

“What is the movement of grace? It is to shine light on what once lived in darkness. ‘And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed’ (John 3:19–20). Grace shatters our darkness. Grace explodes on us with penetrating, heart-exposing light. Grace illumines our dank hallways and our dark corners. The Son of grace shines the light of His grace into the darkest recesses of our hearts, not as an act of vengeance or punishment, but as a move of forgiving, transforming, and delivering grace. He dispels our self-inflicted darkness because He knows that we cannot grieve what we do not see, we cannot confess what we have not grieved, and we cannot turn from what we haven’t confessed.”

God’s grace will expose what you want to hide, not to shame you, but to forgive and deliver you.

DAY 28: FIGHT CLUB

Isaiah 42:6 — I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you.

“God knows that we all are a lot like children. We, too, minimize the fallenness of our world and the power of remaining sin, and when we do, we do not guard ourselves from temptation as we should. Isn’t it good to know that God in grace has placed His Warrior Spirit inside of us? He battles on our behalf even in those moments when we don’t have the sense to battle for ourselves (see Gal. 5:16–26) Isn’t it good to know that while we still live in a broken world and

still have sin inside of us, God constantly battles on our behalf? Now, that’s grace!”

Today you will fight temptation, but not alone, because a Warrior Spirit lives inside of you and fights on your behalf.

DAY 29: A NEW LOVE

1 Corinthians 1:6 — It does not rejoice at wrong doing but rejoices with the truth.

“There are an awful lot of things that we call love that don’t really rise to the level of what love is and what love does. Being willing to tolerate things that are wrong in the eyes of God may create a comfortable surface peace, but it isn’t what love does. Being willing to live inside of a circle of evil and not make waves may cause people to like me, but it isn’t love. Saying, ‘It’s okay—don’t worry about it,’ to a person who did something wrong is not really loving. Maintaining peace at any cost isn’t love. Remaining silent when I should speak up isn’t love. Being unwilling to step into tense moments with you because there is wrong between us that needs to be exposed and discussed isn’t love. Asking you to tolerate whatever I do or say because you say you love me is a fundamental misunderstanding of what love is and what love does. Much of what we think love is simply isn’t love after all. Real, biblical, self-sacrificing, God-honoring love never compromises what God says is right and true.”

Love that calls wrong right and right wrong simply isn’t love. Real love rebukes and forgives.

DAY 30: ABIDE IN ME

John 15:7 — If my words abide in you...

“One of the surest ways to get into the presence of God is to get into the word of God. If we get into God’s word, God’s word will get into us. It will radically change the way we think, the way we live, the way we love. But it requires more than a casual reading. In fact, the Bible wasn’t meant to be read. It was meant to be memorized and meditated on. It was meant to be prayed and practiced. We have to abide in the word of God and let the word of God abide in us.”

Reading without meditating is like eating without digesting.

DAY 31: BE MERCIFUL

Luke 6:36 — Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

“We all do it, probably every day. We have no idea that we’re

doing it, yet it has a huge impact on the way we view ourselves and the way we respond to others. It is one of the reasons there is so much relational trouble even in the house of God. What is this thing that we all tend to do that causes so much harm? We all forget. In the busyness and self-centeredness of our lives, we sadly forget how much our lives have been blessed by and radically redirected by mercy. The fact that God has blessed us with His favor when we deserved His wrath fades from our memories like a song whose lyrics we once knew but now cannot recall. The reality that on every morning brand-new mercy greets us is not the thing that grips our minds as we frenetically prepare for our day. When we lay our exhausted heads down at the end of the day for much-needed sleep, we often fail to look back on the many mercies that dripped from God's hands onto our little lives."

Mercy means I am so deeply grateful for the forgiveness I have received that I cannot help offering you the same.

DAY 32: THINGS TO DO

Psalm 27:14 — Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

"Waiting on God is not at all like the meaningless waiting that you do at the dentist's office. You know, he's overbooked, so you're still sitting there more than an hour past your scheduled appointment. You're a man, but you're now reading Family Circle magazine. You've be' When you're a man and you're getting ready to tear a chicken recipe out of Family Circle magazine because the recipe sounds so good, you know that you have been waiting too long! But waiting on God is not like that. Waiting on God is an active life based on confidence in His presence and promises, not a passive existence haunted by occasional doubt. Waiting on God isn't internal torment that results in paralysis. No, waiting on God is internal rest that results in courageous action."

Waiting on God doesn't mean sitting around and hoping. Waiting means believing He will do what He's promised and then acting with confidence.

DAY 33: PRAYER POWER

Ephesians 3:20 — Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...

"Prayer abandons independence. Prayer forsakes any thought that you can make it on your own. Prayer affirms dependency.

Prayer acknowledges weakness. Prayer renounces assessments of capability. Prayer embraces the reality of failure. Prayer tells you that you are not at the center. Prayer calls you to abandon your plans for the wiser plans of another. Prayer flows from a deep personal sense of need and runs toward God's abundant grace."

Prayer is abandoning my reliance on me and running toward the rest that can be found only when I rely on the power of God.

DAY 34: KINGDOM COME

Revelation 22:3 — No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him.

"All the things that disappoint you now are to remind you that this is not all there is and to cause you to long for the paradise that is to come. The dreams that die remind you that this is not paradise. The flowers that wilt remind you that this is not paradise. The sin that captivates you should remind you that this is not paradise. The diseases that infect you are to remind you that this is not paradise. Live in hope because paradise is surely coming, and stop asking this fallen world to be the paradise it will never be."

Of course you haven't been fulfilled in this world. It's a sign that you have been designed for a world to come.

DAY 35: SURE PROMISES

Colossians 1:27 — ...Christ in you, the hope of glory.

"If you fail to remember who God is in His power, glory, and grace, and you forget who you are as a child in his family, you will always mis- measure your potential to do what God has called you to do. You will measure your capability based on your natural gifts and the size of whatever it is that God has chosen you to face. Thankfully, since God is with you, you have been blessed with wisdom and power beyond your own that give you potential you would not have on your own."

Faith is about measuring your potential, not on the basis of your natural gifts and experience, but in the surety of God's presence and promises.

DAY 36: GOD CAN

Romans 13:1 — There is no authority except from Me, and those that exist have been instituted by Me.

"I don't know whether you have ever thought of this before, but God's promises are only as good as the extent of his sovereignty. 31

He can deliver what you need only in the places where He rules. If His rule is not firm and unchanging, His promises are not either. I think that many of us fail to make this connection, and when we do, we allow ourselves to celebrate His promises while subtly resisting His rule. He is your sovereign Savior. If He were not sovereign, you would have no guarantee that He could exercise the authority necessary to be your Savior. But He is sovereign; all of scripture reminds us of that truth.”

Because God rules all the places where you live, He is able to deliver His promises to you in the very circumstances where they are needed.

DAY 37: CONFIDENT CONFUSION

Psalm 139:17 — How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

“There is so much that we don’t understand. There is so much that we are incapable of understanding. So rest is found in trusting the Father. He is not confused, and He surely does have your best interest in mind. Yes, He will ask you to do hard things and he will bring difficult things your way, but he is worthy of your trust and he loves you dearly. Today your heavenly Father reaches down to you and says: ‘I know you don’t understand all that you face, but remember, I love you. Trust Me and you will find peace that can be found no other way.’”

Today you’ll encounter things that will confuse you, but rest assured the One who rules all those things is not confused.

DAY 38: THE LIFE I KNOW LIVE

Ephesians 3:20-21 — The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

“I live with peace, hope, and courage, but not because I understand all that is going on inside me or around me. It is because I have not only been forgiven, but I have been blessed with resources beyond my imagination because the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the Creator- Savior, now lives inside me. I don’t understand much, but of this I am sure—He is with me, He is in me, and He is for me. I cannot allow myself to think that I am poor when His presence makes me rich. I cannot tell myself that I am unable when He empowers me by grace. Here’s the bottom line—I am comfortable with not knowing, because He knows and He is with me forever.”

