

**Initiative Engagement Workbook** 



Glory to God, who is able to do far **BEYOND** all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

**Church at Ross Bridge** 



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# Letter from the Pastor

Brothers & Sisters,

One of my favorite quotes about our calling as Christians is: "We CANNOT save the world without God - but God WILL NOT save the world without us!"

This BEYOND initiative is the embodiment of that statement. God is doing something special here in western Hoover in the midst of growing communities, through the Church at Ross Bridge. We have experienced it personally yet together. God is changing people's lives. Our ministries inside our walls have outgrown our capacity, and our reach beyond our walls to meet the spiritual and physical needs in the larger community and world, continues to grow.

Now, through BEYOND, together we have a unique opportunity to expand our ministry impact and create a beautiful permanent church presence in this community. This will enable us to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond, but in much more visible and impactful ways for generations to come.

But perhaps even more consequential will be the spiritual transformation of our own lives as we each commit to trusting God to achieve these goals through us. This is why our first goal is 100% participation. As each household prayerfully discerns what God is asking them to do, God's Spirit will grow our generosity and faith in Him. We will be changed for the better. I hope you will join my family in praying about how God wants you to respond.

I am aware that not every church gets to be a part of something this consequential for God's Kingdom. I believe our church and this community will never be the same. I am honored to be, along with you, a part of this chapter of the congregation's life. God's future for us is bright - in fact, the Apostle Paul promised we could not even imagine it.

BEYOND grateful to be your pastor, Nathan Carden

# BEYWND



11th Avenue



Aldersgate

#### What is BEYOND All About?

Building on our legacy that began 120 years ago, we are at an exciting moment where God wants to bring to fulfillment the next vision He has for the Church at Ross Bridge. BEYOND is a two-year generosity initiative to enable us to reach and lead even more people to Belong, Believe, and Become. Through BEYOND, we will fund our ministry plan for the **next two years** while also offsetting the construction cost of a new sanctuary for the Church at Ross Bridge. Through us, God will do BEYOND what we can ask or imagine!

God is opening doors for ministry opportunities that are unprecedented. But to embrace these opportunities it will require that we each seek and depend on the Lord like never before. We will each need to examine what sacrifices we can make and come together to bring those before the Lord in order to make God's BEYOND vision for us a reality!



Current location of Church at Ross Bridge



Future permanent home of Church at Ross Bridge



# The BEYOND Vision

Our PRIMARY Goal

# 100% Participation

The legacy our church was founded on, and that has propelled us to this very moment, has been a sacrificial unity to do whatever is needed together as the body of Christ. In this BEYOND initiative, we want every person who calls the Church at Ross Bridge their church home to make a commitment to this BEYOND Initiative so we can continue our legacy of doing this together.

Our GIVING Goal

## \$3,500,000

We are trusting God to move through us to invest \$3.5 million over these **next two years** to accomplish the vision He has given us.

# Greater Ministry Impact - \$2,000,000

Our calling as a church is to continue the ministry of Jesus in our community and the world. The first part of our **BEYOND** initiative is to fund our ongoing ministry for the **next two years** so that we can continue to do even more than we have before. We can have an even greater spiritual impact through the ministries of our church **BEYOND** what we're doing now if we allow God to do it through us.

# New Sanctuary - \$1,500,000

We are out of room, but more than that, we need a permanent sanctuary that is a sacred space for our community, devoted to worshiping the living God. The second part of our **BEYOND** initiative is to fund \$1.5M of the total construction cost of \$6.8M for our new sanctuary. Through our existing facility and this new sanctuary, the Church at Ross Bridge will make a spiritual impact both in the lives of those within our church and those **BEYOND** our walls for generations to come.



#### ONE FUND

It's possible that you've been a part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift "above and beyond" your regular giving. We've found that "over and above" giving is potentially confusing to people who don't have a baseline for their "normal giving." So, we aren't doing that through BEYOND. Instead, BEYOND will be a "ONE FUND" initiative, meaning ALL of our giving goes toward both areas of BEYOND over the **next two years**. It's all one mission, so it's all one budget.

