

FIELD GUIDE



GROUNDING IN FAITH. ROOTED IN PROMISE.



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PASTORS DAVE AND CLARE PRETLOVE

LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVE

It is hard to believe that it has been 18 years since a handful of us gathered in my living room, read together, dreaming about what God might do in us and through us in the city recently named the most unchurched city in America. Eighteen years ago, we were a small group of people sensing God's call, stepping out in faith with our hearts surrendered to what he might do in our lives and what he might do in this city. We were people stepping into an unknown place, asking God to take us to places we had never been before.

God has been so good to us and so faithful. Lives have been transformed. Families have been changed. Forever friendships have been made. A city has been touched.

Eighteen years later, we are a much larger group in a similar moment. Sensing that God is taking us to a new place we have never been, trusting that God is on the move to do something fresh and new in us and through us.

We are calling this season UNCHARTED. Because we believe that God is taking us to places we have never been before. Taking us to places we have never been before, in our love for Him, our faith in Him, our surrender to Him, and the impact He makes through us. I believe the next 24 months will be the most significant and fruitful season we have ever experienced as a church and will pave the way for what God will do with us for years to come. Far more than just a stewardship initiative, we greatly desire that the Uncharted initiative will be a life-giving, life-changing spiritual journey. Our primary goal is 100% engagement on this journey by everyone who calls LifeChurch home. Because we don't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity, I can't wait to see all that God will do!

(CONT.)

Our team created this guide to outline the two-year challenge set before each of us. Please write your answers to these questions in this booklet so you can refer back to them throughout the coming years. We hope that this simple set of questions and scripture, along with your prayer times, will become a catalyst to deepen your relationship with God during this special season at LifeChurch.

Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, we know God has more for you, and it's possible that the most life-changing, influential, and personally engaging days of your life could still be ahead. It is our privilege to walk beside you as you continue to navigate your journey with Him. The Uncharted initiative will allow us to make a bigger difference than ever in Northern Nevada for decades to come and radically change the lives of some of the neediest people in the world in India, Bolivia, and Costa Rica.

Before God does all these things through us, the first step is what he wants to do in us—taking us to a new place in our love and passion for him. The overflow of that is Him taking us to a new place in our generosity, and the overflow of that is Him taking us to a new place in our impact, locally and globally.

I am so excited to be on this UNCHARTED journey with you!

Pastor Dave

BY FAITH ABRAHAM, WHEN CALLED TO GO TO A
PLACE HE WOULD LATER RECEIVE AS HIS
INHERITANCE, OBEYED AND WENT, EVEN THOUGH HE
DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS GOING. FOR HE WAS
LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CITY WITH FOUNDATIONS,
WHOSE ARCHITECT AND BUILDER IS GOD.
HEBREWS 11:8,10 NIV



DEFINING MOMENTS



Pastor Dave & Clare Pretlove arrive in Reno to prepare to plant LifeChurch.



LifeChurch begins the process of acquiring 10 acres adjacent to Damonte Ranch High School

Began L3 initiative.



2005

2007

2011

Launch team meetings begin in the Pretlove home

2008

LifeChurch begins meeting in Damonte Ranch High School.

2006

LifeChurch celebrates its grand opening at Galena High School.



The Reno Vineyard Church and LifeChurch became one church



Broke ground on KidsLife building.

2016

Opened up KidsLife building and KidsLife Child Development Center.

2019

Opened up Reno Worship Center.

Opened LCA Kindergarten.

2023

Began Elevate Initiative.



2017

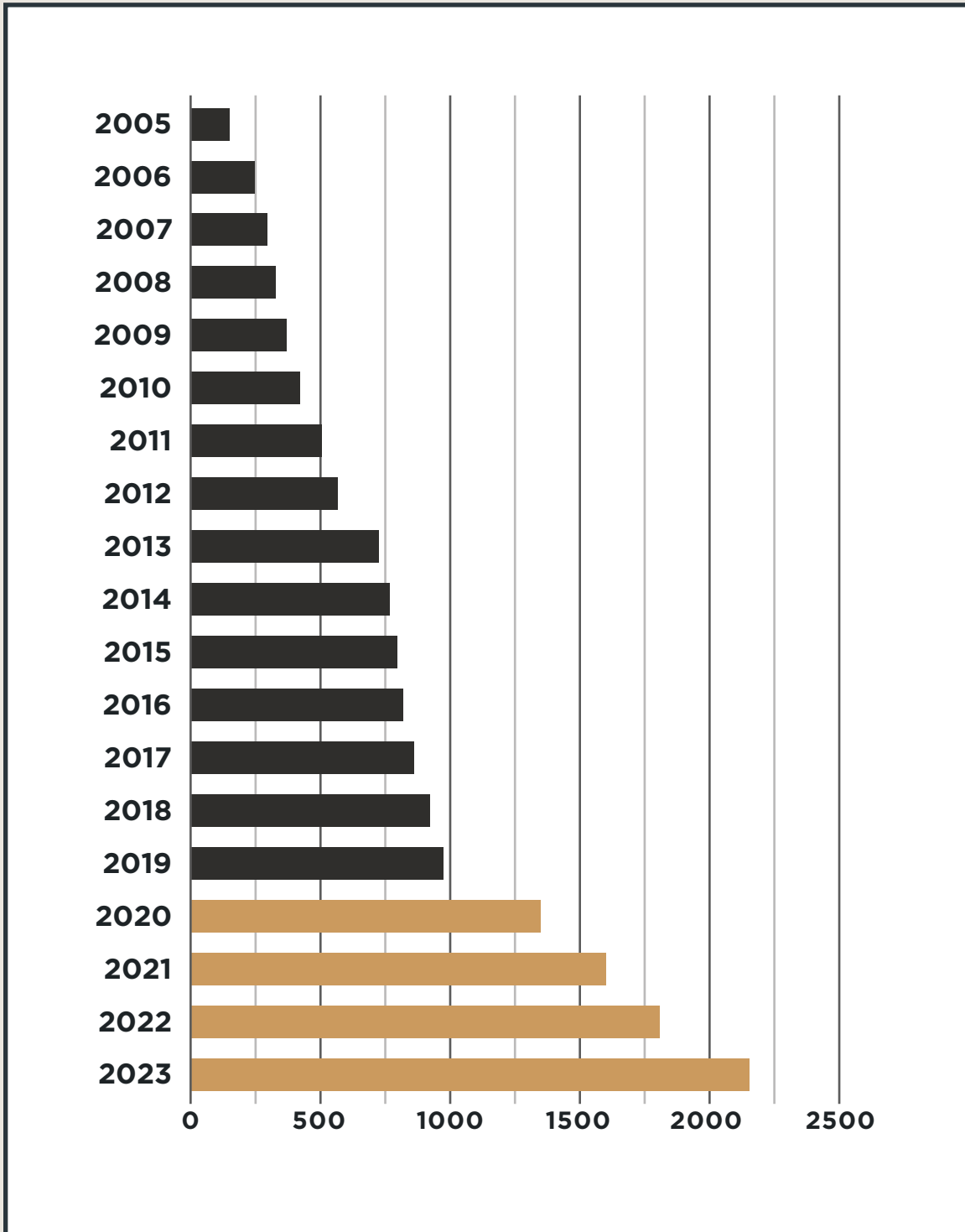
Broke ground on Reno Worship Center.