Get up and face life with courage because, as God’s child, you have not been left to the limits of your own strength and wisdom.

DAY 39: THE SAME GOD

Acts 2:17 — And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh.

“The same God who planned that the worst thing would be the best thing is your Father. He rules over every moment in your life, and in powerful grace He is able to do for you just what He did in redemptive history. He takes the disasters in your life and makes them tools of redemption. He takes your failure and employs it as a tool of grace. He uses the ‘death’ of the fallen world to motivate you to reach out for life. The hardest things in your life become the sweetest tools of grace in His wise and loving hands.”

The cross is evidence that in the hands of the Redeemer, moments of apparent defeat become wonderful moments of grace and victory.

DAY 40: YOUR WILL BE DONE

Matthew 6:10 — Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

“Sadly, prayer for many of us has been shrunk to an agenda that is little bigger than asking God for stuff. It has become that spiritual place where we ask God to sign our personal wish lists. For many, it is little more than a repeated cycle of requesting, followed by waiting to see if God, in fact, comes through. If He does, we celebrate His faithfulness and love; but if He doesn’t, we not only wonder if He cares, we are also tempted to wonder if He’s there. In this way, prayer often amounts to shopping at the Trinitarian department store for things that you have told yourself you need with the hope that they will be free. But consider the Lord’s Prayer for a moment. It doesn’t look anything like what I’ve just described. This prayer is a prayer of worship and surrender. It recognizes, at the deepest level, the war that still goes on in my heart between the kingdom of self and the kingdom of God. It faces the fact that I can be so blind to the glory of God, and as I am, I become captured by the small glories of the created world. It does more surrendering and celebrating than it does asking. And the asking that it does is in the context not of self-glory wishing, but rather in the context of submission and worship.”

Prayer is abandoning my addiction to other glories and delighting in the one glory that is truly glorious—the glory of God.

Day 41:

Romans 15:13-13 — May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we ask that you open the eyes of the blind and turn them from darkness to light. Help them come to their senses and escape from the traps of the enemy. We know you loved the world so much that you gave your only begotten Son so that we will not perish but have eternal life.

Show those who don't know you your incredible love by comforting them when they are scared, giving them grace when they doubt, and strengthening them when they are weak.

Fill them with all joy and peace so they can put their trust in You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 42:

Philippians 4:6 — Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Lord, this world is filled with trouble, but you say that I am not of this world. You tell me not to be anxious about anything but with prayer and petition to present my requests to you. Lord, I need peace. I know you promise peace like a river that washes over me, like the waves of the sea.

Amid the chaos, help me remember by filling me with a peace that surpasses all understanding and reminding me of how you have already overcome all my troubles.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 43:

Romans 8:26 — In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Heavenly Father, you promise that I can have confidence in approaching you and that you hear my prayers. Well, sometimes I am just not sure what to pray. Fill me with your Spirit so that in my weakness, He can intercede. Help me abide in you so I can pray in accordance with your will.

Make me righteous so there is great power in my prayers, and give me faith so I can receive. I want to continue steadfastly in prayer and be watchful with thanksgiving. Put your desires in my heart as I delight in you, and show me your compassion for others so I can intercede on their behalf.

Thank you for being here with me while I pray. I love you and give you all the glory.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 44

Ephesians 3:12 — In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Heavenly Father, I want to be an ambassador for Christ, but sometimes I am timid and afraid. You called me to proclaim the kingdom of God with all boldness, but I need access to the confidence that only comes through faith in you.

Help me remember that you are my helper and that man cannot do anything to me! Give me the confidence to draw near to your throne of grace and the words to fearlessly proclaim the gospel. I know that you did not give me a spirit of fear but of power, so today, I will not be ashamed to share what I believe.

Fill me with your spirit and empower me to complete the calling you have placed on my life.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 45

Psalms 37:4 — Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Heavenly Father, I know you are my shepherd, and I shall not want, but I am struggling to be content. I am not where I want to be in life, and it causes me frustration. Help me to keep an eternal perspective and to delight in you so that my heart is filled with your desires, not the desires of my flesh.

Bring to my memory your promise that there is great gain in godliness when I am content. Above all else, let me keep my mind on you, trusting your perfect timing.

You are so good, and I desire to love and serve you all my days.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 46

Psalms 118:24 — The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

Lord, I know that today is the day you have made, and I want to rejoice and be glad in it. I am just feeling a little overwhelmed on this busy day. I thank you for the work you have established for me, but I pray for your strength to finish it. I ask you to fill me with your complete joy and remove my anxiety and worries.

Let me find rest in you, and help me to focus on your great love, which endures forever. Most importantly, instruct me and teach me the ways I should go, and I promise to try to keep my eyes on you.

I love you and praise your holy name.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 47

1 Peter 5:7 — Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

God, I come to you today with an anxious heart. I know you want me free from these overwhelming emotions, but it's so hard. Help me remember that no matter how big the situation is - you are bigger. You tell me to cast my anxieties on you because you care for and sustain me. You tell me to give you my burdens, and you will give me rest. You call me not to be worried about anything but to present my requests to you.

Today, I am doing that and asking for your peace, which is greater than I could even understand. Calm me as you did the storm. Wrap me in your peace.

Take my heavy loads and help me to trust that you are working all things together for my good. I love you and praise you.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 48

Psalms 139:14 — I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Heavenly Father, I love you and know how deeply you love your precious young children. School can be a difficult place for many reasons. Today, I pray that every child knows they are fearfully and wonderfully made and that you have a purpose for their lives. Fill those students with wisdom, guide them, and teach them your ways.

36

Help them to trust you and cast their anxieties on you because you care for them.

Show them how to honor others above themselves and help them develop new and godly friendships. Give them strength, keep them encouraged, and protect them from every evil work.

I love you and trust that you are good.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 49

Colossians 3:12 — Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Lord, I know you call me to be kind and compassionate, forgiving others just as you forgave me. That is sometimes hard. Help me let go of all bitterness, rage, and anger, and give me the desire to love my enemies and forgive those who hurt me - as many as seventy times.

Today, I choose to remember that my battles are not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of evil. Those who hurt me know not what they do, so even though it is difficult right now, I pray that you bless them.

Heal my heart and give me compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. I love you and thank you.

In Jesus' name, amen.



WEEK ONE: APRIL 14 | UPSIDE DOWN VISION

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

WATCH WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your Class/Group Leader or available at impactpeople.org)

Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers Below

BIG IDEA!

God wants us to say ‘yes’ to the calling to turn cities upside down.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Our Pastors shared stories of people who have been impacted and transformed by the power of God through Impact Church. What goes through your mind when you hear that God is using our church this way?
2. Our Pastors also shared that someone has to be willing to pay a price like Paul, Silas, and Jason did in order for cities to be turned upside down. Do you believe it’s worth it to pay the price for many more people to be impacted by Jesus in our region?
3. In what ways can God use you at Impact Church to help turn cities in our region upside down for Jesus?

READ

ACTS 17:5-7 (NKJV)

“But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

⁶But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.

⁷Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.”

APPLICATION:

In what ways do you think Paul and Silas were used by God to turn cities upside down?

How was Jason’s role critical in the mission of turning cities upside down?

Paul, Silas, and Jason were bold and radical Christians. In what ways is it easy to believe that God wants us to just be comfortable, and not bold and radical as Christians?

What can you do to become a Paul, Silas, or Jason?

What prevents you from fully surrendering to God and trusting Him with the calling to win people for Jesus?