Through a "ONE FUND" initiative, we will more successfully invite everyone to increase their generosity. One Mission, ONE FUND, for Everyone!

# **BEYOND**

Gift Profile Guide

\$3,500,000.00 Goal

2-year Gift Level	l	This Gift leekly Gift	1	el corresp Monthly Gift of	ds to a inual Gift of	Total Need this L	ed at	Gift Level Total for our Innitiative
\$125,000	\$	1,202	\$	5,208	\$ 62,500	1	\$	125,000
\$100,000	\$	962	\$	4,157	\$ 50,000	3	\$	300,000
\$ 75,000	\$	721	\$	3,125	\$ 37,500	5	\$	375,000
\$ 50,000	\$	480	\$	2,063	\$ 25,000	10	\$	500,000
\$ 35,000	\$	337	\$	1,456	\$ 17,500	20	\$	700,000
\$ 25,000	\$	240	\$	1,042	\$ 12,500	24	\$	600,000
\$ 15,000	\$	144	\$	625	\$ 7,500	28	\$	420,000
\$ 10,000	\$	96	\$	417	\$ 5,000	30	\$	300,000
\$ 5,000	\$	48	\$	208	\$ 2,500	36	\$	180,000

\$ 3,500,000.00



# Where are you on your Giving Journey?

BEYOND is an opportunity for each of us to grow spiritually in our giving and generosity. What you see here is an illustration of a person's Giving Journey. Our Giving Journey should help us focus on our behavior and the attitude of our heart about giving rather than just the amount we give. Each step in this journey represents a lifestyle of becoming increasingly more generous as you grow in your relationship with Him. Where are you on your Giving Journey and through BEYOND could we challenge you to take another step in your journey?

#### **INITIAL GIVER**

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7-15 An Initial Giver decides to give for the first time. It is time to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

#### **CONSISTENT GIVER**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

A Consistent Giver takes the next step to exercise the discipline of giving regularly. In today's world it is often easier to do this online, but non-online givers can be consistent givers as well.

#### Lifetime Giver

I commit to strategize my giving in a way it impacts the kingdom work beyond my lifetime.

#### **Surrendered Giver**

I commit to make my giving the top priority and make all other priorities surrender to my giving.

#### Intentional Giver

I commit to prioritize my giving in relation to my income and other financial priorities.

# Consistent Giver

I commit to give regularly

#### **Initial Giver**

commit to start giving

#### INTENTIONAL GIVER

LUKE 14:28-35

An Intentional Giver begins to think about their giving in relation to what they make and what they spend their money on. For example, this type of giver begins asking the question, "Why am I giving more to my cell phone company than I am giving to God?" or "Should I be giving to God more than I give for my car payment?" This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that re-directs how they prioritize and spend their money. Many times, this is when someone begins to tithe by re-directing a certain percentage of their income that they want to give to God.



#### **SURRENDERED GIVER - COLOSSIANS 1:15-18, 22-23**

A Surrendered Giver, who out of a deepening relationship with God says, "Instead of how I live determining how I give, how I give will now determine how I live!" A Surrendered Giver gives in a way that changes them so that they can honor God with 100% of what He has given them, whether direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource like a home or a vehicle.

#### **LIFETIME GIVER - ITIMOTHY 6:6-19**

A Lifetime Giver now thinks about their giving in terms of impacting the Kingdom work for the long- term rather than just month-to-month or even year- to-year generosity. They make decisions in the short term which have longer term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, in relation to their generosity capacity and their BEYOND commitment. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal which governs their larger-ticket decisions. Many times they even look at their estate planning in terms of what they can leave to help the Kingdom work beyond their lifetime.

Circle the step where you believe you are on your Giving Journey and write below here what you believe it will take for you to take the next step on this journey.



# **Sermon Notes and Daily Reflection Scriptures**

We invite you to join us in a time of deep prayer and reflection as we contemplate God's calling for our congregation with this initiative.

