



KINGDOM COME

*“Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.”*

– MATTHEW 6:10



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Dear Houston's First Family,

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He gave us words that have echoed through generations, words that invite us to step into His work and see heaven's purposes unfold on earth: **"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"** (Matthew 6:10). These words are more than a prayer; they are a calling. A calling to participate in God's work, to see His kingdom advance in the lives of those around us, and to trust that His purposes will be fulfilled through us.

I think about the times I have witnessed God moving in remarkable ways through ordinary people taking faithful steps. I have been blessed to serve on mission trips far from home and witness God transform lives through simple acts of faith. Each experience reminded me that advancing God's kingdom often requires following Him with faith, trusting His guidance even when we cannot see the full picture. Whether it was providing a Bible, sharing a meal, or teaching a lesson, each moment showed me that God can take our small acts of obedience and multiply them in ways we could never imagine.

Houston's First Baptist Church has a rich history of faithfully advancing God's Kingdom. For generations, our church family has taken courageous steps through giving, serving, and praying to share the Gospel both here in Houston and around the world. **Now it is our turn.** This is our moment to step forward and continue a legacy of faith and generosity that has shaped the past and will continue to shape the generations that follow.

This is why I am so excited to share **Kingdom Come**, our bold, two-year generosity initiative. Through *Kingdom Come*, we will create new ways to enhance and expand our Gospel ministry, deepening our impact locally, sending the Good News farther than ever, and opening doors for new people to encounter Jesus, perhaps for the very first time.

As you read through this booklet, I invite you to pray with intention. Pray for the lives God will touch through this initiative, for hearts that will encounter Jesus in a deeper way, and for the ways He wants to shape your own heart, your faith, and your relationship with Him. Prayer is our first step in partnering with God; it is how we align our hearts with His and move together in faith.

The call is clear. God is inviting us to step boldly into His work, to advance His Kingdom through our faithfulness, and to give in ways that ripple far beyond what we can see. Let us embrace this moment, knowing that together, we are part of something eternal.

With gratitude and expectation,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte
Senior Pastor



» INTRODUCTION

Advancing God's Kingdom, Here and Now

God's Kingdom has always advanced through people who are willing to trust Him—people who pray, people who give, people who take faithful steps even when they cannot see the whole path. For generations, Houston's First has been that kind of church.

Now, it is our turn to carry that legacy forward.

KINGDOM COME is an invitation to lean in with fresh faith and renewed purpose. It calls us to join together so we can see God's work expand here in our church, throughout our city, across our nation, and to the ends of the earth. As we step into this moment, we believe God will open doors for ministry, spark new movements of discipleship, and draw people to Jesus in ways that only He can orchestrate.

This journey is rooted in prayer — praying for the people who will be reached, for the ministries that will be strengthened, and for the work God wants to advance in each of us personally. As we pray, give, trust, and step forward, we position ourselves to be part of something eternal. God simply asks for obedience, and He takes willing people and multiplies what they offer. He always has, and He will again through *Kingdom Come*.

Let these scriptures shape our hearts as we begin this journey together:

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

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." — Proverbs 16:3

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." — Ephesians 3:20



» OUR PRIMARY GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

You are invited to embrace an impactful vision and live with joyful generosity as we advance God's Kingdom through Houston's First.

ADVANCING IN SURRENDER

"Lord, Your Kingdom Come in me."

What am I holding back from Jesus and need to relinquish to Him?

ADVANCING IN FAITH

"Lord, Your Kingdom Come through me."

What steps do I need to take to deepen my dependence upon Jesus?

ADVANCING IN GENEROSITY

"Lord, Your Kingdom Come with Your resources."

How can I honor God more through my financial generosity?



» OUR SECONDARY GOAL

\$150 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

We believe the Lord has positioned Houston's First for such a time as this. Together, through faith and generosity, we will witness His Kingdom advancing in powerful ways.

OUR COMMISSION • OUR COMMUNITY • OUR COMPASSION





OUR COM





MISSION



» OUR COMMISSION

OUR COMMISSION – \$109 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

Advancing the Great Commission through our Operating Budget to enable our ongoing ministries over the next two years

Houston's First Baptist Church is a Relevant Biblical Community where we gather our hearts, grow our souls, and give our lives as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

"Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.'" — Matthew 28:18–20

KINGDOM PROVISION

Great Commission Operating Budget

Our ministry operating budget is called The Great Commission Operating Budget. It fuels the lifeblood of what Houston's First does daily to minister to children, students, and adults across our area and beyond. By the grace of God and through the faithful generosity of our church family, our current operating budget is \$48 million.

Each year, we joyfully dedicate at least 20% of our budget to Missions.

Over the next two years, \$109 million will make all our ongoing ministries possible, including:

- **Ministries for all ages**

From newborns to senior adults, your giving supports discipleship, Bible studies, special events, and weekly programs that help every generation grow in Christ. These ministries create meaningful community and spiritual formation for people in every stage of life.

- **Sunday worship experiences**

Your generosity makes it possible for thousands to gather each week in person and online for Christ-centered worship through music, teaching, prayer, and warm hospitality. This support ensures excellent, welcoming environments across our campuses and beyond.

- **Missional endeavors locally and globally**

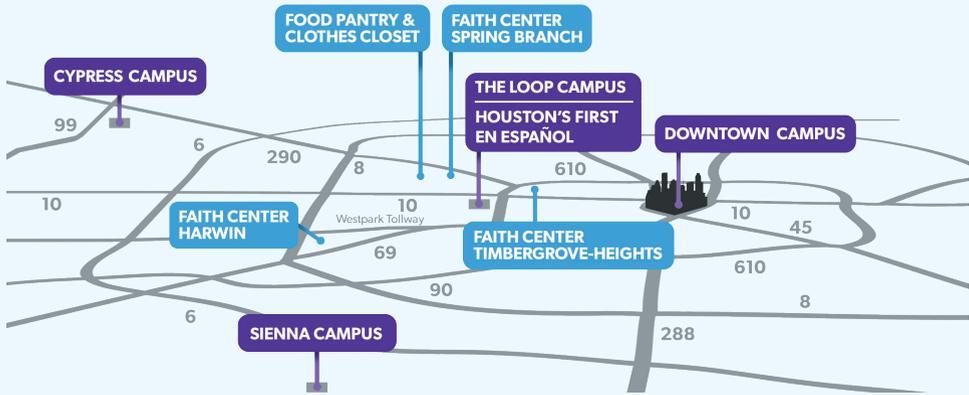
Your support fuels partnerships, missionaries, church plants, and outreach efforts helping to share the gospel and meet real needs both in our city and around the world. This includes equipping teams, providing resources, and expanding our reach to places where God is opening doors.

- **Operations and support for all campuses**

Behind every ministry moment is the essential work of operations—facilities, technology, staffing, security, and administrative support—that keep our campuses running smoothly. Your giving ensures everything is in place for ministry to thrive every day of the week.

» HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1 CHURCH • 4 CAMPUSES • 4 FAITH CENTER LOCATIONS



12 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES • 677 LIFE BIBLE STUDIES ACROSS ALL CAMPUSES
185 YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY (FOUNDED IN 1841)

ALL CAMPUSES

God has blessed Houston's First with tremendous growth over the last 3 years!

- The Loop (including En Español): **31%**
- Cypress: **52%**
- Downtown: **23%**
- Sienna: **97%**
- Online: **25%**

One way we grow our souls is through Life Bible Studies (LBS). In 2024 and 2025, LBS participation at all campuses increased, and we're making space for more by adding new classes and opportunities for continued discipleship.

