FEARLESS BOLDLY PURSUING JESUS AND HIS MISSION





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In the same way, God will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10-11

If God spoke to you today, what would he say? Well, if people like Abraham, Joshua, Moses, Gideon, Joseph (and many others) offer a clue, there is a strong chance God would say...

FEAR NOT.

Perhaps you read those words and think, "Nah, that's not me. I don't have a fear problem." Maybe. Or maybe fear is shrewdly avoiding detection. Fear can masquerade as moderation... or skepticism... or hesitancy... or withdrawal...

Fear is not the same as fright. Fright is sudden, obvious and involuntary. Fear is subtle. Fear can *cause* bad things, but often does damage by *preventing* good things.

For two years, West Side's leaders have been searching out God's next steps for our church. We've prayed and planned, then prayed and planned again! Our conclusion? Our next step shouldn't be a routine one, but a fearless one. **Westsiders now stand on the threshold of a once-in-a-generation opportunity that is worthy of a once-in-ageneration response!**

I want you to learn more, but above all, I want you to experience more. So, I have a direct and personal request of you: **choose to fully engage with me and every other Westsider during the coming weeks.**

- Start by reading this book a lot of your initial questions will be answered in the pages just ahead.
- Commit to attend every Sunday gathering in-person (and online if you're away).
- Join a FEARLESS Group so you can discuss this journey with others.

Friend, there are **10,000 reasons** for us to link arms and do this – so, let's go. And fear not.

EDDIE LOWEN, West Side's Lead Guy

PART 1: A FEARLESS LEGACY

For 117 years, God has worked through West Side in increasingly remarkable ways. Each generation of Westsiders has chosen sacrifice over complacency so that even more people could know and follow Jesus. The milestones illustrated here are a sampling of the many ways God has directed the growing impact of our church. Westsiders, we have been entrusted with this legacy of kingdom ambition!







• 1984

Christian Day Care

Center begins (Springfield

Christian Preschool)

1939 West Side starts Lake Springfield Christian Assembly (church camp)

•

1951

Christian Day School established (Springfield Christian School)

1944 - 1949

3 new churches planted in Springfield: South Side, Monroe Street & Bunn Park

2004

Third weekend worship service added

2002

Orchard Group partnership begins. Churches planted in New York City, Miami, Salt Lake City and Paris.

2004

Partnership with Central India Christian Mission starts

2007

•

Partnership with Missions of Hope International in Kenya begins

2012

First Baptism Day with 128 baptisms

2013

Worship Center renovation completed



#EVERYONE

2015 TryChurchOnline.com launches



2010

Fourth weekend worship service added

2008

Partnership with Myanmar Hope Christian Mission established

2011

First Sharefest at Harvard <u>Park E</u>lementary School



2010 - 2012

Elevate Campaign raises funds for expansion and remodeling





Special needs prom, 99 Westsiders in Kenya, 60,000 books sent to Nairobi

4

2018 The Fearless Journey begins

HEALTH & GROWTH

The impact of a church is not measured by numbers alone. But, metrics are one valuable gauge of effectiveness (and the Bible tracks the original church's numeric growth). Every number represents a person and every person matters to God.

WEEKEND ATTENDANCE GROWTH AT THE CIDER MILL CAMPUS



31,478 people from all 50 states and 94 countries have visited trychurchonline.com

Over **3300** people have

been baptized at the Cider Mill campus

WESTESIDE'S IMPACTION OF THE SECOND STATES OF THE SECOND S

KIDS & STUDENTS

Even among active church families, kids average fewer than 40 hours per year at church. We're committed to making the most of these hours by equipping the next generation to love and follow Jesus, not just on Sundays, but every day of the week.

From rocking babies to keeping pace with teens at summer camp, we're committed to doing whatever it takes to develop a strong voice in the lives of the next generation. We're doing our best to offer inspiring environments and engaging programming, while equipping passionate volunteers who help every child know God's love and discover God's will.

