# 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE



### PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Determining how you will be a part of the FOR Campaign is a big decision and one you probably want to discuss with others.

Families come in all shapes and sizes. If you're single, perhaps you need to have a discussion with your parents, siblings, devoted friends, or even a financial advisor. If you're married, this is absolutely a conversation you need to have with your spouse. If you have children or teens in the home, this is a great opportunity to include them in a discussion about how all of you can be a part of this initiative for the Kingdom.

This Guide walks you through some exercises to think about how you can sacrifice FOR others. Perhaps this is a time to take a leap of faith and step up in a way you've never done before. Moreover, this might be a time to implement cost-saving ideas you haven't considered before.

Finally, it's important we pray about this. This isn't a financial commitment – this is a spiritual exercise. This is about trusting Jesus and investing in His mission. This is about giving our lives FOR others because He gave His life FOR us.

### PRE-DISCUSSION

### BEFORE YOUR MEETING, YOU'LL WANT TO MAKE A FEW PREPARATIONS.

### PREPARATION:

- 1. Set up a specific time for "The Discussion" that is free from distractions. Leave cell phones in another room. Plan for 30-60 minutes, depending on the age and size of your group.
- 2. Be sure the right people are present. Remember, if you are married, you'll want to discuss this with your spouse, and if you are single, you may want to consult a trusted friend or advisor. Don't let anyone be too busy to get together for this important discussion, especially your oldest children.
- 3. A couple of days before the designated time to meet, ask each person to think about what they think you should contribute and how you might be able to do it.
- 4. Find the "FOR Campaign" packet and have it available. Bring a pen.

### LEADER:

Preferably, the head of the household will lead with ALL family members present. Encourage everyone present to participate by reading scripture and participating fully in the discussion. Make sure to give time for children and teens to articulate what is on their minds and in their hearts.

# DISCUSSION STARTS HERE BEGIN WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

- 1. The leader will pray, invite God's presence and leadership in "the discussion" meeting, and ask God for a spirit of love, unity, and generosity.
- 2. Have those present thank God by quickly participating in the "ABCs of Thanks" game. Go around in a circle working through the alphabet, with each person naming something they are thankful for. Person 1 might say, "A for Apples." Person 2 might say, "B for Bible." Work your way all the way to Z. Write it down below:

A	J	_ S
	K	
	L	
	M	
	N	
F	O	- X
G ———	P	- Y
н ———	Q	- Z
	R	-

## ENGAGING SCRIPTURE DISCOVERING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GIVING

3. As a family, read and discuss the Bible passages listed below. Quickly write down God's principles for giving in the space provided.

Acts 20:35

Luke 6:38

Proverbs 3:9-10

Proverbs 11:24-25

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

4. Ask the group to recall other principles they remember about giving and sacrifice that they may have learned during the FOR campaign or at other times. Write those down also:

Review the biblical principles below and ask, "which principle is most important to you?"

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Recognition that God owns all we possess and that when we give, we are giving back to God. Psalm 24:1 – "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

1 Timothy 6:7 – "For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it."

### **SACRIFICE**

All in! Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Sacrificial giving is the act of setting apart our financial resources for God and giving beyond what is expected. Jesus chose to lift up sacrificial givers, regardless of the amount that was given. Mark 12:42-44: "But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, he said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on'."

### JOY

Every gift is a voluntary and joyful response to God's prompting. 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

### **IDEAS FOR GIVING**

Sacrificial giving usually requires letting go. What might you give up so you can give to others? Here are a few ideas to get your discussion started.

- Skip the coffee shop and make coffee at home a few days a week.
- Is there a streaming app you could drop?
- Pack lunch a few days a week.
- Start a babysitting co-op with friends.
- Do you have automatic subscriptions and memberships you're not using?
- Sell things that no longer bring you joy.
- Try a spending freeze. Don't buy any nonessential items for a week—or even a month.
- Could you do your own yard work? It's great exercise too!
- Try a Staycation this year. Get to know BHM.
- Declutter. Have a garage sale and get to know your neighbors.
- Could you delay an upgrade? Phone, laptop, new car.
- Decide to eat out fewer times each month.
- Sell portions of appreciated stock.
- Buy used instead of new.
- Plan ahead to give your bonuses or tax returns.
- Consider selling non-sentimental jewelry you have barely looked at in years.
- Clean your own pool.

### PRAYING FERVENTLY TOGETHER

- 5. Invite the family to do a circle prayer asking for guidance. Each person can pray out loud or silently. Pass the prayer from the leader and then back to the leader by tapping the next person on the shoulder. At a minimum, the leader says, "Lord, hear our prayers" at the beginning and "Amen" at the end.
- 6. Decide what amount God is leading you to give and the ways that you can sacrifice in order to give this amount. Review the main brochure's TOOLS FOR MAKING YOUR COMMITMENT section (pages 16 19) as you make this decision.
- 7. Write down the amount or percentage that you plan to give over the next three years: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. If you are able, write down the amount of a one-time quick-start gift:
- 9. Close in a prayer of commitment asking God to provide for your family as you step out in faith, asking Him to give you joy in giving, and thanking Him for what He has done and will do as we work together as a church to be FOR One, FOR families, and FOR BHM!

### A PLEDGE CARD IS AVAILABLE IN THE MAIN PACKET

- Bring the card to church on Sunday, March 5, Commitment Day.
- Mail it to 225 Centerview Drive, Birmingham, AL 35216.
- Scan and email to craig.peterson@mountaintopchurch.com
- Use the online pledge card at MountaintopChurch.com/FOR to return your pledge.

# "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life FOR one's friends." John 15:13





