



WE ARE JUST GETTING STARTED



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-Lauren Triplett, Mis

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inished task.”**

sionary Statesman



THE UNFINISHED TASK BEFORE US

Here's where we are in the story. As the populations of the communities that surround our church continue to explode, we see the sovereign hand of God positioning Northplace for this moment in history.

The generations that have gone before us have entrusted us with a 100-year legacy of Christ-exalting, Community-building, and Compassion-sending gospel witness. We are making a commitment to them and the Lord. We WILL finish what they started!

This Unfinished Initiative is about finishing the unfinished task of making **More And Better Disciples** in this region and beyond by presenting an adequate witness of the Gospel to the next generation, the exploding populations of North Texas, and ultimately the world.



I Timothy 6:20

"Guard What Has Been Entrusted To Your Care"

WE WILL KEEP DREAMING

Churches who let their **memories** become **bigger** than their **dreams** begin a slow agonizing journey toward their deaths. We refuse to let that happen to us. We **WILL** Keep Dreaming!

We are launching a **five year vision** to plant multiple Northplace Campuses in strategic locations among diverse people groups in North Texas and beyond. Some among the **urban poor**, some among **upwardly mobile** suburbanites, some **rural**, some in **prisons** and some **internationally**.

We are **committed** to expanding our current **impact** in the next generation by enlarging **children's** ministry space at our Sachse Campus. This will include dedicated ministry environments for special needs children.

We are also creating dedicated ministry space that will engage **teenage** and **young adult** students with the gospel at our Wylie Campus.



THE TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT
NEEDED TO RESOURCE THE VISION
IS \$11 MILLION.

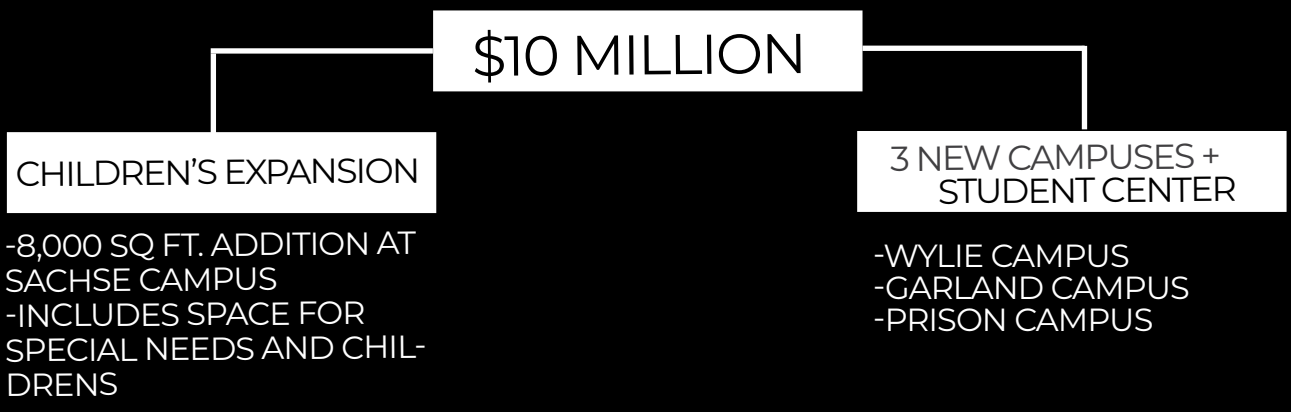
**WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SET ASIDE
\$2.25 MILLION TO
INVEST RIGHT OFF THE TOP.**

IF WE RECEIVE **\$8.75 MILLION**
DOLLARS IN COMMITMENTS
WE RESOURCE THE ENTIRE
VISION **WITHOUT ANY
ADDITIONAL DEBT.**

IF WE RECEIVE **\$10 MILLION**
DOLLARS IN COMMITMENTS
WE RESOURCE THE ENTIRE
VISION AND REPLENISH OUR
CASH RESERVES BY
\$1.25 MILLION.

You may never again have the opportunity to be part of an initiative where every dollar you invested was touching so many different areas so near the heart of God. Every dollar is going to touch the at-risk and vulnerable, the poor, the prisoner, the next generation, grow our church, expand the kingdom and make **More and Better disciples** at every turn.

RESOURCING THE VISION



HERE'S A POTENTIAL SCENARIO THAT WOULD FUND THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF **\$10 MILLION**.

NUMBER OF GIFTS	AMOUNT OF EACH GIFT
1	\$500,000
2	\$250,000
8	\$100,000
20	\$75,000
40	\$50,000
60	\$25,000
90	\$10,000
120	\$7,500
150	\$5,000
160	\$2,500
200	\$1,250

THE UNFINISHED INITIATIVE: LIFE OF ABRAHAM

LEGACY, TRUST, HONOR, TRANSFORMATION, AND SURRENDER

Our study of the life of Abraham and the UNfinished Vision Initiative could be two independent journeys and each of them would be transformational in their own way. However, we believe the sovereignty of God has led us to both at the same time.

God promised Abraham that He would make a great nation out of him and through Abraham “all the families of the earth would be blessed.” That promise is still being fulfilled every time someone surrenders their life to Christ.

And that’s really what the UNfinished Initiative is about, introducing more people to Jesus. Northplace is still trying to finish the unfinished mission God gave to Abraham.

Studying Abraham’s journey to trust the God of the promise is going to transform us personally. Coming to a place of deeper surrender in the UNfinished Initiative is going to transform our church corporately. Merging these two journeys together is going to be a catalytic moment that will impact generations.



ABOUT THIS SESSION. Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about the particular subject you will explore with your group. Make it a practice to read these before the session.

SERMON NOTES. We encourage you to take notes during the sermon each weekend.

WATCH THE VIDEO. Each session's teaching will include biblical insights from Pastor Bryan. You can watch the videos online at northplacechurch.com/unfinished.

