



# nextsteps

MAKING GENEROUS DISCIPLES



**THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO:**

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# LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVE



Taking the next steps spiritually, relationally, or emotionally are all signs of life. If we aren't moving forward, taking a next step, we are in decline and decay. That is certainly true physically, and it is true spiritually as well. Each week at Geyer Springs, we challenge everyone to take the next step in their relationship with the Lord – it may be an initial step of surrender to Christ or it may be a step of deeper discipleship.

I want to challenge our church to take the next step in generosity. Sometimes we forget that giving is a part of discipleship, a part of our worship of the Lord. If we are truly growing in our relationship with Christ, our attitude toward giving should be growing, our understanding of stewardship and generosity should be growing.

The *Next Steps* Generosity Initiative is meant to challenge all of us to seek the Lord and ask what we should do regarding our support of His Kingdom's work. The initiative is for everyone: if you have never given to support the ministry of this church or are a generous giver, the *Next Steps* Generosity Initiative is for you. We believe God has greater work for us to do; we believe He is calling us to take our next step in ministry. For the church to take the next steps the Lord has placed before us, we need every member of the body to take his/her next step.

I'm very excited about the days ahead; I believe we are going to hear clearly from the Lord, and I believe we are going to see some great things and will one day look back on this time as a pivotal moment of significant spiritual growth in our lives.



I want to invite you to go on the journey. Actually, as your pastor, I implore you not to miss this opportunity to see the Lord do some significant work in your life. Would you commit to this journey and be fully involved by doing 4 things over the next 5 weeks?

- 1. Be present every week for worship.**
- 2. Attend a small group weekly to process what we are going to be learning.**
- 3. Pray – just ask the Lord what He would have you do, how you should respond.**
- 4. Obey – be ready to follow through with whatever God says to you.**

We have an exciting journey ahead of us. I don't want anyone on the sidelines missing out. I'm so grateful to be your pastor and want God's best for you. I hope you'll join me on the journey and take the next step to continue on in the faith.

On the journey with you,

*Pastor Dave*

**We believe God has greater work  
for us to do; we believe He is calling  
us to take our next step in ministry.**

# OUR HISTORY

Meaningful moments in our history

*summer*

**1940**

Thirty-seven charter members started Geyer Springs First Baptist Church and built the first sanctuary at W57th Street and Geyer Springs Road.

**1969**

Sunday school attendance grew from 500 on average to 1291 in total enrollment, and we added more education space and a fellowship hall.

**1990**

The church agreed to purchase land on I-30 south of I-430 to launch a second location to reach the growing population in SW Little Rock and Saline County.

**1970**

Launched Weekday Center and Mother's Day Out program that continues to serve the community to this day.

**1980**

A new 1300 seat new sanctuary was completed for \$1.2 million that allowed for considerable growth to serve and reach new people for Christ.

**1958**

We built our first education building to serve adults and children and started a second worship service due to numeric growth.

**1992**

We completed the adult education building and began holding worship services at the interstate location.

**1996**

Our last worship service was held at the Geyer Springs Road location, and Geyer Springs officially moved all its ministries to its new home at 12400 I-30.

**1998**

Our 1800 seat sanctuary, ministry office, and education space were completed on our main campus.

**2010**

Pastor Jeff Williams was installed as the 16th pastor of Geyer Springs.

**2014**

We completed new children's ministry space and purchased 54 acres along Raymar Road in Bryant for Geyer Sports/ Upward and outreach to Saline County known as Raymar Fields.

**2005**

We built new ministry space for preschool, students, and media; a coffee shop/bookstore; and expanded the parking lot.

**2016**

We installed longtime staff pastor Dave Hughey as the 17th pastor of Geyer Springs.

**2003**

Dr. Paul Sanders retired after 36 years as pastor, and Dr. Bruce Chesser was installed as the 15th pastor of Geyer Springs.

**2021**

In an effort to expand our ministry presence at Raymar Fields, we installed a new playground, operations building, and ministry resource center known as The Station.



Our primary goal through *Next Steps* is that 100% of people at Geyer Springs will engage in this initiative to experience a life-changing encounter with God.

# HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God and your family—to take the biggest steps of generosity you have ever taken.

## 1. PRAY FERVENTLY.

Pray that God will multiply our efforts to make disciples and make much of Christ. Pray that He will do abundantly more than we ask or imagine for His great name.

*My Prayer for Next Steps Is:* \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. GROW INTENTIONALLY.

Attend each Sunday from February 12 through March 12. Engage in the Next Steps study with your small group. Learn all you can about God’s heart and will for you and your resources.

*A Growth Area for Me through Next Steps Is:* \_\_\_\_\_

**3. COMMIT FULLY.**

Help us reach our goal of 100% engagement in Next Steps. Stand side by side with your church family. Commit to do what God asks. Put your “Yes!” on the table.

*My Commitment for Next Steps Is:* \_\_\_\_\_

**4. GIVE GENEROUSLY.**

Ask God to show you what it looks like to give in a way that changes you. Take whatever steps are required to see it through.

*I Can Grow in Generosity through Next Steps by:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **WEEK ONE SERMON NOTES**



# WEEK ONE PRAYER GUIDE

## **Monday | Ephesians 2:10**

Lord, help me to see my gifts, talents, and passions as put there by You for Your purposes, not mine.

## **Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 12:14-16**

I praise You for the gifts You have given me. Help me not to wish for or want what I do not have but to find confidence and contentment in how You have created me.

## **Wednesday | 1 Peter 4:10-11**

God, give me wisdom and insight on how I might glorify You with my abilities.