677 Life Bible Studies

- Adult & NextGen average attendance: **7,881**
- Adult LBS average attendance: **5,220**
- NextGen average attendance: **2,661**
- Baptisms: **1,076**



TEAM FIRST

Striving to be Godly, Effective, and Excellent

- **225** full-time staff all campuses
- **18** full-time staff Faith Centers and The Oaks
- Average years of service – **5.5 years**
- Tenure Ranges
 - 0–2 years: **41%** – 6–10 years: **19%**
 - 3–5 years: **25%** – 10+ years: **15%**



PATHMAKERS

Making clear the path to Jesus as these faithful volunteers serve through Houston's First

2,491 PATHMAKERS

- The Loop – **1,559** • Sienna – **228**
- Cypress – **579** • En Español – **32**
- Downtown – **93**

Men:Serve

896 PATHMAKERS serving **132** widows, elderly, and single parents

Love Her | Serve Her

620 PATHMAKERS serving **8** ministries



THE LOOP

196 Adult & NextGen Life Bible Studies

- Adult LBS average attendance: **2,283**
- NextGen LBS average attendance: **1,707**
- Baptisms: **617**
- Thru The Roof Special Needs Ministry families served in 2025: **116**



Thru The Roof hosts the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine for our friends with special needs

CYPRESS

95 Adult and NextGen Life Bible Studies

- Adult LBS average attendance: **662**
- NextGen LBS average attendance: **848**
- Baptisms: **336**



DOWNTOWN

13 Adult & NextGen Life Bible Studies

- Adult LBS average attendance: **90**
- NextGen LBS average attendance: **78**
- Baptisms: **40**



SIENNA

47 Adult and NextGen Life Bible Studies

- Adult LBS average attendance: **305**
- NextGen LBS average attendance: **551**
- Baptisms: **83**



FAITH CENTERS

4 Faith Centers

- **18** full-time staff
- **81,751** people impacted (receiving services)
- **742,120** pounds of food distributed
- Families receiving benevolence assistance: **1,368**
 - **\$1,225,822** in benevolence support
- Gospel conversations: **28,823**
- Salvations: **610**



COUNSELING CENTERS

Serving clients at The Loop, Cypress, and Sienna Campuses with biblically-based, clinically-competent, Spirit-sensitive counseling

- **16,352** appointments by church members
- **10,414** appointments by non-church members
- **2,618** unique individuals/families served
- **51%** of clients received reduced fees or ministry scholarships
- **78** licensed counselors or counselors-in-training

METRO

Where Houston's young adults gather to worship and study God's Word

Average weekly attendance: **702**

- Highest attendance (fall 2025 launch): **1,103**
- Growth from 2024 to 2025: **21%**
- Attendees not associated with Houston's First: **65%**
- Churches represented by attendees: **185 unique churches**

FITNESS & RECREATION CENTER

2,471 Members (**50%** Non-church members)

- **80,412** Workouts
- **3,883** Personal training sessions
- **1,000** Group fitness classes
- **2,525** Ministry opportunities through Equip programming



PASTORAL CARE

Offering Christ-centered support, prayer, and presence during life's challenges and transitions

32,829 estimated individuals served by Pastoral Care

A small sample of the care and support provided:

- Celebrations of Life: **82**
- Hope House care impact: **182**
- HomeBound care connections: **4,320**
- Stephen Ministry care interventions: **5,277**
- Support group meetings and events: **284**
- Hospital and health facility visits: **1,629**

DAYCATION

Sharing the love of Jesus Christ by teaching the Gospel through a fun, creative, and encouraging summer day camp

1,354 Campers

- **101** Staff (24% were campers as kids!)
- Houston's First member families: **30%**
- Non-member families: **50%**
- Not active in any church families: **20%**
- Camper scholarships awarded by Daycation revenue: **\$84,990, impacting 90 campers and 69 families**

HOUSTON'S FIRST WORSHIP ACADEMY

356 Students enrolled (**42%** Non-church members)

HUNT RETREAT

A rural retreat owned and operated by Houston's First and enjoyed by the church and other Christian organizations

2,175 Guests in 2025

LEGACY 68:5

Providing connection, community, and funding to families compelled to move toward adoption in compassion for the orphan

Adoptions supported: **25**

\$661,405 given in adoption/post-adoption support

Families served by The Oaks: **87**

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED

Houston's First supports global workers across these regions of the world, with more already in the pipeline. Each highlighted area represents the people, places, and gospel work made possible through faithful obedience and generosity.



MISSION TRIPS

410 people serving on 32 mission teams reaching 15 countries across 5 continents in 2025



MISSIONS & MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Each of these organizations are financially supported by Houston's First.

Agape in Action
Alaska Missions
Alianza Cristiana para los Huerfanos (CAFO Latin America)*
Arabic Baptist Church of Houston
As Our Own*
Back2Back Ministries*
Bethel Baptist Church
Boys and Girls Country
Breakaway Ministries
CareNet Pregnancy Center
Center, College, Hope for Israel
C.H.A.R.M. Prison Ministry
Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)*
Community Pregnancy Center Pasadena
Cornerstone Family Ministries
Cy-Fair Helping Hands
Cy-Hope
Cypress Assistance Ministries
Cypress Young Life
Date Palm Consulting
East West
E.C.H.O.
Elijah Rising
EPEK International
Ethnos360
Evangelism Explosion International
Every Shelter
Every Village
Eyes on Me
Favor City Church
For All Mankind Movement
Fort Bend Pregnancy Resource Center
Freedom Church Alliance
HaMoreh Ministries
Health Outreach for the Middle East (H.O.M.E.)
Heshima Association*
His Cherished Ones, Inc*
Hope For Israel
Houston Christian High School
Houston Christian University
Houston Haven Ministries
Houston Legal Aid Center
Houston Pregnancy Help Centers
Houston Welcomes Refugees
Itturisho Baptist Church
Inspire Women
InStep International, Inc
International Mission Board
Israel Partners - T'uran Church, Prayer
Jerusalem Prayer Center
Kings Hill Church
KSBJ
LifeChild Africa Foundation*
LifeHouse of Houston*
Lifesong for Orphans*
Living Water
LSESD / MEBO
Macedonian Call Foundation

Millenium Relief: Development Services
Mission Centers of Houston
Mission Dignity: Guidestone Financial Services
Mission India
Mission X Mission (MXTV + ASafePlaceOnline)
Mobilizing Medical Missions Conference
Montrose Street Reach
Mosaic en Español
Museum of the Bible
Nabor House Community Center
Nazareth Evangelical College
New Life Adoptions
North American Mission Board
Patrick Henry College
Pioneers Egypt
Prestige Learning Institute (PLI)
Project Love One
Queens Church (NY)
Redeemed Ministries
Refugee Rising
Romanian Christian Enterprises*
Sacred Story Ministries
Samaritan's Purse
Samaritan Touch Homeless Services
Scholar Institute*

Scott Nute Ministries
Second Mile Ministries
SEND Network Boston
SEND Network Nevada
SEND Relief
Sharpen Recovery
Sole Loved
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
Sports Quest, Inc
Star of Hope
Summit LIFE Church
Tamarindo Church
The Journey Church Houston
The Riverside Project*
The Seed Company
Tur'an Evangelical Baptist Church
Unique Student Ministries
Union Baptist Association
Vision Rescue
WINGS Ministries
WorkFaith Connection
Wycliffe Bible Translators
YOUR Church
Youth for Christ



**KINGDOM
COME**

**OUR COMMISSION
\$109 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS**

This is "Kingdom Come" through Houston's First — living out Jesus' call to "go and make disciples of all nations."