LEARN TOGETHER. In this section, you'll have an opportunity to read a passage of Scripture and discuss both the teaching and the text. You won't focus on accumulating information but on how you should live in light of the Word of God. We want to help you apply the insights from Scripture practically and creatively, from your heart as well as your head. At the end of the day, our greatest aim should be allowing the timeless truths from God's Word to transform our lives in Christ.

STUDY NOTES. This brief section provides additional commentary, background, or insights on the passage you'll study in the Learn Together section.

GROW TOGETHER. God wants you to be a part of His kingdom—to weave your story into His. That will mean change. It will require you to go His way rather than your own. This won't happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By making small, simple choices, we can begin to change our direction. This is where the Bible's instructions to "be doers of the Word, not just hearers" (James 1:22) comes into play. Many people skip over this aspect of the Christian life because it's scary, relationally awkward, or simply too much work for their busy schedules. But Jesus wanted all of His disciples to know Him personally, carry out His commands, and help outsiders connect with Him. This doesn't necessarily mean preaching on street corners. It could mean welcoming newcomers, hosting a short-term group in your home, or walking through this study with a friend. In this study, you'll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living.

PRAY TOGETHER. Each week you will close off the meeting with a time of prayer together. We believe that prayer isn't something that goes on the agenda; it is the agenda.


MEMORY VERSE. There will be a memory verse of the week that we hope you take the time to memorize. By "hiding God's Word in your heart" (Psalm 119:11) we believe that you open yourself up for deeper and more intimate times with the Father.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS. Each week on the Daily Devotionals pages we provide Scriptures to read and reflect on between sessions—a week's worth of reflections to keep God's Word near your heart. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read just a small portion of Scripture each day, and reflect and pray through it. You'll then have a chance to journal your response to what you've read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear God's direction.

SESSION 1

FINISHING THE UNFINISHED
TASK IS ABOUT *legacy*



A photograph of a church interior, showing a piano and several large speakers on a stage. The lighting is dim, with a blueish tint. The piano is in the background, and the speakers are in the foreground.

BY FAITH ABRAHAM, WHEN CALLED TO GO TO A PLACE HE WOULD LATER RECEIVE AS HIS INHERITANCE, OBEYED AND WENT, EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS GOING.

HEBREWS 11:8

ABOUT THIS SESSION

You are someone's legacy. In fact, you are a result of many people who have stepped out in ways they didn't have to. Start with your parents and grandparents and think for a moment about all the people who have spoken into and impacted your life. No, it hasn't always been in positive ways, but even negative stuff can end up affecting you in good ways. Life's hurts can help us become healers; and hardships can push us toward hope and character. The best way to be grateful for the legacy we've received is to decide and practice the legacy we want to leave those who come after us. The question we want to answer is, "Knowing what I have received, how will I provide the same for others?"

For the next six weeks, we will study Abraham's life. Though he lived over four thousand years ago, his legacy is still touching people around the world. He was a man of faith and of failures. In other words, he was someone we can identify with if we let ourselves. Abraham had to make a decision about what kind of legacy he was going to leave behind: a stay put, "same old, same old" legacy of never following where God led or a "step out in faith," obedient kind of legacy that God could bless in many ways. Abraham decided to go for it, even though he didn't know where he would end up.

But our journey will be more than six weeks—we're embarking on a two-year adventure called UNFinished. We are trusting God to do a great work in bringing us together in ways we've never experienced before as we pursue our high calling of Making More and Better Disciples.

We are going to discover the ways the Lord wants to use each of us and all of us together to accomplish great things for Him.



LEARN TOGETHER

God uses stories to guide us. In fact, the Bible is His story! When we read the true stories of Scripture, we learn what God is like and we see His plan unfolding. We also learn principles for our own lives. So how can we become a part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His and not just understanding what it means to follow Him, but actually doing it—changing our attitudes and actions to live as He would live.

SCRIPTURE

READ: Genesis 12:1-8



QUESTIONS

- 1** Think for a moment about being a member of Abram's household. He announces at breakfast one morning, "Last night the Lord spoke to me. Today we're packing up and hitting the road." What would be some of your questions?
- 2** Based on this passage in Genesis, what kind of legacy was Abram creating by his actions in Genesis 12:1-8?
- 3** What example(s) come to your mind about ways people have built a legacy into you?

STUDY NOTES

The Lord said to Abram (v.1). Before God changed his name to Abraham (father of many) the patriarch of Israel was Abram (exalted father). When we see the title "Lord" (Large cap), it indicates God's name Yahweh, which won't be explained until Exodus 3. But since Moses was writing these chapters, he used the title for God that was most familiar to him.

I will bless (v.2, 3). We bless when we speak or deliver good into someone's life. God not only promised to do good for Abram, He also promised to make Abram's life into something good for others.

In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (v.3). The idea of legacy has a lot to do with understanding that the blessings of God aren't supposed to stop with us. Blessings flow through us to others. We can't even imagine how much God might bless others through us.

There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord (v.7). Abram was aware of God's company and leading. But it was more than knowing He was there; he responded in worship. He acknowledged the Lord and expressed his confidence in Him.

GROW TOGETHER

Our Creator is certainly after more from us than an acknowledgment that He exists. There are plenty of people who are willing to admit there's a God, but they still don't want to have anything to do with Him. God wants you to be a part of His kingdom—to weave your story into His. That will mean change—to go His way rather than your own. This won't happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By starting with small, simple choices, we begin to change our direction. We can build a legacy that will please God. The Holy Spirit helps us along the way—giving us gifts to serve the body, offering us insights into Scripture, and challenging us to love not only those around us but those far from God.

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.



QUESTIONS

- 1** How do you put into practice your belief in the UNfinished mission of Northplace: Making More and Better Disciples? Why do you believe it's worth sacrificing for?
- 2** As He did with Abram, in what ways do you feel that God is calling you out from something or away from something, so that He can leave a legacy through you? What has been your response so far?
- 3** How does the challenge to leave a legacy change your perspective on how you're living right now?
- 4** When it comes to stewardship and generosity, would you say that God wants something FOR you or FROM you? What's the difference between those two perspectives?