## **Thursday | 2 Corinthians 12:9**

Lord, thank You for my pains and sufferings and help me to consider how I can use even my hurts for Your purposes.

## **Friday | Matthew 5:14-16**

Lord, help me be a light of the gospel to my family, friends, workplace, school, and community. Help me to reveal and reflect Your lovingkindness to others.

# WEEK ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Stewardship Is Discipleship

February 12, 2023

### What is a disciple?

- a **follower** or a **learner** (Matthew 28:18-20)

*steward = "manager"*

- *Greek for "steward" means to govern, oversee, administer, or manage. Its most literal translation would be "house manager," not to be confused with "housekeeper."*

**GSFBC Mission:** *Glorify God by making disciples who love God and love others.*

Stewardship Lifestyle: Time, Talent, Treasure.

## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

- *What are some ways we steward/manage our time that glorify God?*

### 1. Spend Time with God.

- Matthew 22:34-37
- *Why is it important for believers to spend time with God on a daily (regular) basis?*

### 2. Worship and engage in biblical community with other believers.

- Hebrews 10:25-26
- *What are some things you can do/have done to make this a priority in your own life?*

# WEEK ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## 3. Make time to serve others and share the gospel with unbelievers.

- John 13:14; Colossians 4:5-6; I Peter 3:15; Ephesians 5:15
- *What are some ways you have invested time serving others either IN or OUT of the church?*

## STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

God not only calls you to love and serve others (Matthew 22 & John 13), He also gave you a unique **SHAPE** to accomplish that work!

**Spiritual Gifts** (unique giftings given to every believer by the Holy Spirit)

- I Corinthians 12, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-16.

**Heart** (passion or burden for specific: people, groups, life stages, life situations, activities)

**Abilities** (natural talents, skills, and giftedness)

- Exodus 31:2-6; 35:25-26; 35:34 (Exodus 31:1-11; 35:10-19, 25-26; 35:30 – 36:2; 36:8)

**Personality**

- Psalm 139:14

**Experiences**

- *"God never wastes a hurt."*
- *"It's okay to not be okay because NO ONE is okay."*
- *"Walk toward the messes!"*



# WEEK ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- *How do you feel about obedience? Why do you feel the way you do?*
- *What things about Jesus' character, nature, and person cause us to want to follow Him? Are you reflecting those traits and characteristics in your own life?*
- List one area that you feel you reflect well and one where you know you need to grow.
- *How are you prioritizing spending time with God? What changes, adjustments, or sacrifices do you need to make spending time with God a greater priority in your life?*
- Think about your SHAPE for ministry (<https://www.freeshapetest.com>).
  - Do you know, and how are you using, your Spiritual Gifts?
    - <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>
    - <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>

# WEEK ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *As you think about your unique “heart,” consider your thoughts, feelings, experience, and history with the things listed below.*

## People

Babies/Preschoolers  
Children  
Teens/Young Adults  
Special Needs  
Senior Adults  
Widows  
Orphans  
Other....

## Cause

Abortion  
Single Moms  
Homeless/Poverty  
Human Trafficking  
Leading Small Group  
Fostering/Adoption  
Marriage/Parenting  
Other....

## Activity/Service

Teaching (people/topic)  
Mentoring  
Counseling  
Teaching Finances  
Acts of Service  
Worship  
Administration  
Other...

- *What unique skills, abilities, or talents has God blessed you with, and how are you using those to serve Him and love others?*
  - <https://www.marcusbuckingham.com/gift-of-standout/>
- *Do you know your personality type? (Enneagram, DISC, Myers-Briggs) What are some of the strengths/weaknesses of your personality type?*
  - <https://uniquelyyou.org> (Spiritual Gifts & DISC Personality assessment – fee)
  - <https://www.eclecticenergies.com/enneagram/test> (free tests)
- *What are 3-5 of the most significant experiences of your life? Are there ways you can help others in similar situations by sharing your experiences with them?*

## **WEEK TWO SERMON NOTES**



## WEEK TWO PRAYER GUIDE

### **Monday | Matthew 6:19-20**

Lord, reveal to me where my treasure is and help me to evaluate and respond in light of my desire to follow You.

### **Tuesday | 1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Jesus, help me to avoid placing my hopes on the uncertainty of riches. Instead help me place them on You.

### **Wednesday | Matthew 6:31-33**

God, I confess any anxiety I have about my finances and ask You to help me to seek You first above all things.

### **Thursday | Psalm 37:21**

Heavenly Father, lead me to be responsible with my finances. Reveal to me how I can improve and bring more glory to You regarding money.

### **Friday | Proverbs 3:9-10**

God, reveal to me what it means for me to honor You with my finances and assets. Help me to trust You in obedience.

# WEEK TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL

## **The Bible & Money**

February 19, 2023

*"It's not supposed to hurt there!"*

**Why do you think some people respond so critically and negatively to the topic of financial stewardship being taught in the church?**

**Giving Myth #1** – *"All the Pastor ever talks about is money!"*

**Giving Myth #2** – *"The Bible doesn't even talk about money (or material possessions)" or "The Bible doesn't talk about money (or material possessions) that much."*

The Bible THOROUGHLY addresses the topic of money and possessions:

- There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible that reference money.
- A number of Jesus' parables address financial issues or use money/possessions to highlight man's propensity to sin involving money and possessions (Unforgiving Servant, Laborers in the Vineyard, The Prodigal Son, Tenant Farmers, Parable of the Talents).
- 20% of God's first laws to govern his people are warnings about material possessions – Command #8 (Do not steal) and Command #10 (do not covet).
- The book of Proverbs, from King Solomon – the 2nd wisest man to ever live – has over 90 verses that teach, direct, command, or offer wisdom on financial issues.