OUR COM





COMMUNITY



» OUR COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY – \$34 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

Advancing the Gospel impact of Houston’s First in our communities by expanding and improving facilities across all our campuses

We are prayerfully expanding and improving our campuses because God is bringing more families to be part of His work through Houston’s First. By growing and enhancing our spaces, we seek to faithfully minister to every generation, provide environments that nurture faith, and create places where lives are transformed in Christ.



KINGDOM GROWTH

CYPRESS CAMPUS

Our Cypress Campus is located in the fastest growing zip code in the United States! In order to minister to these families, we seek to increase capacity by constructing new buildings to expand spaces for our Preschool, Children, Students, and Thru The Roof Special Needs Ministries.

KINGDOM IMPROVEMENTS

THE LOOP CAMPUS

At The Loop Campus, we look to construct pedestrian walkways, a north lot shuttle terminal, an expanded south entrance, and make necessary infrastructure improvements. We are also completing exterior and interior enhancements, particularly to our Preschool and Children's areas, and upgrading audio-visual equipment in the Worship Center.

SIENNA CAMPUS

At our Sienna Campus, we are transforming an outdoor area and upgrading audio-visual equipment for The HUB Student Ministry, while also creating a dedicated space for the Thru The Roof Special Needs Ministry. Praising God for our rapid growth, we will also purchase two shuttles to provide offsite parking, expanding our capacity to welcome even more people into worship.

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

At the Downtown Campus, we are repurposing the commercial kitchen into a functional ministry space, expanding the Connection Center, and upgrading furniture throughout the campus. These improvements will help us better serve our church family and create spaces that welcome people into God's work in our Downtown Houston home.



» CYPRESS CAMPUS

To see more images of how Kingdom Come will improve and expand the gathering spaces of Houston's First, scan this code.



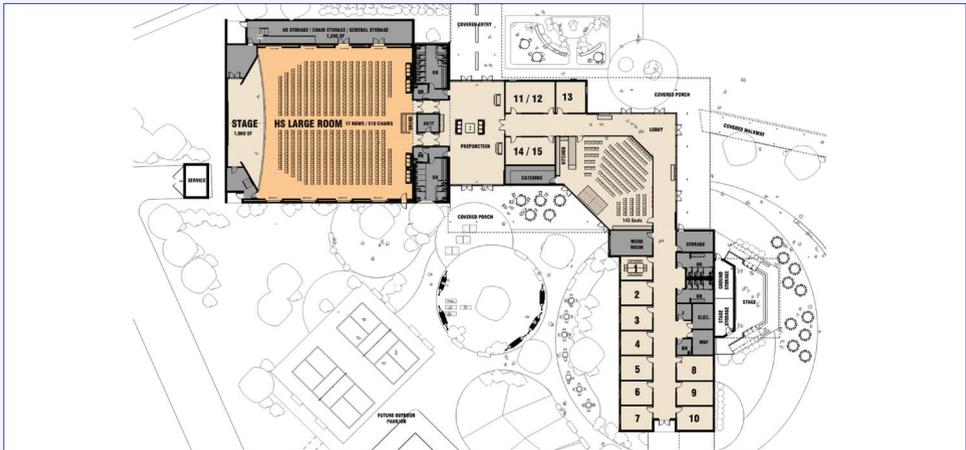
Cypress Expansion



The HUB Student Building



New Children's Building and North Entrance



The HUB Student Building



Kids + Lobby Expansion Level 1



Kids + Lobby Expansion Level 2

» THE LOOP CAMPUS



**The Loop Campus
South Entrance**





Infrastructure improvements



Preschool & Children's Ministry improvements



OUR COMMUNITY
\$34 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS
This is "Kingdom Come" in our communities — building spaces where lives can be changed.



OUR COM





MPASSION



» OUR COMPASSION

OUR COMPASSION – \$7 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

Advancing the love of Christ by taking the Gospel across our city, our nation, and around the world

We give and serve in missions because God calls us to care for the vulnerable, proclaim the gospel, and make His kingdom known. Prayerfully and strategically, we partner with trusted organizations both locally and globally to ensure every effort is faithful, effective, and brings lasting impact for His glory.



KINGDOM IMPACT FOR LOCAL MISSIONS

HOUSTON'S FIRST FAITH CENTERS

We are prayerfully continuing improvements at Spring Branch and Harwin Faith Centers to better serve our neighbors.



KINGDOM CARE

With long-standing, trusted ministry partners, we are advancing God's Kingdom

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING | ELIJAH RISING

We are opening the first-ever rescue center in Houston for women escaping sex trafficking, God to bring healing and freedom.

RESCUING VULNERABLE IN INDIA | AS OUR OWN

We are doubling the residential capacity of the school for girls rescued from Indian brothels, providing a safe and nurturing environment for restoration.

SPECIAL NEEDS IN ROMANIA | ROMANIAN CHRISTIAN ENTERPRISES

We are building five housing units to help those with special needs live independent, productive lives, reflecting God's love through care and opportunity.

ADOPTION/FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE | THE OAKS

We are establishing a fund to provide over 3,300 counseling or therapy sessions at The Oaks, supporting families compelled to move toward adoption in compassion for the orphan.

PRO-LIFE | LIFEHOUSE

We are renovating an apartment complex in Spring Branch to create a residential and training center for moms who have chosen life.

KINGDOM EXPANSION

CHURCH PLANTS | NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

We are helping to plant three churches in Los Angeles, prayerfully extending God's Kingdom to English and Spanish speaking people in the area.

MISSION SENDING | HOUSTON'S FIRST SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We are funding scholarships up to 100% for those seeking mid and long-term mission field service, equipping disciples to serve where God calls them.

SCRIPTURE TRANSLATIONS | SEED COMPANYY

We are translating the entire New Testament for unreached people groups, giving them access to God's Word in their own language.

SCRIPTURE PROCLAMATION | EVERY VILLAGE

We are expanding radio towers to bring the Gospel to new communities across South Sudan, sharing the hope of salvation through the airwaves.



**KINGDOM
COME**

**OUR COMPASSION
\$7 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS**

This is "Kingdom Come" to the nations—declaring Christ where He is not yet known.



KINGDOM COME

Advancing God's Kingdom, here and now

**\$150 Million given over two years
for Kingdom purposes**

COMMISSION \$109 Million

COMMUNITY \$34 Million

COMPASSION \$7 Million

**\$41 Million of
New Generosity**

» KINGDOM COME: OUR GENEROSITY JOURNEY

WHAT IS A “ONE-FUND INITIATIVE”?

A one-fund initiative is a simpler way to give that celebrates the full impact of our generosity. We first introduced this type of initiative during our *Mission 1:8* generosity campaign and continued it with our *Kainos* campaign. **Instead of giving separately to a building fund in addition to the budget, as is commonly done, all gifts are directed into one unified fund—making it easier to see the difference we make together.**

With *Kingdom Come*, we are continuing this one-fund approach for a new season of ministry (**Mar 2026–Feb 2028**). Every gift will support three key priorities: **Our Commission** (Great Commission Operating Fund), **Our Community** (campus and ministry investments), and **Our Compassion** (extending the gospel locally, nationally, and globally).

The *Kingdom Come* budget does not include designated giving opportunities, such as the World Mission Offering, local missions, and mission trips.

By giving into one fund, we focus on one mission—loving Jesus and making disciples.

