

sugar  creek



UNFINISHED



Unfinished **people.**
Unfinished **story.**



Table of Contents

Part One | Unfinished Story

- 05** From Pastor Mark
- 06** Defining Moments
- 08** Where We Are Today
- 17** Unfinished Goals
- 18** Strategic Projects
- 24** How to Participate

Part Two | Unfinished People

- 30** Unfinished Message Notes & Connect Group Studies
- 48** Prayer Guide & Bible Reading Plan
- 55** Family Devotional

Our Unfinished Vision

We are **prayerfully** and **humbly** entering a two-year generosity initiative at Sugar Creek. This season of our church will be like no other. God is not yet finished with us as individuals, and He is not yet finished with us as a church. During this season, we will seek to grow deeper in Christ and expand our Great Commission **impact** both locally and around the world.



Dear Sugar Creek Family,

Over the last 50 years, God has led Sugar Creek to multiple defining moments. Each time, we said “yes” and have seen thousands of lives changed around the world because of our commitment to Him. We are humbled by the impact God has made through our church. As we look forward to the next 50 years, we have arrived at a new defining moment. We believe that God’s work in us is unfinished, and He is calling us to take our commitment to Him and to the Great Commission to new levels.

What you hold in your hand tells the story of our past impact, our goals for the future, and how you can participate in our next step: The Unfinished Initiative. Our primary goal is 100% engagement on this journey by everyone who calls Sugar Creek home because we don’t want anyone to miss out on this opportunity. Many of you have experienced or heard of the incredible things God has done through this church. Those stories of life change happened because people like you listened to God’s voice and responded.

Our team created this guide as an outline of the two-year challenge set before each of us. Please use this book to take notes during sermons, Connect Groups, and personal prayer times. We hope this simple set of questions and scripture, along with your prayer times, will become a catalyst to help you deepen your relationship with God during this special season at Sugar Creek.

Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, we know God has more for you. 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.

This season of our church will be like no other. We look forward with great anticipation to what God will do in and through Sugar Creek as we seek to make an even greater impact on our communities, our nation, and our world. During this season, we will seek to say “yes” to God in this new defining moment.

Thank you for your partnership in accomplishing this vision. I can’t wait to see all that God is going to do!

I love being your Pastor,

Pastor Steve

Defining Moments of Sugar Creek

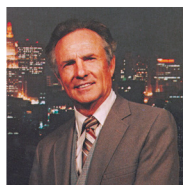
1975

Sugar Creek Baptist Church had their first worship service



1980

Dr. Havard began door-to-door evangelism



1984

Built the Christian Life Center



1991

Purchased the Adult Ministry Building

1997

Purchased the Church Office Building



2005

Moved into current Student Center

1981

Built the Promise Land Building

1990

Founded Living Water International & launched Urban Camp

2002

Launched Second Mile Mission Center

2002

Mark Hartman became Lead Pastor

1976

Built first building (Current Chapel Building)

1989

Fenton Morehead became Senior Pastor

1993

Built the Worship Center

2008

Built the Family Life Center



2015

Partnered with Calvary Baptist Theological Seminary in Jakarta, Indonesia



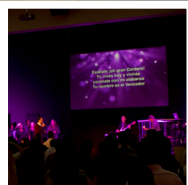
2017

Purchased Colony Creek Community Church as new home for Missouri City Campus



2021

Launched Online Ministry and returned to pre-COVID in-person attendance



2013

Launched Sienna Campus (now Missouri City Campus) & launched Freedom Church Alliance Human Trafficking Ministry

2006

Launched Spanish Ministry

2016

Spanish Ministry moves into Worship Center

2018

Launched Hilltop of Hope

2020

Launched Richmond | Rosenberg Campus & launched The Collective ministry for college and young adults





Where We Are Today

For nearly 50 years, our church family has said “yes!” to God at every defining moment. Our commitment to Jesus and His mission has made us who we are today.

- We are a vibrant and passionate church family that loves people and loves the Bible.
- We are a diverse church made up of 93 nations and 70 languages, committed to reaching the nations.
- We are a multigenerational church that believes every generation matters to God.

Growth & Health

Sugar Creek has a legacy of reaching people with the love of Jesus, serving the community, reaching the nations, and generously giving to missions around the world. Our heart beats to love and lead all people to life change in Christ.

2024 Key Statistics

◆ **6,968**

**Current Worship
Average Attendance**
(In-Person & Online)

◆ **2,367**

**Adults in Connect
Groups**
(Average Attendance)

◆ **1,441**

**Total Kids &
Students**
(Average Attendance)



Through the Years

◆ **7,135
Baptisms**

◆ **Since 2018**

Listed 5 times
among the top 100
fastest growing and
largest churches in
America
(By Outreach Magazine)

◆ **3 Non-Profits
Launched**

- Living Water International
- Second Mile Mission Center
- Hilltop of Hope

Kids & Students

Reaching The Next Generation

One of our core values is “Generational Relevance,” and we believe that every generation matters to Jesus. From holding and cuddling newborns, introducing young children to God’s love, and reaching teens with the gospel, we are committed to the next generation. Hundreds of volunteers spend thousands of hours each week connecting young hearts to Jesus and His plan for their lives.



Birth - Pre-K

We give your youngest ones the care and attention they need and introduce them to God’s love for them.

We serve more than 1,400 students and children each month.

✦ **483**

Birth-Pre-K Average
Monthly Attendance



Kids

Throughout these formative years, experienced teachers lead children to discover Biblical truth in fun, interactive, and age-friendly classes.

✦ **524**

Kids Average
Monthly Attendance



Students

During one of the most challenging stretches in the life of a young adult, we serve to connect teenagers to the church, one another, and Jesus.

✦ **434**

Students Average
Monthly Attendance

The Collective

Connecting Young Adults to One Another,
Jesus, and His Church

Our world today tells young adults that the church and faith are outdated. But The Collective is reaching them and helping them discover that following Jesus is the greatest adventure they could ever live. Every week, hundreds of college-aged and single young adults gather to worship Jesus. Through their Connect Groups, they are discovering and applying the truths of the Bible to the modern challenges they face each day. Every year, we see more and more of these young adults come to faith in Jesus and follow Him in baptism.

✦ **168**

Average Weekly
Worship Attendance

✦ **72**

In Connect Groups

✦ **68**

Baptized since 2021

Spanish Ministry

A vibrant community of Spanish speakers united in following Jesus in their heart language and culture

The Spanish Ministry is fully integrated into Sugar Creek's mission and life. It provides opportunities for members from all over Latin America of different ages, cultures, and backgrounds to worship, pray, and connect in their native language, reflecting our church's multicultural richness. Through high-quality Spanish services, fellowship events, and outreach programs, the Spanish Ministry lives out Sugar Creek's overall purpose of experiencing personal life change by following Christ and actively sharing His message with others.

◆ **2**

Campuses - Sugar Creek and Richmond/Rosenberg

◆ **900**

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

◆ **414**

In Connect Groups

◆ **204**

Baptized since 2019



Impact Events

Sugar Creek hosts dynamic and inspiring events every year to reach outside the walls of our church to engage with our community. For 50 years, we have seen these events provide people a place to gather, connect and be introduced to Jesus. Vacation Bible School, student camps, and Easter egg hunts are just a few examples. Each year, we see thousands of families introduced to the love of Jesus through Sugar Creek Volunteers.

In the last year...

◆ **1,800+**

People heard the gospel at a Community Easter Egg Hunt

◆ **2,000**

Children attended Vacation Bible School

◆ **374**

Students attended Summer Camp

◆ **125**

Inner-city students attended Camp Blaze

◆ **5,000+**

Attended Christmas Under The Stars

◆ **1,400+**

Buckets of Love donated to help with disaster relief

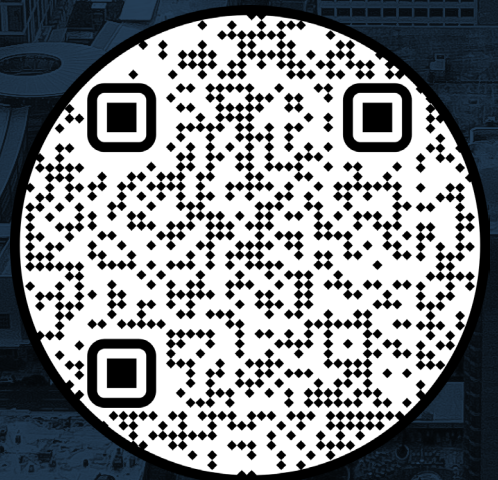
Our UNFINISHED Mission

To Love and Lead All People

Jesus left the disciples clear instructions to make disciples, baptize, and teach them to follow all He taught. He also promised that the Holy Spirit would empower us to be His witnesses, both at home and around the world. Sugar Creek still passionately follows Jesus' instructions to make disciples of all nations as we live our day-to-day lives and go wherever He leads us. Our missions ministry equips and mobilizes us to reach our "one," our community, our city, our nation, and our world.

Local Partnerships

- Second Mile
- The Sanctuary Foster Care Services
- PLI Prestige Learning Institute
- Eyes On Me Incorporated
- Global Gates
- Here to There Movement
- Living Water International
- Nery's Promise
- Hilltop of Hope
- Share Freedom
- Women's Pregnancy Center
- The Landing
- Attack Poverty
- America China Fellowship
- Freedom Church Alliance
- Rescue Us
- Star of Hope



scan for more info

Our One

God has placed you exactly where you are because He wants to use you to reach those around you with the gospel. Your family, your neighborhood, your workplace, and your school are your first mission field.

Our Community

There are more than 500,000 people from at least 90 countries in Fort Bend County who don't know Christ. We strategically place campuses of our church in the community, and we train and mobilize our people to bring life change in Christ to those around our locations.

Our City

With over 7 million people, Houston is one of the five largest, most diverse, and unreached cities in the US. We collaborate with local, Christ-centered partners who have different areas of expertise to meet physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. This enable us to plant more Christ-centered churches throughout the city.