Stewardship may be a new term in your Christian experience. It has long been used to refer to God's entrusting us with the management of the resources He gives us: time, talents and treasure. These things may seem to be ours, but they ultimately belong to Him. Even what we earn, we have earned using time, strength, and skill God has provided to us.

PRAY TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time **praying**.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS



There are six days of devotions. On the last day, read back over your responses and let that guide a final time of reflection.

Use these daily devotions to go deeper into this week's topic. Each day, take your time reading the verse given. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Notice which word or phrase stands out to you. Then take some time to write your response back to Him. You can write whatever is on your heart. Answer the "Reflect" question only if it's helpful. Feel free to go another direction if you sense God leading you. On

the first day, you may want to read over all the verses for the week to get the "big picture" of the passage. But then walk slowly, verse by verse. Listen to what God wants to say to you through His Word, and respond to Him as you meditate on the truths of Scripture.

After Day 3 of each week, you will have an opportunity to take what you have learned and put it into practice. These "Action Steps" will challenge you to respond to these truths in your daily life.

MEMORY VERSE

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8

DAY 1

READ Hebrews 11:8

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

REFLECT

It’s easy to think, “If God told me to go, I’d go.” But, have you? Under what circumstances have you responded to God the way Abraham did?

DAY 2

READ Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

REFLECT

In what ways are you surrendered to the UNFinished mission of Northplace Church in making more and better disciples?



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

DAY 3

READ Proverbs 3:35

"The wise inherit honor, but fools get only shame."

REFLECT

Note that legacy parallels inheritance. What would you say are 3 main examples of the faith legacy you have created (or are creating) to leave behind at this point in your life? What would you change?

ACTION STEPS

During this week spend some time thinking about two things:

- What do you feel you are known for now?
- What do you want to be known for towards the end of your life?

DAY 4

READ Ephesians 2:8-9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

REFLECT

All the benefits and blessings of Christ in your life are unearned. They are gifts of grace. The Bible says to whom much is given, much is required. Because we have received we have a responsibility to give. So how can you be more active in sharing what you have received from Christ?



DAY 5

READ Philippians 4:19

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.”

REFLECT

How can we know the truth of this promise unless we are willing to stop gripping on to the things of this life as if they were our true security? What are some things you need to release into God’s hands as you seek to be surrendered to what He wants to do in you and in us?

DAY 6

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.

SESSION 2

FINISHING THE UNFINISHED
TASK REQUIRES *trust*



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

ABOUT THIS SESSION

When the Bible talks about faith, it means more than believing something other people don't think is true. Biblical faith isn't just on the inside; it affects everything. In fact, the faith commended in God's Word is about trust and letting go; it's about being surrendered.

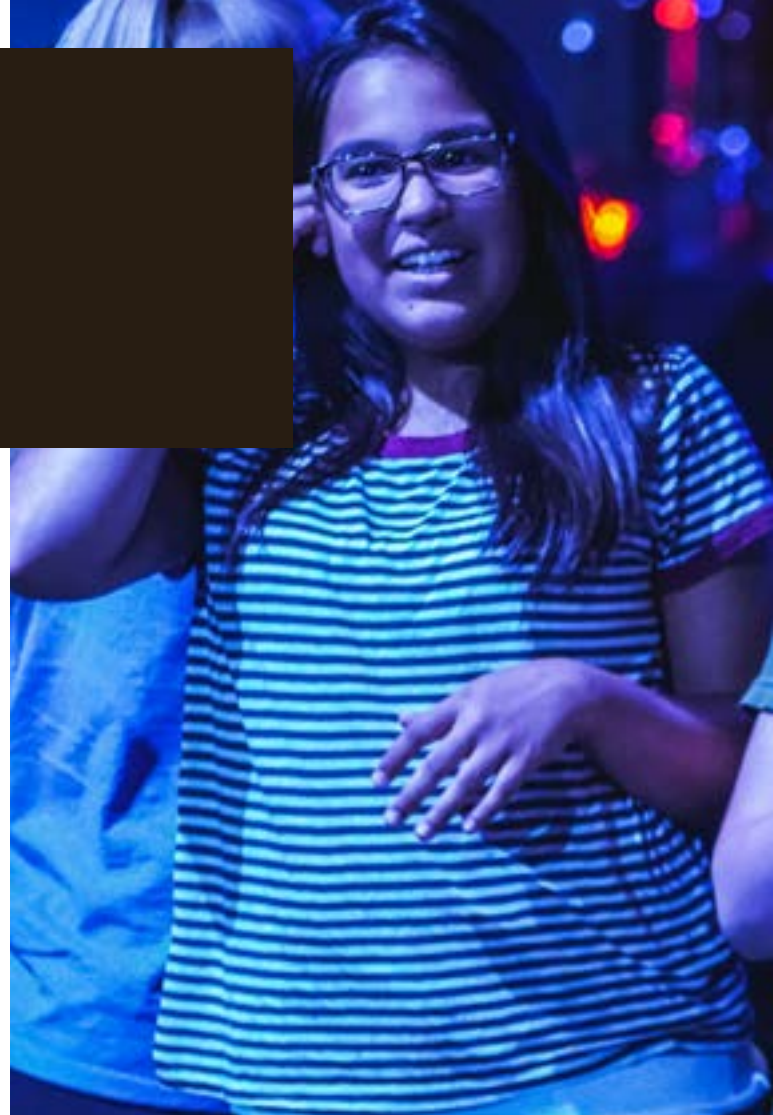
Trusting God is easy when it doesn't really matter or when there's nothing at stake. But what about when trusting God comes with a price tag? What about when having everything that God longs to give us requires that we let go of things we also want to hang on to? In one of Jesus' shortest parables He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.” (Matthew 13:44). There's a lot in this little story, but the main point is that in order to get the priceless treasure of the kingdom of heaven, the man is willing to sell everything. He surrenders ALL to get the treasure that is only found in God's kingdom.