You will use this workbook as we walk through the next 4 weeks together. Bring it to Worship each week during the BEYOND series to take sermon notes. Also included are Daily Reflection Scriptures for each week. You will begin with a focus question through which you will shape your prayer time. This focus question will also be used by our small groups to further discern and discuss our shared prayer experiences.

We encourage you to commit yourself to a deep and meaningful prayer practice over the next four weeks. Seek out God's will for our church and yourself; be a part of the great work being done in our congregation by the Holy Spirit.

Consider using the Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) prayer practice to sink deeply into God's presence each day.

The process includes reading a passage of scripture slowly, for four iterations. Following each reading think about the following questions and consider writing down your answers. Lectio Divina treats Holy Scripture as the living Word, instead of historical text to be studied. The goal is not to be informed, but instead, to be **transformed** by our interaction with the Word and the Holy Spirit.



# **First Reading**

What words or phrases stick out to me?

# **Second Reading**

What images do I see? What emotions do I feel?

#### **Third Reading**

What might God be trying to say to me?

## **Fourth Reading**

How will I respond?

This form of prayer is best done in the morning. Doing so allows the words to sink into your soul throughout the day, allowing the Holy Spirit to continue revealing God's message long after you have completed the exercise.



# Daily Reflection Scriptures for Week #1

Focus Question: Where is God calling me to surrender and trust Him at this time?

"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us..." Ephesians 3:20

"Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?'

Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:31-33



"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?"

Luke 16:10-12 (NLT)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)



"Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived, he said to them, 'Pray that you won't give in to temptation.' He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed. He said, 'Father, if it's your will, take this cup of suffering away from me.

However, not my will but your will must be done."

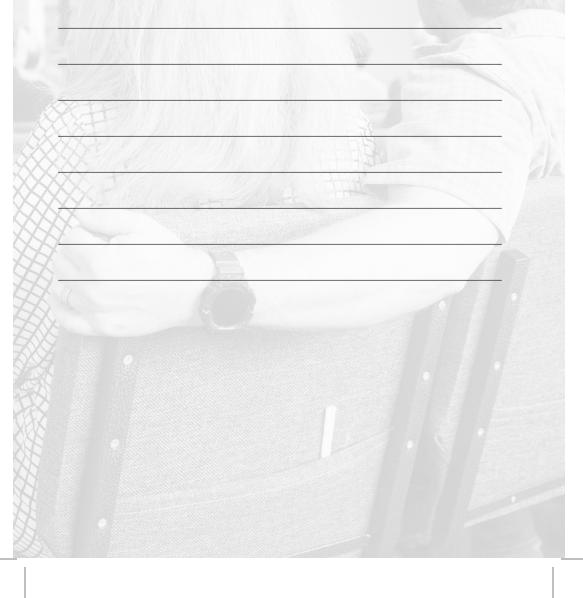
Luke 22:39-42



# **Sermon Notes**

WEEK #2 – April 30th

# **Trust**





#### Daily Reflection Scriptures for Week #2

#### Focus Question: How is God calling me to be generous during this initiative?

"Everyone who was excited and eager to participate brought the Lord's gift offerings to be used for building the meeting tent and all its furnishings and for the holy clothes. Both men and women came forward. Everyone who was eager to participate brought pins, earrings, rings, and necklaces, all sorts of gold objects.

Everyone raised an uplifted offering of gold to the Lord.

And everyone who had blue or purple or deep red yarn or fine linen or goats' hair or rams' skins dyed red or beaded leather brought them.

Everyone who could make a gift offering of silver or copper brought it as the Lord's gift offering. Everyone who had acacia wood that could be used in any kind of building work brought it.

All the skilled women spun cloth with their hands, and brought what they had spun in blue and purple and deep red yarns and fine linen.

All the women who were eager to use their skill spun the goats' hair.

The chiefs brought gemstones and gems to be set in the priest's vest and the chest pendant, spices and oil for light and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet-smelling incense.