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

WATCH WEEK 2 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your Class/Group Leader or available at impactpeople.org)

Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers Below

BIG IDEA:

God is looking for a king to partner with on the Earth.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Our Pastors shared their own personal story of how they emptied their savings account to give towards the starting of Impact Church. What goes through your mind being a member of Impact Church when you hear that? How does this story motivate you to give towards turning cities upside down?
2. Our Pastors also shared that emptying their bank account to give towards the starting of Impact Church was not an easy thing to do. It required faith and trusting God. Describe something in your life that required a lot of faith to give?
3. What is a significant spiritual moment you have had at Impact? What excites you about helping others have significant spiritual moments at Impact Church through your giving?

READ:

MATTHEW 2:1-12 (NIV)

²After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

APPLICATION:

In what ways were the three kings obedient?

What do you think prompted the three kings to walk in obedience?

What is unique about the sacrifice of the three kings? Why does their sacrifice please God?

READ

1 CHRONICLES 29:1-5 (NKJV)

1Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the Lord God. 2 Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for

things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance. 3 Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: 4 three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses; 5 the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?"

APPLICATION:

What stands out to you about King David's generosity?

What would it take for you to develop your heart to become as generous as King David was?

What does it mean to set your affections on the house of God?

TAKEAWAY:

When it is said that "God desires for us to become kings/ partners with Him in impacting the world", what does it mean to you?

What would be a costly sacrifice for you and why?

If you were to list the reasons why you give financially, what would those reasons be? Has your view of why you give changed over the years?

How can making a long-term commitment to Upside/Down demonstrate your willingness to be one of the kings God will use in our region?

WEEK THREE: APRIL 28 | THE SURRENDERED LIFE

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

WATCH WEEK 3 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your Class/Group Leader or available at impactpeople.org)

Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers Below

BIG IDEA!

Surrender is the common thread to all those who were greatly used by God in the Bible—God is calling us to the surrendered life.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What comes to your mind when you hear that “surrender” is the common thread to all those who God used greatly in the Bible?
2. What is a significant moment of surrender you have had at Impact? What excites you about helping others walk a surrendered life as well?

READ

JONAH 1:1-17 (NLT)

Jonah’s Disobedience

¹ Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” ³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

The Storm at Sea

⁴ But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. ⁵ Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep. ⁶ So the captain came to him,

and said to him, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.” ⁷ And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ Then they said to him, “Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” ⁹ So he said to them, “I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

Jonah Thrown into the Sea

¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, “Why have you done this?” For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. ¹¹ Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous. ¹² And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me.” ¹³ Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. ¹⁴ Therefore they cried out to the Lord and said, “We pray, O Lord, please do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You.” ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows.

Jonah’s Prayer and Deliverance

¹⁷ Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

APPLICATION:

In what ways was Jonah failing to live a surrendered life?

WEEK FOUR: MAY 5 | GOD'S KINGDOM: MY PRIORITY

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

WATCH WEEK 4 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your Class/Group Leader or available at impactpeople.org)

Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers Below

BIG IDEA!

**If you prioritize the kingdom,
God will build your house.**

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Besides Jesus and His church, what else are you most excited about and committed to in life?
2. What are you committed to that sometimes fights for the place of God in your heart? Describe a time you had to trust God for something difficult you couldn't do on your own.
3. Have you ever had needs you did not believe God could meet?

READ

MATTHEW 19:16-22 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" ¹⁷ So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

APPLICATION:

What was the problem with the young rich man?

Why do you think he left the presence of Jesus sad?

Why do you think he was able to honor the Ten Commandments but not what Jesus asked him to do?

What does this story tell you about the rich man's priorities?

What distracts me, from aligning my life and priorities with God's highest priorities?

TAKEAWAY

How can people tell what my highest priority is?

What is the one thing I could do this week, to better align my priorities to God's highest priority for my life?

Where does giving fall on your priority scale?

When it comes to resources, money always points toward what is important to us. How would an adjustment in my giving change me? How would it change my church?

SERMON NOTES

WEEK FIVE: MAY 12 | THE SACRIFICIAL LIFE

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

WATCH WEEK 5 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your Class/Group Leader or available at impactpeople.org)

Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers Below

BIG IDEA!

Real sacrifice does not make sense, it produces a return, destroys excuses, and creates an opportunity.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is one takeaway from Upside/Down that God wants you to celebrate with your group?
2. What do you envision God doing in and through you in the future that you would have never imagined before Upside/Down?
3. What is one way you can keep celebrating God's finishing work in your life over the next year, 5 years, or 10 years?

READ

MARK 14:1-9 (NKJV)

"After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death. ² But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people." ³ And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. ⁴ But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵ For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷ For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. ⁹ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in

the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

APPLICATION:

What does this story tell us about sacrifice?

Do you believe God wants us to be sacrificial like Mary? How does this reflect God's highest goal for our lives?

Judas was full of excuses as to why Mary should not have been sacrificial. What excuses do you have to destroy in order to be sacrificial like Mary?

TAKEAWAY

When you think of someone who has sacrificed their whole life to God, who is that person? Describe them.

What are you holding onto that God wants you to give and sacrifice?

When has sacrifice cost you or caused you to rearrange your priorities?

SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

WATCH WEEK 6 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your Class/Group Leader or available at impactpeople.org)

Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers Below

BIG IDEA!

God is looking for equal sacrifice not equal gift.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe how you can stir up excitement over giving to the Upside/Down Campaign?
2. What is a significant spiritual moment you have had when it comes to giving at Impact?

READ

EXODUS 36:1-6 (NKJV)

“And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the Lord has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the Lord has commanded.”² Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work.³ And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning.⁴ Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing,⁵ and they spoke to Moses, saying, “The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded us to do.”⁶ So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, “Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.” And the people were restrained from bringing,⁷ for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done—indeed too much.

APPLICATION:

In these verses above, what are some of the things that people gave to the Lord for the construction of the tabernacle?

How does it make you feel when you hear about the excitement they had concerning their giving?

What goes through your mind when you hear that they literally had to be restrained from giving because they gave more than what was needed?

TAKEAWAY

Is your giving and generosity accompanied by joy and excitement? How can you tell?

Is your giving sacrificial?

HOW?

YOUR COMMITMENT GUIDE

AFTER PRAYING, WE'RE ASKING YOU TO CREATIVELY BUILD YOUR UPSIDE DOWN COMMITMENT. THIS SECTION OF THE JOURNEY GUIDE WILL BE A REAL HELP.

Can you picture what it will be like to see the growth in our church, realizing that God has enabled you to give more than you ever dreamed possible over two years? Can you see your heart expanding as you become more open-handed and generous, and most of all, that you will help open the door for thousands of people to discover a relationship with Jesus?

Since the founding of Impact Church we been marked by a generous people, those who were willing to sacrifice their resources so that others could discover the love of God, just like they have. We know God hasn't given everyone the ability to give the same dollar amount, but he does call us to sacrificial generosity. Mix it with faith, and be part of something bigger than yourself. Even if you've never given to God's work before, this is a good time to test the waters. Everyone can participate in some way! *REMEMBER, ITS 100% OF US RESPONDING SACRIFICIALLY.*

Often times, some sort of sacrifice is required to get where you want to be. **FOR US TO EXPAND AND CONTINUE TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN OUR CITY AND OUR REGION IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME SACRIFICE.** It's going to take some shifting - in priorities, in spending and in giving. If we want to reach those around us, we need to make an opportunity for them to be reached - we need to increase our ministry space. We need to create an experience that will change their lives. And we can accomplish our *UPSIDE DOWN* goals —but not without you.



WHERE TO START?

The best place to begin is by talking with God about what's on your heart and mind, specifically in relation to this giving commitment. Be honest and open about it.