# WEEK TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL

*“Why does the Bible talk so much about money and possessions?” (Exodus 20:34; Matthew 6:24)*

## **Biblical principles on stewardship.**

### **1. God owns it ALL!**

- Psalm 24:1; Deuteronomy 10:14; Job 41:11; Psalm 50:10-12; Luke 12:6-7
- Genesis 1; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17

### **2. We were stewards before we were sinners.**

- Genesis 1:25-26

### **3. Sacrificial giving reflects the character and nature of God.**

- Romans 5:8, John 3:16

### **4. God blesses our stewardship in any area of life.**

- Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

- *How do you feel about giving? Why do you feel that way, particularly if there are negative feelings? (Remember: It's not supposed to hurt there!)*

## WEEK TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *When you think about how extensively the Bible deals with money and material possessions, what stands out to you the most?*
- *Which of the biblical principles on stewardship resonated most deeply with you? Why?*
- *Were any of them new truths for you? Which one(s)?*

## WEEK TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *Which one is the easiest for you to remember (and practice), and which is the most difficult for you?*
- *If you have been giving on a regular basis, how have you seen God's hand of provision in this area of your life? If you haven't been giving on a regular basis, what has stood out to you from the giving testimonies you've heard during our **Next Steps Generosity Initiative** (Proverbs 22:9)?*



## **WEEK THREE SERMON**

## WEEK THREE PRAYER GUIDE

### **Monday | Luke 21:1-4**

Father, help me to steward my finances in faith that I would partner with You and Your Kingdom.

### **Tuesday | Leviticus 25:35–37**

Lord, give me insight on how I can love others around me with the abundance You have given me.

### **Wednesday | Deuteronomy 15:7–8**

God, Your love for all people is such a gift to the world. Help me to serve my community, even those different than I am.

### **Thursday | Proverbs 11:24-25**

Lord, help me to realize the more I hoard, the more I want and the more I give, the more blessed I will be.

### **Friday | 1 John 3:16-18**

Jesus, thank You for modeling for me sacrifice in giving to others and the potential impact it can make on those around me.

# WEEK THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Excel...In Your Giving

February 26, 2023

### 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

1. Giving is not easy. (v. 2)
2. Giving is an act of worship and obedience to God above all else. (v. 5)
3. Grow, mature, and “excel” in every area – including generosity (giving) – of your spiritual life. (v. 7)
4. Obedience blesses the giver and the receiver. (v. 8-11)
  - What are the “benefits” or “blessings” the giver experiences when he/she is faithful in his/her giving?
  - Acts 4:32-37 “There was not a needy person among them” (v. 34).

### Today's Truths

- A. Giving is an act of worship and praise to God for all that He has done for us through Jesus.
- B. Disciples of Jesus grow and mature in their obedience in every area of life – including giving.

*What are your Next Steps of obedience in your walk with Jesus?*

# WEEK THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- *What have been your greatest challenges to being a faithful giver?*
- *Have you ever adjusted your priorities to give toward something in which you really believed? If you were to do that now, what are some sacrifices or changes in expenditures/lifestyle you would make to do so?*
- *Are you participating as an active partner with God (and other believers) through stewardship? Why or why not?*

## WEEK THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *What are your thoughts on being challenged to “excel in your giving” as part of discipleship? Have you “plateaued” or gone on “auto pilot” in this area of your spiritual life? Do you have possessions that you try to exclude from God’s ownership?*
- Think about giving as an act of worship.
  - *What possible significance could our gifts have to God?*
  - *What determines a gift’s value to God?*



## WEEK THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *Why has God included giving as part of the Christian lifestyle and worship?*
- *What relationship exists between the gift and the giver?*

## **WEEK FOUR SERMON NOTES**

## WEEK FOUR PRAYER GUIDE

### **Monday | Acts 20:32-35**

I praise You for the blessing of giving, and I ask You to set my heart and mind on the joy of blessing others.

### **Tuesday | Matthew 6:1-5**

Lord, thank You for Your blessing as I bless others. Give me the heart to serve and help others from a spirit of humility and not selfishness.

### **Wednesday | Hebrews 13:6**

Jesus, give me the vision to do good and be guilty of sharing with others the generosity You have given me.

### **Thursday | Luke 3:11**

I understand a sign of lordship and genuine faith is the willingness to be generous. Please give me an opportunity today to demonstrate my love for You as I love others through generosity.

### **Friday | 1 Chronicles 29:12**

Father, I offer genuine praise to You for everything I have comes from You. Thank You for Your many blessings!

# WEEK FOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Character over Coinage

March 5, 2023

**A. Christ-like character and integrity should be reflected in how we manage (steward) our (God's) money.**

### PRINCIPLES FOR THE CHURCH IN MANAGING FINANCES:

**1. The character of those managing funds is of the utmost importance.**

**2. Plurality of leadership.**

- Proverbs 15:22; Exodus 18 (Moses & Jethro); Acts 15; Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1)

### PRINCIPLES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN MANAGING FINANCES:

**1. Have a right perspective.**

- Spiritual is more important than the material.
- Character matters more than profits and portfolios.
- *"God doesn't care if his people have money, but he hates it when money has his people."* Dave Ramsey
- Proverbs 11:4; 15:16, 16:16, 17:16, 22:1; Matthew 6:1-4; 6:19-24; 6:33.