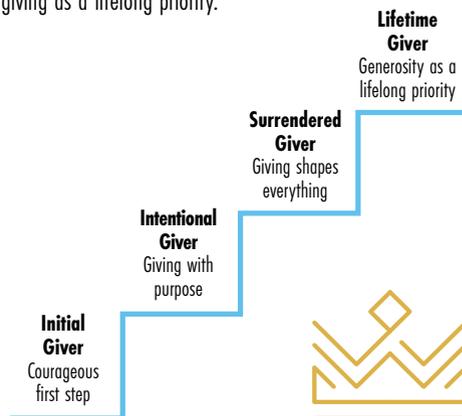
“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us...” – Ephesians 3:20

As we unite our giving into one fund, the question becomes not just how much we give, but why we give. *Kingdom Come* invites us to reflect on the purpose behind our generosity and the role it plays in shaping our lives. Let’s take the next step together.

OUR GENEROSITY JOURNEY

Generosity is more than a financial decision—it reflects what we value and trust most. *Kingdom Come* calls us to grow in faithfulness and obedience as we consider how our giving aligns with God’s work and priorities. As we reflect on this journey, we ask: What drives your generosity?

Every act of generosity starts with a single step, and over time, it shapes how we live, serve others, and embrace giving as a lifelong priority.



“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

LIFESTYLE GENEROSITY

Generosity begins in the heart. When our priorities are set on things above, our resources begin to follow. Lifestyle Generosity describes a way of giving that affects how we live—our choices, plans, and priorities—rather than giving in ways that are convenient or comfortable. Jesus once pointed to a widow who gave two small coins, an offering that appeared insignificant by outward measures. Yet He declared her gift greater than all the others because she gave out of trust, not abundance. Her generosity revealed a heart fully dependent on God, reflecting the truth that everything we have is ultimately the Lord’s.

Lifestyle Generosity recognizes that what is ours is not really ours; God owns it all! He is our Lord and Master, and we are simply stewards of His resources. It is generosity that reaches beyond convenience and begins to shape how we live, choose, and trust—because our giving flows from confidence in God’s provision.



To learn more about how a One-Fund Initiative works, scan this code.

THREE PRACTICES TO HELP GUIDE LIFESTYLE GENEROSITY

- 1. Reassess Lifestyle** — Are there areas where adjustments could free up resources for God’s purposes?
- 2. Rearrange Priorities** — Does my life reflect what I truly value as a follower of Jesus?
- 3. Reallocate Resources** — Am I intentionally directing my resources toward what has eternal impact?

“The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord; for he laid its foundation on the seas and established it on the rivers.

— Psalm 24:1–2

As we grow in Lifestyle Generosity, some discover that generosity extends beyond monthly giving to include resources God has entrusted to us over time. For many, this opens the door to a different, but equally meaningful, expression of faithful stewardship.

STORED RESOURCES

God’s provision often comes in more than one form. Beyond income, many have been entrusted with stored resources—assets that have grown over time and can now be stewarded for Kingdom impact.

For some, this may include appreciated assets, such as investment securities or real estate. When these assets are given directly to the church, donors may avoid capital gains taxes and receive a charitable income tax deduction for the asset’s full market value. In many cases, this allows generosity to go further while stewarding resources wisely. As with any significant financial decision, we encourage you to consult your CPA, tax attorney, or financial advisor.

Another opportunity for generosity is the IRA Charitable Rollover, which allows individuals age 70½ and older to give directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charitable organization. These gifts can be made without the distribution being treated as taxable income, offering a meaningful and tax-efficient way to support *Kingdom Come*.

Stored Resources remind us that generosity is not limited to one season or one method. It is an opportunity to faithfully steward what God has provided, aligning long-term provision with eternal purpose.

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” — 1 Corinthians 4:2

WHAT’S NEXT?

Kingdom Come is an invitation to prayer, trust, and obedience. As you consider your part in this initiative, we encourage you to take time to seek the Lord and listen for His guidance.

Along with this booklet, you’ve received *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn. Over the coming weeks, read it prayerfully and engage with the Adult LBS lessons to help guide discussion and deepen your perspective on generosity.

When you feel ready, complete the **Commitment Card** included with this booklet. This commitment represents more than a financial decision. It is a step of faith and participation in what God is doing through our church.

On the next page, you’ll find key dates for upcoming *Kingdom Come* gatherings and milestones. We encourage you to mark your calendar and plan to be part of these moments as we step forward together.

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” — Proverbs 16:3

KEY DATES

SUN, FEB 22

Advanced Commitment Night — Cypress Campus @ 6p

Gather together for this special celebration. If your heart is ready, bring your *Kingdom Come* commitment card as a show of faith for what the Lord will do.

MON, FEB 23—SAT, FEB 28

Prayer + Fasting Week

Seek God through prayer and fasting, led by daily devotionals from church leaders, either on your own or alongside your family or friends.

SUN, MAR 1

Commitment Sunday — All Campuses

Step forward together as a united church family with our *Kingdom Come* commitments.

SUN, MAR 29

Kingdom Come Celebration and Best Give Sunday — All Campuses

Bring your Best!

MAR 2026—FEB 2028

Kingdom Come Fulfillment Phase

Journey through a meaningful season of putting His vision into action.

RESOURCES

- » **WEEKLY MESSAGE NOTES**
- » **KINGDOM INSIGHTS**
- » **ADULT LIFE BIBLE STUDY LESSONS**
- » **PRAYER + FASTING WEEK DEVOTIONALS**





These **Weekly Message Notes**, **Kingdom Insights**, **Adult Life Bible Study Lessons**, and **Prayer + Fasting Week Devotionals** are designed to help us stay rooted in God's Word and attentive to His leading.

Each element invites us to listen, reflect, and take intentional next steps. As God shapes our hearts and priorities, we respond in faithful obedience, trusting God with every part of our lives.



» KINGDOM INSIGHTS

WHEN WE PRAY, “YOUR KINGDOM COME”

Sometimes the most powerful Kingdom moments begin in the quiet—long before anything changes around us. Jesus reminds us of this when He teaches His disciples to pray. He doesn’t start with what we need, what we fear, or what we hope to accomplish. He starts with surrender, **“Your Kingdom come. Your will be done.”** It’s an invitation to step into God’s purposes before proceeding with our own plans.

“Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” – Matthew 6:10

When we pray these words, we’re doing more than reciting a familiar line. We’re aligning our hearts with the King. We’re asking God to reshape our desires, our priorities, and our expectations so that His rule becomes evident in our lives. **Before Kingdom work shows up in our actions, it begins with our surrender.**

REFLECTION

Where is God inviting you to say “Your will be done” today?

QUOTE

“No one knows you better, and no one loves you more than your heavenly Father. And you can pursue Him and go to Him in prayer.”

– Dr. Stephen Trammell

Praying And Fasting God’s Way

Jesus didn’t recruit the most capable people. He recruited the willing ones—those who said “yes” in their hearts before their obedience was ever seen publicly. That’s the heart of Kingdom living. **We don’t bring the Kingdom by our strength; we receive the Kingdom by our surrender.**

As we step into *Kingdom Come*, let this prayer become your posture. We are asking God to form His will in us, guide our decisions, shape our generosity, and prepare us for what He alone can do. When we pray “Your Kingdom come,” we are opening our lives to a work far greater than anything we could orchestrate on our own.

Scan this code to watch a related sermon:



» ADULT LIFE BIBLE STUDY LESSON

BURIED TREASURE

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE: CHAPTER 1

In the opening chapter of *The Treasure Principle* (the devotional book you received alongside this *Kingdom Come* booklet), Randy Alcorn reminds us that everything we possess is temporary, and everything invested in God's Kingdom is eternal. Jesus teaches that our hearts inevitably follow our treasure—meaning how we handle money doesn't just reveal what we value; it shapes who we are becoming.

"You can't take it with you—but you can send it on ahead."

— Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*

PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLE

Identify one area where you can shift from storing up the temporary to pursuing the eternal—whether through prayer, serving, encouraging others, or practicing intentional generosity with what God has entrusted to you.

As we begin this season as a church, this truth invites us to loosen our grip on what won't last and lean into what will: storing our treasure in the only place time cannot touch.

Read Matthew 6:19–21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Jesus connect our hearts to where we place our treasure?
 2. Where have you seen finances either pull your heart toward God or distract your heart away from Him?
 3. What is one intentional shift you could make this week to orient your heart more toward eternal things?
-

PRAY THE PRINCIPLE

Lord, teach me to treasure what You treasure. Align my heart with Your Kingdom and loosen my grip on what doesn't last.

» KINGDOM INSIGHTS

SMALL SEEDS, GREAT KINGDOM

Some of God's greatest work begins in moments we barely notice. A whispered prayer. A posture of the heart. A quiet act of obedience. Jesus reminds us that Kingdom growth often starts so small we don't recognize its significance at first. **Yet in His hands, a single seed becomes something far greater than we imagined.**

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It's the smallest of all the seeds, but when grown, it's taller than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches."

— Matthew 13:31–32

The people who first heard Jesus say this lived with a simple truth in front of them every day: seeds don't look impressive—they look insignificant and forgettable. Yet inside every seed is a future that only the gardener can see. That's how God's Kingdom works, too. He takes the

small obedience we offer and molds it into His sovereign purposes, accomplishing far more than the strength of our hands ever could.

Pastor Gregg reminds us that "Godly lives are made up of small Godly moments." The Kingdom doesn't require grand gestures; it requires hearts willing to trust that God is at work even when we can't yet see the harvest. The mustard seed invites us to believe that what feels small to us may be the very thing God uses to bless others in ways we could never expect.

As we journey through *Kingdom Come*, let's not forget that God builds His Kingdom one faithful step at a time. Our role is simple: plant what He gives us, trust what He is growing, and stay faithful in the small things.

REFLECTION

Where might God be inviting you to plant a "small seed" of obedience this week?

QUOTE

"Godly lives are made up of small godly moments."

— Pastor Gregg Matte

The Kingdom Is Like: Small Things Make A Big Difference

Scan this code to watch a related sermon:



» ADULT LIFE BIBLE STUDY LESSON

COMPOUNDING JOY

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE: CHAPTER 2

In this week's chapter of *The Treasure Principle*, Alcorn builds on the foundation we began last week by teaching that God owns everything and we are His stewards. This shift, from possessive ownership to responsible stewardship, changes the way we view our homes, our income, our time, and even our opportunities. We are not stockpiling for ourselves; we are faithfully directing God's resources toward God's purposes.

*"God owns everything. I'm His money manager."
— Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle**

This principle brings both clarity and freedom. If everything already belongs to Him, then generosity isn't about giving away what is ours—it's about aligning ourselves with what He is already doing and choosing to participate with open hands and obedient hearts.

Read Psalm 24:1

PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLE

Invite God into one financial decision this week, either large or small. Ask, "Lord, how would You have me steward this?" Then move forward in obedience, trusting that faithful management is more important than the size of the outcome.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you that God owns everything you have—your home, your bank account, your job, your time? Does this mindset bring freedom, tension, or a mix of both?
2. If you are God's "money manager," what are practical ways you can seek His direction in how you handle His resources this week?
3. Alcorn writes, "One of our central spiritual decisions is determining what is a reasonable amount to live on." How much thought have you given to that decision, and how does stewardship shape your view of enough?

PRAY THE PRINCIPLE

Father, everything I have is Yours. Teach me to manage Your resources with wisdom, humility, and joy. Help me seek Your direction in all things and steward my life in a way that reflects Your Kingdom.

*Before next Sunday, read Chapter 3 of *The Treasure Principle*. If you're jumping in midstream, this is a perfect week to explore earlier chapters.*

» KINGDOM INSIGHTS

A KINGDOM THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

When Jesus calls someone, He never leaves them the same. Matthew understood this better than most. One moment, he was a tax collector defined by his past, his choices, and his reputation. The next, he was following Jesus and doing things he never imagined. The Kingdom has always moved forward through transformed lives, reshaped identities, and people willing to take the next step with Jesus.

“Follow Me, He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.” — Matthew 9:9

Matthew didn't bring a resume that justified his calling. He didn't offer a flawless history or a polished reputation. What he brought was a simple “yes” and a willingness to leave who he had been and walk toward who Jesus was making him to be. That's how God establishes His Kingdom. He doesn't wait for us to be perfect; He meets us where we are and calls us into something new—something greater.

REFLECTION

How is Jesus reshaping your identity and purpose as you follow Him?

QUOTE

“You will live a far stronger and better life if you find out God's ideas for your life and live those out, as opposed to getting your ideas for your life and trying to get God to bless them.”

— Pastor Gregg Matte

New Kingdom; New Lives: The Sent Ones

And Matthew wasn't the only one. Jesus has established a pattern of sending ordinary people into extraordinary Kingdom work. “God has ideas,” and He sets these divine purposes in motion long before we see the full picture. God chooses to advance His Kingdom through people who let Him rewrite their story: people who hear His invitation, trust His heart, and step into the purpose He has for them. Just as Matthew moved from tax collector to Gospel writer, God reshapes our identity and sends us into places where His love, truth, and compassion are desperately needed.

As we continue the journey of *Kingdom Come*, we're invited to ask not only “What can I do?” but “Who is Jesus forming me to become?” **Because transformation often precedes mission.**

Scan this code to watch a related sermon:



» ADULT LIFE BIBLE STUDY LESSON

EYES ON ETERNITY

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE: CHAPTER 3

Chapter 3 of *The Treasure Principle* invites us to lift our eyes toward eternity by showing how our hearts follow wherever we direct God’s resources. Randy Alcorn reminds us that when we direct God’s resources toward eternal purposes, our affections move in that same direction. Giving doesn’t just support Kingdom work; it shapes us, reorienting our desires toward the things that last forever.

At the same time, Alcorn challenges us to hold lightly to earthly security. Scripture teaches that this world is temporary and that our true citizenship is in heaven. When we live with eternity in view, success looks different, security feels different, and generosity becomes not an obligation, but an overflow of hope.

“My heart always goes where I put God’s money.”
— Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*

PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLE

Identify one financial decision or habit you can shift from short-term comfort to long-term Kingdom impact. Ask God to give you eternal eyes as you consider how to invest what He has entrusted to you.

This perspective shifts the question from “What do I have to lose?” to “What do I have the privilege of investing into eternity?” Earthly treasures won’t last—but eternal ones will meet us again.

Read Philippians 3:20 and Matthew 6:21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does thinking about eternity reshape the way you view success, security, or even financial goals?
2. Where do you see our culture encouraging short-term thinking with money, and how does that influence your own habits?
3. What is one practical step you could take this week to invest more intentionally in eternity, whether through generosity, prayer, or reordering your priorities?

PRAY THE PRINCIPLE

Lord, teach me to set my mind on things above. Anchor my heart in eternity, and help me invest my treasure—and therefore my love—into what lasts forever.

Before next Sunday, read Chapter 4 of The Treasure Principle. If earlier chapters slipped by, this is a great week to get caught up.

» KINGDOM INSIGHTS

A KINGDOM OF POWER AND COMPASSION

When Jesus walked from town to town, people didn't just hear about the Kingdom—they saw it. The blind received sight. The sick were healed. The burdened were lifted. Every miracle was more than a moment of relief; it was a glimpse of what life looks like when the King is present. Power and compassion work together, revealing His heart and His authority to restore what sin has broken.