Even in the nuts and bolts of sorting out financial questions, this is a spiritual journey. It's not about guilt or obligation. **REMEMBER, THE IDEA ISN'T TO FIGURE OUT A MATHEMATICAL FORMULA, IT'S ABOUT GIVING JESUS ACCESS TO YOUR HEART AND LETTING HIM LEAD YOU IN THE FINANCIAL DECISIONS.**

In the next few pages, you'll discover some resources to help you and your family decide what your faith step should be.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAY 19

It's our Commitment Sunday where we'll be turning in our *Upside Down* commitments together as a church. The real journey will begin from there as we faithfully bring our gifts over the next two years.



GOD'S GUIDE FOR GIVING

The Bible has a lot to say about giving, and the promises attached to it. Giving is a responsibility and a privilege. With that in mind, here are four biblical principles on giving from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

1. EVERY BELIEVER IN EVERY CHURCH SHOULD GIVE.

Giving is a universal practice. The apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers, “Follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia” (NLT). In other words, Paul was saying, “They did it in Galatia—you need to do it in Corinth. They did it in Macedonia, and we need to do it here. Every church should do this.” It was not just something the Corinthians were asked to do; it is asked of every believer. No one is exempt from giving.

2. WE LEARN THAT GIVING IS TO BE DONE CONSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY.

“On every Lord’s Day,” Paul said in verse two, “put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned” (NLT). The idea is to consistently take a percentage of your income and set it aside for the work of God. This is what the Scripture tells us we ought to do. And then, as you do this, you are able to invest it in His kingdom.

3. GIVING IS A PERSONAL ACT.

Notice that Paul says, “each of you should put aside some amount of money” (1 Corinthians 16:2, NLT). Paul’s point is

that every one of us should set aside an amount of money to give. Even children ought to be taught this. Giving to God’s work is a personal act for every single believer.

4. WE SHOULD PREPARE OURSELVES TO INVEST IN THE WORK OF GOD.

The apostle Paul told the believers, “Put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering” (1 Corinthians 16:2, NLT). Paul is saying to prayerfully consider how much to give. Do it in advance. It should never be a last-minute or flippant practice. Paul also says, “in relation to what you have earned.” In other words, not all of our gifts will be equal, but our sacrifice should be. Our giving should be in proportion to what we earn. Giving is an opportunity to be an obedient Christian. Take it seriously but do it cheerfully.

DELIBERATE—TALK WITH GOD

First we ask that you go to God and ask that His will be done in your life. It’s important that you are pursuing the direction to follow the direction He has for you and that you and the doors He wants you to walk through.

DEFINE—WHAT SACRIFICE LOOKS LIKE FOR YOU

What changes can you make in your life that will better enable you to invest in what you believe in? How can you give in ways that will make a difference in you? These are often personal and specific to your lifestyle, budget and areas you know God is asking you to make changes and sacrifices.

DETERMINE—A STARTING POINT

UPSIDE DOWN is not based on equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. In other words, not all of our gifts will be of the same amount, but every one of us can meaningfully invest in proportion to the resources God has given us to work with. Your two-year commitment is to be an amount that demonstrates the definition of sacrifice and big faith as God reveals it to you. We thought it would be helpful to explain what commitment IS and IS NOT. A commitment IS a heartfelt decision to get behind what Impact Church

is doing—and it’s something you make that’s between you and God. A commitment is NOT a contract or legal agreement.

DECIDE—CREATE A PERSONAL GIVING PLAN

Prayerfully come up with two-year plan of giving that goes above and beyond your regular giving. Remember, we are not just finding a new address; we are investing in bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to this and future generations.

DONATE—STORED RESOURCES

Another way you can contribute to UPSIDE DOWNS is by giving existing assets. Giving the asset to the church and then letting the church sell it eliminates potential capital gains taxes and can increase the after-tax

GIVING WORKSHEET

Many times, it’s hard to know where to start - individually - when thinking about making sacrifices in order to make a faith-commitment to a campaign of this nature. In past financial campaigns, families and individuals have found the following worksheet to be helpful and eye-opening in their process of making a sacrificial commitment to see our financial goals become reality. So, we encourage you to sit down and go through this worksheet and include family (if applicable) toward putting pen-to-paper as a response to your prayer of, “Dear Lord, what do You want to do through me?”

STEP ONE: PRAY

Yes, it is true, you will have to do more than pray, but do not do anything until you pray! Begin by using the following as a guide:

ADORATION (1 MINUTE): Celebrate how great God is.

CONFESSION (1 MINUTE): Admit areas in your life that may be outside of God’s will for you or areas that may not be pleasing to God. You can even confess your hesitation to engage in the process.

THANKSGIVING (1 MINUTE): Think about the many aspects of your life for which you can be grateful. I.e., a car to drive, a place to live, food to eat, clothes to wear, job that provides an income, etc.

SURRENDER (1 MINUTE): Relinquish all that you have. This may be the hardest part of this prayer progression. The physical action of turning your open palms upward may help you visualize your willingness to let go of what God has given to you. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

STEP TWO: EVALUATE YOUR INCOME

It’s important to have a realistic starting point, so start with what is known, your income.

SALARY #1: \$ _____ **SALARY #2:** \$ _____

For most of us, income alone will not take us where we want to go toward making a sacrificial commitment to UPSIDE DOWN.

STEP THREE: LIFESTYLE CHANGES AND/OR ALTERED SPENDING

(use the space provided to write the total two-year savings created by that sacrifice)

SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU THINKING:

- \$ _____ **LESSEN CAR PAYMENTS**
- \$ _____ **SELL CAR & PURCHASE A USED CAR WITH NO PAYMENTS**
- \$ _____ **EAT OUT LESS OFTEN**
- \$ _____ **CUT BACK ON SUBSCRIPTIONS**
- \$ _____ **REGULATE THE AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF GIFTS GIVEN**
- \$ _____ **SCALE BACK CELL PHONE & INTERNET USAGE**
- \$ _____ **MODIFY TYPE AND NUMBER OF VACATIONS**

- \$_____ ADJUST CABLE TV/DIRECT TV COVERAGE PACKAGES
- \$_____ TRIM DOWN ENTERTAINMENT
- \$_____ REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COFFEE RUNS
- \$_____ DECREASE NEW CLOTHING PURCHASES
- \$_____ PAY OFF A BILL AND CONTINUE THAT PAYMENT TO UPSIDE DOWN
- \$_____ DO YOUR OWN HOUSEKEEPING, LAWN CARE, ETC.
- \$_____ OTHER
- \$_____ SUB-TOTAL

It's important in this journey to include your spouse in the conversation if you are married, or the entire family if you have children. It's an important step in the development of your family. Most of us think that our kids will not be willing to sacrifice, but we've seen that most kids are more comfortable than we are as adults with the process, and they have an implicit and childlike faith and belief in a BIG God.

STEP FOUR: ACTIVELY CONSIDER YOUR STORED RESOURCES. THIS INCLUDES A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES:

PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS THAT HAVE APPRECIATED IN VALUE SUCH AS:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$_____ HOME | \$_____ VACATION HOME |
| \$_____ LAND | \$_____ STOCKS AND BONDS |
| \$_____ TIMESHARE | \$_____ RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS |
| \$_____ APARTMENTS | \$_____ CRYPTO |
| \$_____ CONDOS | |

COLLECTIBLES SUCH AS:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| \$_____ CARS | \$_____ MOVIE MEMORABILIA |
| \$_____ STAMPS | |
| \$_____ TRADING CARDS | \$_____ ANTIQUES |
| \$_____ COINS | |

DEPRECIATED OBJECTS SUCH AS:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| \$_____ MOTORCYCLE | \$_____ ARTWORK |
| \$_____ CLOTHES | \$_____ THINGS THAT COULD BE SOLD ON EBAY |
| \$_____ BOATS | |
| \$_____ JEWELRY | \$_____ SUB-TOTAL |

STEP FIVE: TIME AND TALENT

CONSIDER PUTTING YOUR TIME AND/OR TALENT INTO PLAY TO GENERATE RESOURCE:

- \$_____ GO BACK TO WORK
- \$_____ WORK ONE ADDITIONAL DAY A WEEK
- \$_____ START A NEW BUSINESS TO GENERATE INCOME
- \$_____ TAKE AN OUTSIDE "SEASONAL" JOB OPPORTUNITY
- \$_____ WORK OVERTIME
- \$_____ WORK AN EXTRA DAY
- \$_____ CREATIVE & ARTISTIC HOBBIES, JEWELRY MAKING, POTTERY, ETC.
- \$_____ SUB-TOTAL

STEP SIX: DENIAL OR A GENUINE ACT OF SACRIFICIAL FAITH

As is seen in the Bible, God often taps people on the shoulder and asks them to do something extraordinary. This is the sort of out-of-the-ordinary faith that can only be attributed to a prompting of God's Spirit. It's the type of commitment that a financial planner may think is foolish, but God may very well consider quite smart. It's hard to suggest what this opportunity may be for you, but we believe God will lead some of you toward this very place.