WE IMPACT NEARLY 800 KIDS AND STUDENTS AT WEST SIDE EACH WEEK.













Since Fall of 2017, **NEARLY 800** people have journeyed through our 10-week discipleship experience designed to take Westsiders deeper into their relationship with Jesus, the church and their purpose.



Every week, hundreds of volunteers invest their time in ministry at West Side to ensure that people of all ages feel welcome and are discipled toward full-devotion to Jesus and his mission.

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GUEST SERVICES & CAFE: 343

KIDS & STUDENTS: 376

CARE: 143

ROOTED, GROUPS & BIBLE STUDIES: 278

ADMIN & MAINTENANCE: 132

WORSHIP & TECH: 68

NEWCOMER AND NEXT STEPS: 95



LOCAL & GLOBAL Partnerships

One of West Side's core values is to reach beyond our own walls to meet the spiritual and physical needs of others. We are determined to make a growing **IMPACT** wherever we can, as often as we can.

Our church's history has clearly demonstrated that intentionally making room to impact more people **ON our campus** results in the opportunity to impact more people in a greater way **BEYOND our campus!**

WE GIVE **MORE THAN 5X AS MUCH** TO LOCAL AND GLOBAL MINISTRY PARTNERS TODAY THAN WHEN WE FIRST RELOCATED TO THE CIDER MILL CAMPUS IN 1996. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE SPECIAL OFFERINGS, DISASTER RELIEF, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, KENYA CHILD SPONSORSHIPS, OR ANY OF THE INDIVIDUAL GIVING THAT WESTSIDERS DIRECT TO MINISTRIES AND CAUSES BEYOND THE ONES WE COORDINATE.

In addition to our financial gifts, we deploy and inspire an ever-growing number of Westsiders as volunteers to assist both our local and global mission partners.

WE BELIEVE OUR MOST GENEROUS DAYS ARE AHEAD

PART 2: WHERE GOD IS LEADIN BOLDLY PURSUING JESUS AND HIS MISSION



Nearly 750,000 people reside in Central Illinois, yet the vast majority do not follow Jesus closely. Recent studies suggest that despite our Bible-belt location, Central Illinois needs more vibrant churches—places where people far from God feel welcomed and real lives get changed.

We can bring the help and hope of Jesus to our region if we're willing to fearlessly make room for and seek EVERYONE. With God's help, our goal is for West Side to **IMPACT 10,000 PEOPLE A WEEK.** It will take every Westsider living on-mission every day to make this vision a reality.



BRINGING HELP & HOPE TO EVERYONE

We won't stop until every person within our reach has the opportunity to know Jesus and connect to a healthy, vibrant church.

PHASE ONE

First, we'll make room for twice as many to connect with Christ on our campus by adding new kids space, a larger worship center and additional concourse areas.

PHASE TWO

From there, we'll launch new campuses of West Side throughout our region so that those far from God can experience hope and transformation within their own community.

FEARLESS GOALS

100% ENGAGEMENT

We want EVERY Westsider to fearlessly take his or her next steps in both generosity and devotion to Jesus and his mission.

\$27 MILLION IN Generosity

We are trusting God to provide, not only for our ongoing ministry at West Side, but for the expansion and compassion efforts needed to reach 10,000 people each week in Central Illinois and beyond.

BOLD DISCIPLESHIP

\$13.5 MILLION to fuel West Side's ongoing ministry to kids, students and adults in 2019 and 2020. This amount will fund two years of our on-campus ministry.





BOLD GROWTH

\$12 MILLION to expand our campus to make room for **EVERYONE**



New Worship Center & Concourse

- 2200-Seat Worship Center
- 7763 sq ft of Expanded Concourse Space
- Additional Cafe Serving & Seating Areas
- Outdoor Patio & Seating



- Nursing Mom's Room & Large Family Room
- New Family Restrooms
- Current Worship Center Converted to Multi-Purpose Space for Weddings, Funerals, Groups & Classes



2200-Seat Worship Center



New Kids Rooms



New Kids Wing

12,592 sq ft of Additional Children's Worship & • Activity Space



- Dedicated Rooms for our Friends with Special Needs
- Indoor Playground with Gathering Area for Parents

BOLD COMPASSION

\$1.5 MILLION to continue our current level of investment in missions and church planting, PLUS additional funds to generate a new wave of help and hope.