Local Missions Impact

♦ **535**

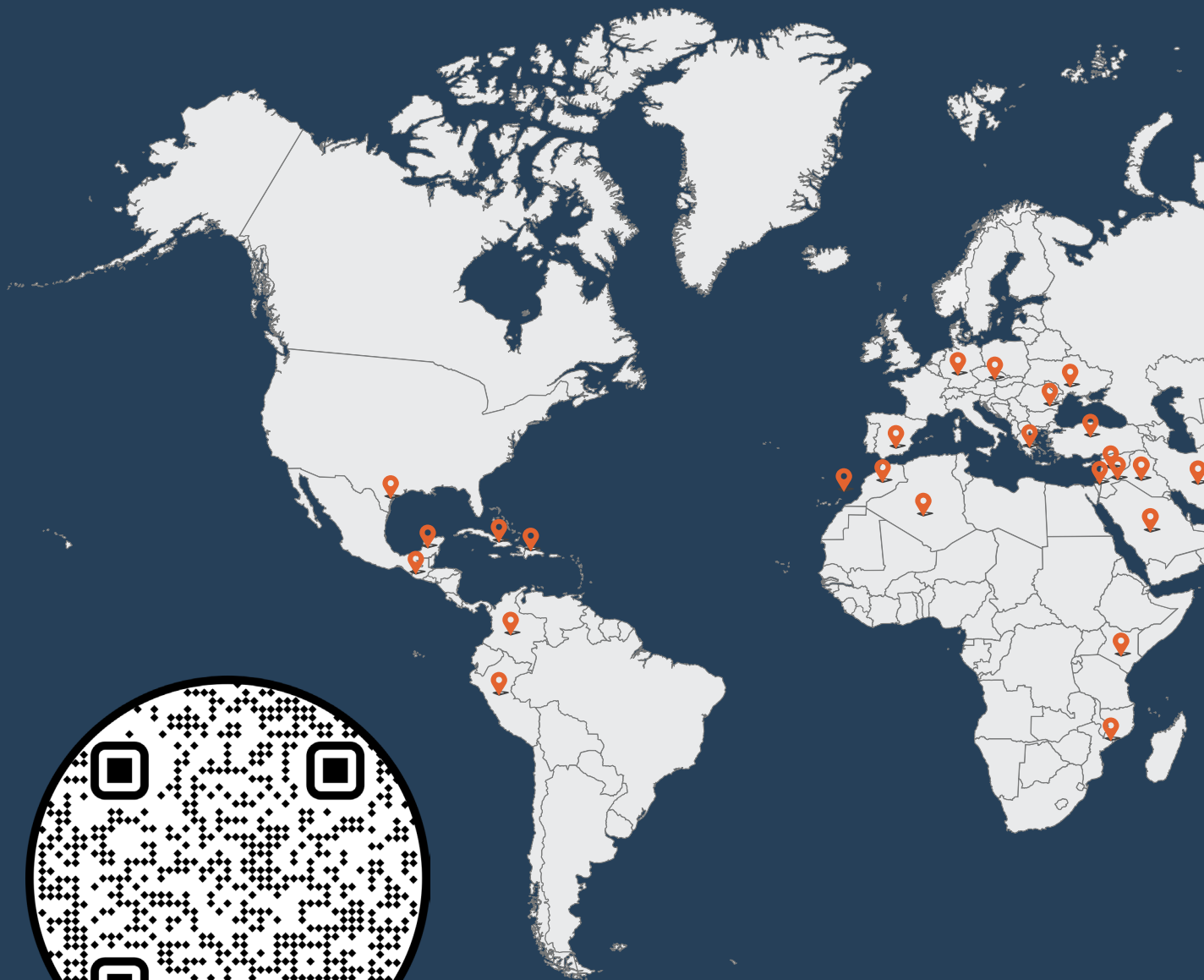
Have been trained to share their faith through Gospel Conversations Workshops since 2021

♦ **\$676,127**

Given in the 2023-24 FY to support local ministry partners and church planters

♦ **7,000+**

People heard the gospel through community impact events in the 2023-24 FY



scan for more info

Our Nation

Every year, more than 4,000 churches close their doors compared to just over 1,000 new churches being planted. We invest our resources and send our people to work with church planters and ministries that are finding effective ways to love and lead communities across our nation to experience transformation in Christ.

Global Missions Impact

◆ **42**

Church planters and ministry partners, supported financially and spiritually, who impact 32 countries worldwide

◆ **402**

Since 2021 people have participated in short-term mission trips led by Sugar Creek to 16 countries

◆ **4,421**

People have come to faith in Christ during Sugar Creek mission trips since 2021.

◆ **\$1M+**

Given to support international church planting and other missional efforts in the 2023-24 FY

Our World

There are 7.75 billion people in the world today; 3.23 billion live in unreached people groups with little or no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We support and work with church planting organizations and Christ-centered relief ministries in different parts of the world so that together, we can take the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations.

An Unfinished Purpose

Meet Joe Dickson



**“God
Just
Broke
Me.”**

-Joe

Joe and his wife, Nancy, have been members of Sugar Creek Church for over two decades. Throughout their time here, Joe has always admired Sugar Creek’s missions program and followed its growth over the years. When retirement finally came in December 2018, Joe seized the opportunity he had been waiting for and signed up for three mission trips. His wife was initially taken aback. “Wait, you signed up for three trips and haven’t been on one before? How do you know you’re going to like it?” She asked. Joe’s response was simple: “I’ve been following this for years. I’ve been chomping at the bit to do this, and now the opportunity is here.”

The Impact of the First Trip

Joe’s first mission trip took him to La Guajira, Colombia, the northernmost department of the country. La Guajira is known for its extreme poverty, compounded by the influx of tens of thousands of Venezuelan refugees seeking refuge from their own dire circumstances. Joe and his team traveled there with medical professionals, supplies, eyeglasses, and medicines, aiming to provide as much aid as possible. The experience was both eye-opening and heart-wrenching. Despite having visited many third-world countries, Joe had never witnessed such severe suffering. In a village called Maicao, just three miles from the Venezuelan border, Joe found himself deeply affected by the stark realities he encountered.

Spiritual Heart Surgery

There was one particular day in Maicao when Joe’s emotional response overwhelmed him. “God just broke me,” he recalls. “About every half hour, I found a quiet corner to cry. I had never seen or experienced anything like that before.” This profound encounter led Joe to a moment of surrender and transformation. He felt as though God performed a kind of “spiritual heart surgery” on him, removing the calluses from his heart and revealing a new perspective on life. The experience shifted his priorities dramatically. “I’m retired now, and I have the luxury of time,” Joe reflects. “I can’t see myself spending my remaining years chasing golf balls or idling away with hobbies. I want to invest my time in something that will last.”

Embracing the UNFINISHED Story

As Joe continues to serve in missions, he carries with him a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to making a lasting difference in the world. Though he has transitioned out of his long-term career, Joe is living with a sense that God is not finished with him yet. He knows that he has an UNFINISHED story and is surrendering to God’s plans for the next chapter.

Unfinished Initiative Goals



Unfinished People

The primary goal is 100% Engagement

We desire for every person at Sugar Creek to embrace the truth that God is not finished with us as individuals or as a church. We are asking everyone to engage with us in prayer and to explore new levels of surrender, faith, and generosity. Join us in expectation, as God continues His miraculous work in us.



Unfinished Story

Secondary Goal: \$60 Million over 2 years

General Budget | \$34 Million

The UNFINISHED INITIATIVE will include the funding of our general ministry budget over the next two years. Sugar Creek is already reaching this goal. We praise God for the generosity at Sugar Creek that fuels our ministry to love and lead all people to life change in Christ. \$34 million represents two years' worth of regular annual giving.

Missions Offering | \$2 Million

\$2 million for our annual missions offering over the next two years (\$1 million/year). Similar to our general ministry budget, Sugar Creek is already reaching this goal. Our missions offering combines with our missions ministry general budget. Together, these two funds allow us to make an impact around the world with the gospel of Jesus.

Capital Projects | \$24 Million

A combination of \$24 million for the capital projects at each of our three campus. These strategic projects expand their reach across the region and prepare for future growth.

- At the Missouri City Campus, it will result in a new Worship Center, additional children's space, and expanded student space.
- On the Richmond | Rosenberg Campus, it will include a second floor expansion of our children's ministry and adult ministry space. The R | R Campus student ministry will also expand its first floor footprint.
- At the Sugar Land Campus, it will renovate the 30-year-old Worship Center and worship ministry space. This renovation will center on reaching the next two generations and our global online congregation.

Unfinished Initiative Projects

The Missouri City Campus

\$14.5 Million

Build the new Missouri City Campus Worship Center, Children, and Student Ministry Venues

The Missouri City Campus launched in 2013, initially meeting at Ridge Point High School before moving to its current location on HWY 6. Since moving into its current building, it has experienced rapid growth, which is only slowed by the lack of space. The Missouri City Campus is reaching families in the historic Missouri City neighborhoods as well as the fast-growing communities further south. Neighborhoods such as Sienna are growing in both size and diversity, and the Missouri City Campus is virtually next door to individuals who have never heard the gospel. With its historic growth trend, the Missouri City Campus is projected to reach an average weekly attendance of 2,000 by 2030.

Missouri City Campus Snapshot

✦ **800-900+**

Normal Sunday
Attendance

✦ **320**

Total seats in
the Worship
Center

✦ **Launched in 2013**

Moved to Current
Location in 2017

The UNFINISHED task for the Missouri City Campus is to continue reaching Missouri City, the HWY 6 corridor and beyond. To do so, we must provide space and ministry venues for the thousands of people God is calling us to reach.





A NEW 700-seat Worship Center will more than double the capacity of the current worship center. **With this expansion, Missouri City will be able to accommodate 1,200 people per service hour in the Worship Center, children's, and student area.** The project also provides the critical square footage for an expanded lobby to welcome guests and facilitate connections within our church family.



Expanding the Missouri City Campus footprint also provides expanded venues for children's and student ministry programming. The existing main building will be converted into a two-story facility for children, from birth through 5th grade. The current ministry building will be transformed into 5,000 square feet of dedicated student ministry space.

The renderings included in this book are conceptual designs intended to illustrate the vision for our future projects. The final building designs are still under development and may differ from these initial images. We are committed to ensuring that the finished buildings align with our goals and budget while reflecting the high standards of our mission.

The Richmond | Rosenberg Campus **\$2.5 Million**

Expand the Richmond | Rosenberg Campus NextGen Ministry Space

The Richmond | Rosenberg Campus launched in 2020, during the global COVID pandemic. Despite the challenging start, it has successfully created a dynamic ministry hub for Sugar Creek in that area. This campus has seen rapid growth in the Spanish Ministry, as well as reaching families with children and teenagers. Other nearby churches have closed their doors since COVID, leaving this region in desperate need of a thriving church. As more young families migrate further south on HWY 59, the Richmond | Rosenberg Campus is poised to reach them and impact the next generation.

Richmond | Rosenberg Campus Snapshot

✦ **600 - 700+**

Normal Sunday
Attendance

✦ **700**

Total seats in
the Worship
Center

✦ **Launched in 2020**

Including English
and Spanish
Services

We know God's story for the Richmond | Rosenberg Campus is UNFINISHED. He is calling Sugar Creek to continue reaching this region and provide a place where every family is welcomed and discover Jesus. However, the success we've seen in reaching young families has already filled our children's and student ministry spaces.