FOR INSTANCE:

- \$_____ YOU DECIDED TO RETIRE, BUT YOU DELAY IT FOR TWO YEARS TO GIVE THOSE RESOURCES TO THE CHURCH

\$ _____ **POSTPONE OR SLIDE BACK RETIREMENT
BY TAKING MONEY OUT OF YOUR
401K/403B/IRA**

\$ _____ **DIVERT DOLLARS FROM CHILDREN'S
COLLEGE FUND**

We would like to believe there are dollar amounts that can be assigned to every one of these steps/categories. Total them up and give that over the two years. Yes - it is going to take God's help to accomplish it, but if we could do it on our own, then we very well might be tempted to take the credit for what God and only God can do!

STEP SEVEN: THE COMMITMENT...TRUST GOD!

The real journey will come over the next two years. We hope you'll keep a record of the amazing and unexpected ways God will work and provide in your life to accomplish your commitment.

HOW THEY DID IT? A COMMITMENT STRATEGY FOR A HOUSEHOLD OF FOUR:

\$2,600 - INCREASE GIVING BY \$25/WK 24 MONTH

\$5,408 - REDUCE EATING OUT BY \$50/WK

\$150 - CREW (7TH GRADER) TAKES LUNCH TO SCHOOL

\$870 - PHIL (HUSBAND) TAKES LUNCH TO WORK

**\$2,600 - JASMINE (WIFE) REDUCES HOUSEHOLD
FOOD BUDGET BY \$25/WK**

\$1,800 - SCARLETT FORGOES PEDICURES

**\$400 - MIRANDA (HS SENIOR) REDUCES
ENTERTAINMENT EXPENSE**

**\$1,600 - BRIAN PLAYS GOLF ONLY ONCE A WEEK
DURING SUMMER**

**\$1,000 - FAMILY REDUCES 2 CHRISTMAS YEARS'
EXPENSE BY \$500**

\$840 - POSTPONE VACATION

\$150 - REESE (10TH GRADER) GIVES 1/4 BABY SITTING FEES

**\$200 - MISCELLANEOUS REDUCTIONS (SUBSCRIPTIONS,
FEES, ETC.)**

\$1,000 - TRUSTING GOD FOR ANOTHER \$1,000

GRAND TOTAL: \$18,618

REMEMBER THE GOD FACTOR

Don't put yourself in a box! What are your dreams? What if God chooses to bless your future too? We BELIEVE He will! So, don't forget the 'God factor' that could adjust your commitment because of a new job, raise, promotion, etc. God has shown how He can take a commitment made in faith that was a real stretch for someone and bring in the resources to meet it.

If you need assistance to dig deeper and figure these things out, please contact the church office and we can connect you with someone.

WHAT IS MY STEP OF FAITH?

How is Jesus calling you into action? What's the step that helps you to trust God in a new way? Where is he asking you to trust him without a safety net - so that you can experience his ability to move you in a way that will radically transform your heart and faith?

**“Faith is the confidence
that what we hope for will
actually happen; it gives us
assurance about the things
we cannot see.”**

HEBREWS 11:1

WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR IMPACT CHURCH TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR \$5M UPSIDE DOWN CAMPAIGN?

There is one thing for certain - we cannot take the total that is needed and divide it by the number of families in the church and come up with an "average" gift for every family to give. That will not work.

When studying past campaigns of other churches, a typical distribution of gifts can be found. Using that typical distribution and applying to our church, we find a “model” distribution of gifts. This is what it will take for us to be successful. This also underscores the Biblical principle of proportionality – that each of us is “called” to give according to how we’ve been blessed with financial resources!

This “tool” also underscores another Biblical principle of generosity, the principle that decisions about giving should be made in prayer. Look at the chart and pray our campaign prayer, “Lord, what do You want to do through me?” Then ask the Lord, “Where do You see me (or us) on this chart? At what level of giving?”

GOD WILL TELL YOU - JUST ASK!

\$5,000,000 FINANCIAL NEED

Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice.

NO. GIFTS AT LEVEL	GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
1	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
2	\$300,000	\$600,000	\$1,100,000
3	\$150,000	\$450,000	\$1,550,000
4	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$1,950,000
10 Commitments = \$1,950,000 or 39.0% of Goal			
8	\$60,000	\$480,000	\$2,430,000
11	\$45,000	\$495,000	\$2,925,000
16	\$30,000	\$480,000	\$3,405,000
26	\$15,000	\$390,000	\$3,795,000
61 Commitments = \$1,845,000 or 36.9% of Goal			
71 Commitments = \$3,795,000 or 75.9% of Goal			
26	\$12,000	\$312,000	\$4,107,000
30	\$9,000	\$270,000	\$4,377,000
50	\$6,000	\$300,000	\$4,677,000
70	\$3,000	\$210,000	\$4,887,000
Remainder	\$1,500 or Less	\$113,000	\$5,000,000
Remaining Commitments = \$1,205,000 or 24.1% of Goal			
Total Commitments = \$5,000,000 or 100% of Goal			

MY TWO-YEAR FAITH STEP AND COMMITMENT

\$

TWO YEAR COMMITMENT BEGINS JUNE OF 2024
AND CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE 2026

A CLOSING THOUGHT:

WAY TO GO! YOU GOT IN THERE AND YOU WENT FOR IT.

If you took the time to listen, pray, read, and contemplate what God has wanted to reveal to you, we trust that you are not quite the same person you were when you started this spiritual journey. God is looking...“Searching the whole earth for people who are totally committed to him” (2 Chron. 16:9).

THAT’S THIS CHURCH, THAT’S OUR CHURCH! THAT’S YOU!

Just wait and see what God will do both through our church and in your own life. It’s very possible that “it will be far above and beyond what we have dared to ask, hope or think” (Eph. 3:20).

HE’S GOING TO DO IT—BUT NOT WITHOUT YOU.
NOT WITHOUT US. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON
THIS JOURNEY.





MARKERS FOR A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

All of us are on a journey of spiritual growth; where we are growing in our capacity to love and trust God with all of life. These 3 trail markers focus on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts—our discipleship—rather than on amounts or percentages. Each trail marker represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice that transforms us into the likeness of Christ who gave up everything.



1. PIONEER GIVER

Starting anything new can feel both exciting and a bit scary, but Pioneer Givers are ready to begin the life transforming journey toward Generosity. A Pioneer Giver is someone who first sets out on the journey of giving. They have decided for the first time, out of response to God’s Word and saving work in their lives to begin giving. This is someone who begins to give regularly and is learning to trust God and the leaders of the Church with their finances.