As we continue our journey with Abram, we're going to see that he's holding even the Promised Land loosely. He doesn't own it yet but he's not trying to hoard it in the meantime. He's surrendered to God's plan, God's timing, and God's way of doing things. He's trusting God even when the next step isn't clear.



LEARN TOGETHER

A small group is a great learning environment where there are enough people to create a variety of perspectives, but few enough not to be overly intimidating. When Jesus wanted to create an atmosphere for training and passing on His key message to the world, He began by forming a small group of sorts. We expect that much of the success and effectiveness of the UNFinished Initiative over the next two years will be traced to the way in which the small groups have encouraged one another, worked through the questions, cheered on the new commitments, and let God speak to us.



SCRIPTURE

READ: Genesis 15:1-10

Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.” **2** But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth.” **3** You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.” **4** Then the Lord said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” **5** Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!” **6** And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. **7** Then the Lord told him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.” **8** But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?” **9** The Lord told him, “Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” **10** So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side; he did not, however, cut the birds in half.



QUESTIONS

- 1 Pastor mentioned two questions in this weekend's sermon: Do you trust God? Can He trust you? As you think about God's Word, what examples of God's trustworthiness jump out at you?
- 2 Abraham's doubt reveals the two layers of all human doubt. We question God and then we question ourselves. Have you found that pattern true in your own life? Once you settle the fact that He is God. Do you question your ability to be His person?
- 3 Please reference Genesis 15:11-18 in your Bible. Based on verses 17-18, why did God not allow Abraham to walk between the pieces? What kind of comfort and confidence does that measure of grace give to you?

STUDY NOTES

What good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? (v.2). This is a moment where Abraham is questioning the faithfulness of God and trustworthiness of His promises.

O Sovereign Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it? (v.8). This is self doubt. Once Abraham has settled that God is trustworthy, he questions whether or not he can be God's person.

The Lord told him to bring him a sacrifice (v.9). God is inviting Abraham into a legally binding covenant to prove to Abraham that He will keep His word, and more importantly, He will sign the contract, where Abraham is supposed to sign, and take the consequences for Abraham's failure. In doing so, He addresses both levels of doubt.

GROW TOGETHER

One of the keys to healthy application is realizing that when God teaches us something, living out that lesson will almost always involve other people. Note how the following questions move you in that direction.

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

QUESTIONS

- 1** What does trusting God look like in your life right now?
- 2** What kinds of baggage from your past or barriers in the present might be hindering your ability and willingness to trust God and the people in church?
- 3** What's wrong with this statement: "I want to be known as a follower of Jesus, but I don't want to have to trust Him in any meaningful way"?



PRAY TOGETHER

To **close** your time together, spend some time **praying**.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS



There are six days of devotions. On the last day, read back over your responses and let that guide a final time of reflection.

Use these daily devotions to go deeper into this week's topic. Each day, read the verse given. Take your time. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Notice which word or phrase stands out to you. Then take some time to journal your response back to Him. You can write whatever is on your heart. Answer the "Reflect" question only if it's helpful. Feel free to go another direction if you sense God

leading you. On the first day, you may want to read over all the verses for the week to get the "big picture" of the passage. But then walk slowly, verse by verse. Listen to what God wants to say to you through His Word, and respond to Him as you meditate on the truths of Scripture.

After Day three of each week, you will have an opportunity to take what you have learned and put it into practice. These "Action Steps" will challenge you to respond to these truths in your daily life.

MEMORY VERSE

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

DAY 1

READ Phillippians 2:4

"...not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

REFLECT

How does trusting God translate into less concern about self and more interest in helping others and the Body of Christ?

DAY 2

READ Matthew 6:33

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

REFLECT

This is the alternative to worry Jesus offers in the extended passage of Matthew 6:25-34. In what ways is worry a clue that we're not trusting God?

DAILY DEVOTIONALS



DAY 3

READ Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

REFLECT

What would a deeper level of trust look like in your life especially as it relates to the UNfinished initiative?

ACTION STEPS

During this week think about areas where you've struggled to really trust God. Every day this week, as you begin your day, pray that God will give you the strength to trust Him.

DAY 4

READ Matthew 6:21

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

REFLECT

God's heart is for bringing broken people back into relationship with Him. Does your heart treasure what the heart of God treasures? How are you investing your life to see that happen?



DAY 5

READ Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

REFLECT

If faith and trust are closely related in our relationship with God, what evidence is apparent in your life that you believe “that He exists” and you believe “that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him?”