Began live-streaming our services.

2020

2013

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE



IN-PERSON

IN-PERSON & ONLINE



SINCE 2006

1200+

BAPTISMS

1800+

**FIRST TIME DECISIONS
TO FOLLOW CHRIST**

4.5+

MILLION DOLLARS

**GIVEN TO EXTERNAL MISSIONS
AND BENEVOLENCE**

1150+

**PEOPLE HAVE GONE ON
SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS**

**UNCHARTED
INITIATIVE**

PRIMARY GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

Each of us and all of us going on the Uncharted journey, asking God to take us to a place we have never been in our love for him and passion for his Kingdom.

A PLACE OF UNCHARTED FAITH
A PLACE OF UNCHARTED SURRENDER
A PLACE OF UNCHARTED GENEROSITY
A PLACE OF UNCHARTED IMPACT



SECONDARY GOAL

**\$15 MILLION
OVER TWO YEARS**

Your generosity over the next two years of the Uncharted Initiative will make the following critical next steps possible.



01

\$6.25 MILLION – UNCHARTED MINISTRY

Our day-in, day-out ministry is often referred to as the “general fund”, but it’s anything BUT general. It is the lifeblood of all we do – adults, students, and kids’ discipleship, worship environments, marriage restoration, biblical community. We seek to continue to find new ways – uncharted ways – of doing ministry more effectively than ever before.



02

\$2.5 MILLION — UNCHARTED MISSION

We seek to go on an uncharted mission to launch our new Carson City campus, a new campus in Sparks, and to fuel missions overseas in Bolivia, India, and Costa Rica. In Bolivia, we will build another church that will house a Compassion International Center. In India, we will build 5 churches that double as community centers that care for children and widows. And in Costa Rica, we will expand sustainable farming in partnership with local schools and Beyond the Known Ministries.



03

\$6.25 MILLION — UNCHARTED MOVEMENT

Our Reno Campus is experiencing a movement of God beyond the current capacity of our facility, and we seek to move with the Spirit of God to continue making room for more! We will pave the back parking lot, rework our storage needs, and build the LCA school building, which will also house Life-Church offices upstairs.





ONE FUND EXPLANATION

ONE MISSION. ONE FUND.

A traditional capital campaign focuses mostly on people who are already giving. These people are asked to continue giving what they currently are, as well as to start giving toward something else ... like a building or special project. That isn't what the Uncharted Initiative is. Instead, Uncharted will be a "one fund" initiative, meaning all of our giving goes toward carrying out the mission and expansion of the ministry space over the next two years. It's all one mission, so it's all one budget.

Why does this distinction matter?

We want everyone at LifeChurch to be transformed through the Uncharted Initiative. Through a "one fund" initiative, we'll more successfully invite everyone to take steps into uncharted territory with their generosity and their lives, regardless of where they may be starting their journey.

Also, God has given LifeChurch one mission. Our general ministry budget is a very big part of this mission and our future facility will also be a very big part of this mission. A traditional capital campaign can easily divide our focus in two ways: mission and building. That can't happen. It's all one mission, so it's all one budget.

The Uncharted Initiative will last for two years. In those two years, every dime that's given to LifeChurch will go to Uncharted to help us inspire and equip people to know and follow Jesus ... in all aspects of our ministry, mission, and movement.

**THE
UNCHARTED
JOURNEY**

WHAT KIND OF GIVER ARE YOU?

Grounded in faith, we embark on a journey. The uncharted journey of a giver doesn't just focus on amounts or percentages but looks at our behaviors and the attitudes of our hearts. Each step in this journey is a representation of growth in generosity and sacrifice. We don't believe these are steps to get to God, but these steps are simple ways to evaluate your own growth. God's Word encourages us to grow in every aspect of our walk with Jesus - including the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:3-15).

01

AN INITIAL GIVER decides to give for the first time out of response to God's Word. This is someone who decides to give something and chooses to trust God and the leaders of the church with this gift.

"Am I responding to God's Word and choosing to trust him with this gift?"

02

A CONSISTENT GIVER decides to give something consistently to exercise the discipline of giving regularly. Regardless of an online recurring gift or non-online givers, choosing to practice the discipline of generosity grows fruit and maturity in the consistent giver.

"Am I exercising a discipline of regular generosity?"

03

A PRIORITY GIVER begins to think about their giving in relation to other things on which they spend their money. For example, this type of giver starts to ask the question, "Why am I giving more to [this priority] than

I'm giving to God? Should I be giving to God more than I give to [this priority] each month?" This giver starts to intentionally choose how they prioritize and spend their resources. This may be the point of intentionality when someone begins to tithe, reflecting their intentionality about a certain amount or percentage they want to give to God.