2. INTENTIONAL GIVER

Intentional Givers think about giving in relation to other things they spend their money on. They ask intentional questions about their giving like: “Why do I give the cable company or my cell provider more money than I give to God?” They consider a percentage or amount they want to commit to in order to consciously grow in their generosity. Intentional Givers look at their budget and consider how their giving reflects their view of God and commitment to His Kingdom. This may also be the point when someone begins to tithe, which is being intentional about a certain amount or percentage that they want to give to God. Intentional givers always think about their generosity in proportion to what God has given them.

3. UPSIDE DOWN GIVER

An Upside Down Giver is someone who thinks about the long-term effects of generosity rather than month-to-month, or even year-to-year, generosity. An Upside Down Giver makes decisions in the short-term that have longer-term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, and how much savings they choose to keep all in relation to their generosity capacity. An Upside Down Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal that governs their larger-ticket decisions. An Upside Down Giver is a legacy leaver.

CREATIVE WAYS TO GROW YOUR GENEROSITY

For many of us, when we think of “church giving,” the first thing our minds jump to is depositing that recurring check into the offering plate. And there’s nothing wrong with that! But, there are few other creative ways increase your generosity beyond writing bigger checks.

- o Practice priority budgeting
- o Redirect current expenditures
- o Give from your excess
- o Commit unexpected cash
- o Sacrifice your extra time
- o Donate appreciated assets

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the two-year period of the campaign. You might be able to give more in the second year than in the first. As you think about your financial commitment to the campaign, think not just of your potential to give right now, but also of your potential to give in the future. It might be that you can make a two-year commitment in which 35-40% is given in the first year, and 60-65% is given in the second year.



We want to give you some guidance and tools that can help you as we lead up to commitment Sunday, May 19th.

The information that follows can help you and your family prepare as we all take the biggest step of generosity we've ever taken.

MAKING AN UPSIDE DOWN COMMITMENT

Feel free to use the exercises below as you pray and prepare.

- List out the financial commitments you currently have—those that go beyond a one-time payment and have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child's tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.
- Now, write out the commitment you are planning to make for Upside Down. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your Upside Down commitment? What if you wanted to raise your Upside Down commitment? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a truly surrendered giving commitment? With your current priorities, are you fully engaged with God's mission of helping people take their next step with Christ?
- If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you value?
- Would that statement be true about you? Or, is there something that needs to be explained or modified?
- If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what spiritual transformation will occur in you?
- How will you leverage this change to influence others such as your children, your co-workers, your friends, your family, or others in your circles of influence?

Pray over your commitment as you prepare to lay your card at the altar on **Commitment Sunday, May 19th.**

Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process, and prayer is what gives us the bold heart of Christ within us.

Let's do this!
Let's be people boldly surrendering themselves to God in every area of their lives.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Mobile Home

MY TWO-YEAR* FAITH STEP AND COMMITMENT

Cash \$ My Total Commitment

Estimate From My/Our Stored Resources \$ = \$

*two-year commitment begins June 2024 and continues through June 2026.

All commitments will be kept confidential.
This is a statement of intent that may be increased or decreased at any time.

NO. GIFTS AT LEVEL	GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
1	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
2	\$300,000	\$600,000	\$1,100,000
3	\$150,000	\$450,000	\$1,550,000
4	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$1,950,000
10 Commitments = \$1,950,000 or 39.0% of Goal			
8	\$60,000	\$480,000	\$2,430,000
11	\$45,000	\$495,000	\$2,925,000
16	\$30,000	\$480,000	\$3,405,000
26	\$15,000	\$390,000	\$3,795,000
61 Commitments = \$1,845,000 or 36.9% of Goal 71 Commitments = \$3,795,000 or 75.9% of Goal			
26	\$12,000	\$312,000	\$4,107,000
30	\$9,000	\$270,000	\$4,377,000
50	\$6,000	\$300,000	\$4,677,000
70	\$3,000	\$210,000	\$4,887,000
Remainder	\$1,500 or Less	\$113,000	\$5,000,000
Remaining Commitments = \$1,205,000 or 24.1% of Goal Total Commitments = \$5,000,000 or 100% of Goal			

THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE UPSIDE DOWN JOURNEY

We are eager to see His promises fulfilled in this house!

You may think your gift doesn't matter when compared to our total goal for Upside Down.

You're wrong! Every gift matters to God. It's not about the amount, but what that amount means to you. (Matt 12: 41-44)

Use this table to see how your monthly gift adds up over two years!

A WORD ABOUT FAQ'S

"FAQ" is simply shorthand for "frequently asked questions." At Impact Church we strive to be transparent, engaged, and available to our church body so that we all can be on the same page and accomplish God's purposes through Impact Church in unity and with much joy. FAQs help accomplish that "same page" goal and serve as an effective way to communicate information to everyone at Impact Church that one-on-one or after-service conversations can't accomplish. Your Vision Booklet had an initial round of FAQs, and this section serves to add to that. You can submit additional questions to: campaign@impactpeople.org

WHAT IS UPSIDE DOWN?

In short, Upside Down is a two-year generosity campaign that enables us to accomplish the vision God has given us at Impact Church. Through discipleship in generosity, we believe we can see Impact Church family raise \$5 million over the next two years for a new church home.

WHY UPSIDE DOWN?

"Upside Down" is our response to the call of God to find our new church home. We have grown to the place where

optimal service times are full, the lobby can't accommodate connection. Simply put you don't have to be at Impact Church for very long to realize that we are very limited in space for ministry to happen, especially during the week. In response, God is leading us to begin preparing for a permanent church home. This new site will enable us to accelerate the vision God gave us of "Turning Cities Upside Down." Read about it in Acts 17:5-7. So, "Upside Down" gets us started with establishing a permanent home that will be a launching pad of reaching our region for Jesus.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS THE UPSIDE DOWN CAMPAIGN?

Our primary goal for "Upside Down" is that 100% of our congregation will pray and participate in sacrificial generosity for our vision of establishing our church home, which will enable us to reach, connect, and disciple generations. Our secondary Goal is to rearise \$5M over and above current giving to position us to locate and secure a permanent location. Overall costs will likely be around \$10M. But for churches of our size, they historically tend to be able to raise \$5M in a campaign. Thus, we are going to do our

part, and let God do His part of getting us into our new home.

WHAT SHOULD I ANTICIPATE?

Remember, we have an adversary that will do everything possible to try and convince you that "Upside Down" isn't for you. He knows that if he can shut off the flow of generosity, we won't be able to move forward in our mission and calling. So, make a commitment that you WILL go on the spiritual journey with your church family.

WHAT IS THE EXPECTATION OF UPSIDE DOWN?

Our prayerful expectation is for everyone to take the next step on the spiritual and generosity journey God has set before each of us. Yes, it will require God to awaken our hearts to the lostness of our world, and for each of us to let God leverage our lives to build His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. These two years are about growing in our walk with Jesus, personally and collectively as a church. If we all take a step forward in our spiritual journey, we will have achieved a church of people that have a heart to what God has planned for Impact Church in the northeast.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE GIVING?

We have all been there, where we came to Jesus and had to be challenged to grow into being a generous Christian. The apostle Paul exhorted Pastor Timothy to "encourage" his people to be generous and not be delinquent in doing that. So those who have not participated in giving much, or at all, take the plunge; start creating and expanding your generosity story. We encourage you to use the "Upside Down" Campaign as your "test" to see how faithful God is in return. Place your treasure into Impact Church and your heart will follow, your faith will expand, your trust in God will grow, and your DECLARATION that God is FIRST will deepen. Ephesians 3:20-21 says, "He will do exceedingly abundantly above and beyond all that we can ask, think or imagine." That blessing can be a full range of blessings, yet it can be a financial return to you, but for many, they testify to blessings that are far greater than just a financial return, including breakthroughs in relationships, health, vocations, attitudes, habits, hand-ups, healings, etc. That's the generosity story that you are creating for you and your family. Paul, in Philippians 4:17, gave his motivation for why he exhorted generosity so much to the New

Testament churches, “I am not trying to get something from you, but I want you to receive the blessings that come from giving.” That’s our motivation as well, to see YOU blessed, even as we BUILD the Kingdom together in our region.