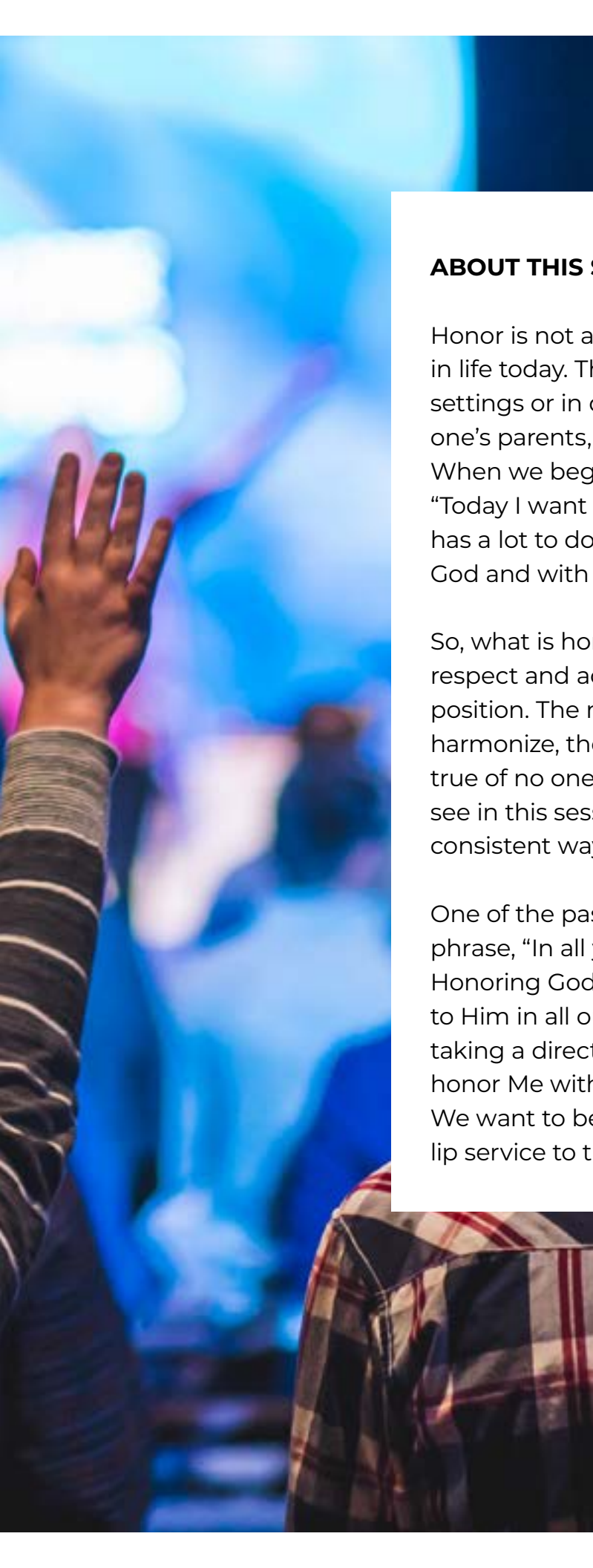
DAY 6

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.

SESSION 3

FINISHING THE UNFINISHED
TASK DEMANDS *honor*





"[JESUS] REPLIED, 'ISAIAH WAS RIGHT WHEN HE PROPHESED ABOUT YOU HYPOCRITES; AS IT IS WRITTEN: 'THESE PEOPLE HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEARTS ARE FAR FROM ME.'"

MARK 7:6

ABOUT THIS SESSION

Honor is not a word or an action that shows up regularly in life today. The concept may be mentioned in military settings or in discussions about what it means to honor one's parents, but honor is seldom part of our daily routine. When we begin our morning, we probably don't think, "Today I want to live an honorable life." The absence of honor has a lot to do with the shallowness of our relationship with God and with other people.

So, what is honor? The word summarizes appropriate respect and actions toward someone's character, role, or position. The more someone's character, role, and position harmonize, the easier it should be to honor them. This is true of no one more than it is true of God. And yet, as we will see in this session, we often struggle with honoring God in consistent ways.

One of the passages we looked at last week included the phrase, "In all your ways submit to Him" (Proverbs 3:6). Honoring God is not only submitting to Him, but submitting to Him in all our ways. Jesus was quoting Isaiah who was taking a direct quote from God when He said, "These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.." We want to be a people who do a lot more than give lip service to the idea of honoring God.

LEARN TOGETHER

When we come together as a small group, we each have our own observations and responses to what we're hearing, but it often takes the impact of a group's response to help us see what we've overlooked or missed. God uses us in each other's lives for good in this way.



SCRIPTURE

READ: GENESIS 14:14-24

14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the three hundred and eighteen trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. **15** During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. **16** He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people. **17** After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the King of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). **18** Then Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, **19** and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. **20** And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. **21** The King of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." **22** But Abram said to the King of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, **23** that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' **24** I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."



QUESTIONS

- 1 Why is it important to honor God?
- 2 Based on Genesis 14:18-20, how was giving a tithe to Melchizedek actually honoring God? What's the parallel for us today?
- 3 Thinking about Pastor Bryan's sermon this weekend and today's small group teaching, how is dependency on God an act of honor?

STUDY NOTES

Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive (v.14). Abram honored his relationship with Lot by "having his back" when he could have stayed at a distance. He was all in when he went after Lot's captors. God calls us to live out our relationships with honor.

So he brought back all the goods (v.16). Abram routed the raiders and recaptured everything and everyone that had been taken. Every aspect of this episode has God's fingerprints all over it.

Melchizedek King of Salem (v.18). This figure appears without any introduction or background. He is mentioned again in Psalm 110 and in Hebrews 7:1-22 in discussing the unique role of Jesus who is both our king and priest, much as Melchizedek served both those roles. It is clear that Abram and Melchizedek recognized in one another an allegiance to the God above all gods.

And he (Abram) gave him (Melchizedek) a tithe of all (v.20). When God blessed Abram with a victory, his first thought was, "how can I honor God in return for this great blessing?" (vs. 17-24).

I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Creator of heaven and earth (v.22). Abram understood that accepting bounty from the King of Sodom would make him indebted to him and he insisted on giving credit for his abundance to God Himself and no other.



GROW TOGETHER

We want our small groups to be safe places where we can ask questions and get biblical answers.

The UNFinished Initiative is a special season to help us realize how much we need each other and discover the joy of helping one another. Each of us has a part, and we're in this together!

QUESTIONS

- 1** What is a way that you are currently honoring God with your resources, time, and/or treasure? Share with the group as a means for inspiring others.
- 2** Do you feel like you have more to offer God? Have you given him everything or is there more of your life that can be invested to honor him?
- 3** Pastor Bryan always says, "Let your life become His currency, and let Him spend you however He pleases." If you were to let God "spend you as His currency", how would that honor Him?



PRAY TOGETHER

To **close** your time together, spend some time **praying**.



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

There are six days of devotions. On the last day, read back over your responses and let that guide a final time of reflection.

Use these daily devotions to go deeper into this week's topic. Each day, read the verse given. Take your time. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Notice which word or phrase stands out to you. Then take some time to journal your response back to Him. You can write whatever is on your heart. Answer the "Reflect" question only if it's helpful. Feel free to go another direction if you sense God leading you. On the first day, you may want to read over all the verses for the week to get the "big picture" of the passage. But then walk slowly, verse by verse. Listen to what God wants to say to you through His Word, and respond to Him as you meditate on the truths of Scripture.