**2. Give.**

- Luke 12:16-21, *"So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."*
- Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:24; 14:31; 28:22; 25:25.
- Matthew 23:23; Luke 12:48

# WEEK FOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

## 3. Manage your money and avoid debt.

- Proverbs 6:6; 20:4; 21:5; 21:20
- *"Money is a great servant, but a terrible boss!"*
- *"He who fails to plan, plans to fail."*
- *"He who aims at nothing hits it every time!"*
- I Timothy 5:6-10
- Proverbs 22:7.

## B. Your example of a Stewardship Lifestyle will encourage, inspire, and motivate others.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Joseph is a great example of a godly steward who exercised character in his leadership and management and was blessed by God as a result. You can read his story in Genesis 39 – 41.
  - *What actions in Joseph's life should we follow in order to be faithful stewards, with high character, over what God has entrusted to us?*
- *What do you think kept Joseph from getting angry with God and turning away when his circumstances weren't good?*

## WEEK FOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *How does it make you feel to know that God trusts you in His work? (Reminder: Americans are some of the wealthiest people in the world.)*
- *On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself on managing your money? If your assessment isn't where you want it to be, what steps do you need to take to improve?*
- *What would those closest to you say about your attitude toward money? What do your monthly expenditures reveal about your attitude and priorities regarding money?*
- *Do you think of yourself as a generous person? Why or why not? Would others agree? Why or why not?*



## WEEK FOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *Do you think it's important be considered a generous person? Why or why not?*
- *How has your faith been strengthened by someone else's generosity?*
- *If you don't have plans to manage your assets upon your passing, what do you need to do to make those preparations (documents and legal issues, but also in training others and communicating your wishes to them)? If you have made plans, do you need to review things and make any edits or changes?*

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

\$

WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR  
(general fund, missions, etc.)

+

\$

MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY  
FOR "NEXT STEPS"

=

\$

X 2 YEARS =

\$

+

MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES  
(stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)

\$

=

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR  
NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT:

APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2025

\$

MY/OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY

ST

ZIP

PHONE

(

)

-

EMAIL

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church Two-Year Gift Chart \$16,000,000 (24-month commitment)				
Gifts Needed	2-Year Gift Of	Annual Gift of	Monthly Gift Of	Gift Level Total
1	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$1,500,000
1	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$1,000,000
1	\$750,000	\$375,000	\$31,250	\$750,000
2	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$1,000,000
5	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,250,000
10	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$1,000,000
20	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$1,500,000
40	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$2,000,000
75	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$1,875,000
125	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$1,250,000
100	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$750,000
150	\$4,800	\$2,400	\$200	\$720,000
200	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$150	\$720,000
200	\$2,400	\$1,200	\$100	\$480,000
Many	\$1,200	\$600	\$50	\$205,000
Total Gift Goal				\$16,000,000

You may think your gift does not matter when compared to our total goal for Next Steps. You are wrong! Every gift matters to God. It is not about the amount but what that amount means to you. (Matthew 12:41-44) Use this table to see how your monthly gift adds up over two years!

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## PLEASE COMPLETE AND REFLECT AT HOME PRIOR TO COMMITMENT SUNDAY, MARCH 12.

1. List out the financial commitments you currently have that go beyond a one-time payment and have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child's tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.

2. Now, write out the 2-year commitment you are planning to make for *Next Steps* \_\_\_\_\_

Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your *Next Steps* commitment? What if you wanted to raise your *Next Steps* commitment? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a truly surrendered giving commitment? With your current priorities, are you fully engaged with God's mission of helping people take their *next step* with Christ? Reflect on these questions and write a response below.

3. If someone who did not know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you and your family value?

4. Would that statement be true about you? Or is there something that needs to be explained or modified?

5. What spiritual transformation do you think could occur in you by keeping this 2-year commitment?

6. How will you leverage this change to influence others such as your children, your friends, your family, or others in your circles of influence?

**Pray over your commitment** as you prepare to lay your card at the altar on Commitment Sunday, March 12. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process, and prayer is what gives us the bold heart of Christ within us.

**Let's do this!** Let's be people boldly surrendering ourselves to God in every area of our lives and declaring, "I'm Taking My Next Step!"

## **WEEK FIVE SERMON NOTES**

## WEEK FIVE PRAYER GUIDE

### **Monday | Psalm 145:1-3**

Lord, You deserve to be praised! Let my life bless You and bring You praise, my King!

### **Tuesday | Psalm 145:4-7**

Heavenly Father, I can rest confidently in Your presence and trust Your provision. Be magnified in the lives of Your people and help us to reflect Your goodness.

### **Wednesday | Psalm 145:8-9**

God, Your mercy and grace is overwhelming; thank You for Your care and control over all things.

### **Thursday | Psalm 145:10-13**

Father, for all time You deserve praise for Your mercy and works. Give me insight and courage to do my part in helping the next generation know of Your kingdom and power.

### **Friday | Psalm 145:14-21**

I trust You to provide all my needs and fulfill even my desires as I follow You in obedience.

# WEEK FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## **Abounding in ALL!**

March 12, 2023

*How has God spoken to you during our time in the Next Steps Generosity Initiative?*

### **1. What kind of harvest do you want? (v. 6)**

### **2. What kind of giver are you? (v. 7)**

- “cheerful” = hilarious
- Our giving should be...
  - a. A personal decision that we make on our own (“give as he had decided in his heart”)
  - b. With a right motive (“not reluctantly or under compulsion”)
- Acts 5:1-11; Matthew 6:1-4.