HOW THEN DO I GROW MY HEART IN GENEROSITY?

First and foremost, you pray and seek God’s direction on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and then listen to what He says. Engage in personal reflection with God in this Journey Guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life. Recognize that this may involve a struggle as you sense God’s call to rearrange life priorities, spending habits, and give from stored resources. But don’t be afraid, Luke 6:33 says, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” Expect your commitment to grow over time from token, to generous, to sacrificial generosity. That is called gospel-centered generosity. Follow His leading. Finally, prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome

God and He is going to move in huge ways. We anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective “Upside Down” commitments—something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, May 19, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and our own faith.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT MY UPSIDE DOWN COMMITMENT?

In “Upside Down”, we are challenging you to grow in the practice of giving. As you consider your financial commitment over the next two years you will want to factor in the following: (1) your commitment is over and above current giving, (2) it’s discerned by prayer, (3) it’s not equal giving, but equal sacrifice, (4) planned from income, altered spending, income generation, stored resources. The Commitment Section of the Journey Guide was designed to help you be led of the Spirit in figuring this out.

Briefly, people find it helpful to think through their commitment by using the five D’s of sacrificial commitment: 1) What can I do away with? 2) What can I delay? 3) What can I do more of? 4)

What can I donate? 5) What can I deny myself? You can readily see why this is a spiritual journey over multiple weeks. It takes time to be led of the Spirit, increase faith and courage, and discover God’s will.

WHAT ARE “STORED RESOURCES”?

Stored resources are the funds or assets you have other than income. You may want to explore unique ways you can give toward this campaign. For example, you may have savings, stocks, bonds, or other investments that you decide to gift to the church. You may have a boat, a vacation home, or a collection that you let go of. Or you may want to consider whether God is calling you to simplify your lifestyle in a way that frees you to give more to God. What would your life look like if you let go of some of the “stuff” you’ve been holding on to?

WHAT IF I AM CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL STRESS OR HARDSHIP?

If you are currently struggling with unemployment, or if you are carrying the heavy load of substantial debt, we are here for you. An excellent resource for you is Financial Peace University, a course that helps you develop a plan for taking control of

your finances. As you work to overcome financial barriers to giving, consider that giving isn’t about what God wants from you; rather it’s about what God wants for you. “Upside Down” is fundamentally about a heart change - one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God -- and that looks different for all of us. Ultimately, we would like for 100% of us to be a part of “Upside Down” so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually stretching season at Impact Church.

ISN’T GIVING TO OTHER CHARITIES THE SAME AS GIVING TO THE CHURCH?

As followers of Jesus, God calls us to give first to His church for the work of the body of Christ. At Impact Church, we know firsthand that the church changes people -- we regularly hear stories of transformation. Giving directly to specific causes help people in need and that is awesome, however, the gospel of Jesus transforms for all of eternity and causes a redemptive lift that is experienced practically in this life. When you give to the church, you are investing in people who will be transformed and will in turn transform our

world. “Upside Down” then is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give towards, and we would really love for you to make Impact Church your home and join in on “Upside Down”. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your priority. We need you on the team!

AS WE COMMIT TO UPSIDE DOWN, HOW WILL THIS AFFECT OUR NORMAL GIVING AND OFFERINGS?

We are more focused on everyone at Impact Church seeing their giving as an integral part of the discipleship process and then being challenged by God to take a next step. The bulk of this Journey Guide is focused on helping us dig into some key Biblical principles that guide us in this area as we follow Jesus. This is our first priority—100% participation in the process. Even if someone wrote us a check today for our goal of \$5 million, we would still do this campaign. Whether we’re just starting in our giving journey or we’re very committed givers, we all have a next step to take and room to grow in this area. Specifically, to your

question, “Upside Down” is over and above giving, so don’t shift your regular giving to “Upside Down”.

CAN YOU DEFINE SACRIFICE?

A simple definition is: Giving up something I want, something I need, something that represents security? Most likely your commitment will come from excess income, decreasing spending, liquidating assets, generating more money through use of time and talent, and through sacrificing something. Basically, it is deciding upon what I can give up, do without, postpone, or alter in order to give to “Upside Down” over the next two years.

WHAT DOES THE SLOGAN “NOT EQUAL GIFTS, BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE” MEAN?

It recognizes that we all have different financial capacities, so we can’t do a fair share approach to giving, that would be more than what some could give and far less than what other could give. But we all can find the ground level when it comes to sacrifice. Everyone sacrificing is the goal. So, from the smallest gift to the largest gift, every person can say, “This gift is sacrificial for me.” Thus, all gifts are received with great joy and are celebrated.

IS IT OK TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GIVE AN AMOUNT THAT I DON’T HAVE RIGHT NOW?

Yes! That is called faith and it pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). In fact, the Macedonian Christians who were living in poverty insisted on giving to the struggling Christians in Jerusalem, so much so, Paul said of their giving that they “gave what they were able, and even beyond their ability” meaning they committed by faith future resources.

IS SACRIFICE OF MONEY A BIBLICAL PRACTICE?

Absolutely - The book of 2 Samuel quotes King David as saying, “I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.” The essence of sacrifice is that it COSTS us something. This type of giving is pleasing to God, because it demonstrates our reliance and faith in Him, and that is when BIG things begin to happen. Mary broke the alabaster jar of perfume upon Jesus that was worth one year’s worth of wages. Jesus commended the widow who gave her last two coins. When Zacchaeus said he was giving half of all he owned, and repaying back those he had defrauded, Jesus said, “Salvation has come to this household.”

WHAT IF I TEND TO TAKE A RATIONAL APPROACH TO DECISION MAKING?

It will be tempting to give based on REASON. That would mean looking at my budget and figuring what I could afford - what’s “reasonable.” It doesn’t take any faith to give by reason. Or you could give based on REVELATION. Revelation asks, “How much am I willing to trust God?” When you make giving a matter of prayer, your decision becomes an act of worship.

Here are some simple steps to consider during this process:

- Think about ALL that God has done in your life since you have been part of the church, as well as how you’ve seen Him change others. Think about people you know who don’t yet know God, and His love for them. Let it sink in that people need Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Talk it over with God, both individually, and together with your spouse. Pray constantly, “God, I invite you to guide us.”
- Discuss what sacrifice could mean for you. Pray, “Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish Your will in my church.”

- Decide in faith and commit to sacrificially give over the next 2 years.

SO, WHAT IS AN AVERAGE GIFT?

There is no formula for determining that commitment nor is there an “average gift” kind of benchmark. Generosity is not about “equal gifts but about equal sacrifice.” Instead of measuring your gift by the dollar amount, use the “measures” below:

- Does this investment make a difference to me? Does this gift change me, change my whole commitment level?
- Was this a prayerful decision seeking God’s will... did I even invite God to be a part of this decision process?
- Did I have a real conversation about this decision ... with my spouse, children, family, church family, etc.
- Did I learn something about commitment and giving? Did I take a step of faith that deepens my own discipleship?
- If everyone else in the church made a sacrifice equal to my own (in terms of commitment rather than dollars), would God be honored by that level of commitment/investment?

- Did I ask, “Where do you want us to go on the gift chart?”

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY FAITH COMMITMENT?