After Day three of each week, you will have an opportunity to take what you have learned and put it into practice. These "Action Steps" will challenge you to respond to these truths in your daily life.

MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus] replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'

Mark 7:6

DAY 1

READ Mark 7:6

"[Jesus] replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'"

REFLECT

In the solitude of your heart's thoughts, how surrendered are you to this challenge of honoring God with everything?

DAY 2

READ Revelation 4:11

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being."

REFLECT

How does this verse make the case for making everything we are and everything we have available to God 24/7?



DAY 3

READ Matthew 8:8-9

"The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

REFLECT

How did this centurion combine faith with honor to acknowledge Jesus' power?

ACTION STEPS

Each day this week pick one person you can show honor to—someone from work, your family, etc.

DAY 4

READ Luke 19:8

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

REFLECT

What happened in Zacchaeus that would cause him to honor God with everything?

DAY 5

READ 1 Samuel 2:29-30

"Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel? Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.' But now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.'"

REFLECT

God let Eli know that he was honoring his sons more than he was honoring the Lord. What promise did God also give that we can count on?

DAY 6

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.

SESSION 4

FINISHING THE

UNFINISHED TASK IS ABOUT

transformation

**"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose."
Philippians 2:13**

ABOUT THIS SESSION

For many of us, the UNFinished Initiative has been a defining moment in which God has been working on the process of transformation in our lives. As we will see in this session, God never stops working on us. Even someone who was surrendered, like the Apostle Paul, could write, "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

We are trusting this has been and will continue to be a time of remarkable spiritual growth for the entire Northplace family. We're in this together, and God is going to do a great thing in us and through us.

LEARN TOGETHER

God uses stories to guide us. In fact, the Bible is His story! When we read the true stories of Scripture, we learn what God is like and we see His plan unfolding. We also learn principles for our own lives. So how can we become a part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His and not just understanding what it means to follow Him, but actually doing it—changing our attitudes and actions to live as He would live.



SCRIPTURE

READ: GENESIS 17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before Me faithfully and be blameless. **2** Then I will make My covenant between Me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” **3** Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** “As for Me, this is My covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **6** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. **8** The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”



QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did God change Abram's name? Does acceptance of a name like "Christian" or "Christ-follower" make a difference in a person's life?
- 2 Using Abraham as an example, how would you describe God's transformation plan?
- 3 What are some areas of life that God would want to transform in each of us?

STUDY NOTES

I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless (v.1). Cause, action, result—God was pointing Abram to a transformed way of living. The order is significant. We often try to reverse it: once I'm blameless, maybe I can walk before Almighty God. Our approach is impossible; but God's approach is possible because He makes it so.

No longer shall your name be called Abram (v.5). In Abram's case, God takes some beginning-of-life stuff (like getting a name and the act of circumcision) and makes it much later-in-life-stuff. God changed his name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude) and established a practice for each generation of Sons of the Covenant before the first of those sons was born.

As you read this passage about Abraham, notice how God's move in his life affected everything—name, property, offspring and possessions. God was declaring His right to all of it.



GROW TOGETHER

The idea of transformation (change under God's hands) sometimes seems rather intimidating – as if God needs to radically change who we currently are in order for us to be more like Him. The truth is that our experiences of transformation often come through multiple small transformations within us. The instant “radical” transformation is still possible, but does not happen as frequently as transformation by process. Since God designed you originally, it’s His plan to complete your “formation” into the likeness of His Son.

- 1** Share a significant past experience where God shaped you more into the image of Jesus.
- 2** What is a next step in your transformation process? What is God asking you to do to make you more like Jesus?



PRAY TOGETHER

To **close** your time together, spend some time **praying**.



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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Use these daily devotions to go deeper into this week's topic. Each day, read the verse given. Take your time. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Notice which word or phrase stands out to you. Then take some time to journal your response back to Him. You can write whatever is on your heart. Answer the "Reflect" question only if it's helpful. Feel free to go another direction if you sense God leading you. On the first day, you may want to read over all the verses for the week to get the "big picture" of the passage. But then walk slowly, verse by verse. Listen to what God wants to say to you through His Word, and respond to Him as you meditate on the truths of Scripture.

After Day three of each week, you will have an opportunity to take what you have learned and put it into practice. These "Action Steps" will challenge you to respond to these truths in your daily life.

MEMORY VERSE

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill
His good purpose.

Philippians 2:13

DAY 1

READ 2 Timothy 1:12

"That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day."

REFLECT

How has this journey transformed your ability to trust what you've committed to him more deeply?

DAY 2

READ 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

REFLECT

How does this verse describe the work of transformation Christ is currently carrying out in your life?



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

DAY 3

READ John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

REFLECT

Often God's call to a greater level of commitment and surrender is troubling and even fearful. But every time He leads us into new dimensions of faith, there is blessing on the other side. Has there ever been a time in your life where God has led you to do something that was troubling or fearful, but because you obeyed Him, you experienced things you otherwise would not have?

ACTION STEPS

This week practice being grateful to God for His transforming work in your life. Simply thank God each time you identify how your life has been transformed. Ideas may include: new passions, new memories, old habits, new friends, or health.

DAY 4

READ Philippians 2:13

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose."

REFLECT

As the Unfinished study has unfolded, how have you experienced this verse to be true in your own life?

DAY 5

READ Romans 8:31-32

"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?"

REFLECT

How do these verses confirm your confidence as you prepare for the UNFinished Initiative commitment on Commitment Sunday?

DAY 6

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.