"Am I intentionally prioritizing my resources with a Kingdom mindset?"

04

A SURRENDERED GIVER recognizes the cost Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. They give in a way that changes them. Their giving determines their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving determining their giving. A surrendered giver isn't concerned with what they are giving but more concerned with what they're not giving and why. They look to honor God with 100% of what he's given them, whether that's direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource like a home or a vehicle.

"Am I honoring God with 100% of what he's entrusted to me?"

05

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

"Am I considering the eternal impact of my generosity?"

WHAT'S NEXT?

THERE ARE THREE STEPS WE ASK YOU TO TAKE

PRAY

PASSIONATELY & PERSISTENTLY

Ask that God will move in the hearts of his people here at LifeChurch and that we will all grow in faith. Ask God what he may want you to release in this Uncharted initiative and surrender all you are and all you have to him.

COMMIT

FAITHFULLY & EAGERLY

Reflect as you pray and trust that the Holy Spirit will speak to you. If you're married, talk with your spouse about where you sense God is leading. If you're in different places, that's okay - continue to pray, reflect, and humble yourselves before God and each other.

GIVE

CHEERFULLY & EXPECTANTLY

Take an uncharted step to give expectantly, in a way that stretches you to a deeper level of trust and generosity. Give expecting that God is going to do a powerful work as you become more like him.

TWO YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Let it be something that inspires and challenges you towards greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom as we seek to go on an Uncharted Journey with Him.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$1,500,000
1	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$1,000,000
2	\$750,000	\$375,000	\$31,250	\$1,500,000
2	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$1,000,000
3	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$750,000
5	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$750,000
7	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$700,000
12	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$900,000
15	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$975,000
20	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$1,000,000
30	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$1,050,000
35	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$875,000
45	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$675,000
55	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$550,000
90	\$7,000	\$3,750	\$313	\$675,000
120	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$600,000
MANY	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$500,000
TOTAL GIFT GOAL				\$15,000,000

CALCULATE YOUR GIVING HERE

\$ _____

WHAT I/WE WOULD NORMALLY GIVE IN A YEAR
(General Giving, Special Projects, Missions, etc.)

+ \$ _____

MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY
As part of the Uncharted Initiative.

= \$ _____

X 2 YEARS

\$ _____

MY/OUR GIFTS FROM STORED RESOURCES + \$ _____

MY/OUR 2-YEAR UNCHARTED COMMITMENT

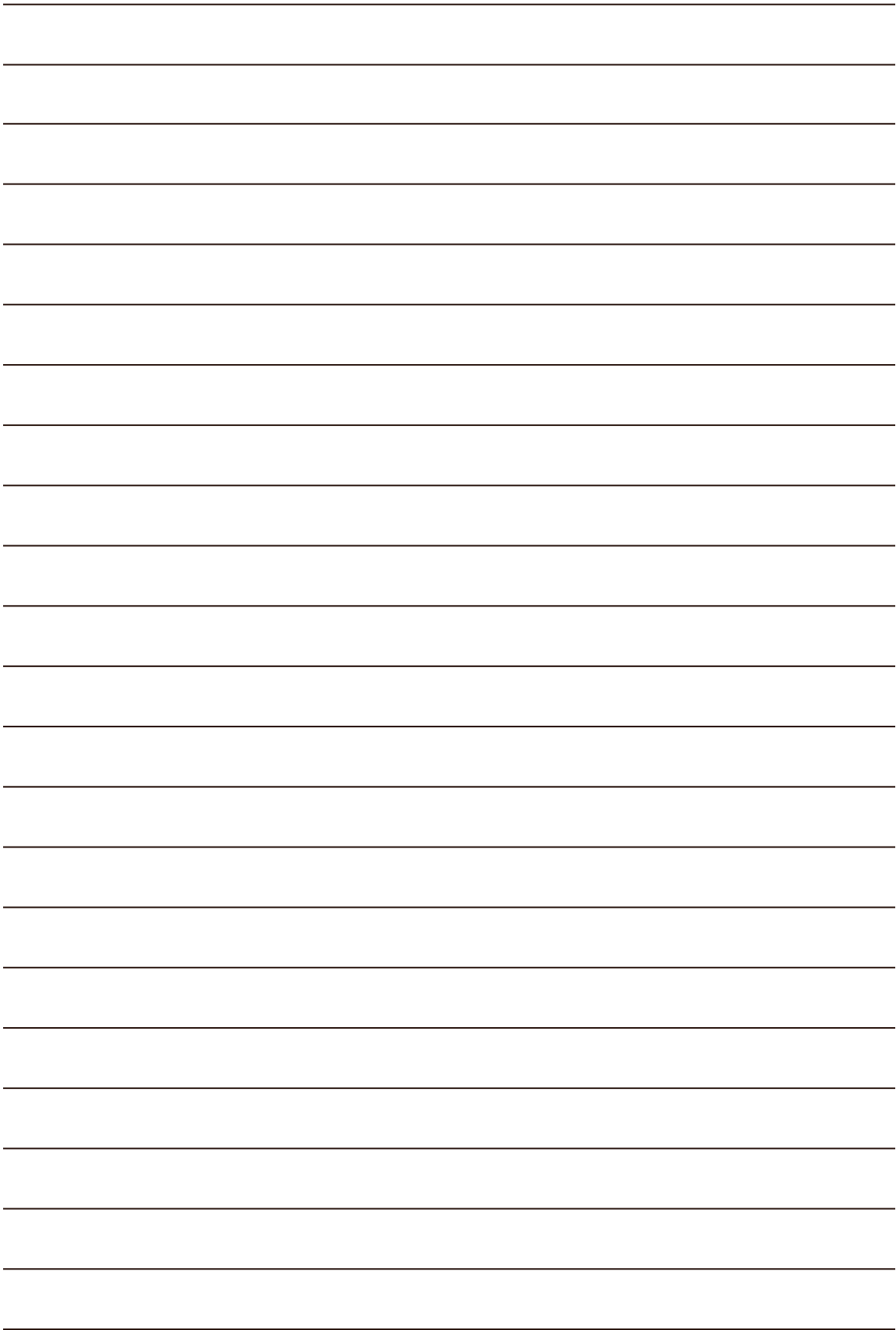
\$ _____

DECEMBER 2023 - DECEMBER 2025



**UNCHARTED
WEEKLY GUIDE**





UNCHARTED CALLING

WEEK ONE STUDY GUIDE

GOING TO A PLACE WE HAVE NEVER BEEN BEFORE.