“Jesus continued going around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.” – Matthew 9:35

Miracles were never random displays of strength. They showed the authority of the King. They displayed that Jesus holds power over sickness, nature, evil, and even death. And with that same authority, He forgave sins, offering a healing far deeper than anything physical. But just as clearly, these miracles revealed His compassion.

Jesus didn't perform miracles to impress crowds; He healed because He saw people. He saw their pain, their longing for restoration, and their need for a Savior.

Each miracle points to the truth that God is not distant or indifferent. He moves toward the broken. He steps into places others avoid. He brings healing where hope seems thin. With every act of mercy, He calls people not only to wholeness but also to repentance—to turn away from sin and toward the life only He can give. Through every restoring touch, Jesus invites us to see the Kingdom as He intends it to be.

As we continue walking through *Kingdom Come*, we remember that our King still works with the same power and the same compassion. He calls us to carry that heart into our families, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, anywhere hurting people need the hope of Jesus and the invitation to know Him fully.

REFLECTION

Where is God inviting you to reflect His compassion or His restoring power this week?

QUOTE

“Jesus comes in our needs, and He comes in those dark moments. And He meets us right where we are.”
– Pastor Gregg Matte
New Kingdom; New Lives: Miracles

Scan this code to watch a related sermon:



» ADULT LIFE BIBLE STUDY LESSON

ROADBLOCKS TO GIVING

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE: CHAPTER 4

In Chapter 4 of *The Treasure Principle*, Alcorn challenges the mindset that keeps many believers from joyful, open-handed living. Randy Alcorn reminds us that we were never meant to live for “the dot” (this brief life) but for “the line,” (the eternal story God is writing). When we fix our eyes on eternity, giving becomes a gift, not a burden. Rather than shrinking our world, generosity enlarges it.


The Dot:
Life on Earth

The Line:
Life in Heaven

Alcorn also teaches us how to combat materialism. While materialism promises security but ultimately breeds fear, attachment, and dissatisfaction, generosity breaks that grip. It realigns our hearts with God’s purposes, reflects trust in His provision, and produces spiritual fruit that outlasts our circumstances.

PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLE

Choose a tangible act of generosity that intentionally shifts your focus from the temporary to the eternal. Let it be a quiet practice that helps loosen the grip of materialism and strengthens trust in God’s provision.

“Giving is the only antidote to materialism.”

– Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle

This chapter invites us to examine whether we are living for what fades or for what lasts forever.

Read 1 Timothy 6:9–10, 17–19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If God were to “audit” your finances, would He see you living more for the dot or the line? What specific patterns or decisions might lead to that conclusion?
2. Alcorn calls materialism a “deadly poison.” In what subtle ways have money or possessions created attachment or fear rather than faith?
3. What is one practical step you can take this week to use giving as a deliberate antidote to materialism?

PRAY THE PRINCIPLE

Lord, teach me to live for the line, not the dot. Break the power of materialism in my life. Grow in me a heart that gives freely and joyfully because I trust You fully.

Before next Sunday, read Chapter 5 & 6 of The Treasure Principle. If you need to catch up on earlier chapters, now is a great time.

» PRAYER + FASTING WEEK – SUN, FEB 22

PREPARING THE WAY

This evening, Sun, Feb 22, our church family from all campuses will gather at our Cypress Campus for **Advanced Commitment Night**. If the Lord has revealed to you how your household will participate in *Kingdom Come*, you are welcome to bring your commitment card at this time.

Tomorrow, we begin our annual week of **Prayer and Fasting**. If you are still praying about your level of commitment, use this week to seek His guidance. If you've already received clarity about your involvement in *Kingdom Come*, we challenge you to commit fully to the prompts and encouragement of the following devotionals to trust God and seek His will in all aspects of your life.

MATTHEW 6:9

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

POSTURE YOUR HEART

As we begin this week, we start not with action, but with a reorientation of the heart. When Jesus taught us to pray

in Matthew 6:9, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name," He was teaching us to posture our hearts to see Him seated on His throne, humbly bringing our needs and aligning our desires with His.

Each day of Prayer + Fasting Week invites us to quiet distractions, draw near to our Father, and intentionally posture our hearts through prayer and fasting. Through Scripture, guided prayer, and simple daily practices, we make space for God to realign our priorities and lead us more fully into His Kingdom purposes.

To start your week well prepared for what God may reveal to you, we ask that you examine your heart and ask God to reveal what He wants you to fast from this week. Choose something simple like a food item, a habit, or something that you feel consumes too much of your time. Whatever He reveals to you, lay it down at His feet and trust that He will sustain you.

ACTION STEP

Choose your week-long fast item (social media, screens, food, etc.).

PRAYER PRACTICE

Choose a passage of Scripture and pray through it using the Scripture Prayer model.

Scan this code for the Scripture Prayer instructions:



» PRAYER + FASTING – MON, FEB 23

PRAYING WITH PURPOSE

FAST

From all meat today, letting every moment of hunger turn your heart toward intercession.

MATTHEW 6:10

“Your Kingdom Come.”

Fasting is one of the most tangible ways we can align our hearts with God’s Kingdom. When Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:10, “Your Kingdom come,” He was inviting us to live with a surrendered posture. This invitation is rooted in God’s desire for His reign to be fully formed within us and fully revealed around us. Fasting helps create that posture.

Today, the Houston’s First family will fast from meat. If that’s not a realistic possibility, let me encourage you to skip a meal instead. Our physical hunger can become a holy reminder of our true spiritual need. Instead of focusing on what you’re giving up, focus on Who you’re pressing into (Colossians 3:2). Use your hunger to intercede for God’s presence to overtake your home, your workplace, and your relationships.

Comfort, control, and routine are impulses that often rule us. Fasting weakens those impulses, and at the same time, strengthens our awareness of God’s priorities. Hunger becomes our teacher when it reminds us that our greatest need is not a temporary appetite to be appeased,

but an eternal longing to be met (John 6:27). Each pang becomes a quiet prayer: “Lord, let Your Kingdom come in me.”

As you carry that prayer inward, let me encourage you to also let it flow outward. Intercede for others. Pray for God’s Kingdom to come to someone who is hurting. Pray for His Kingdom to break through in places that feel dark or stuck. Pray for His Kingdom to advance through our church in ways that go well beyond this present moment.

For many, denying ourselves is the exception, not the norm. May today’s empty stomach launch you into full surrender. Let your hunger be as an offering to our glorious God.

Until the nets are full,



Pastor Malcolm

Malcolm Marshall
Campus Pastor
Houston’s First Baptist Church — Sienna

PRAYER GUIDE

- Pray for a neighbor, coworker, or family member by name, asking God’s Kingdom to touch their life.
- Pray for God’s Kingdom to advance in Houston and within our church with fresh power.
- Pray for God to reveal the gift He desires you to give toward *Kingdom Come*, with willing obedience.

ACTION STEP

Will you pray for a family member, friend, or coworker by name today? Afterwards, reach out to tell them you prayed for them.

PRAYER PRACTICE

Practice praying out loud by yourself during your prayer time. If you are not used to this, it will help you become confident to pray in groups.

» PRAYER + FASTING – TUE, FEB 24

GRATEFUL SURRENDER

FAST

From caffeine today—drinking only water, and use the space it creates to journal your gratitude to God.

MATTHEW 6:10

“Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

One of the most difficult prayers to pray is, “Father, Your will be done.” If we’re honest, what we often mean is, “Father, Your will be done—but let it look like mine.” We bring our deepest desires to God, knowing He is the only One who can provide the blessing, protect us from the danger, heal the wound, or make the pain stop. In fact, God tells us in Hebrews 4:16 to come boldly before His throne to receive the mercy and find the grace we need. Yet fear is often entangled with our faith as we come, longing so deeply for what has brought us to the throne, but afraid we won’t receive it, or fearful of what we might receive instead.