### **3. How full is God’s provision in our lives, in every way? (v. 8-10)**

- Highlight, circle, underline the words in these next verses that describe the capacity and fullness of God in the lives of his people.
- “*You can’t outgive God!*”
- Exodus 36:5-7



## WEEK FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

### **4. How does giving impact the giver? (v. 11-15)**

- a. We give faithfully, generously, and sacrificially.
  - b. God blesses that generosity.
  - c. His generosity to us motivates us to be even more generous.
  - d. Our generosity touches the lives of others who give thanks to God (believers) and respond to the Gospel (unbelievers) because of how He used us to help them.
  - e. Seeing and hearing people respond to the gospel and giving thanks to God because of our obedience leads us to want to give thanks to God for all He has bestowed upon us – by grace – and leads us to give EVEN MORE, which repeats the cycle all over again!
- 
- *How are you going to respond to the teaching you've heard?*
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- *Where are you in your giving now, and what are your Next Steps of obedience, maturity, sacrifice, and generosity?*

# WEEK FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What (and also Who) comes to mind when you hear the term “cheerful giver”?
- In what area of your life have you seen the principle of the harvest at work as you gave to God your Time, Talent, or Treasure?
- Are you as generous to God as you are with yourself?
- Is my giving a true expression of my life, labor, and love, or is it a token?
- Paul was very clear about God’s ability to provide for His children in ALL things.
  - *Are there areas of your life where you are “holding back” or not fully surrendering to God?  
What are those areas?*

## WEEK FIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

- *What is keeping me from fully trusting God with all that I have, including my finances?*
- "Giving impacts the giver."
  - *How do you feel about money? Why do you feel this way?*
  - *What problems come to those who think too much of money? Those who don't think enough about money?*
- Jesus told the Rich Young Ruler to go and sell all he had. The widow dropped in her last two coins which, according to Jesus, "Was all she had to live on."
  - *If Jesus called you to get rid of all you had, could you do it? Why or why not?*
  - *Chances are Jesus won't call you to get rid of all you have, but He may be calling you to give more than you currently are – will you take the **Next Steps** of obedience?*







# NEXT STEPS BREAKDOWN

## Primary Goal: 100% Engagement

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*Next Steps* is first and foremost a discipleship initiative. We are all at different points moving toward spiritual restoration.

We want to learn new things about God and about ourselves. We want every single person at Geyer Springs to take their next step of growth in this area of generosity.

Whether you have never given anything before, whether you are an infrequent contributor, or whether you are a consistent and thoughtful giver, there is a next step God is asking you to take in this journey.

## Secondary Goal: \$16,000,000 – \$17,000,000

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Our secondary goal is monetary. This is a one fund initiative, so the amount includes our total ministry fund for the next two years (**Next Steps for Our Church**), our desire to further impact Pulaski and Saline counties and around the world (**Next Steps for Our Mission**), and finally, maintenance and needed renovations for our facilities to maximize our space for greater ministry impact (**Next Steps for Our Future**).

**If 100% of people at Geyer Springs get fully engaged, we expect to see an increase in generosity like we have never seen before!**

# NEXT STEPS FOR OUR CHURCH

- We will meet our weekly ministry fund for two years. This will resource our week-to-week ministry activities, pay for our staff and employees, and provide for utilities and insurance, all helping us to glorify God by making disciples who love God and love others for the next two years .
- We will consistently invite people to trust and follow Jesus, creating opportunities for kids, students, and adults to worship, connect, serve, and multiply.
- As we always do, we will continually look for new and better ways for all of us to experience the transformation that comes when our relationships are truly Christ-centered.

**Over the next two years, we are allocating**

**\$7,700,000**

**for ministries and projects associated with  
our church building and programs.**









# NEXT STEPS FOR OUR MISSION

- We will give away these resources to our community and ministry partners in Pulaski and Saline Counties and around the world to participate in Kingdom-minded ministry and evangelization. This will include cooperative program, mission offerings and support, and provide for our mission staff and support to missionaries.
- We will strengthen our commitment to new endeavors like church planting, ministry to single mothers, addiction recovery ministries, additional mission partnerships, and the exploration of ways we can make a huge impact for the gospel locally and globally.

**Over the next two years, we are allocating**

**\$3,300,000**

**for next steps associated with our mission.**

# NEXT STEPS FOR OUR FUTURE

- We will enhance technology, provide necessary maintenance, and improve safety to our Worship Center by providing new carpet, new paint, new seats, a sprinkler system, and an improved audio/visual experience.
- We will create a more functional Main Lobby by remodeling our stairs and guest services areas.
- We hope to update our preschool entrances to better serve our families, update the carpet in the Adult Education Building, and remodel bathrooms.

**Over the next two years, we are allocating between**

**\$5,000,000**  
**and**  
**\$6,000,000**

**to fund these improvements and renovations.**

**TOTAL NEXT STEPS GOAL: \$16,000,000 - \$17,000,000**



# 5 NEXT STEPS IN A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

These stages focus on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts—our discipleship—rather than on amounts or percentages. Each step represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice that transforms us into the likeness of Christ who gave up everything.

## INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

## CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver is someone who commits to give something on a regular basis. Consistent Givers start to think of their giving in the same way they think about other budget expenses that are always paid, regardless of seasons of plenty or want. They often set up an online recurring gift to help.