LIFEGROUPS GUIDE



TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play the teaching and testimony video for week one. Share your reflections from the video. Take time to pray for this testimony before you begin the rest of the lesson.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some “uncharted” journeys you’ve found yourself on before in other areas of your life?
2. What impacted you the most about Abraham’s story this week?
3. Where do you find yourself as we begin this uncharted journey?

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read the following Scripture passages and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to journal your responses before you gather together if you find it helps group members participate more deeply.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” **GENESIS 12:1-3 NIV**

1. God called Abraham (Abram at this point) to a life he could not yet see – to a path that was “uncharted”. How have you (if ever) allowed God to take you into circumstances that seemed unclear? How have you sought to “chart your own path”? Which do you think you do more often?
2. Where do you normally look to find stability in your path for tomorrow? Is it family, friends, money, your career, or your own abilities? Where are you finding your security?

3. What do you feel is preventing you from truly following wherever God leads?

“But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.” **JOHN 17:13-19 ESV**

4. Abraham was called to be set apart from the culture around him. In John chapter 17, Jesus is praying that his disciples would be set apart. What similarities or differences do you see between Abraham’s story in Genesis 12 and Jesus’ prayer in John 17?

5. As we follow God into this uncharted blessing, we must remember that we are blessed to be a blessing. As you release things to God through this series, be asking him what he may want to give back to you. When we unclench our fists, it allows our hands to be open to something new God has for us. As we release bitterness, maybe he gives love. As we release performance, maybe he gives us true rest. In this first week, what do you feel God is asking you to release? What do you feel God is wanting to give back to you?

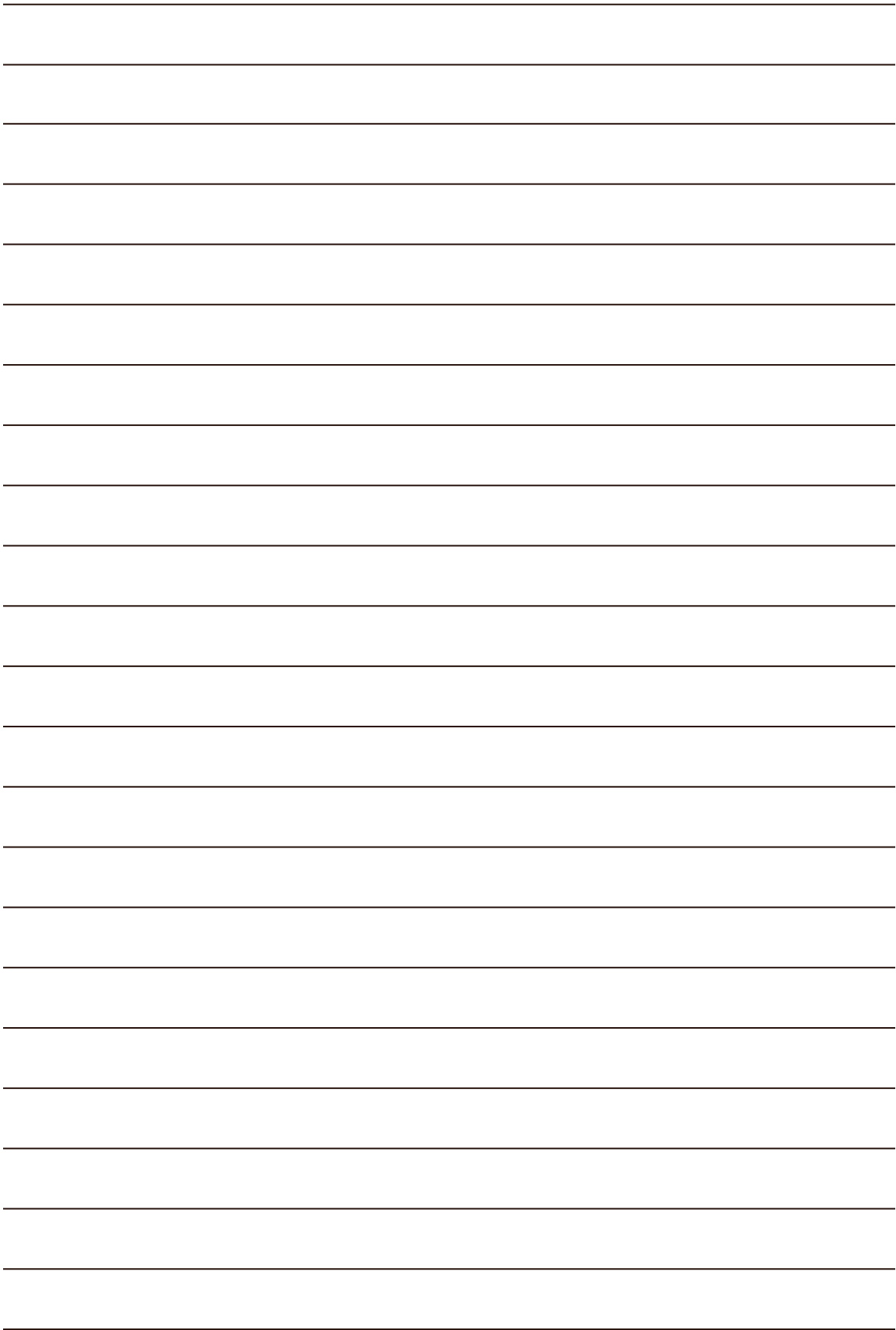
6. God is calling you to be different from what the world says is normal. What is one thing you can do this week to live in the power of that call?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE TO TRY

This week, try the spiritual practice of self-examination. Ask God to search you (Reference Psalm 139) as you review the day you’re beginning (or ending, if you prefer to do this at night). Where were you most aware of God’s presence? Where did you lose focus on the goodness and work of God? Where did it feel like God was absent? When did you allow culture to influence you? Bring all of these things to God in prayer.