All the Israelite men and women who were eager to contribute something for the work that the Lord had commanded Moses to do brought it as a spontaneous gift to the Lord."

Exodus 35:21-29



"Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them.

Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

"Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart.

They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure.

God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work."

2 Corinthians 9:7-8



"The Lord's word came to Elijah: Get up and go to Zarephath near Sidon and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to take care of you. Elijah left and went to Zarephath. As he came to the town gate, he saw a widow collecting sticks. He called out to her,

'Please get a little water for me in this cup so I can drink.'

She went to get some water. He then said to her, 'Please get me a piece of bread.' 'As surely as the Lord your God lives,' she replied, 'I don't have any food; only a handful of flour in a jar and a bit of oil in a bottle. Look at me. I'm collecting two sticks so that I can make some food for myself and my son. We'll eat the last of the food and then die.'

Elijah said to her, 'Don't be afraid! Go and do what you said. Only make a little loaf of bread for me first. Then bring it to me. You can make something for yourself and your son after that.

This is what Israel's God, the Lord, says: The jar of flour won't decrease and the bottle of oil won't run out until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'

The widow went and did what Elijah said. So the widow, Elijah, and the widow's household ate for many days. The jar of flour didn't decrease nor did the bottle of oil run out, just as the Lord spoke through Elijah."

1 Kings 17:8-16



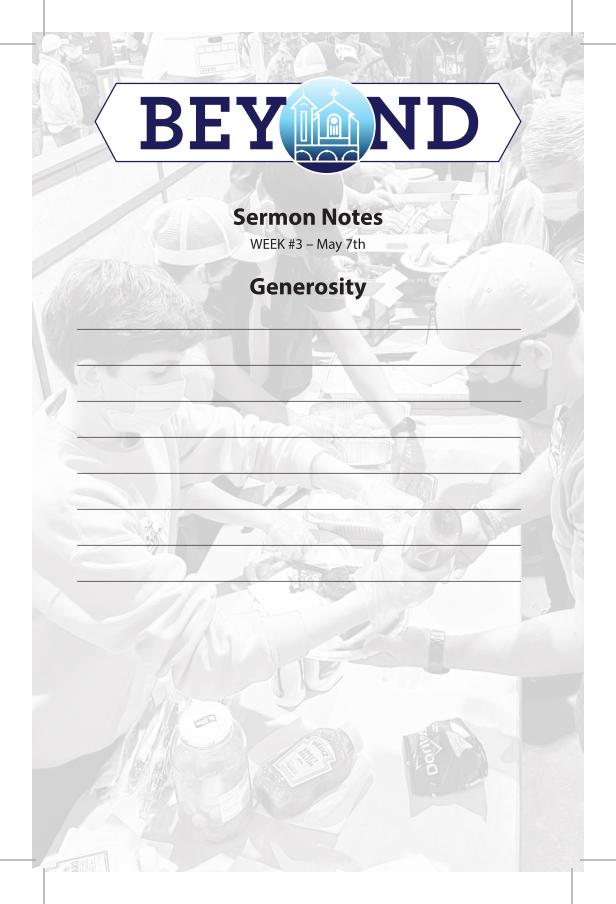
"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia, for during a severe ordeal of affliction their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the favor of partnering in this ministry to the saints, and not as we expected.

Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you.

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you —so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking."

2 Corinthians 8:1-7





# **Everyday Decisions Make a Difference**

Every day, we make financial decisions. Some decisions are small such as, "Should we make our coffee at home or splurge for a latte at Starbucks?" While other decisions are big like, "Which house, which car, or which college should I choose?" And some decisions focus on the future such as, "How much we should spend on Christmas, or which retirement funds should we choose?" Probably the most challenging decision we make with money is the decision to give. Giving creates tension... "How much is enough?"... "How can I give more?" That's why giving is such a big deal! Giving is not just a financial decision. It is a deeply spiritual decision. Giving is a tangible way we declare our trust in and commitment to God. We have put the following together to help you consider how God has blessed you and how He might invite you to trust Him during BEYOND.