With this expansion, the Richmond | Rosenberg Campus's worship center, children's and student ministry areas will be able to accommodate 1,200 people per service hour





The Richmond | Rosenberg Campus facility includes a pre-existing second floor that is currently unused. Renovating this space provides an additional 13,000 square feet of flexible ministry space, allowing us to expand our ministry to families. The future second floor will feature expanded space for ministry to 3rd through 5th graders, along with six new rooms for adult Connect Groups. This will allow the student ministry to expand its footprint on the first floor, providing dedicated space for middle and high school students.



The renderings included in this book are conceptual designs intended to illustrate the vision for our future projects. The final building designs are still under development and may differ from these initial images. We are committed to ensuring that the finished buildings align with our goals and budget while reflecting the high standards of our mission.



The Sugar Land Campus **\$7 Million**

Renovate the Sugar Land Campus Worship Center, Worship Ministry Suite, and Broadcast Capabilities

The Sugar Land Campus has been the main hub of Sugar Creek's ministry for nearly 50 years. In 1993, the current Worship Center was opened, allowing us to become a regional church that reaches people across all of Fort Bend County. Since that time, the Sugar Land Campus has consistently grown and even launched two new campuses. Most recently, it has become the broadcast home for Sugar Creek Stream, our online ministry. Sugar Creek Stream connects people from over 40 different countries and all 50 states to our church and the gospel.



Tiered Seating Option

Sugar Land Campus Snapshot

✦ **3,700-4,000+**

Normal Sunday
Attendance

✦ **1,700+**

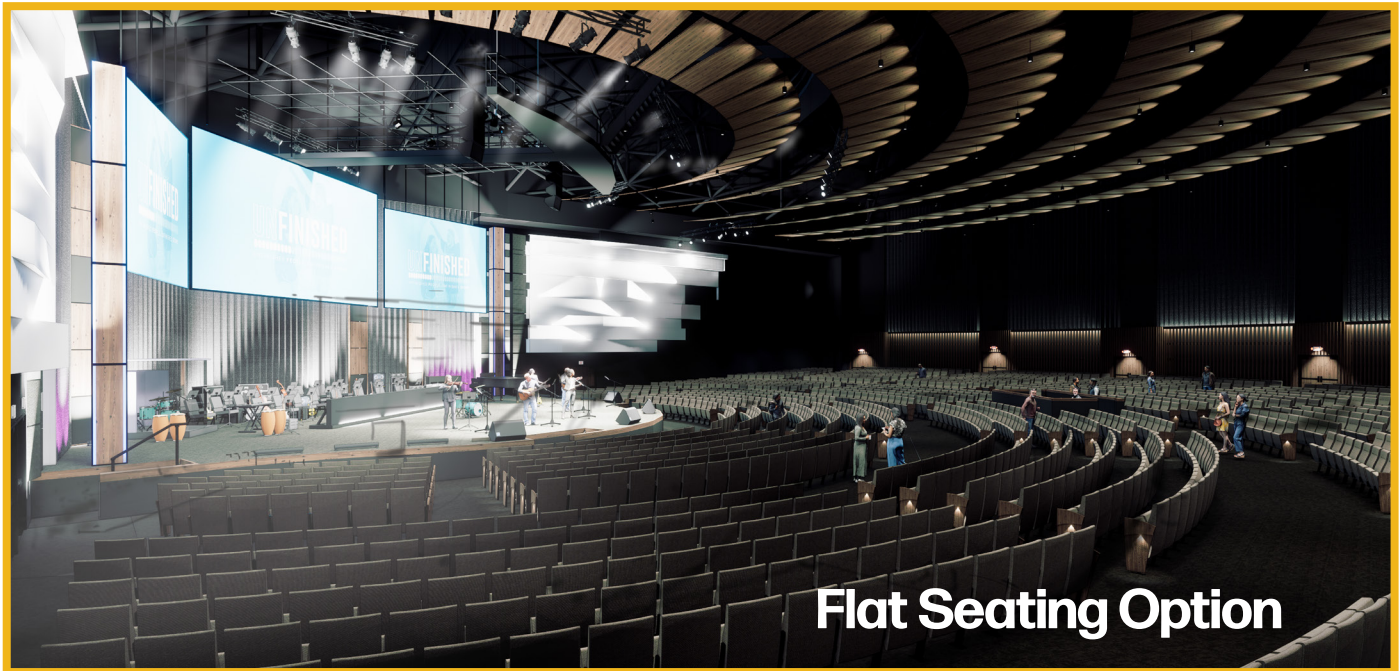
Normal Online
Viewers

✦ **1,700**

Total seats in the
Worship Center

✦ **1993**

Current Worship
Center Built



Flat Seating Option



We believe God has another 50 years of dynamic ministry planned for the Sugar Land Campus. Our story of loving and leading all people to life change in Christ is UNFINISHED.

However, the 30-year-old Worship Center has not been upgraded since it opened. This aging venue, along with its audio, video, and lighting capabilities, are in need of critical upgrades. The Worship Center renovation will transform it into a modern ministry venue for the next generation and expand the seating capacity from 1,700 to 2,200. Additionally, the Worship Suite and technology upgrades will allow our church to grow its reach and influence online.

Our architectural partner has provided us with two seating options for modernizing the Worship Center. The flat seating option (pictured above) retains the current traffic flow but adds additional transverse aisles. The tiered seating option (pictured left) allows families to enter from both the first and second floors. In 2025, the Sugar Land Campus will decide which option to utilize.



The renderings included in this book are conceptual designs intended to illustrate the vision for our future projects. The final building designs are still under development and may differ from these initial images. We are committed to ensuring that the finished buildings align with our goals and budget while reflecting the high standards of our mission.



How To Participate

Pray Persistently

We believe God is calling us to a new season that can only happen through prayer, and we invite you to join us in covering Sugar Creek in prayer. A daily prayer guide and Bible reading plan is provided in this book. Use these prompts to diligently ask God to move during the UNFINISHED Initiative. Along with using this in your own devotion time, a Family Devotional is also provided for families to grow and pray together. Pray that God will work in the hearts of people at Sugar Creek and that we will listen with the intent to respond.

Commit Fully

Sugar Creek is the church it is today because we have said, "Yes, God!" at every defining moment, and each time, our entire church family shared in that commitment. Whether you have been a part of Sugar Creek for decades or have just begun attending, we invite you to join this journey. This is our opportunity to pray for and work toward something greater than ourselves. Be part of the 100% engagement by saying "YES" and encouraging others to do the same.

Celebrate Loudly

Sugar Creek has an UNFINISHED story that God is continuing to write. But we are also UNFINISHED people that God is continuing to shape. God is going to do amazing things in your life during this season. Be quick to share your story and tell those around you about all that God is doing.

Give Generously

Jesus told us, "Where your treasure is, your heart will be also." Whenever we respond to God by giving Him more of our heart, our treasure follows. Because of this, seasons of spiritual growth often lead to seasons of greater generosity. Each of us is at a different stage in our generosity journey. Some make plans to regularly give and support our shared mission; others are just discovering the joy of giving. Wherever you are, live and give in a way that stretches you to take your faith to a whole new level of generosity.

An Unfinished Family

Meet Marc & Arlanna Mann



**“God
Won’t
Let Me
Quit On
Us.”**

-Arlanna

Marc and Arlanna’s marriage faced a critical turning point, marked by infidelity and broken trust. After 28 years together, Arlanna reached her breaking point and was ready to end the marriage. However, a powerful moment of divine intervention changed everything. As Marc was about to leave, Arlanna felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to give their marriage another chance. She walked to the car and told Marc, “God told me this morning that I’m not supposed to be done with you yet. Come back inside.” This moment of grace set them on a path toward healing and transformation. Desperate for guidance, they sought counsel from a pastor. Their journey led them to Sugar Creek Baptist Church, where they met Pastor Ben Coleman. It was here that Marc experienced a life-changing moment and gave his life to Christ. This decision not only transformed him but also brought new hope to their marriage and family. Marc and Arlanna began to rely on Jesus as they did the hard work of rebuilding trust, learning forgiveness, and surrendering to God.

A New Chapter


Marc’s newfound faith ignited a profound change in their household. He became the spiritual leader of the family, encouraging everyone to attend church regularly. Arlanna watched in awe as her husband transformed before her eyes, embodying the values and teachings of Christ. This transformation was genuine, and it inspired their entire family to grow in faith. Their son, too, embraced this spiritual journey, giving his life to Christ during the pandemic. The family witnessed remarkable growth, with both children getting baptized, symbolizing a fresh start for their family.

The Impact of Sugar Creek

Sugar Creek Baptist Church played a pivotal role in their journey. The church’s supportive community and commitment to truth and grace stood out the most. They found a place where they could be real with others and a church family to partner with in leading their family. Marc and Arlanna found Sugar Creek’s approach to be refreshingly honest, avoiding prosperity preaching and focusing on biblical truths delivered with compassion. This environment nurtured their spiritual growth and strengthened their commitment to serving others. As they continue their journey, Marc and Arlanna are excited about the future. They are committed to leading their family to be Christ-centered and dependent on God. Marc and Arlanna’s story is a reminder that God is not finished with any person, marriage, or family.

Commitment Card

Yes – I/we want to join with God as He continues his finishing work in me/us.
Here is my/our contribution:

	<div>\$</div>	What I/we would normally give in a year to Sugar Creek (regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)
+	<div>\$</div>	My/our expanded annual generosity as part of the Unfinished initiative
=	<div>\$</div>	x 2 years 
		<div>\$</div>
Gifts from my/our stored resources	+	<div>\$</div>

My/our total 2-year Unfinished Commitment

\$

December 2024 - December 2026

One Fund

It's possible you've been part of church campaigns before where you were asked to give a second gift "above and beyond" your regular giving. We've found that "over and above" giving can be confusing for people who don't have a clear baseline for their "normal giving." It also has the potential to diminish the significance of the ongoing generous giving by so many at each of the Sugar Creek campuses.

The Unfinished Initiative will span two years. During this time, every gift given to any of the Sugar Creek campuses will go directly to the Unfinished Initiative, helping us meet the needs for the general budget, missions support, and capital projects. This approach eliminates the need for members to write multiple checks or give to multiple funds. We've included a sample commitment card to show how a "one fund initiative" works. Please take a moment to review it. Don't worry, though—you'll receive a brand new one on Commitment Sunday, November 17, 2024.