NOTES





UNCHARTED TRUST

WEEK TWO STUDY GUIDE

A NEW PLACE OF FAITH AND TRUST.

LIFEGROUPS GUIDE



TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play the teaching and testimony video for week two. Share your reflections from the video. Take time to pray for this testimony before you begin the rest of the lesson.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you find it difficult to trust others? Why or why not?
2. When was a time you trusted someone and it turned out for the positive?
3. What is required for someone to experience true trust?

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read the following Scripture passages and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to journal your responses before you gather together if you find it helps group members participate more deeply.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

“After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.’ But Abram said, ‘Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.’ Then the word of the Lord came to him: ‘This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.’ He took him outside and said, ‘Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.” **GENESIS 15:1-6 NIV**

1. God makes the seemingly impossible possible in the life of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 21). Has there been a circumstance in your life in which God revealed himself in this type of way? How have you seen God do the impossible? If it's hard for you to come up with a concrete example of this, ask the

Holy Spirit to reveal the miracle of your salvation and describe what you feel God is speaking to you. Chat about this as a group and record your answers here to remind yourself of God's activity.

2. While waiting on God's promise, Abraham creates his own game plan. We can often do this in our own lives. How have you trusted in your own illusion of control? How can you grow in waiting on God's promises?
3. As you think about this Uncharted Journey and the commitment God is asking you to make, what barriers or situations are preventing you from trusting God fully in this next season?

"From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-19 ESV

4. God says "the new has come" when he gives Abram a new name (Genesis 17:3-5). Why do you think it's so important that God changed Abram's name?
5. We often can allow our past or our own negative thoughts to "name us" and this impacts how we see both ourselves and God. Describe a past experience that has limited your trust in God in this area.
6. How can your LifeGroup be praying for you in this? Allow your community to pray that God would help release this barrier from you and that he would "give you a new name". Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a word or phrase describing the "new name" of this next season of growth. Write what God may reveal to you here.

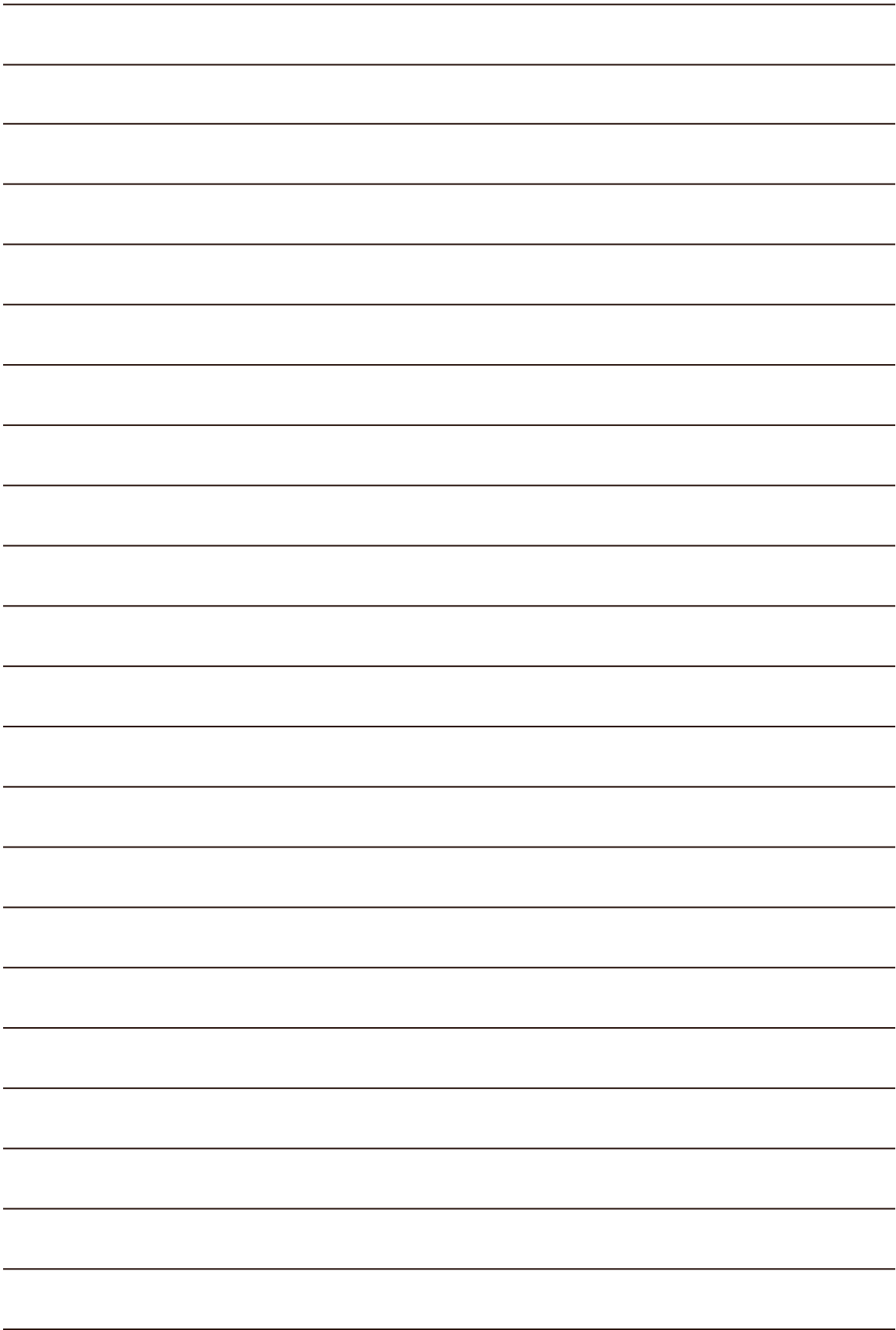
SPIRITUAL PRACTICE TO TRY

This week, try the spiritual practice of silence. If this is a new practice for you, simply start with a few minutes. Find a comfortable but alert posture. Practice a few minutes of silence and stillness to become aware of the Lord's