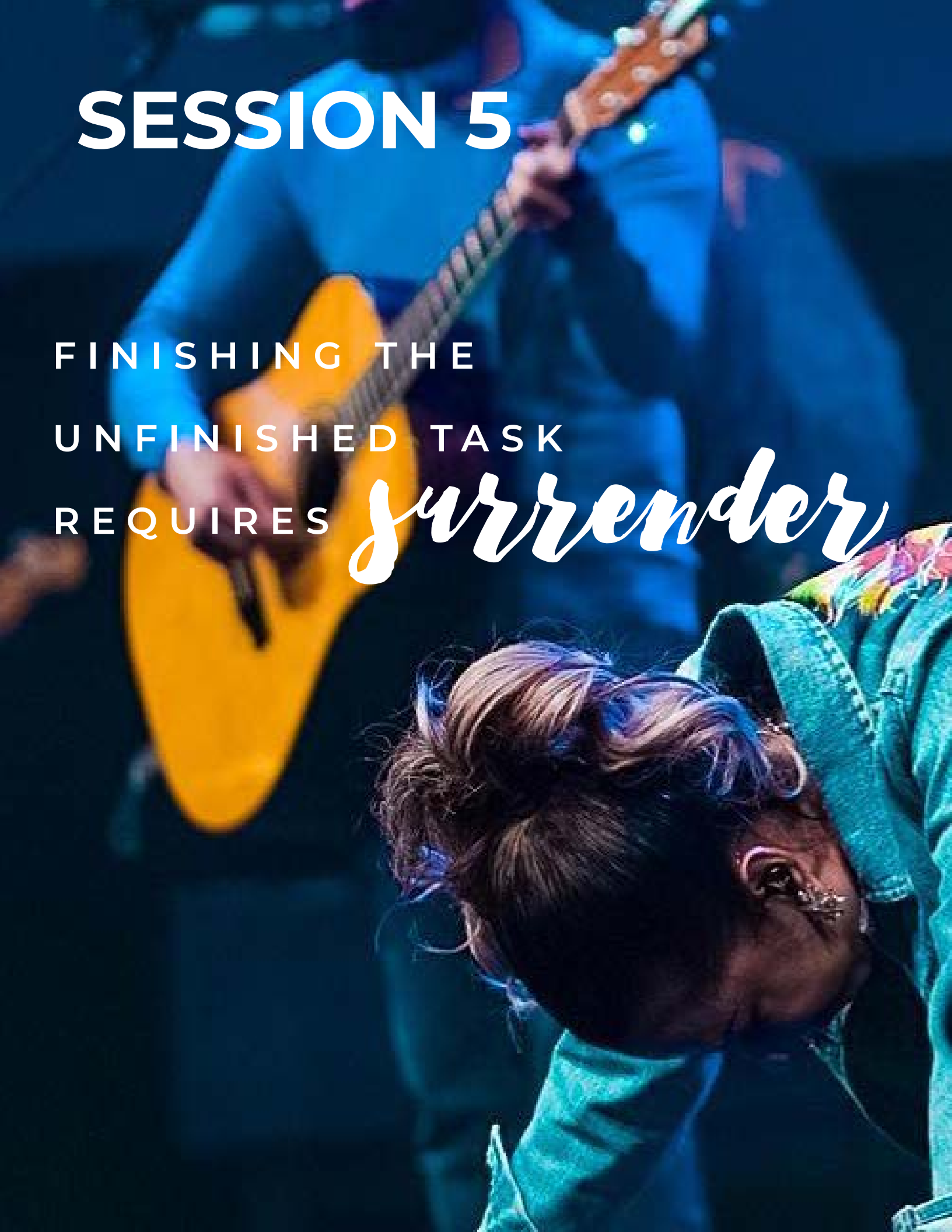
SESSION 5

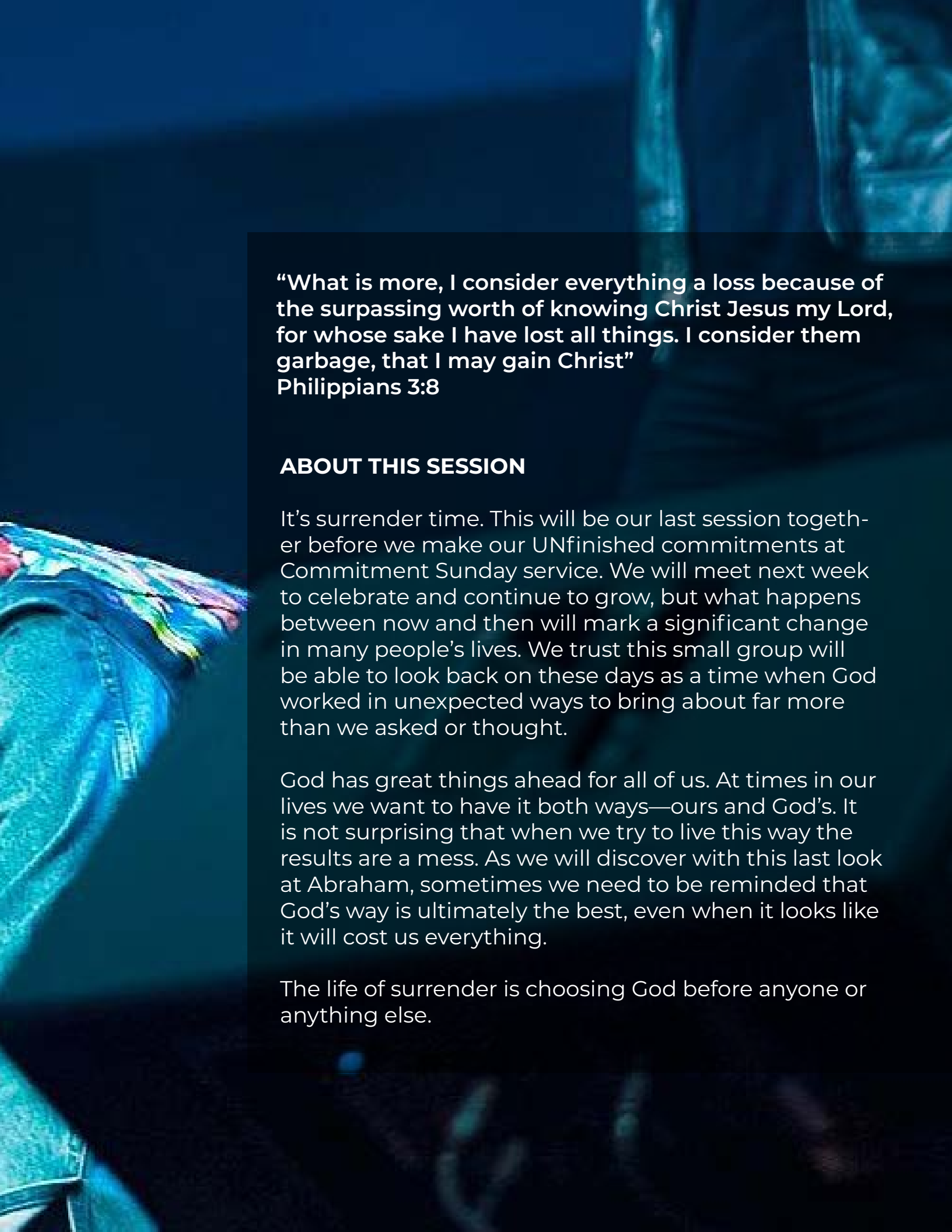
FINISHING THE

UNFINISHED TASK

REQUIRES

surrender



A person's hand is visible in the upper right corner, holding a clear glass of water. The background is a deep blue with some lighter blue, ethereal light patterns. On the left side, there is a vertical strip showing a close-up of a person's shoulder and arm, wearing a blue garment with a colorful, multi-colored patterned strap or bandage.

**“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ”
Philippians 3:8**

ABOUT THIS SESSION

It's surrender time. This will be our last session together before we make our UNfinished commitments at Commitment Sunday service. We will meet next week to celebrate and continue to grow, but what happens between now and then will mark a significant change in many people's lives. We trust this small group will be able to look back on these days as a time when God worked in unexpected ways to bring about far more than we asked or thought.

God has great things ahead for all of us. At times in our lives we want to have it both ways—ours and God's. It is not surprising that when we try to live this way the results are a mess. As we will discover with this last look at Abraham, sometimes we need to be reminded that God's way is ultimately the best, even when it looks like it will cost us everything.

The life of surrender is choosing God before anyone or anything else.

LEARN TOGETHER

God uses stories to guide us. In fact, the Bible is His story! When we read the true stories of Scripture, we learn what God is like and we see His plan unfolding. We also learn principles for our own lives. So how can we become a part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His and not just understanding what it means to follow Him, but actually doing it—changing our attitudes and actions to live as He would live.



SCRIPTURE

READ: GENESIS 22:1-8

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. **2** Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” **3** Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. **4** On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. **5** He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” **6** Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, **7** Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” **8** Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.



QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the meaning of the word “sacrifice” in verse 2 and how important is it in understanding the way God wants us to see everything in our possession?
- 2 What did surrendering Isaac do for Abraham?
- 3 What do you think Pastor means when he says “God never wanted Isaac, He wanted Abraham, and Isaac was the way to Abraham's heart.”
- 4 Have you ever had an Isaac or an idol of the heart? And what did it look like when God dealt with that?

STUDY NOTES

Offer him there as a burnt offering (v.2). God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son— the fulfillment of God’s promise— not because He wanted to kill Isaac, but because He wanted Abraham to experience as deeply as possible the truth that life is about doing it God’s way, even when it appears it will be too hard. We don’t really know what it’s like to “let God” until we are willing to “let go.” For a disciple, a follower of Jesus, every area of our lives is in some stage of surrender, including the resources we have... and He has a right to it all.

GROW TOGETHER