Two-Year Gift Chart

As you pray and discern how God would call you to give, use this chart as a discipleship tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you towards greater generosity as you declare God's work in you is unfinished.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$208,333	\$5,000,000
1	\$2,500,000	\$1,250,000	\$104,167	\$2,500,000
3	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$4,500,000
5	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$5,000,000
8	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$4,000,000
15	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$3,750,000
20	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$3,000,000
30	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$3,000,000
45	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$3,375,000
60	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$3,900,000
90	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$4,500,000
105	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$3,675,000
120	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$3,000,000
140	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$2,100,000
200	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$2,000,000
300	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$2,250,000
450	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$2,250,000
MANY	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$2,200,000
TOTAL GIFT GOAL				\$60,000,000



Key Dates

- October 13** Unfinished Sermon Series Begins
- October 20** Advanced Commitment Night (5:00pm- Sugar Land Campus)
- November 17** Commitment Sunday

FAQs

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

First and foremost, we are asking you to pray and seek God's guidance on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says. If you haven't already, join a Connect Group during this season. Talk with your family about what it means to engage more fully in Jesus' mission. Each person's sacrificial commitment through generosity will be unique. This is an opportunity for us ALL to say "yes" to God in this new defining moment. We are asking that our level of faith and obedience grows because God is not done with us yet. Finally, we are asking that you prepare yourself to be amazed by what God is going to do! He is moving in powerful ways, and we anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective Unfinished commitments. Please mark your calendar for our Commitment Sunday on November 17, and get ready to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and for your own faith.

ARE THERE OTHER WAYS, BESIDES CASH, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNFINISHED INITIATIVE?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can contribute to the Unfinished Initiative. Consider whether you have stocks, property, assets, or even other stored resources that you might feel called to give during this time. If you have questions about non-cash gifts, **please visit sugarcreek.net/giving or contact Bruce Boyd at bboyd@sugarcreek.net**. We would be happy to assist you in exploring these giving options.

HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment, covering 24 months of giving. This commitment period will start on our Unfinished Commitment Sunday, November 17, and will conclude in December 2026. Please note that this 24-month commitment spans across three separate tax years.

DOES IT MATTER WHICH SUGAR CREEK CAMPUS I ATTEND? WILL MY GIVING STAY TIED TO MY LOCATION?

Unfinished is a one-fund initiative, meaning all of our giving is united, just like our mission to love and lead all people to life-change in Christ. We are ONE church with ONE mission, and Unfinished will help fuel our mission as ONE. Because Unfinished addressed visionary projects at each campus, combined giving will help us accomplish our mission together.

HOW IS THE UNFINISHED INITIATIVE DIFFERENT THAN PREVIOUS CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS AT SUGAR CREEK?

The UNFINISHED Initiative will adopt a “one-fund” approach. This means that for the two-year duration of the campaign, the church’s budget, missions, and capital project funds will all be unified into one fund. This approach offers many benefits, particularly for givers, as you will not need to write multiple checks or make separate online transactions to support all of Sugar Creek’s initiatives from 2025-2026.

ARE WE GOING TO INCLUDE THE ONLINE AUDIENCE IN THIS CAMPAIGN?

Absolutely! Our online members and attendees will be fully engaged in all aspects of the UNFINISHED Initiative. Planned upgrades to the Sugar Land Worship Center and Worship Suite will significantly enhance the online experience, allowing us to reach a larger online audience than ever before.

WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION BEGIN AND HOW WILL WEEKLY SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES BE AFFECTED AT EACH CAMPUS?

The sooner the better! The goal is to begin as soon as possible, but we aim to avoid long-term debt. Therefore, the start date depends on how quickly the necessary funds are raised. We encourage everyone to contribute as much as possible before midnight on December 31, 2024. If sufficient funds are raised, construction could begin in early 2025. Each campus will experience different levels of disruption during the construction phase. The Richmond Rosenberg Campus will experience minimal disruption. At the Missouri City Campus, services will continue in the existing Worship Center while the new one is built. Children’s and student activities will be temporarily displaced while their spaces are remodeled. At the Sugar Land Campus, the Worship Center remodel is expected to last 4-6 months. During this time, services will be held in Gym 1, which can accommodate several hundred people, with overflow streamed to Gym 2. In the coming months, the Long Range Planning Committee and staff will work closely with our architectural and construction partners to finalize these plans and provide further updates to the church.

MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have any more questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. Contact us at 281-242-2858 or email us at unfinished@sugarcreek.net



Sermon Notes & Connect Group Studies



Connect Group Study



Play Teaching and Testimony Video for Week 1. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for your group as you begin the rest of the lesson. You can watch the video at unfinished.sugarcreek.net/groups

Opening Discussion Questions

1. Over time, in what ways have you most changed? Consider changes in beliefs, the way you treat others, moral stances, etc.
2. Who or what was influential in these changes?
3. Has these changes impacted any of your relationships? Explain.

Examining Scripture

In this lesson, we will explore how following Jesus involves letting Him write our story and use us in others' stories as well.

Read Acts 9:1-9

Discussion:

1. Why do you think Saul was struck blind? What might God have been trying to teach him through this experience of blindness?
2. Think of a time that God did something drastic to get your attention. What was that experience like, and what did you learn from it?
3. Given Saul's previous activities, what might he have been thinking about during those three days of blindness and fasting?

Read Acts 9:10-19

Discussion:

1. Did Ananias believe he was ready for this assignment from God, or did he have concerns? Did those concerns affect his willingness to obey God?
2. Did Ananias ignore his concerns or voice them to God?
3. Why didn't the Lord restore Saul's sight without Ananias's involvement? What does this tell us about how God desires spiritual growth to occur?

Read Acts 9:20-31

Discussion:

1. The other believers in Damascus and Jerusalem were shocked by Paul's transformation. What did Paul do to demonstrate that he had truly changed?
2. Paul experienced major sacrifices and sufferings in following Jesus. Imagine being in his place, being lowered down a wall in a basket. What would you be thinking during that moment? Why is following Jesus worth enduring such experiences?
3. Why was Barnabas willing to stand up for Saul? What was Barnabas risking by doing so?

APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES

In this passage, we encountered three different men, who, under normal circumstances, might have been enemies. Yet, their story was unfinished. God radically transformed Saul's story and turned him into Paul, and through him, impacted Ananias and Barnabas. God called Ananias and Barnabas to take a risk, not for their own benefit, but to help someone else.

1. In your story of following Jesus, who has taken a risk on you? What was the result of their willingness to take that chance on you?
2. In your story of following Jesus, who have you taken a risk for? What was the outcome, and how did it affect you both?
3. In this next season, our entire church is being asked by God to take a risk for Him and for others. Our stories are unfinished, and God is calling us to reach people whose stories need a radical change in the next chapter. God has a risky step planned for each of us. What do you think your life could look like a year from now if you take that risk for Jesus? What might it look like if you choose not to take that risk?

Prayer

4. Close in prayer by praying that your group will bravely follow Jesus this year. Thank God for the people that He has used to help you grow in the past. Pray for the people God will use your group to help grow in the future.

Unfinished Week Two

What's This All About? | 1 Chronicles 28-29

Connect Group Study



Play Teaching and Testimony Video for Week 2. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for your group as you begin the rest of the lesson. You can watch the video at unfinished.sugarcreek.net/groups.

Opening Discussion Questions

1. What basic need do people in our community struggle to meet?
2. What are the potential dangers in relying on yourself in difficult circumstances?

Examining Scripture

In this lesson, we will explore how part of God's finishing work in our lives includes calling us to make sacrifices at different times. He uses these experiences to strengthen our faith and teach us to trust Him with our needs.

Read 1 Kings 17:8-14

Discussion:

1. Why do you think Elijah was willing to go where God called him? What can we learn from his obedience?
2. Why do you think the widow questioned Elijah's instructions? In what circumstances are we tempted to question what God calls us to do?
3. Why do we tend to trust in our abilities instead of God's? Can you recall a time when you had difficulty obeying a clear directive from God? How have your past experiences with Him helped you be obedient to Him?

Read 1 Kings 17:15-16

Discussion:

1. How do these verses illustrate that faith must be active rather than passive? What are some ways God provides for us that require us to take action?
2. What evidence can you point to that shows God keeps His promises to those who obey?
3. What instructions might God give today to someone in need of assistance?

Read 1 Kings 17:17-24

Discussion:

1. How did God test Elijah's faith? What can we learn from Elijah's response?
2. What did the widow learn from God's work through Elijah? How can we act as vessels for God's work and serve as witnesses to others?
3. What advice would you offer new Christians who are struggling to trust in God's provision?

1. How has God provided for you through others? How has God provided for others through you?
2. The widow in this story was asked to make a significant sacrifice and show tangible faith that God would provide. What might a similar step of faith and sacrifice look like for you in 2024?
3. How could God use a season of sacrifice to continue His finishing work in your life?

Close by reminding your group sometimes God calls us to step out in faith as we trust His ability to provide for our needs and for the needs of others through us. Pray together that God would help your group to remain obedient to Him so that your faith and generosity will reveal His power in your lives.

Unfinished Week Three

God Still Slays Giants | Numbers 13



Connect Group Study

Play Teaching and Testimony Video for Week 3. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for your group as you begin the rest of the lesson. You can watch the video at unfinished.sugarcreek.net/groups.

Opening Discussion Questions

1. Do you tend to defer to the majority opinion and go along with the crowd or speak up for what you want?
2. How does this approach work when the group is deciding something simple, like where to eat? How does it work when the church is seeking to do and obey God's will?

Examining Scripture

In this lesson, we will explore the importance of trusting God when He calls us to take courageous steps.

Read Numbers 13:26-31

Discussion:

1. What types of fears prevent people from obeying God today, whether individually or as a group?
2. How can we differentiate between wise caution and timid disobedience? What does it take to remain obedient even in the face of fear?

Read Numbers 14:6-9

Discussion:

1. What arguments did Joshua and Caleb present to the Israelites to persuade them not to rebel against the Lord's command? Why did they believe the people should not be afraid?
2. In the end, whose argument was more convincing? Why?
3. Is fear considered a sin? Why or why not? What is the relationship between trust and obedience?
4. How might truly believing "the Lord is with us" (v. 9) impact your willingness to obey in a situation you are facing today?

Read Numbers 14:17-23.

Discussion:

1. What did Moses request from the Lord, and how did God respond?
2. What truths about God did Moses declare and depend on (vv.18-19) when he asked the Lord to pardon the Israelites?
3. If God forgives wrongdoing and rebellion, why do we still face the consequences of our sinful choices? Is this a contradiction? Explain.
4. How would you say this example compares to the way God handles our disobedience today? Explain.

APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES

We all encounter multiple defining moments in our lives. For the Israelites, completing the journey through the desert and reaching the Promised Land was a defining moment. Similarly, God often calls us to demonstrate courageous faith and say “yes!” to Him. Failing to do so could mean missing out on God’s blessings. However, when we do say “yes” to these defining moments, God provides, we experience His blessings, and He is glorified.