## INTENTIONAL GIVER

Intentional Givers think about giving in relation to other things in which they spend their money: "Why do I give the cable company or my cell provider more money than I give to God?" They consider a percentage or amount they want to commit to in order to consciously grow in their generosity. Intentional Givers look at their budget and consider how their giving reflects their view of God and commitment to His Kingdom. This may also be the point when someone begins to tithe, which is being intentional about a certain amount or percentage that they want to give to God.

## SURRENDERED GIVER

A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes the cost Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. Surrendered Givers give in ways that change them. Their giving governs their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. Surrendered Givers are not concerned with what they ARE giving but more concerned with what they are NOT giving and why. They seek to 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

A Lifetime Giver is someone who thinks about the long-term effects of generosity rather than month-to-month, or even year-to-year, generosity. Lifetime Givers make decisions in the short-term that have longer-term effects as they relate to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, and how much savings they choose to keep all in relation to their generosity capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal that governs his/her larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Surrendered Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Lifetime Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, and the like.



**LIFETIME GIVER**

**SURRENDERED GIVER**

**INTENTIONAL GIVER**

**CONSISTENT GIVER**

**INITIAL GIVER**

## MY/OUR TWO-YEAR NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

\$	WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR (general fund, missions, etc.)	
+		
\$	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY FOR "NEXT STEPS"	
=		
\$	X 2 YEARS =	\$
		+
	MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)	\$
		=

### MY/OUR TWO-YEAR NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT:

APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2025

\$

## MY/OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME(S)			
ADDRESS			
CITY		ST	ZIP
PHONE	( )	—	
EMAIL			



## ONE FUND INITIATIVE

You may have been part of church campaigns, like a building campaign, where you were asked to give a second gift "above and beyond" your usual gifts to help fund the construction of a new building or the purchase of property. Normally, you gave that gift to the "Building Fund," and you also continued to give to the "General Fund." This type of giving is potentially confusing to people who either do not have a baseline for their "usual giving" or who are not really able to celebrate the total giving at Geyer Springs because it is divided among several funds. A one fund approach helps us all participate in our one mission: to glorify God by making disciples who love God and love others.

### HOW A ONE FUND WORKS:

The *Next Steps* initiative will last two years. In those two years, every gift given to Geyer Springs will go to one fund: the *Next Steps* Initiative. Using our fund allocation strategy (budget), we will draw funds from our *Next Steps* Initiative to finance our three targets: Our Church, Our Mission, and Our Future. We have included a sample commitment card so you can see how our one fund initiative works to serve the needs of these three targets.

Please take the time to pray and work through the sample commitment card. Do not worry: you will get a shiny new commitment card to submit during our First Fruits Offering on Commitment Sunday, March 12.

**"A one fund approach helps us all participate in our one mission: to glorify God by making disciples who love God and love others."**

# CREATIVE WAYS TO GROW IN YOUR GENEROSITY

Generosity initiatives rely on church members making gifts that expand and accelerate their current level of giving. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where you set your heart on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from the spiritual priorities.

One way of defining this is “Lifestyle Stewardship,” a term used to describe a level of giving that affects one’s living. The challenge of Lifestyle Stewardship is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to let your giving touch your living! King David declared, “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” (2 Samuel 24:24 NIV) David understood the gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the heart of the giver! This is the spirit of Lifestyle Stewardship: if it is for my God, my gift must have value and meaning to me.

Often, Lifestyle Giving means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another. The three keys to effectiveness in Lifestyle Stewardship are

- Reassess lifestyle
- Rearrange priorities
- Reallocate resources

Many believers have been amazed at their ability to give more generously to their church. The following eight steps are offered to help you in this regard.

## 1. PRACTICE PRIORITY BUDGETING

Many families will choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their current budget in order to give more to a generosity initiative. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, home remodeling, or other major purchase. Many Christians giving to stewardship campaigns find a way to give through sacrificial commitments made in faith and coupled with priority budgeting.

## 2. REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENDITURES

Often families have significant short-term expenditures for special needs. One example is the large expenditure a family incurs for a child to attend college. A family realized that their daughters would be graduating from college during the two years of the generosity initiative and, as a result, they were able to increase their commitment to the second year of the campaign by thousands of dollars by giving what they had been spending on their daughters’ tuition. Another example would be the cash flow that is freed up when a loan is paid off.



### **3. INCREASED GIVING WITH INCREASED INCOME**

Some people receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from their employers. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. In many instances, families have decided that they will commit the full amount of salary increases.

### **4. GIVE FROM YOUR EXCESS**

A young man decided that two collectors baseball cards worth over \$20,000 he had been holding for a number of years would be the most appropriate means of touching sacrifice for his family. Some families save money over a period of years for a special project. A couple had saved \$80,000 to build a lake cabin. When their church entered a generosity initiative, they decided the needs of the church were greater than their need for a second home.

### **5. COMMIT UNEXPECTED CASH**

Often people pray for God to show them a way they can give beyond what they can presently see or afford. Sometimes the answers come unexpectedly. A couple had been praying for weeks about their commitment to the church generosity initiative. Much to their surprise, they received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. They gave the entire amount to their church as part of their two-year commitment, in addition to a commitment from their regular income.

### **6. SACRIFICE YOUR EXTRA TIME**

Some family members have extra time they would be willing to use in a part-time job to be able to give more to the church. This is particularly true for families whose children are grown and away from home and for semi-retired or retired couples. A man was in the process of retiring when his church entered a campaign. He and his wife secured new jobs and gave the first two years of their retirement income to the generosity initiative.