Why is giving to the church something that is important to God?

Why is giving to the church something that is important to you?

How does John 3:16 and 2 Corinthians 8:7 work together to form our feelings about giving to the church?



# "How Can I Identify Ways To Give More"?

**Make Lifestyle Changes** during these 24-months. Evaluate your monthly expenses, and look for savings. You could reduce one budgeted area of spending, cancel unused subscriptions or delay major purchases or experiences.

#### **Redirect Paid Expenses**

You may have current expenditures that will cease or you will pay off during BEYOND that you can consider including in your commitment.

#### Increase in Income

You may an increase in salary or a bonus during BEYOND. Could God be calling you to include that in your BEYOND commitment during these 24-months.

#### Give from your 98%

For the average household only 2% of their net worth is cash which means 98% is in other assets. In many cases those assets have achieved tremendous unrealized gains in value over the years. If these assets were sold, some portion of the gain would be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets avoid the occurrence of capital gain tax. Giving appreciated assets like stocks, investment securities, real estate, art, jewelry, coin collections and other valuable assets to BEYOND can be advantageous to both the donor and our church.

# What will it take for us to reach our goal of \$3,500,000 over the next two years?

Certainly, it will take some substantial gifts, but it could also happen by each one of us making small changes in our lifestyles to sacrifice something that has value for something we value more, in this case the mission and vision of the Church at Ross Bridge. Here are just a few examples of how even small changes can add up to make

big and Little Sacrifices Can Help Us Reach Our Goal!								
Here are just a few examples of how even the smallest changes can add up to make a big difference in reaching our goal. Consider adding these into your commitment.								
Activity Average x24 x 175 Household Cost Months								
2 cups of coffee	\$10.00	\$240.00	\$42,000.00					
1 large pizza	\$15.00	\$360.00	\$63,000.00					
1 fast food meal for a family	\$30.00	\$720.00	\$126,000.00					
Downgrade your TV plan or entertainment	\$25.00	\$600.00	\$105,000.00					
Clip coupons or shave \$5/week for groceries	\$20.00	\$480.00	\$84,000.00					
		Total	\$420,000,00					

a big difference in reaching our goal if we each consider every big and small sacrifice we can make.



#### ONE FUND

\$

Address

It's possible that you've been a part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift "above and beyond" your regular giving. We've found that "over and above" giving is potentially confusing to people who don't have a baseline for their "normal giving." So, we aren't doing that through BEYOND. Instead, BEYOND will be a "ONE FUND" initiative, meaning ALL of our giving goes toward both areas of BEYOND over the next two years. It's all one mission, so it's all one budget.

Through a "ONE FUND" initiative, we will more successfully invite everyone to increase their generosity. One Mission, ONE FUND, for Everyone!

#### **MY COMMITMENT**

As you pray and seek God's direction for how you should give, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity as we embark on this **BEYOND** initiative together.

\$3,500,000.00 Goal

2-year	This Gift Level corresponds to a						Total		Gift Level Total	
Gift Level	W	ekly Gift of		Monthly Gift of	Ar	nual Gift of	Needed at this Level		for our Innitiative	
\$125,000	\$	1,202	\$	5,208	\$	62,500	1	\$	125,000	
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\$ 5,000	\$	48	\$	208	\$	2,500	36	\$	180,000	

\$ 3,500,000.00

#### **CALCULATE HERE**

+	(Includes General Fund Giving)
\$ +	My/Our expanded annual generosity for <b>BEYOND</b>
\$	x 2 YEARS = \$
One-Time Capital Gift from my/our other	
	=
\$	
MV/OURT	WO-VEAR COMMITMENT

MAY 2023 - MAY 2025

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_

# COMMITMENT SUNDAY MAY 21, 2023

Use this Commitment Card sample to help you prayerfully consider what level of generosity God is calling you to during BEYOND. You will get a fresh new card to fill out on Commitment Sunday.