You most likely will start planning for your commitment to be an amount that is fits within your budget. It will probably be a conservative amount that you believe you could give over the next two years. But it probably isn’t sacrificial, nor will it stretch your faith to make that kind of commitment. A faith commitment will require you to grow your commitment number by thinking through how you could alter your spending, liquidate assets, and postponed spending. Now you realize you are sacrificing for the Kingdom and increasing your faith in God as provider and protector. As your commitment continues to grow, you come to Commitment Sunday and write a number on your card that will require 2 years of giving to fulfill that amount. It will require God to work in your life and circumstances to enable you to give that amount. You now realize you have to commitment this amount by faith, believing God will enable you to fulfill your sacrificial commitment where you don’t know where all the money will come from,

or when it will come over the 2-year giving phase.

CAN EACH MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY MAKE A SEPARATE COMMITMENT?

Yes – Even students and young children can learn the values of commitment, generosity, faith, and sacrifice by filling out their own commitment cards.

IF I MAKE A FAITH COMMITMENT, BUT MY CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, HOW DOES THAT WORK?

We know that a lot can happen in two years! Your commitment is not a contract, but a covenant that is between you and God. We do, however, believe that “God is able to make all grace abound to you,” and we believe this will be the most prosperous season of your life in every way. But life happens, and we understand that you may need to adjust. Have faith and

excitement as you expect great things to come your way.

WHEN DOES MY FAITH COMMITMENT BEGIN AND END?

The “Upside Down” Campaign goes from June 2024 to June 2026. We are also asking everyone to prayerfully consider making their 2-year commitment on Sunday, May 19. On Sunday, June 2 we will announce the total in commitments and launch giving to “Upside Down”

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

We would love to hear from you!

CAMPAIGN@IMPACTPEOPLE.ORG

6 MONTHS | DECEMBER 2024

Please write down your reflections thus far into your journey!

"Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure."

PROVERBS 4:25-26

6 Months: Mile 1

I have a friend who loves to run marathons. Every year this person signs up for multiple marathons spanning throughout the year. Some of the marathons are fun ones that may be filled with foam or the opposite mud. Some of the marathons are a little intense filled with obstacle courses and hard task to accomplish. Regardless of the type each one has its own goal. I personally have been intrigued by how they participate in these many marathons.

I asked my friend one day what's the hardest part of the marathon for you. I expected them to say the middle or the end. I expected them to talk about how hard in the middle it is to keep going or at the end it could be hard for them

to finish because all they're thinking about is the end. Their answer confused me at first. They said the hardest part of the marathon for them was the first mile.

Mile #1 is the hardest time because during this time they are focused on everything else but the race. Their focus could be on how exciting it is at the beginning that's where you see all of your friends and everybody else just ready to run. Also during mile one they could be focusing on other people running as well and some people may be running faster than them. Also sometimes the focus could be on there GPS or do they have the right music set. Mile one is the hardest time because it's easy to get distracted in the beginning. It's not until they begin to focus on the task at hand and focusing on consistency when they begin to see that success and the time become easier.

Right now you are in mile one, or in this case year 1 of this giving. At this point other distractions will easily come. Maybe when you talk to friends somebody may talk about an investment they made. Maybe there is a new car or house or shoes or nice thing that just keeps popping up. During this time, you may think "well maybe it's a good idea to just get that thing it that's 2 years I'll catch up later." Not realizing that a lack of discipline will destroy all your goals.

During this time frame remember to remain consistent and know what you're going for. You set a goal for yourself that you committed to. It's gonna be a hard goal but you are already 6 months in. Feel accomplished for what you have done thus far but remain consistent because this is only the beginning.

Use the next few pages to write down your reflections as you hit your 1 year mark, your year and a half mark and your ultimate goal of two years.

Lord, Thank you for being there with me as I continue this commitment. As I continue please help me find ways to remain focused on the goals at hand and any distractions to disappear.

In Jesus Name

Amen

1 YEAR | JUNE 2025

Please write down your reflections thus far into your journey!

2 YEARS | JUNE 2026

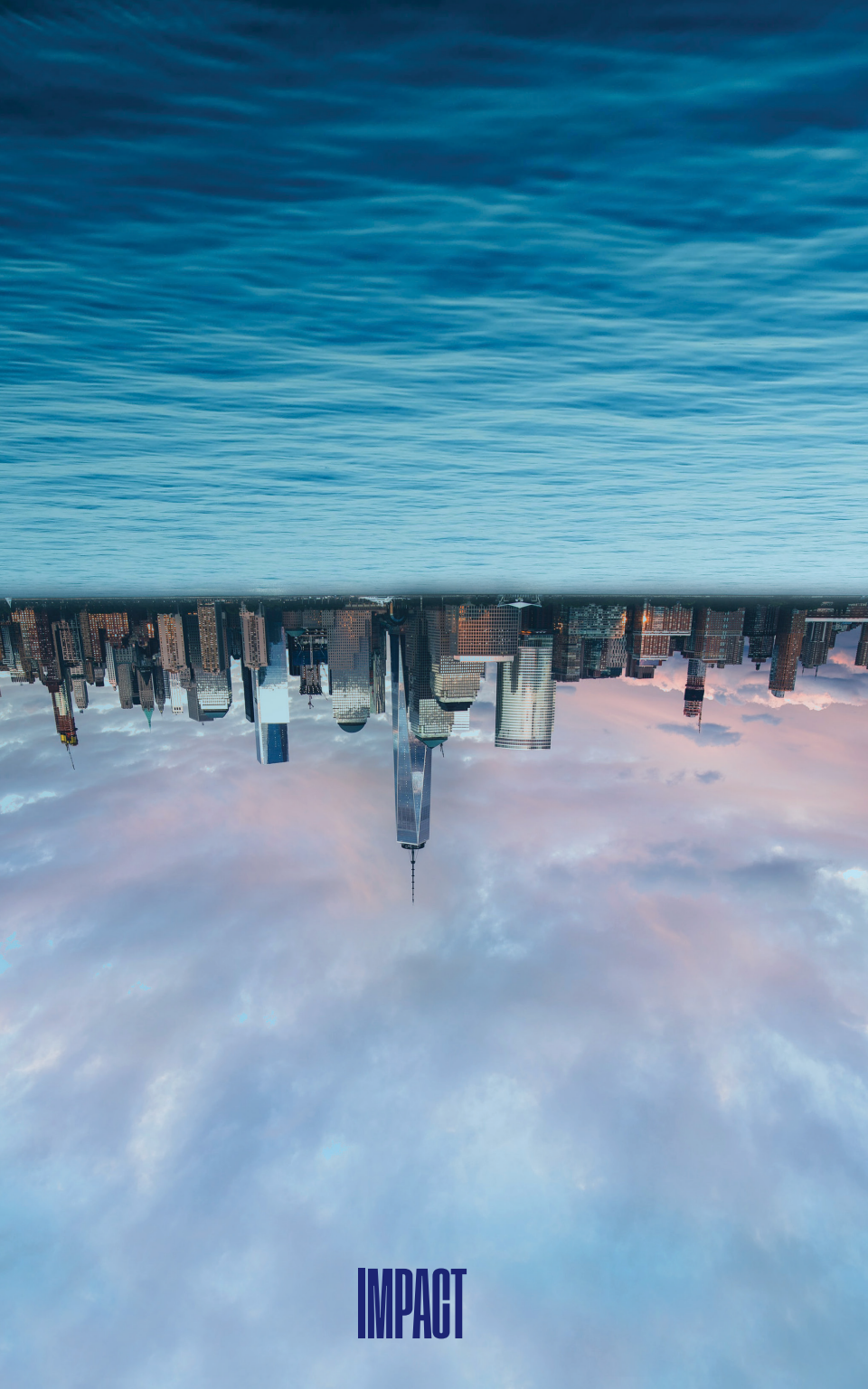
Please write down your reflections as you complete your journey!

1 YEAR AND A HALF | DECEMBER 2025

Please write down your reflections thus far into your journey!



SHARE YOUR STORY
ABOUT HOW THIS
EXPERIENCE HAS MADE
AN IMPACT ON YOU



IMPACT