### **7. DONATE APPRECIATED ASSETS (STORED RESOURCES)**

Many people own stocks that are worth significantly more than the original purchase price. That is good news. The bad news is that if these stocks are sold, a significant portion of the gain would be lost to taxation.

Gifts of appreciated assets—typically investment securities or real estate—can be very advantageous to both the donor and to the church. By transferring ownership of the asset to the church, the donor avoids capital gains taxes on the sale of the asset. In addition, the donor receives an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset. That, in effect, makes these gifts less costly to make.

	<b>Sell asset and gift net proceeds</b>	<b>Give asset directly</b>
<b>Value of Asset</b>	\$12,000	\$12,000
<b>Original Purchase Price</b>	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>Amount of Appreciation</b>	\$9,000	\$9,000
<b>Capital Gains Tax*</b>	\$2,340	\$0
<b>Proceeds to Church</b> (asset value minus taxes)	\$9,660	\$12,000

\*Assumes 12-month holding period, 15% capital gains tax, 6% state income tax rate.

Though it is important to invest your giving to further the mission of the ministry God has laid on your heart, it is also important to consider the tax implications of making a gift to the church. Before making a commitment of this type, please consult your CPA, tax attorney, or other financial advisor.

## 8. CONSIDER THE CHARITABLE IRA

In 2015, Congress enacted a permanent extension of the IRA charitable rollover. As a result, individuals age 70½ or older can make gifts directly from their IRA to charity. An IRA charitable rollover is a wonderful way you can help continue our work and also receive a tax benefit this year.

### BENEFITS OF AN IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Geyer Springs
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts

## A FINAL WORD

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the two-year period of the campaign. You might be able to give more in the second year than in the first. As you think about your financial commitment to the campaign, think not just of your potential to give right now but also of your potential to give in the future. It might be that you can make a two-year commitment in which 35-40% is given in the first year and 60-65% is given in the second year.

Finally, as you consider your financial commitment to the Lord's work, you might want to consider estate planning. Many sincere, committed Christian people have not made provision for God in their wills and estate planning. Now might be a good time to do that. It might be as simple as including a provision in your will that 10% of the value of your estate will be donated to the church holding your letter of membership at the time of your passing. Or it could involve a planned gift such as a charitable remainder trust. While such gifts do not provide immediate financial benefit to a generosity initiative, they are marvelous gifts of faith to carry on the work of the church for future generations.

**“Our primary goal through *Next Steps* is that 100% of people at Geyer Springs will engage in this initiative to experience a life-changing encounter with God.”**

# GIVING SCENARIOS

Each of us embarks on the generosity journey at a different starting point. Here are a few hypothetical situations that may be similar to the one in which you find yourself.

Each example below illustrates how an individual or family can take the next step on the generosity journey and how the *Next Steps* commitment card could be completed accordingly.

## Which of the following giving scenarios fits you best?

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

\$ 0

WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR  
(general fund, missions, etc.)

+

\$ 1,300

MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY  
FOR "NEXT STEPS"

=

\$ 1,300

X 2 YEARS =

\$ 2,600

MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES  
(stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)

\$ 500

+

=

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR  
NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT:

\$ 3,100

APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2025

### INITIAL GIVER

Michael grew up in the faith but was never taught to give back to the church. He is now starting several spiritual disciplines, including generosity. It is a huge step of faith for him, but Michael has decided to give \$25 per week. Combined with \$500 from his savings, Michael plans to give a total two-year contribution of \$3,100 to the *Next Steps* initiative.

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

\$ 500

WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR  
(general fund, missions, etc.)

+

\$ 1,250

MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY  
FOR "NEXT STEPS"

=

\$ 1,750

X 2 YEARS =

\$ 3,500

MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES  
(stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)

\$ 500

+

=

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR  
NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT:

\$ 4,000

APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2025

### CONSISTENT GIVER

Jennifer has witnessed changes in her own life through the ministry of the church. So far, she has been giving casually if she has extra cash on hand during the offering time. However, she now feels led to become more consistent in her giving by setting up a recurring gift online. Her plan is to increase her usual annual giving of \$500 by \$1,250 bringing her to \$1,750 a year. With the addition of \$500 from a vacation savings fund, in two years she will have given \$4,000 to the *Next Steps* initiative.

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### MY/OUR TWO-YEAR NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

\$ 6,000	WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR (general fund, missions, etc.)
+	
\$ 6,000	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY FOR "NEXT STEPS"
=	
\$ 12,000	X 2 YEARS =
	+
	\$ 24,000
	+
	MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)
	\$ 2,000
	=

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR  
NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT:  
APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2025

\$ 26,000

## INTENTIONAL GIVER

Paul and Rebecca have given consistently to the church at a steady 5%. With a combined income of \$120,000, they contribute \$6,000 each year. *Next Steps*, however, has prompted them to tithe a full 10%. It will require some adjustments to give \$12,000 a year, but they know it is what God is calling them to do. Also, they have been saving for a boat but have decided to give the \$2,000 in that account as well. They are now planning to give \$26,000 to the church over the next two years.

### MY/OUR TWO-YEAR NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

\$ 7,000	WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR (general fund, missions, etc.)
+	
\$ 1,400	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY FOR "NEXT STEPS"
=	
\$ 8,400	X 2 YEARS =
	+
	\$ 16,800
	+
	MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)
	\$ 2,000
	=

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR  
NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT:  
APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2025

\$ 18,800

## SACRIFICIAL GIVER

Anthony developed the discipline of tithing years ago, and he has experienced God's provision again and again. Anthony will increase his giving percentage from 10% to 12% of his annual income of \$70,000 or \$8,400 a year. Over two years, with the addition of \$2,000 from the transfer of stocks that are no longer of interest to him, Anthony looks forward to giving \$18,800 to the *Next Steps* initiative.