The enemy, too, wages war against God’s will being accomplished. As we read yesterday, Jesus first told us in Matthew 6:10 to pray for God’s Kingdom to come. Praying for His will to be done is the natural outflow of this. Where the King reigns, His will is carried out. So, asking for His will to be done is a battle cry, and as those who belong to the King, we feel this fight.

PRAYER GUIDE

- Honestly tell God your desires, requests, and concerns, knowing He invites you to His throne. (Hebrews 4:16)
- Lay down your will—past, present, and future—so that His will would be done in every part of your life. (Matthew 6:10)
- Thank God for His love and faithfulness, and ask that He would be glorified in each area you surrendered. (Psalm 50:23)

ACTION STEP

Write a note of encouragement to someone you know who is going through a difficult time, assuring them of God’s love, and letting them know you are praying for them.

Jesus experienced this intimately. In Matthew 26:36–45, He stood at the threshold of the cross, with all of the pain and suffering it would bring, and asked that it might not happen. In honesty, He poured out His sorrow and distress to the One who loved Him most and could make it go away. And then He laid it down, so that the Kingdom would come.

Praying for God’s will to be done is spiritual warfare, an act of surrender, and a declaration of trust. It is releasing what we hold most dear to the One who loves us most and knows our needs before we even ask (Matthew 6:8).

Co-laborers in the Kingdom,



Jill Reed

Jill Reed
Director of Women’s Ministry
Houston’s First Baptist Church — Sienna

PRAYER PRACTICE

Find a quiet and secluded place where you can slow down and be still. Then pray following the Listening Prayer model.

Scan this code for the Listening Prayer instructions:



» PRAYER + FASTING WEEK – WED, FEB 25

HELD IN HIS CARE

FAST

From all food until dinner—or skip a meal if needed—letting every moment of hunger turn your heart toward intercession.

MATTHEW 6:11

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

As Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray, at the center of that prayer is a simple, humble request: “Give us this day our daily bread.” These words invite us into a posture of daily dependence. Before we ask for forgiveness, before we pray for deliverance, Jesus teaches us to begin with provision—not tomorrow’s bread, not a storehouse for the future, but today’s.

And even though the prayer for forgiveness directly follows “Give **us** this day **our** daily bread,” I must confess: one of my favorite rooms in our house is the pantry. I spend way too much time in this small space, staring at shelves full of food and still saying, “We don’t have anything to eat!”

Daily bread is simply about *provision*: His provision. It reminds us that God is a present Father who cares for us. He is not distant, waiting for us to prove ourselves worthy, nor is He impressed by religious performance. Instead, He delights in children who humbly trust Him for what they need right now. This prayer pushes against our instinct to control, accumulate, and secure ourselves against uncertainty. It teaches us that faith is lived one day at a time.

PRAYER GUIDE

- Bring before the Lord a specific need where you are seeking His provision today.
- Pray for someone you know who also needs God’s care, asking Him to supply exactly what they lack.
- Spend a moment thanking God for a way He has recently provided for you.

The word bread is both literal and expansive. It includes not only food, but everything necessary for today: shelter, strength, wisdom, peace, and grace to walk in obedience. Like Israel in the wilderness gathering manna each morning, we learn that God supplies enough for the day but rarely more than that. Yesterday’s bread will not sustain today’s obedience.

And it’s not just my daily bread. It’s communal: “Give us this day our daily bread.” Jesus teaches us to pray not only for ourselves but for one another. When we trust God as Provider, we become more aware of those around us who lack daily bread, whether physically or spiritually. This line in the Lord’s Prayer shapes our hearts. While rooting us in God’s faithfulness for today, it also loosens our anxiety about tomorrow. Every day becomes an opportunity to trust again, to receive again, and to walk forward nourished by grace.

Grace for today,



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor
Houston’s First Baptist Church – Cypress

ACTION STEP

Tell Your Story! Scan this QR code to share how God is at work in your life. The guided form will walk you through each step, helping you put your story into words with confidence.



PRAYER PRACTICE

Pray in a different posture (kneel, lay face down, lay on your back, etc.).

» PRAYER + FASTING – THU, FEB 26

FORGIVE AND FORGIVEN

FAST

Fast from scrolling, entertainment, and social media, using that reclaimed time to pray with someone.

MATTHEW 6:12

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

I remember how thrilled I was as a child when I first learned the Lord’s Prayer. I could recite it on demand with pride and joy, feeling so grown-up as the words rolled off my tongue. But it wasn’t until many years later that I truly began to understand the weight of my prayer. I surely wanted my heavenly Father’s name to be blessed and cherished. I longed for His kingdom to come and His will to be done. I trusted Him to provide for my needs. And of course, I absolutely wanted Him to forgive my sins. But did I really need to forgive others who had wounded me? That part felt harder—easier to say than to live.

This became especially real during a quiet time with God. I came to Him carrying deep hurt, explaining in detail how painful the situation had been and how misunderstood I felt. In my heart, I wanted Him to agree with me, to validate my resentment. Instead, He quietly asked me one simple question: “Have I ever withheld My love from you?”

Those words stopped me. They cut through my self-serving excuses and opened my eyes to the truth. No—God has never withheld His love from me. Not once. Even when I blatantly disobeyed, ignored His conviction, or clung to my pride, His grace met me every time I turned back to Him. His forgiveness has always been complete, immediate, and undeserved.

Realizing that changed my hold on my pride, my hurt.

How could I hold someone else’s sin so tightly when Jesus had released mine completely? Forgiveness doesn’t deny the wound; it hands it over to the only One who can heal it. It frees us from the weight of bitterness and aligns our hearts with His.

“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us” is an invitation for every believer to release our hurts, receive God’s grace and extend that same grace to others even when it feels unfair.

Lord, You have never withheld Your love. Help me forgive others as You have forgiven me.

Blessings and grace!



Andi Farrell

Andi Farrell

Director of Women’s and Connection Ministries
Houston’s First Baptist Church – Cypress

PRAYER GUIDE

- Search your heart, confessing any sins, wounds, or persisting resentment.
- Ask God to help you forgive someone you may be holding something against.
- Pray for humility and reconciliation.

ACTION STEP

Light a candle and set an alarm for five minutes to sit in silence.

PRAYER PRACTICE

Pray with someone. Partner with another person committing to pray for 10 minutes together (spouse, kids, a friend, or all the above) either in person, over the phone, or via video call.

» PRAYER + FASTING – FRI, FEB 27

LIVING FREE, LOVING OTHERS

FAST

From self-focused spending today, choosing instead to bless someone else with generosity, time, or intentional care.

MATTHEW 6:13

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

If we were to gather our friends and family and ask them to share their biggest temptation, we’d hear no shortage of answers. Some might talk about the pull to overspend or indulge in things that bring short-term comfort. Others might share about neglecting healthy habits or drifting toward convenience over discipline. And then there are the temptations that carry a little more weight: the urge to lie, to steal, to cheat, or to compromise our integrity in subtle ways. The list could go on and on, because temptation is all around us. Sin is all around us.

If ever there was a prayer that needed to flow from the lips of every believer it is “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

First thing we should know is that the Lord is the One that keeps us from temptation. In a world where there are pitfalls and traps at every turn, we need Him to protect us. We need His guiding hand in our lives. Practically, we should live our lives very cautiously and not carelessly. We should monitor the things we do, the

places we go, the people we hang with, and the things we look at and listen to. We should constantly ask the Lord for wisdom and discernment as we live our lives before an unbelieving world.