presence and love for you. Inhale and exhale deeply. Set your attention on God by repeating a short prayer like “Come, Holy Spirit,” or “Here I am, Lord”. Slowly become aware of his faithfulness, his promises, and his heart toward you.

NOTES





UNCHARTED PRIORITIES

WEEK THREE STUDY GUIDE

A NEW PLACE FOR WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT.

LIFEGROUPS GUIDE



TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play the teaching and testimony video for week three. Share your reflections from the video. Take time to pray for this testimony before you begin the rest of the lesson.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the most “committed” person you know? To what are they committed?
2. What does commitment mean to you? To what are you committed?
3. When has commitment cost you or how has it caused you to rearrange your priorities?

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read the following Scripture passages and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to journal your responses before you gather together if you find it helps group members participate more deeply.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

“So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarreling arose between Abram’s herders and Lot’s. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left.'

Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.

*The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, 'Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.' So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the Lord." **GENESIS 13:1-18 NIV***

1. Abraham and Lot had different priorities. What were the priorities of Abraham and Lot? Create a list of what differences you see.
2. What attributes do you see in the life of Abraham that lead to this moment of generosity? How did he stay committed to following the ways of God?
3. In what ways do you feel committed to following God in terms of generosity? In what ways do you feel you need to grow in your commitment and priorities?

"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first

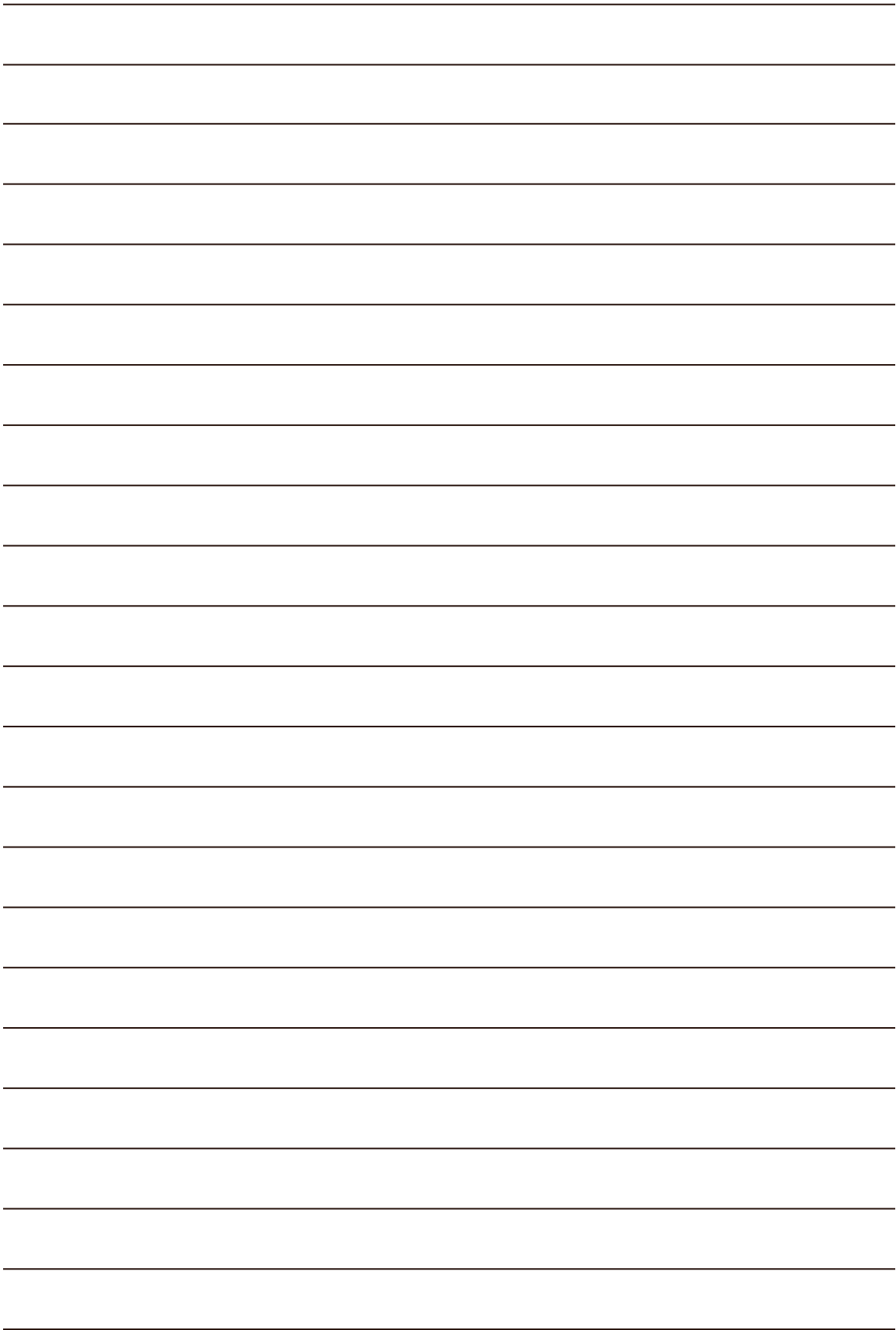
the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” **MATTHEW 6:30-33 ESV**