### MY/OUR TWO-YEAR NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

\$ 13,500	WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR (general fund, missions, etc.)
+	
\$ 1,500	MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY FOR "NEXT STEPS"
=	
\$ 15,000	X 2 YEARS =
	+
	\$ 30,000
	+
	MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)
	\$ 60,000
	=

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR  
NEXT STEPS COMMITMENT:  
APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2025

\$ 90,000

## LIFETIME GIVER

Judy loves to give of her time, talents, and resources. She has set a lifetime giving goal for herself and is excited to reach it. She has been giving 15% of her \$90,000 income (\$13,500) to the church in recent years but is inspired to increase the annual amount to \$15,000. She has been considering the purchase of a new home recently but realizes that purchase may inhibit her ability to reach her giving goal. So Judy has decided not to move and to give her down payment toward the *Next Steps* initiative instead.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What are you asking me to do?**

First and foremost, we are asking that you pray and seek God's direction on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and then listen to what He says. Take your *next step*. Engage in personal reflection with God in this guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life.

We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to gospel-centered generosity—whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading.

Finally, we ask that you prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome God, and He is going to move in huge ways. We anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective *Next Steps* commitments—something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, March 12 and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and our own faith.

### **How is *Next Steps* different from previous generosity initiatives?**

We are more focused on everyone at Geyer Springs seeing their giving as an integral part of the discipleship process and then being challenged by God to take a *next step*. The bulk of this notebook is focused on helping us dig into some key Biblical principles that guide us in this area as we follow Jesus. This is our first priority—100% participation in the process. Even if someone wrote us a check today for our secondary goal of \$16-17 million, we would still do this initiative. Whether we are just starting in our giving journey or we are very committed givers, we all have a *next step* to take and room to grow in this area.

### **How does \$16-17 million over two years compare to current giving at Geyer Springs?**

Our current annual giving is approximately \$5,000,000, multiplied by two years is \$10,000,000. So, in essence, we are believing God to grow our resources between \$3-3.5 million per year for a total of \$16-17 million.

### **Are there additional ways besides cash that I can give toward *Next Steps*?**

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward *Next Steps*. You might have some stocks, property, or other items of that nature. Or you may have stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He just might be calling you to give during this time. Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you. Jason Miller, our Executive Pastor, is able to assist with all such gifts. Contact Pastor Jason at [jmiller@gsfbc.org](mailto:jmiller@gsfbc.org).

### **What if I have never even given to Geyer Springs before?**

*Next Steps* was crafted specifically with you in mind. *Next Steps* is a “one fund” generosity initiative. It is different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving, thus creating two steps for people who are not yet giving. *Next Steps* is a call to sacrificial, gospel-centered generosity for absolutely everyone at Geyer Springs. If you have never given before, this is your chance to get in the game with a committed sacrifice. We really hope you will.

### **How long is my commitment?**

We are asking that everyone make a two-year (24-month) commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with Celebration Sunday and our First Fruits offering on Sunday, April 2, and it will culminate in April 2025.

### **What if I am new around here?**

*Next Steps* is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give toward, and we would really love for you to make Geyer Springs your home and join us in *Next Steps*. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your church.

### **What if I do not have a job right now? What does that mean for my *Next Steps* commitment?**

*Next Steps* is about your total, radical, sacrificial generosity to God's mission at Geyer Springs. We believe that God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance, and that looks different for every person. *Next Steps* is about a heart change—one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God in this area of giving and declaring that we are a people who are unfinished. That may mean that you are being challenged to sell things, to pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you do not quite know how to fulfill right now but that you believe God will provide for, as you seek for ways to work towards that commitment. We would like for 100% of us to be a part of *Next Steps* so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually stretching season at Geyer Springs.

### **What if I am severely in debt right now? Am I still supposed to give?**

If you are someone currently paying down debt, we commend you for making progress on that. And you should continue to do so. We would be happy to help you in this journey and/or to recommend a budgeting class that might minister to you. Being in debt does not, however, "excuse" someone from giving. Giving is not about what God wants from you; rather, it is about what God wants for you. It should be our joy and privilege to give at all times. Please visit with Pastor Dave or Pastor Jason if you need assistance with this or if you would like to speak with a budgeting counselor. We would be honored to help you!

### **What if I am not a church member or made the step to trust Jesus?**

Great question. People take different spiritual steps at different times. Some people begin praying before they begin attending church. Others begin going to a small group meeting before they begin talking to God in prayer. Giving is another spiritual step, and it comes at different times for different people. However, just like other spiritual disciplines, giving draws us closer to God. God is calling ALL of us to give.

*"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)*

Whether you have taken the spiritual step of baptism or not, we would encourage you to join us in *Next Steps*. We firmly believe it will draw you closer to God and hopefully to a place where you are ready to make the decision to become baptized and to surrender your life to the lordship of Christ.

**Learn more online at: [gsfbc.org/nextsteps](https://gsfbc.org/nextsteps)**



A low-angle, rear-view shot of a person standing on a rugged, moss-covered rock ledge. The person is wearing dark brown hiking pants and brown trail shoes with green accents. The background shows a vast, hazy mountain landscape under a warm, golden sunset sky. The word "nextsteps" is overlaid in the center.

# nextsteps



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[gsfbc.org](http://gsfbc.org)