God is asking us to live our lives and give in a way that CHANGES us, to give in a way that COSTS us something, and to live in a way that truly honors WHO GOD IS in our lives.

In essence, these actions prove that we are surrendering our lives to Him and His plan for us. We are surrendered.

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

- 1** Pastor Bryan described the heart of surrender as “committing everything you know about self to everything you know about God.” What are the effects of having a “heart of surrender”?



PRAY TOGETHER

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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MEMORY VERSE

What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:8

DAY 1

READ Philippians 3:7-8

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."

REFLECT

How is this a picture of joyful surrender for a good reason?

DAY 2

READ Hebrews 11:6

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

REFLECT

In what ways does this verse describe basic surrender to God on our part?



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

DAY 3

READ Galatians 2:20-21

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

REFLECT

How do you identify with Paul's description of the surrendered life in these verses?

ACTION STEPS

This week take time to praise and thank God for helping you surrender yourself to Him. Let God know the things you're struggling to still surrender. Then ask God to help you surrender your fears to Him and believe He is able.

DAY 4

READ John 12:24

"Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

REFLECT

What are some aspects of your life that you still need to surrender to God for His plans?

DAY 5

READ John 8:36

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

REFLECT

Do you see how sacrificial surrender of obedience to what God is calling you to do is an opportunity for freedom?

DAY 6

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.

SESSION 6

CELEBRATE & REFLECT

together





1 If you have already made your UNFinished commitment would you share your story about what God has done in your life over these last several weeks to cause you to fully surrender to Him?

2 Take a few minutes to decide what's next for your Small Group.

- Choose an opportunity to serve together (ie. Northplace Serving opportunities and/or serve in the community).

- Choose a time to meet during the break for fellowship and reconnection.

Appendices







SMALL GROUP AGREEMENT

Our purpose is to talk about what it means to live a God-first life with a few friends.

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved.

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious toward people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or “imperfections.” We are all a work in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: Accept one another as we are, while encouraging one another to grow.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.







TESTIMONY

We would love to hear about and celebrate what God has done in and through you during the UNFinished series. Please give a brief testimony about how God ministered to you, tear out the page, and give it to your Small Group Host.

If you are willing to share your testimony for future event production, please sign your name.

Signature	Date
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May we contact you regarding your testimony? Print your name, phone number, and email address.

Name	Phone	Email Address
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**W E ' R E G O I N G T O
K E E P D R E A M I N G**