1. What was the most recent defining moment you faced? How did you respond?
2. Our church is at a new defining moment. In 10 years, how would you like to remember this moment? What stories do you hope to tell?
3. If you are facing a new defining moment, what do you need to hear from God to take a courageous step of faith?

Prayer

Close in prayer, asking God to keep your group members faithful to Him and to help them embrace His plans for their lives. Pray that as they grow in their faith and witness God's goodness, their fears will take a back seat, and they will testify to God's blessings in their lives.

Unfinished Week Four

The Time is Now | Mark 6

Connect Group Study



Play Teaching and Testimony Video for Week 4. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for your group as you begin the rest of the lesson. You can watch the video at unfinished.sugarcreek.net/groups.

Opening Discussion Questions

1. If you grew up in a Christian environment, what was your favorite Bible story as a child? Why?
2. Have you ever been surprised by new insights when rereading any of these Bible stories as an adult? What new understanding did you gain?
3. What do you remember about the story of Zacchaeus?

Examining Scripture

In this lesson, we will explore how believing in Jesus leads to obeying Jesus.

Read Luke 19:1-5

Discussion:

1. Why was it important for Luke to mention that Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector?
2. What does Zacchaeus' persistence in climbing the sycamore tree reveal about his desire to meet Jesus? How likely was it that he might have given up before reaching that point?
3. Given that running in public was considered undignified behavior in that day, what can we learn about the importance Zacchaeus placed on a potential relationship with Jesus above societal opinions?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to meet in Zacchaeus' house? What does this indicate about His ability and desire to meet us where we are in our relationships with Him?

Read Luke 19:6-10

Discussion:

1. Why do you think those around Zacchaeus "grumbled" about Jesus' actions (v. 7)? What might this have indicated about their own pride and judgment?
2. What transformation must have occurred in Zacchaeus to spur his reaction in v. 8?
3. How might those who previously grumbled have reacted to Zacchaeus' act of generosity? How might it have spoken to or even silenced their previous complaints?

Read Luke 19:11-27

Discussion:

1. Although we often read this parable separately from Zacchaeus' story, verse 11 makes it clear that they are connected. This parable was likely told by Jesus at Zacchaeus' house that night. What connection do you think Jesus was trying to make between this parable and the life change Zacchaeus experienced?
2. Which servant in the parable resembled Zacchaeus the most? Which one resembled the "complainers"?
3. How do you see yourself reflected in this parable?

1. What do we need to trust and believe in Jesus for to seek Him with the same determination as Zacchaeus? What might be the outcome if we do?
2. How might Zacchaeus' gratitude for Jesus' forgiveness and cleansing have spurred his selflessness and compassion for others? How should it motivate us in the same way?
3. The servants who hid their coins were influenced by fear. What barriers keep us from fully trusting Jesus like Zacchaeus?

Close your group time in prayer together. Allow group members to spend some time silently confessing any barriers that may be hindering their full commitment to Jesus. Thank God for sending Jesus, who surpasses all these barriers and meets us where we are to build a relationship with us and draw us closer to Him.

Unfinished Week Five

Unfinished Mission | Acts 1



Connect Group Experience

Week Five of UNFINISHED features a Sunday morning Missions Experience at all Sugar Creek campuses. For Sunday morning groups, your group may choose to attend this Missions Experience instead of holding your regular Connect Group. Any groups that do have a normal Connect Group meeting for week five are encouraged to use that time to pray for the UNFINISHED INITIATIVE and our 2024-25 Missions Ministry Activities. Use the following Missions Prayer Guide to facilitate that prayer meeting.

Prayer Guide

READ ACTS 1:4-8 AND ASK VOLUNTEERS TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Pray for our ability to hear the Holy Spirit and follow His leading.
- Pray for people in our Jerusalem (family, friends, and neighbors) who need to hear and receive the gospel.
- Pray for people in our Judea (Fort Bend County and Greater Houston) who need to hear and receive the gospel.
- Pray for people in our Samaria (our nation) who need to hear and receive the gospel.
- Pray for people around the world who need to hear and receive the gospel.

READ MATTHEW 9:35-38 AND ASK VOLUNTEERS TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Pray for a new season of Sugar Creek members to be inspired to go on short-term mission trips and mobilized to reach the nations.
- Pray that our campuses become hubs for sending workers into the harvest of our cities.
- Pray for our ministry partners in the Greater Houston Area.
- Pray for our ministry partners in Central and South America.
- Pray for our ministry partners in Southeast Asia.
- Pray for our ministry partners in Africa.
- Pray for our ministry partners in Europe.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-6 AND ASK VOLUNTEERS TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Pray that God inspires our church to give our hearts to Him first and foremost.
- Pray that our financial generosity overflows from the act of giving our hearts to God.
- Pray that God would show us how to give out of obedience rather than out of our ability.
- Just like God united the early church in the mission of giving, pray that the UNFINISHED INITIATIVE unites our church in missions and obedience to His call.

**WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOUR HEART?
IS HE CALLING YOU TO GIVE?
IS HE CALLING YOUR TO GO?**

Unfinished Week Six

God Finishes What He Starts | Philippians 1:6



Connect Group Study

Play Teaching and Testimony Video for Week 6. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for your group as you begin the rest of the lesson. You can watch the video at unfinished.sugarcreek.net/groups.

Opening Discussion Questions

1. What is the most challenging commitment that you have made in your life that you also enjoyed and are proud of?
2. What did it take for you to make that commitment?
3. Did others understand and support the commitment you made?

Examining Scripture

In this lesson, we will explore how making a commitment to follow Jesus is not a one-time event. Rather, it is a daily surrender to Him, even if the world does not understand our commitment.

Read Genesis 6:1-8

Discussion:

1. How is our culture similar to Noah's? How is it different? Do you think our culture is more corrupt today than in the past? Why or why not?
2. In your life, in the lives of your children, or in today's culture, what consequences have you observed from choosing to disobey God?
3. What did it cost Noah to follow God? Does following Jesus always come with a cost? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 6:9-16

Discussion:

1. How would you react if someone in your neighborhood began building an ark in their backyard because God reportedly told them to do so?
2. Has God ever asked you to do something you didn't completely understand or that you knew people would mock? How did you handle the trust required in that situation?
3. What excuses do people often use to avoid following God's commands? Are any of these excuses justified in God's eyes? Why or why not?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-9

Discussion:

1. Though the Macedonians were not facing a global flood, this passage shows how they responded during another devastating disaster. How did their commitment to Jesus influence their response?
2. Just like Noah remained obedient to God despite his circumstances, the Macedonians also found a way to obey God amidst their suffering. What are the challenges or obstacles God is calling you to trust Him with?

APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES

When God leads us to new defining moments, it is a new opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to Him. When we respond in faith, God is glorified, and His provision follows. Because of Noah's commitment, God provided a way of rescue. Similarly, because of the Macedonians' commitment, God stirred generosity in the hearts of the Corinthians. Together, God used them to provide relief for thousands of people suffering from famine.

1. Just as God led Noah and the Macedonians to defining moments where they responded with a “yes,” our church is now at a defining moment. What is your prayer and hope for how we respond as a church family?
2. How is God being glorified through our response to this new defining moment?

Prayer

Pray for Sugar Creek's ability to be united in saying "yes!" to God in this new defining moment. Thank Him for not being finished with us as a church and for continuing to write our stories. Pray for hearts to be inspired toward generosity and for God to use that generosity as a means of rescue for people who need Jesus.

Prayer Guide & Bible Reading Plan

We encourage you to fully engage with the UNFINISHED Initiative over the next several weeks. Together, we will be seeking God, listening to His voice, and praying for unity and generosity as a church family. This Prayer Guide and Bible Reading Plan is designed to help us walk through the Bible together and hear from God. Each week, there are five readings and prayer prompts, along with a Weekend Reflection to help you capture what you are hearing and learning from God. You can use this during your personal devotion time, or together with your spouse, a friend, or family. Additionally, a separate Family Devotion is provided in the next section for those with young children.



Week 1 Give Us Eyes To See

Day One

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

Prayer Guide

- Ask God for help in laying down distractions and resisting temptations
- Pray for endurance to follow God's plan
- Pray that God gives you eyes to see what Jesus is doing in your life and the world around you.

Day Two

Read Matthew 16:24-28

Prayer Guide

- Pray for wisdom to understand what truly matters in life and to prioritize spiritual growth over worldly achievements.
- Ask for the courage to make necessary sacrifices for the sake of the gospel and to trust in God's promises.
- Pray for an eternal perspective that values the spiritual condition of your heart over worldly success.

Day Three

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Prayer Guide

- Thank God for placing His treasure in our fragile, earthly lives. Acknowledge His power and grace at work in you.
- Ask God to renew your heart daily and to use your trials to deepen your faith.
- Pray for a heart that continually gives thanks to God, recognizing His work in your life.

Day Four

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer Guide

- Pray for trust in the Lord with all your heart and for the ability to lean on God's wisdom over your own understanding.
- Ask God to guide your steps. Give Him thanks for how He has led you and provided for you in the past.
- Pray for eyes to see His plan clearly and the courage to follow it, even when it requires stepping into the unknown.

Day Five

Read Isaiah 40:28-31

Prayer Guide

- Thank God for His strength and understanding, which never grows weary or faint.
- Pray for renewed strength and hope. Ask God to give you patience as you wait on Him and follow Him daily.
- Ask for the vision to see His work in your life and the courage to take steps of faith.

Weekend Reflection

Use this space to write down and capture what you have learned this week. What is God saying to you? What new insights is God giving you? Then, **Join us Sunday for Week 2 of the UNFINISHED Series!**

Week 2 Give Us A Heart To Sacrifice

Day One

Read Romans 12:1-2

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the willingness to completely surrender to Jesus, offering your life as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God.
- Ask for transformation through the renewal of your mind, so you can discern God's will.
- Pray for strength to make sacrifices in your daily life, even when they are challenging.

Day Two

Read Philippians 2:3-11

Prayer Guide

- Pray for humility to consider others above yourself, following Christ's example.
- Ask for the mindset of Christ, who humbled Himself and became obedient even to the point of death.
- Pray for the grace to serve others selflessly, even when it requires personal sacrifice.

Day Three

Read Luke 9:23-27

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the courage to deny yourself and take up your cross daily.
- Ask for the strength to lose your life for Christ's sake, trusting that true life is found in Him.
- Pray for a heart that is willing to follow Jesus, even when it requires sacrificing comfort and personal desires.

Day Four

Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25

Prayer Guide

- Pray for a heart that refuses to offer to God that which costs you nothing.
- Ask for the willingness to give sacrificially, recognizing the value of true worship.
- Pray for the courage to make meaningful sacrifices in your relationship with God and others.