4. What would your life look like if you sought first the kingdom of God? Think about your whole life – your finances, your mental health, your relationships. How would all these things change if you really lived a life grounded in faith and rooted in promise?
5. Consider the daily choices you make. How do these choices reveal your true priorities?
6. How can your LifeGroup help you grow in stewardship living this week? Reflect and share how you as a community can be Kingdom stewards of what God has given you.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE TO TRY

This week, try the spiritual practice of Sabbath. This practice of slowing down and resting often allows us to see our true priorities and helps us to realign to Kingdom living. Don't feel the pressure to start with a full 24 hours. Maybe just set aside 4 hours and commit to stop any work. Take some time to rest – a nap is great! Choose something that brings you joy – maybe dinner with friends or reading a rich book. Pause for worship, coming back to God and simply enjoying his presence. Try to be especially mindful of your thoughts and replace desires for stuff, importance, or productivity with celebrations of God's goodness and what he has already done for you. Have kids at home? You can still Sabbath – many families have found it helpful to create a “Sabbath box” that has quiet, creative activities that children only have access to on the Sabbath. It can make this experience delightful and special for them as well!





UNCHARTED SURRENDER & SACRIFICE

WEEK FOUR STUDY GUIDE

A NEW PLACE OF RELEASING.

LIFEGROUPS GUIDE



TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play the teaching and testimony video for week four. Share your reflections from the video. Take time to pray for this testimony before you begin the rest of the lesson.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's something you would say you've sacrificed in your life? What did that mean for you?
2. What's something that would be very difficult to give up?
3. Have you ever been changed by a sacrifice that you've made?

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read the following Scripture passages and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to journal your responses before you gather together if you find it helps group members participate more deeply.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

“Abraham answered, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.’ And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. ‘Do not lay a hand on the boy, he said. ‘Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.’

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day

it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, 'I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.' ‘ **GENESIS 22:8-18 NIV**

1. Abraham waits so long for a son and now God asks him this. How does this seem fair? This passage can bring up a lot of emotions. What is going through your head and heart as you process this passage? (God can handle all your feelings and thoughts!)
2. It was tempting for Abraham to believe that anything given to him by God was actually his, not God's. What are some things in your life that you view as "yours", not God's?
3. How do you see God's blessing working in this section of Scripture? Who does this blessing ultimately affect?

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor." **ISAIAH 61:1-3 NIV**

1. Our God is a God of exchange! Even Jesus' death and resurrection is referred to as "the great exchange". At the beginning of this series and book, we talked about releasing things back to God and that he may want to exchange things in our life! As Abraham releases Isaac back to God, God gives him the blessing of Genesis 22:17-18. As you've been releasing things to God these past few weeks, what has God been exchanging in your life? What is

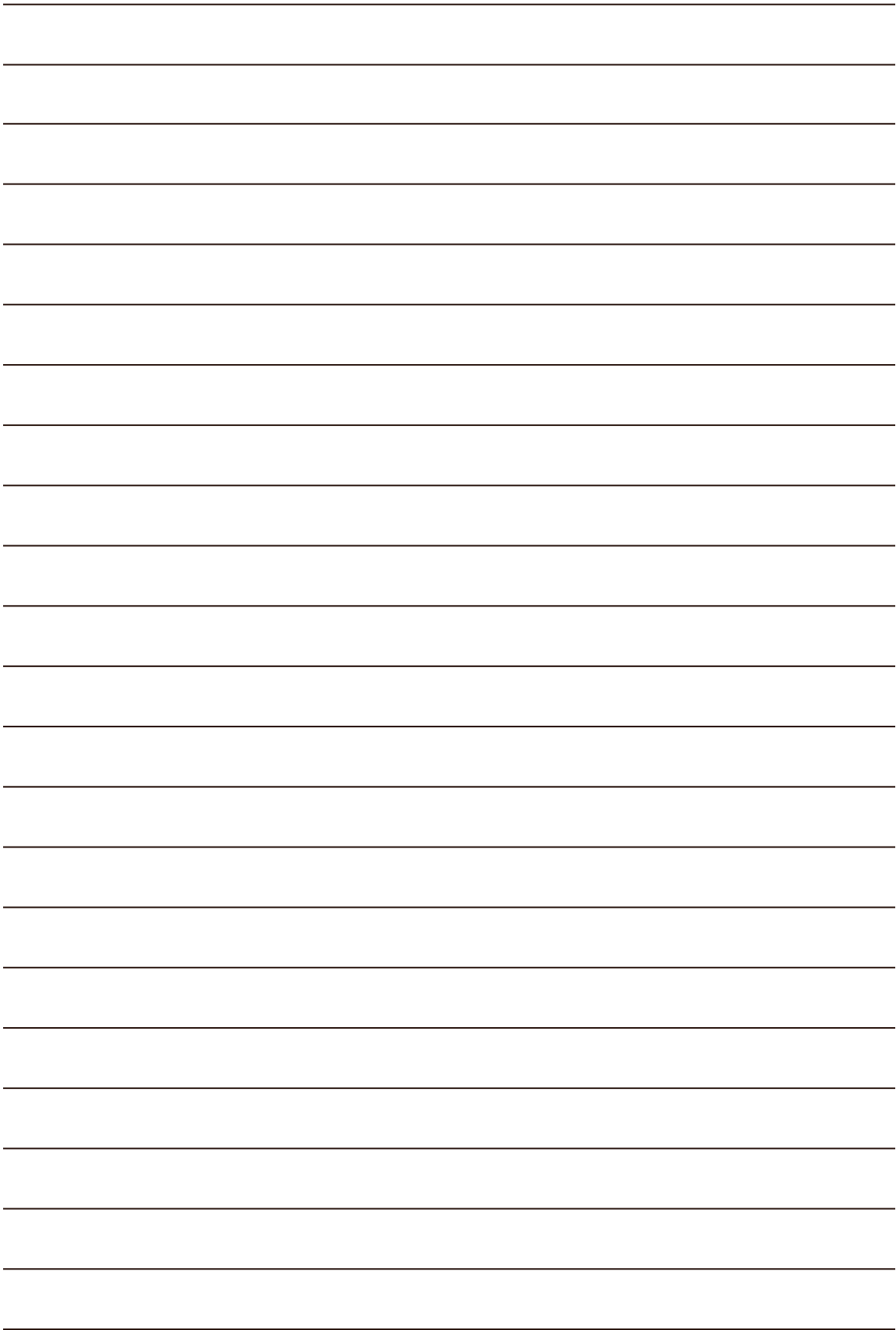
God giving back to you?