Second thing we should know is that He’s the One who frees and delivers us. John 8:31–32 says, “Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” He has the ability to rescue us. As I reflect over my life I am amazed at what the Lord has done, and it simply brings gratitude to my heart. I am thankful for His freeing power.

Serving Him,



A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Leon Brooks III".

Pastor Leon Brooks III, Campus Pastor
Houston’s First Baptist Church — Downtown

PRAYER GUIDE

- Pray for God’s protection over your life, family, church, and community, asking Him to guard you from the temptations that draw your heart away from Him.
- Ask the Lord to break strongholds and open your eyes to the needs around you—both spiritually and tangibly—so that serving others becomes a practical way of resisting temptation.
- Pray that your obedience would shine His light (Matthew 5:16) and that God would push back the Kingdom of Darkness through your actions today, drawing others toward Him as you choose His Kingdom over self-focused living.

ACTION STEP

Find one thing, big or small, to do for someone else today. Use your money to bless someone with coffee, a meal, or a gift, or use your time to spend with someone or help them in a meaningful way.

PRAYER PRACTICE

Set an alarm for 10 minutes and pray the whole time using the P.R.A.Y. model.

Scan this code for the
P.R.A.Y. model
instructions:



» PRAYER + FASTING – SAT, FEB 28

WALKING FOR THE KINGDOM

FAST

Choose any fast from earlier this week and extend it until dinner, letting today's hunger deepen your longing for God's Kingdom and glory.

MATTHEW 6:13

"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever."

Jesus teaches us how to pray, not just with words, but with a posture of the heart. All week we have looked at what it means to follow Him into deeper places of prayer and fasting. Today, we finish with the reminder that everything we seek, everything we surrender, and everything we long for finds its fulfillment in God's kingdom, God's power, and God's glory.

In Matthew 6, Jesus calls His followers to choose invisible power over visible praise. The religious leaders prayed loudly, publicly, and performatively. But Jesus quietly slipped away to be alone with His Father. His strength came from solitude, not applause.

A.W. Tozer once wrote that God's leaders "spend more time on their knees than at their desk." Intimacy with God always comes before influence for God. Like a married couple whose relationship is strengthened not by the crowd but by a quiet date night, our spiritual life grows through private connection, not public display.

Jesus then gives us the Lord's Prayer, a prayer that meets every need we carry: provision, forgiveness, protection, and deliverance. When we forgive others, as Jesus commands, our vertical relationship with God begins to reshape our horizontal relationships with people.

Finally, Jesus teaches us the gift of fasting. Fasting is not a diet, nor a punishment, nor a performance. It is letting go of a physical need for a spiritual plea. Hunger aches become prayer aches. Cravings become conversations with God. For centuries, followers like Moses, Esther, Daniel, and Paul fasted so they could hear the Lord more clearly. When we fast, we declare that our deepest needs are not earthly but heavenly.

As you break your fast tonight, lift your hands and your heart:

- *Yours is the kingdom*
- *Yours is the power*
- *Yours is the glory*
- *Forever*

With you on the journey until the Kingdom comes,



Pastor Gregg

Gregg Matte, Senior Pastor
Houston's First Baptist Church

PRAYER GUIDE

- Praise God that His kingdom, power, and glory are greater than every earthly struggle we face.
- Ask God to form a deeper hunger for His presence as you pray and complete your fast today.
- Pray that Jesus would be glorified in our homes, work places, neighborhoods, and throughout Houston.

ACTION STEP

As you break your fast, conclude the week with gratitude. Thank God for what He has shown you, how He has met you, and how His kingdom continues to move in your life and in our church.

PRAYER PRACTICE

Take a simple prayer walk through your neighborhood. Pray over homes, families, schools, and those who do not yet know Jesus. Use the prayer points above or scan this code to read *How to Prayer Walk*.



» KINGDOM INSIGHTS

HEARTS THAT HEAR: A FRUITFUL KINGDOM LIFE

Some messages of Jesus are simple to understand but harder to embrace. The parable of the sower is one of them. Four soils, one seed, and only one soil produces fruit. Jesus uses this picture to show us what we often miss: the condition of the heart shapes how God's Kingdom grows in and through us. The seed is always good. The question is whether the soil is ready.

"But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who does produce fruit and yields: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times what was sown."
— Matthew 13:23

We all experience seasons when our hearts feel crowded, distracted, hardened, or shallow. Jesus isn't shaming us with this parable; He's inviting us to pay attention. Anyone can hear His words, but not everyone receives them in a way that leads to transformation. Fruitfulness begins

when we let God do what only He can do: prepare the soil. Softening what's been hardened, clearing what's been choked out, and deepening what's been thinned.

A fruitful heart isn't perfect; it's responsive. It listens. It yields. It allows God's Word to take root in places we've kept closed or cluttered. And when that happens, we invite God to use us in ways our own strength never could—advancing His Kingdom through us while He grows us in the process.

As we come to Commitment Sunday, we're invited to consider what kind of soil we want to be. A responsive heart doesn't just hear God's Word; it acts on it. For some of us, that means trusting God with the number He has placed on our hearts for *Kingdom Come*. **When we make room for Him, He is faithful to grow fruit in us and through us—far beyond what we could ever produce on our own.**

REFLECTION

What part of your heart is Jesus inviting to become good soil again?

QUOTE

"God, soften my heart. Don't let the enemy steal what You're trying to say to me."
— Brad Talbert
The Kingdom is Like: The Fruitful Heart

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» ADULT LIFE BIBLE STUDY LESSON

GETTING STARTED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE: CHAPTERS 5 & 6

In the final chapters of *The Treasure Principle*, Alcorn concludes with a powerful call to embrace generosity as a way of life. Scripture shows that when God places more in our hands, it is both a blessing and a test—a chance to steward surplus as Kingdom investment rather than personal accumulation.

Alcorn challenges believers to resist the cultural drift toward “upgrading” our lifestyle every time our income increases. Instead, he invites us to experience the joy of becoming conduits of God’s generosity. These closing chapters call us to act now—in this moment—with open hands, willing hearts, and a commitment to give first, not merely from what is left over.

“God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.”
— Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*

PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLE

Identify one form of surplus in your life this week—money, time, margin, or opportunity—and purposefully redirect a portion of it toward Kingdom-impacting generosity.

As we gather our hearts around what God is doing in and through our church family, this final principle helps us see our resources the way God does—not as an ending point but as a starting point for eternal impact.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:10–11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When God increases your resources, do you naturally think about raising your standard of living—or raising your standard of giving? Why do you think one is more common than the other among Christians?
2. Alcorn suggests that surplus is both a blessing and a test. What would it look like to view your “extra” not as disposable income but as investment capital for the Kingdom?
3. Where might God be inviting you to trust Him more fully right now—especially in areas connected to generosity, provision, or stewardship?

PRAY THE PRINCIPLE

Lord, every good gift comes from You. When You entrust me with more, help me respond with a greater willingness to give. Grow in me a heart that delights in generosity and trusts You with every step.

*This week completes our church’s study of *The Treasure Principle*. If you missed any chapters, consider revisiting them in the days ahead, and let God continue to shape your heart for joyful, eternal-minded generosity.*

THE LOOP CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Gregg Matte, Senior Pastor

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Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 5:30p

CYPRESS CAMPUS 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



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Kike Puig, Ministro en Español

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Horarios actuales: Servicio 11a | **Estudios Bíblicos** 9:15a

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A partir del domingo 1 de marzo: Servicio 1p | **Estudios Bíblicos** 10:45a



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