Day Five

Read Galatians 6:6-10

Prayer Guide

- Pray for perseverance in doing good, even when you feel weary.
- Ask for the strength to continue sowing seeds of kindness and love, trusting in God's promise of a future harvest.
- Pray for a heart willing to sacrifice time and resources to help others, especially those in the family of believers.

Weekend Reflection

Use this space to capture what you've learned this week, reflecting on what God is saying to you and what He may be calling you to sacrifice. **Join us Sunday for Week 3 of the UNFINISHED Series!**

Week 3 Give Us Feet To Act

Day One

Read James 2:14-26

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the faith that is alive and active, demonstrated through good deeds.
- Ask God to help you see and act on opportunities to serve others.
- Pray for the courage to put your faith into action, even when it requires stepping out of your comfort zone.

Day Two

Read Micah 6:6-8

Prayer Guide

- Pray for help to avoid giving out of routine or manipulation.
- Pray that your worship, generosity, and faith come from a heart that is truly surrendered to God.
- Pray for a humble heart that seeks to do what is right and just in all situations.

Day Three

Read Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer Guide

- Pray for eyes to see how our earthly generosity blesses Jesus.
- Ask for the willingness to serve others as if you are serving Christ Himself.
- Pray for opportunities to meet the needs of those around you and the courage to act on them.

Day Four

Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Prayer Guide

- Ask God to cultivate a spirit of generosity in your heart, encouraging you to give freely and cheerfully, as He loves a cheerful giver.
- Ask God for the faith to trust that God will provide all you need, enabling you to be generous on every occasion
- Thank God for His indescribable gift and for the grace that allows you to participate in His work through giving.

Day Five

Read Malachi 3:7-12

Prayer Guide

- Ask God to help you trust Him fully and to reveal any areas where you have strayed from His commands.
- Pray for a generous heart that willingly gives tithes and offerings, trusting in God's provision and promises.
- Ask God to protect the work of your hands and to provide abundantly, as promised to those who honor Him with their resources.

Weekend Reflection

Use this space to capture what you've learned this week, reflecting on what God is saying to you and what step of faith He is calling you to take. **Join us Sunday for Week 4 of the UNFINISHED Series!**

Week 4 Give Us A Mind That Seeks Jesus

Day One

Read Colossians 3:1-11

Prayer Guide

- Pray for a mindset that seeks things above, centered on Christ who is seated at the right hand of God.
- Ask God to help you prioritize heavenly things over earthly distractions.
- Pray for the desire to align your thoughts and actions with your identity in Christ.

Day Two

Read Philippians 3:7-11

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the willingness to consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus.
- Ask for a deeper understanding of the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings.
- Pray for a heart that continually seeks to know Christ more intimately.

Day Three

Read Matthew 6:33-34

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the discipline to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness in every aspect of your life.
- Ask for trust in God's provision as you focus on His priorities rather than worldly concerns.
- Pray for peace and assurance in God's plan for your life, even in times of uncertainty.

Day Four

Read Psalm 119:9-16

Prayer Guide

- Pray for a love for God's Word that leads you to seek Him with all your heart.
- Ask for the strength to live by His Word and to diligently follow His commands.
- Pray for joy and delight in meditating on His statutes and promises.

Day Five

Read John 15:1-8

Prayer Guide

- Pray for a deep connection with Jesus, the true vine, and the ability to remain in Him.
- Ask for the fruitfulness that comes from abiding in Christ and following His teachings.
- Pray for the wisdom to seek Jesus in all circumstances, trusting in His guidance and strength.

Weekend Reflection

Reflect on what God is teaching you this week and how He is renewing your mind to seek Him.

Join us Sunday for Week 5 of the UNFINISHED Series!

Week 5 Give Us Hands To Serve

Day One

Read Galatians 5:13-14

Prayer Guide

- Pray for a heart that serves others in love, fulfilling the law of Christ.
- Ask God to reveal opportunities to serve those around you with humility and kindness.
- Pray for the willingness to use your freedom to serve others, rather than succumbing to selfish desires.

Day Two

Read John 13:12-17

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the humility to follow Jesus' example of serving others, even in the smallest tasks.
- Ask for a servant's heart that seeks to bless others through acts of love and service.
- Pray for the courage to serve others selflessly, knowing that you are blessed when you do.

Day Three

Read Matthew 20:20-28

Prayer Guide

- Pray for a heart that desires to serve rather than to be served, following Jesus' example.
- Ask God to help you lead by serving others, using your influence for His glory.
- Pray for the strength to serve others sacrificially, just as Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many.

Day Four

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Prayer Guide

- Ask God to help you avoid arrogance and placing your hope in wealth, and instead to be rich in good deeds and generous in sharing with others.
- Pray for a heart that is eager to serve and share, laying up treasures for the future and taking hold of the life that is truly life.
- Ask for wisdom to manage your resources wisely, using them to serve others and to glorify God in all that you do.

Day Five

Read Romans 12:9-21

Prayer Guide

- Pray for a genuine love that motivates you to serve others with enthusiasm and dedication.
- Ask God to help you practice hospitality and share with those in need.
- Pray for the grace to serve others with joy and perseverance, even in challenging circumstances.

Weekend Reflection

Use this space to capture what you've learned this week, reflecting on what God is saying to you, where He may be calling you to serve, and how you can impact others for Jesus.

Join us Sunday for Week 6 of the UNFINISHED Series!

Week 6 Give Us Strength to Listen & Obey

Day One

Read Proverbs 2:1-5

Prayer Guide

- Pray for a heart that treasures God's commandments and eagerly seeks His wisdom.
- Ask God to help you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding.
- Pray for the discernment to hear God's voice and seek His knowledge above all else.

Day Two

Read James 1:19-21

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the ability to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.
- Ask God to help you humbly accept the Word planted in you, which has the power to save you.
- Pray for the patience and humility to listen to others and to discern God's guidance in every situation.

Day Three

Read Isaiah 55:2-3

Prayer Guide

- Pray for ears that are attentive to God's call and receptive to His life-giving words.
- Ask God to help you find satisfaction in His promises rather than in temporary pleasures.
- Pray for a willing heart to come to God and listen, so that your soul may thrive.

Day Four

Read John 10:27-28

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the clarity to recognize and follow the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
- Ask God to help you trust in the eternal security that comes from hearing and following Him.
- Pray for the assurance that as you listen to Jesus, He will guide and protect you.

Day Five

Read Psalm 85:8-9

Prayer Guide

- Pray for the readiness to listen to what God the Lord will speak, trusting in His promise of peace.
- Ask God to keep you from returning to folly and guide you to walk in His ways.
- Pray for the faith to trust in God's salvation and the glory that dwells in your life as you listen to Him.

Weekend Reflection

Use this space to capture what you've learned this week, reflecting on what God is saying to you, the insights you've gained through this campaign, the steps of faith you're taking, and what you're celebrating.

Join us Sunday, December 8th, for the UNFINISHED Initiative Celebration!

Family Devotional

Written By:

Tobi White; RR Campus Children's Minister

This devotional guide is designed to inspire meaningful conversations within your family about the UNFINISHED Initiative and its potential impact on Sugar Creek. Each week, you will find four devotions with activities and prayer prompts. One of the goals of the UNFINISHED Initiative is 100% involvement. By incorporating this devotional into your daily family time, you will encourage and equip your children to actively participate in the UNFINISHED journey.



Week 1 Give Us Eyes To See

Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Lesson One

This week's Bible story is about Paul's escape from Damascus, found in Acts 9. Paul, formerly known as Saul, spent much of his life persecuting Christians. Then, in a miraculous encounter, Saul met Jesus, which changed everything. Saul was blinded and could not see—this was part of God's plan. The Bible says that shortly after, "something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight." Jesus transformed Saul's life, and from that moment, Saul, now called Paul, devoted the rest of his life to sharing the good news of Jesus.

Many of us, too, spend part of our lives blind—not physically, but spiritually blind to God's plan. God has an amazing plan that includes Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Through Jesus, we can have a relationship with God. When we begin to see who Jesus truly is and how He points us to God, our spiritual eyes are opened to witness His work all around us. God invites each of us to be part of His work, and we can actively engage in His plan by keeping our eyes focused on Jesus and following Him.

Prayer:

Pray that your family will encounter Jesus in a miraculous way. Pray for spiritual eyes to be opened and for the willingness to follow Jesus.

Week 1 Give Us Eyes To See

Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Matthew 6:14

Lesson Two

What is a disciple? A disciple is defined as a follower or student of a teacher. In Matthew 16:24, Jesus sets an expectation for His disciples: they must deny themselves and follow Him. While some may define a “Christian” as someone who believes in the teachings of Christ, being a true disciple—a Christ-follower—involves more than just believing. It means you must change who you follow.

We are all born with a self-centered nature, seeking to satisfy our own desires and rule our own lives. But when we recognize our need for a relationship with God, we realize that we cannot do it on our own. We must admit our sin and recognize that Jesus is the solution. He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and only through Him can we come to God.

When we ask Jesus to be our Savior, we are saying, “I want You to rule my life!” This is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We no longer live to satisfy ourselves; instead, we deny our self-centered nature and ask Jesus to lead and rule our lives, seeking to see the world through God’s eyes.

Prayer:

Pray that God will help you become the disciple and follower of Jesus that He calls you to be.

Week 1**Give Us Eyes To See**

Lesson **Three**

Activity: Picture This

Have you ever tried to put together a puzzle without looking at the picture on the box? Trying to figure out how all the pieces fit can quickly become a frustrating guessing game! Sometimes, we approach life in the same way, trying to figure out how everything fits together without being able to see the bigger picture.

For a fun activity, find a family photo or an image online that you can copy. Without showing your family, print the picture onto heavyweight paper or glue it onto a piece of construction paper. Then, cut the picture into puzzle pieces, adjusting the difficulty based on your children's ages. The shape of the cuts can be simple.

Place all of the puzzle pieces in a bag and gather your family around a table. Start by placing one or two pieces in front of them. Ask if they can guess what the picture is from those few pieces. Gradually add more pieces until all of the pieces are on the table. Help them complete the puzzle as needed.

Once the puzzle is finished, explain that just like the puzzle, it's hard to understand the bigger picture of our lives when we only see a small part. But God sees the entire picture of our lives! When we follow Jesus, we can ask Him to help us see what He sees and trust His plan for us, even when we can't see it all at once.

Week 1 Give Us Eyes To See

So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18

Lesson **Four**

When we follow Jesus, we experience life change in many ways. We strive not to do things our own way, but in the way we know God desires. Instead of dishonesty, we choose honesty. Instead of letting our emotions take control, we seek to be gentle and kind. Instead of being selfish, we aim to be generous. As disciples of Jesus, we want our lives to reflect and glorify God.

Being a disciple means being a “follower” or “student” of a teacher, and Jesus is that teacher. As His disciples, we are students who seek to learn all we can about Him. The more we learn about Jesus, the more our lives are transformed, and we begin to see things as God sees them.