2. Both in Genesis 22 and Isaiah 61, what do you see happening with the things God gives back to us? What is the purpose of the sacrifice and the exchange?
3. This Uncharted journey is about surrender and sacrifice. More than anything we do to expand the Kingdom and release people from darkness, we long for internal transformation where the Kingdom is being expanded in us. How do you think God wants to expand his Kingdom in you? How will you remind yourself of the great exchange - the gospel?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE TO TRY

This week, try the spiritual practice of fasting. In the Christian tradition, fasting has consisted of willingly abstaining from something normal, generally food, for the sake of our spiritual health. The heart of fasting is to eliminate distractions to fully focus on and draw closer to God. Trying abstaining from lunch at least one day this week, if you are able. Don't just work through lunch or fill the time. Take the opportunity to pray (alone or with others) and talk to God about what he may be asking you to release. If fasting from food isn't possible, what other good thing could you refrain from for a short time, in order to become more aware of your desire for God?

NOTES



UNCHARTED COMMITMENT

WEEK FIVE STUDY GUIDE

A NEW PLACE OF INTERCEDING.

LIFEGROUPS GUIDE

TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Instead of a testimony video, go around your group and share your own testimonies of how God is working in your life during this series.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was a time you were persistent and didn't give up?
2. Would you consider yourself expectant for God to move? Or is it hard for you to believe that God will act?
3. What is one hope or prayer you have for LifeChurch as we embark on this Uncharted journey? Write these down as a group as we seek to live out the commitments we've made.

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read the following Scripture passages and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to journal your responses before you gather together if you find it helps group members participate more deeply.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

"Then Abraham approached him and said: 'Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?' The Lord said, 'If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.'

Then Abraham spoke up again: 'Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?' 'If I find forty-five there,' he said, 'I will not destroy it.'

Once again he spoke to him, 'What if only forty are found there?' He said, 'For the sake of forty, I will not do it.'

Then he said, 'May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?' He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there.'

Abraham said, 'Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?' He said, 'For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.'

Then he said, 'May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?' He answered, 'For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.'" **GENESIS 18:23-32 NIV**

1. What do you see about Abraham's heart for the people of Sodom here? How does Abraham's relationship with God impact his expectation of God's activity?
2. Remember that God previously called Abraham into this territory and region. How does your current place reflect your calling? Do you believe God is calling you to intercede and care for the people around you? What might it look like for you to embrace your current place as your calling (maybe that's your work, your home, your city)?
3. Can you pinpoint what rhythms Abraham established in his life that he would be filled with so much compassion for the people of Sodom?
4. How can you actively increase your compassion for the people around you?

"A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" **MARK 2:1-5 NIV**

5. These men do the unexpected and uncomfortable in order to bring their friend to Jesus. They are burdened for their friend and take big, bold risks to help him find healing. How might God be burdening you for others? Is there a specific group that you're feeling burdened for?
6. What do you notice about Jesus' response to the men's persistence? How does God respond when we intercede for others?
7. Jesus encourages us to ask, seek, and knock (Matthew 7:7). How will you intercede for others and boldly ask, seek, and knock for God to move in the lives of people around you?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE TO TRY

This week, try the spiritual practice of intercessory prayer. Tyler Staton writes, "Prayer is the pathway God has made to get us back to his original plan. Prayer is the way we can rule, manage, intercede for this world ... God has shared his power with you. He calls you a co-manager of heaven, walking around on earth." Pray tangibly and specifically this week for the people around you. Maybe start a list of people in your life who don't know Jesus yet and pray for each name every day this week. Prayer is your way of ruling, managing, and interceding for the community around you.

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UNCHARTED FAMILY GUIDE

KIDS | PRETEENS | STUDENTS

Throughout this series, our kids and students will explore the same stories of bold trust. Parents, be sure to take time each week to interact with your family as you all learn from these biblical stories of sacrifice.

YOU CAN FIND OUR WEEKLY FAMILY RESOURCES HERE:



FAQS

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

First, we're simply asking you to pray and seek God's leading. Prepare your heart to hear from him and then listen to what he says.

Join a LifeGroup during this season, if you haven't already. Talk with your family and friends about what it might mean to engage Jesus' mission more fully. We're asking that we all grow deeper through sacrificial obedience during this season. We're asking that we all make a commitment through our generosity as we reach together to make a Kingdom impact in Northern Nevada and beyond.

We're asking that our level of faith and obedience don't stay the same, but that we allow God to do a new work in us.

Finally, we're asking that you prepare yourself to be amazed at what God is going to do! God is moving in big ways and we anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective Uncharted commitments - something only God can do.

Please mark your calendar for our Commitment Day on Sunday, November 12th and prepare to experience an amazing day where we come together as the body of Christ for this defining moment.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL WAYS BESIDES CASH THAT I CAN GIVE TOWARDS UNCHARTED?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards the Uncharted Initiative. You might have some stocks, property, or other types of stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that he just might be calling you to give of during this time.

You can reach out to Pastor Scott Rhoda at scott@lifechurchnv.com..

HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment, which is 24 months of giving. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our Big Give on Sunday, December 3, 2023 and will culminate in December 2025.

ANY MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have any more questions, please visit uncharted.lifechurchnv.com or you can contact us at **775.852.3833** or email us at info@lifechurchnv.com.



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