# A Helpful Resource For You Monthly Budget

Income	
Expenses	
ONE FUND	
Savings	
Insurance	
Mortgage/Rent	
Groceries	
Healthcare	
Utilities	
Car Payments	
Debt Reduction Payments	
Technology/Internet/Cable	
Children's Expenses	
Clothing	
Dining Out	
Entertainment	
Vacation	
Hobbies	
Miscellaneous	
Total	

Our goal with a budget is to account for all our expenditures in a faithful way. Our monthly expenses should equal our monthly income.



## Daily Reflection Scriptures for Week #3

#### Focus Question: How am I being called to sacrifice for God's glory during this initiative?

"Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings. When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Philippians 2:4-8

"Looking up, Jesus saw rich people throwing their gifts into the collection box for the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow throw in two small copper coins worth a penny.

He said, 'I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than them all. All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had to live on."

Luke 21:1-4



"A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.'

What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?'

Then the legal expert said, 'The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.'

Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise."'

Luke 10:33-37

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable.

This is truly the way to worship him."
Romans 12:1 (NLT)



"Araunah looked up and saw the king and his servants approaching him. Araunah rushed out and bowed low before the king, his nose to the ground. Araunah said, 'Why has my master and king come to his servant?'

David said, 'To buy this threshing floor from you to build an altar to the Lord, so the plague among the people may come to an end.'

Then Araunah said to David,

'Take it for yourself, and may my master the king do what he thinks is best. Here are oxen for the entirely burned offering, and here are threshing boards and oxen yokes for wood. All this, Your Majesty, Araunah gives to the king.'Then he added, 'May the Lord your God respond favorably to you!'

'No,' the king said to Araunah. 'I will buy them from you at a fair price.

I won't offer up to the Lord my God entirely burned offerings that cost me nothing.'

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

David built an altar there for the Lord and offered entirely burned offerings and well-being sacrifices.

The Lord responded to the prayers for the land, and the plague against Israel came to an end."

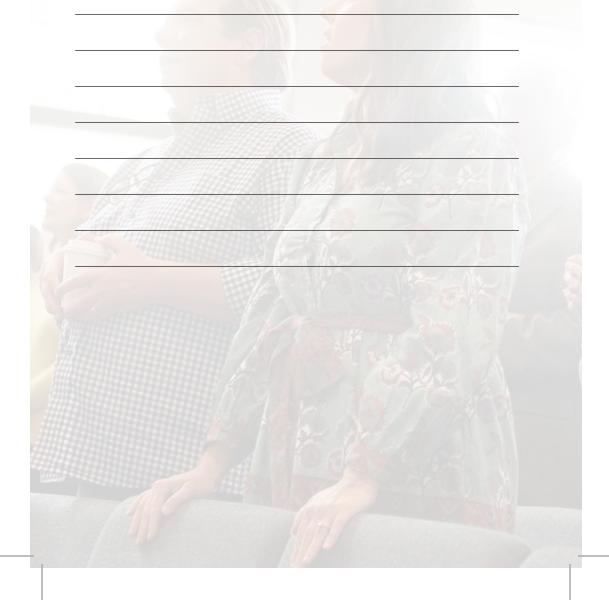
2 Samuel 24:20-25



# **Sermon Notes**

WEEK #4 - May 14th

**Sacrifice** 





## Daily Reflection Scriptures for Week #4

<u>Focus Question:</u> How am I being called into unity with my church family at the Church at Ross Bridge?

"All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27 (TLB)

"You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last."

John 15:16

"...like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:5 (NRSV)



"All the believers were united and shared everything.

They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them.

Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes.

They shared food with gladness and simplicity.

They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone.

The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved."

Act 2:44 – 47

"May God who gives patience, steadiness, and encouragement help you to live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward the other.

And then all of us can praise the Lord together with one voice, giving glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:5-6 (TLB)

# **Church at Ross Bridge**

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