God doesn’t expect us to change our behavior, relationships, and goals on our own before following Jesus. Instead, God invites us to follow Jesus first. As we grow in our relationship with Him, He changes us from the inside out, and this internal transformation is reflected in our outward actions. Ultimately, this relationship with God is what lasts forever.

Prayer:

Pray that God will help you focus on Jesus and who He is. Pray that you can be a student of Jesus in a way that transforms your life.

Week 2 Give Us A Heart To Sacrifice

**Peace I leave
with you. My
peace I give
to you. I do not
give to you as
the world gives.
Don't let your
heart be trou-
bled or fearful.**

John 14:27

Lesson One

This week's story is about the widow and Elijah, found in 1 Kings 17. God told Elijah to go to a city and ask a widow to make him some bread. The widow, however, only had enough flour and oil to make one last loaf of bread for her and her son before they would run out of food. Understandably, she was reluctant to give away what little she had. But Elijah reassured her, telling her not to be afraid. The widow obeyed, and after giving Elijah what should have been her last loaf of bread, she miraculously found that her flour and oil didn't run out. She had enough to make bread for herself and her son for many days!

We all experience real emotions—fear, doubt, and worry about what we might lose or whether we can provide. These feelings are natural, but God tells us again and again in the Bible not to be afraid. Instead of fear, He offers us peace. Part of following Jesus is trusting Him with our fears and doubts. When we do this, God replaces our fears with His peace, enabling us to sacrifice for Him and witness His miraculous provision.

Prayer:

Thank God for His peace, comfort, and provision when we surrender our fear and doubts to Him.

Week 2**Give Us A Heart To Sacrifice**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.

Matthew 6:24

Lesson **Two**

One way to define “sacrifice” is “surrendering something valuable as an offering to God.” As humans, we love our possessions! Some of us enjoy collecting things, others prize valuable or sentimental objects, and many of us dream about the things we want in the future. Have you ever made a Christmas list, excitedly searching for all the things you wanted to add? We love things! The Bible reminds us that our “things” can become our treasures. So, what are some of your treasures? What possessions do you hold dear?

There’s a strong link between our emotions and our possessions. Often, our treasures make us feel something—whether it’s pride, security, or importance—and hold our hearts in a powerful way. When we think about sacrificing for God, it can be hard to give up something we love! That’s because sacrifice is ultimately a matter of the heart. Our willingness to sacrifice reflects the state of our hearts. When we consider sacrificing for Jesus, the first step is to make sure our hearts are aligned with God. When our hearts seek to obey Him, God will show us His will for our treasures.

Prayer:

Ask God to help us love Him more than our possessions.

Week 2**Give Us A Heart To Sacrifice**

Lesson **Three**

Activity: You Can Give!

When we think of sacrificing or giving to God, we often focus on material possessions. While we are indeed called to give financially to support the work of the local church and those whom God has called to serve, we are also called to give of ourselves. This includes our time, talents, abilities, and spiritual gifts. Everyone has something to give, but sometimes we may not recognize our own gifts.

As a family, take a few minutes to encourage one another by pointing out the ways God has gifted each person. Give each family member a writing utensil and a set of index cards or sticky notes, one for each person in your family. For example, if there are four family members, each person should receive four cards. Ask everyone to think of a talent, ability, gift, or character trait in each family member that God can use. Write each person's name on a card and the trait you see in them. Don't forget to write something for yourself, too!

Once everyone has finished, go around the circle and share what was written. Encourage one another by recognizing the wonderful ways God has blessed each family member. Afterward, reflect on the following questions: Can this attribute be an offering to God? How can you use what God has given you as a form of worship and sacrifice? Discuss how each person's gifts can be used to serve Jesus and others.



Week 2**Give Us A Heart To Sacrifice**

Each person should do as he has decided in his heart – not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Lesson **Four**

We've talked a lot about how sacrifice is connected to our emotions. Our human mind often interprets sacrifice as a form of loss, but God sees sacrifice differently. To God, sacrifice is a way of building a deeper connection with Him. Remember, God sent Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice so that we could have a relationship with Him. Sacrifice, when done with the right heart, becomes an act of worship and communion with God. It demonstrates our trust and obedience and places us in a position of dependence on Him.

So, what does it mean to "sacrifice in the right way"? It means that careful consideration and reflection must precede any act of sacrifice. In 2 Corinthians, we are reminded to avoid two things when giving: reluctance and compulsion. This tells us that there needs to be purpose in our sacrifice. It should be a thoughtful, deliberate decision—not something forced but made freely. God desires a cheerful giver who gladly gives out of gratitude for all He has done for us.

Prayer:

Ask God to show you what He may be calling you and your family to sacrifice for Jesus. Pray for clarity and a heart that is ready and willing to give joyfully.

Week 3 Give Us Feet To Act

**A person's steps
are established
by the Lord, and
he takes pleasure
in his way.**

Psalms 37:23

Lesson One

This week, our Bible story is about Joshua and Caleb, found in Numbers 13 and 14. God had promised the Israelites the land of Canaan—a gift flowing with milk, honey, and beautiful fruit. However, the land was also inhabited by large and powerful people, and because of this, the Israelites struggled to trust that God would actually give them the land. Only Caleb and Joshua trusted God. They pleaded with the Israelites, assuring them that the Lord would fulfill His promise. Caleb and Joshua begged the people not to rebel against God, reminding them that God's word could be trusted. Because of their faithful trust, Caleb and Joshua were the only ones from their generation allowed to enter the Promised Land.

What made Caleb and Joshua different? They chose to go against the voices of fear and doubt that surrounded them. Instead, they trusted God's promise, even when it didn't seem logical. They had faith that God was who He said He was, and they believed that God would do what He had promised.

God has a great plan for His children, and it's our responsibility to seek out that plan. But beyond seeking, we must also trust His plan and let that trust move us to action. Trust in God should give us the courage to step forward in faith.

Prayer:

Pray that God will give you courage to trust Him, even when it's difficult.

Week 3 Give Us Feet To Act

**Trust in the Lord
with all your
heart, and do not
rely on your own
understanding.**

Proverbs 3:5

Lesson **Two**

What does it mean to “trust”? One definition of trust is “a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.” Do you trust God?

Trust can be difficult, especially when it involves someone we can’t see and don’t always understand. It’s hard to trust someone we don’t know. That’s why, as followers of Jesus, we are called to deepen our relationship with God. By spending time learning about Him, seeking Him, and communicating with Him, our trust in Him grows stronger. The intimacy of our relationship with God enables us to trust Him with all our hearts.

God’s plans are bigger than our plans, and His ways are higher than our ways. The closer we get to God, the more we understand that although His plans might challenge our nature, they will never contradict His own nature. God’s call to us is to move forward with faith, knowing that He is reliable, and His plans are good. We are called not just to trust God but also to act on that trust.

Prayer:

Pray that your trust in God will deepen. Ask God to remind you of all the ways He has fought for you and to reveal the plans He has for you. Pray for the strength to trust Him fully and to move forward in that trust.

Week 3 Give Us Feet To Act

Lesson Three

Activity: Trust Trot

How well do you trust? Trust can come easily to some people, while others find it more challenging. You probably know where you fall on that scale! Gather your family and set up a simple obstacle course either inside your home or outside in the yard. Use chairs, pillows, and other household objects to create obstacles that need to be walked around, crawled under, or climbed over.

Here's the twist: You'll be navigating the course while blindfolded. This adds a layer of difficulty and demonstrates how crucial trust is. Each person will need a partner to guide them through the course. This is only possible with a partner and requires trusting them to guide you safely.

Note: For younger children, you can help them by guiding them in a direction that ensures success while still requiring them to trust you.

After everyone has had a turn, gather and discuss the experience. Highlight how trusting your partner allowed you to navigate the course effectively. Just like in this activity, we need to trust Jesus with every part of our lives. Ask the group, "What happens if we trust but remain still?" Explain that while trust is essential, action is also necessary. Trusting God involves moving forward and taking steps of faith, not just standing still.



Week 3 Give Us Feet To Act

For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

Lesson **Four**

This week, we are focusing on trusting God and asking Him to give us the courage and commitment to act on that trust. Trusting God is one thing, but taking action based on that trust is another. What does it mean to act on trust?

Jesus is our ultimate example of someone who trusted God and acted on that trust. As He faced the suffering ahead of Him, Jesus prayed to God, asking if it were possible to let the cup of suffering pass from Him. Despite the immense difficulty, Jesus trusted in God's plan and chose to obey. His obedience led Him to the cross, where He sacrificed Himself to reconcile humanity with God. Jesus walked to the cross and did what only He could do. We are called to follow His example by trusting Him with all aspects of our lives and moving forward in obedience.

What is God asking you to do? How is He calling your family to trust and move forward?

Prayer:

Thank Jesus for what His sacrifice on the cross and for trusting God by carrying out the plan of His Father. Ask how God wants you to trust and obey.

Week 4 Give Us A Mind That Seeks Jesus

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly – and it will be given to him.

James 1:5

Lesson One

This week, our Bible story comes from Luke 19, where we read about Jesus meeting Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was not well-liked by the Jews; he was known as a tax collector who was dishonest and had cheated many people. Despite his considerable wealth, Zacchaeus felt unfulfilled. When he heard that Jesus was coming to town, he was eager to learn more about Him. To see Jesus, Zacchaeus climbed a tree, determined to catch a glimpse of the Prophet.

What happened next was remarkable! Jesus noticed Zacchaeus up in the tree and called him down, and He asked Zacchaeus to have Him over for dinner. Zacchaeus wanted to know Jesus better, and Jesus made that happen.

The Bible tells us that if we need wisdom, we should ask for it. Just as Jesus met Zacchaeus where he was, God meets us where we are. He desires us to approach Him with open minds, filled with questions and a desire to grow in our understanding of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

Prayer:

Ask God to grant you wisdom and understanding about Himself.

Week 4**Give Us A Mind That Seeks Jesus**

Lesson **Two**

All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? Knowledge refers to the information and facts we gather through study and experience. It is factual and can be acquired through learning. Wisdom, however, involves using that knowledge to make sound judgments and discern what is right or true. You can possess knowledge without wisdom, but true wisdom requires knowledge. For example, you might have knowledge that an ant bed is full of stinging ants, but wisdom helps you understand not to step in it.

As we seek to follow Jesus, it's important to strive for both knowledge and wisdom. We start with scripture, the Bible, which is God's perfect, true, and trustworthy Word. It provides the foundation for our beliefs and is the only infallible record of Jesus' teachings. By reading the Bible, we gain knowledge about our relationship with God through Jesus and wisdom on how that relationship impacts our lives.

Prayer:

Ask God to give you and your family a desire to gain knowledge and wisdom through reading and studying the Bible.

Week 4 Give Us A Mind That Seeks Jesus

Lesson Three

Activity: Expert Level Unlocked!

What are your favorite things to study, talk about, or do? Do you have a particular area where you excel? Whether it's baseball, ballet, baking cupcakes, or building with blocks—or if you have extensive knowledge about sharks, shoes, or cars—everyone has something that fuels their passion and curiosity.

Spend a few minutes with your family to decide on a topic each person is an expert in or is passionate about. Each family member should create a brief presentation or “class” about their chosen topic. Take turns presenting your topics and celebrate each person’s expertise and the knowledge they’ve acquired.

Think about how you gained knowledge through studying, reading, and learning about your topic, and how wisdom came from practicing and applying what you’ve learned.

Now, consider your relationship with God. How much of an “expert” are you on Jesus? Are you seeking Him as Zacchaeus did? Are you growing in your knowledge of Jesus by reading the Bible, attending church, and learning from others? Are you developing wisdom in your relationship with Jesus through prayer, asking for guidance, and living according to His will? God desires for us to reach the next level in our relationship with Jesus!



Week 4**Give Us A Mind That Seeks Jesus**

**Jesus replied,
“This is the work
of God- that you
believe in the one
he has sent.”**

John 6:29

Lesson **Four**

Looking back at where we've been and forward to where we want to go helps us grow in our faith. To have a heart and mind open to seeking Jesus, we start with belief in Him. But what does it truly mean to believe in Jesus?

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He came to earth as a man, lived a perfect, sinless life, and died to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus was buried, but on the third day, He rose from the dead and is alive today. Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God, and He is the only way to God and eternal life.

This is the gospel—the foundation of our belief. But believing in Jesus isn't the end; it's just the beginning. Salvation happens when we first believe in Jesus. What follows is sanctification, a lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus. As Christ followers, we align our hearts with His, seeking to understand how He would want us to act in every situation. Believing in Jesus is more than just gaining knowledge about Him—it's about allowing that belief to transform our lives and becoming the people He wants us to be.

Prayer:

Ask God to help you seek Jesus wherever you are in your journey. Seek Him in your believing, in your becoming, and in your being.

Week 5 Give Us Hands To Serve

Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.

Romans 12:10

Lesson One

This week, we're focusing on love. The word "love" can have many meanings depending on the situation or the people involved. Some people might say they "love" pizza or hot dogs. Others might "love" a favorite sport or hobby. But the Bible speaks of love in a much deeper way. In our verse today, "love" refers to the kind of love that God has for us. It's the same love that Jesus showed when He died on the cross, and it's the love that guides how we are to treat others. Love is the key to serving Jesus.

Do you find it easy to serve others? Sometimes serving can be enjoyable, but it becomes difficult when we lack the love needed to serve well. When we try to serve without love, bitterness and resentment can creep in. Has that ever happened to you? How can we change that?

We need to remember that in order to serve Jesus, we must first love others. This love doesn't come from within ourselves—it comes from God. We are called to love others as God loves us. Love is both the starting point and the goal of our service. We begin with love, and through that love, we serve Jesus by serving others.

Prayer:

Pray for love! Ask God to help you see others the way He sees them—made in His image and of immense value. Pray that you can love as He loves.

Week 5**Give Us Hands To Serve**

For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

Lesson **Two**

Pride is a tricky emotion. It's that feeling of deep satisfaction with who we are, what we've accomplished, or what we possess. On the surface, pride can seem like a positive thing. It's good to recognize that you belong to God and that you were made in His image. You are a treasure and a blessing! However, pride can also blind us to how we can be a blessing to others. It can get in the way of honoring and serving others because serving can feel like putting someone else above ourselves.

But here's the truth—serving others is exactly that! When we serve, we intentionally place others first, willingly stepping into second place. Instead of being the “line leader,” we move to the back of the line. Rather than being served, we take on the role of serving. This might feel like the opposite of what we naturally want. We all want to be number one!

But Jesus showed us what true service looks like. If anyone deserved to be served, it was Jesus. He is God, He is perfect, and He has existed from the beginning of time and will reign for eternity. Jesus is the GOAT (Greatest of All Time)! Yet, He chose to set aside all of His status and serve others. Throughout His life, He served by teaching, healing, performing miracles, and ultimately sacrificing His life on the cross. Jesus gave us the perfect example of how to put our pride aside and serve with humility and love.

Prayer:

Ask God to give you and your family hands to serve like Jesus.

Week 5 Give Us Hands To Serve

Lesson Three

Activity: Commit to Serve

Gather your family for a meeting to brainstorm how you can serve God together. There are countless ways to serve, and it's something the whole family can participate in. Take some time to think of creative ways to be the hands of Jesus to someone in need. Below are some ideas to get you started, but feel free to come up with your own as well:

- Help a neighbor with yard work.
- Prepare a meal or snack for a friend in need.
- Choose a portion of your finances to donate to the church to help others.
- Drink water instead of soda at restaurants and donate the savings to a charity.
- Offer to drive neighbors to church or other important appointments.
- Be a compassionate listener to someone going through a tough time.
- Collect lunch items for children in need of meals.
- Volunteer at church together, teaching others about Jesus.

After creating your list, discuss each idea and select at least one act of service that you will carry out together. Once your family has made a decision, make a video to document your plans. In the video, talk about the activities you've chosen and explain why they are important to you as a family. This video can serve as a reminder and encouragement for the weeks and months ahead as you work on fulfilling your commitments to serve others in the name of Jesus.



Week 5**Give Us Hands To Serve**

For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.

Galatians 5:13

Lesson **Four**

God gives each of us the freedom to choose how we live our lives. From the moment we're born, we have the ability to make decisions—to follow our own desires or to follow God's will. God never forces us to do anything. We aren't robots or mindless beings, but people who can think, feel, and make decisions. Some people choose to live selfishly, putting their desires above everything else, even if it harms others. This freedom, combined with human selfishness, results in sin.

When we give our lives to God through Jesus, we don't lose that freedom. In fact, we are truly set free in Christ! But with this freedom comes responsibility. We're warned in the Bible to be wise about how we live. Following Jesus means striving to be more like Him. It's about letting go of our selfish ways and seeking more of God. Of course, none of us are perfect—only Jesus is—but that doesn't mean we should use our freedom to indulge in sinful behaviors. Instead, we should use our freedom to strengthen our relationship with God. We're called to be disciples of Jesus and to serve Him by loving and serving others.

Prayer:

Thank God for the freedom we have in Christ. Pray for the wisdom to use that freedom in ways that honor God and reflect the love of Jesus. Ask God to guide you in how to serve Him by serving others.

Week 6 Give Us Strength To Listen and Obey

But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was

James 1:22-25

Lesson One

Our story this week focuses on Noah, found in Genesis 6-9. Noah was a man of remarkable faith and had a deep love for God. His life serves as a powerful example of obedience, showing us that true obedience involves two essential actions: listening and doing.

What's the difference between hearing and listening? Hearing is something that happens without effort—we hear a dog bark or music playing in the car without giving it much thought. Listening, on the other hand, is intentional. It requires focus and attention, especially when someone is speaking directly to us. This is the kind of listening Noah practiced when God spoke to him.

Noah didn't just hear God tell him to build an ark; he listened. He paid attention, understood the instructions, and even took the time to write down every detail. But Noah's obedience didn't stop with listening. He followed through—he did what God asked. He built the ark, exactly as God commanded. Simply hearing without truly listening doesn't accomplish much. Likewise, listening without acting on what we've heard isn't true obedience. God calls us to both listen and do what He asks.

Prayer:

Ask God to reveal if there is something He wants you to do. Wait and listen for His response. Then, trust Him and follow through.

Week 6**Give Us Strength To Listen and Obey**

You must follow the Lord your God and fear him. You must keep his commands and listen to him; you must worship him and remain faithful to him.

Deuteronomy 13:4

Lesson **Two**

Let's reflect on what it truly means to follow. A few weeks ago, we talked about following Jesus. Some of us have made that commitment, while others may not have yet. The reality is, everyone is following something or someone. Each of us listens to and is faithful to a person, idea, or even ourselves. In one way or another, we all give our loyalty and worship to something.

We have to make intentional choices about who we will follow and where our commitments lie. There are times when we need to pause and check where our hearts are truly focused. Even when we aim to follow God, it's easy to get distracted and stop listening to Him. Countless things try to grab our attention and pull us in different directions. At times, we need to refocus and remember why God alone deserves to be the One we follow.

God is the only One who is worthy of being followed, feared, obeyed, and worshiped. As the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, He is the only truly trustworthy One, deserving of our full devotion. We are accountable for the choices we make about who we follow and to whom we commit our lives and resources.

Prayer:

Ask God to help you honestly assess your commitment to Him. Do you have ears to hear Him and a body willing to obey?

Week 6 Give Us Strength To Listen and Obey

Lesson Three

Activity: Listen and Do!

Play a game of Simon Says! Pick a leader, and let the leader call out different commands for everyone to follow. Here are some simple command ideas:

- Jump on one foot.
- Touch your nose.
- Crawl on the floor.
- Spin in a circle.

The leader has to say “Simon says” before each command. If the leader gives a command without starting with “Simon says,” no one should follow the command. If anyone follows the command without hearing “Simon says,” they must sit out for that round. Play several rounds, giving everyone a chance to be the leader.

Once everyone has had a turn to be the leader, explain that this game can remind us of our relationship with God. Just like in the game, God expects us to follow His instructions and only His instructions. When God tells us to do something, He wants us to listen and then act. God desires our obedience.

Now, play the game again, but this time with a parent as the leader. The parent will give new commands, like:

- Love each other.
- Serve each other.
- Give to each other.

Start these commands with “God says” instead of “Simon says.” After the game, have a family discussion about how you can live out God’s commands.



Week 6**Give Us Strength To Listen and Obey**

**Commit your
way to the Lord;
Trust in him, and
he will act.**

Psalm 37:5

Lesson **Four**

The Bible is filled with examples of people who fully committed their lives to God. These commitments often involved significant sacrifices. Some gave up their positions, power, possessions, or pride. Others let go of their wealth, worldly desires, or idols they had worshiped. Commitment to God always involves sacrifice.

We serve a God who is living and active in our world. God is real, God is alive, and God is present. As we've explored what it means to commit ourselves to God by following Jesus, sacrificing for Him, trusting Him, believing in Him, and serving Him, remember that God is glorified through our actions. When we draw closer to God, He draws closer to us.

What do you need to commit to God? What instructions do you need to follow or commands do you need to obey?

Prayer:

Ask God for wisdom as you and your family determine the next steps in your journey to draw closer to Him.

unfinished.sugarcreek.net