PART 3 NEXT STEPS

PRAY DAILY

Ask God to help you become increasingly fearless for the sake of Jesus and his mission.

ENGAGE ENTHUSIASTICALLY

Help us reach our primary goal of 100% engagement by going all-in during Fearless and encouraging others to do the same.

CELEBRATE CONFIDENTLY

Share your story of how God is using this season to help you become more fearless. Email us your Fearless story at stories@wschurch.org.

GIVE FEARLESSLY

Make a plan to live and give in a way that stretches your faith and helps our church become a beacon of hope in our region.

THE GIVING JOURNEY GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Our prayer is that God would help each of us become more fearless and generous for the sake of Jesus and his mission. Where do you find yourself on this giving journey?



INITIAL GIVER

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7-15

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time in response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trusts both God and church leaders with their gift.



CONSISTENT GIVER

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

A Consistent Giver is someone who decides to give something and gives it consistently to exercise the discipline of regular giving. Often, this is someone who determines to give a recurring gift online at wschurch.org/give. Those who do not give online can become consistent givers, also, but doing so requires more discipline.



INTENTIONAL GIVER

LUKE 14:28-35

An Intentional Giver is someone who begins to think about their giving in relationship to their other spending. This type of giver begins asking thoughtful questions: "Why am I giving more to AT&T than I am giving to God? Should I be giving God more than I spend on my car or mortgage payments each month?" This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize and spend their money. The point of intentionality may occur when someone begins to tithe (10% of your gross income).



SURRENDERED GIVER

COLOSSIANS 1:15-18, 22-23

A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes the price Christ paid for them on the cross and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. This person gives in a way that changes them. Their giving governs their spending and saving rather than their spending and saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver isn't concerned about what they ARE giving but is more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why. They seek to honor God with 100% of what he has given to them, including their money, home, vehicles and other resources.



ETERNAL GIVER

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

A Lifetime Giver is someone who thinks about the long-term impact of their generosity. This person considers what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all in relationship to their generosity capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal which governs their larger-ticket decisions. They are seeking to make the largest possible kingodm impact throughout their lifetime and beyond.

AND GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

PART 4: COMMIT FEARLESSLY

ONE FUND || TWO YEARS

Fearless is a one-fund initiative lasting two years (2019 & 2020). Every gift given to West Side during this two-year period will go toward Fearless to help us courageously pursue Jesus and his mission through **bold discipleship, bold growth** and **bold compassion**. A sample Commitment Card is provided to help you understand how a one-fund initiative works. Please prayerfully consider how you will complete your Commitment Card on Sunday, November 4.



CALCULATE COMMITMENT

WHAT I'VE WOULD NORMALLY GIVE IN A YEAR TO WEST SIDE

MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL GENEROSITY AS PART OF FEARLESS

x2 YEARS -

GIFTS FROM MY/OUR STORED

MY/OUR TOTAL TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT



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= \$

DECEMBER 2018 - DECEMBER 2020

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GIFT CHART

As you pray about how God would ask you to give during this season, use the gift chart below as a tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity as we become FEARLESS together.

| Gifts Needed | Two Year Gift Level | Annual Gift | Monthly Gift | Gift Total Level |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | \$2,500,000 | \$1,250,000 | \$104,167 | \$2,500,000 |
| 1 | \$1,500,000 | \$750,000 | \$62,500 | \$1,500,000 |
| 2 | \$1,000,000 | \$500,000 | \$41,667 | \$2,000,000 |
| 3 | \$500,000 | \$250,000 | \$20,833 | \$1,500,000 |
| 5 | \$250,000 | \$125,000 | \$10,417 | \$1,250,000 |
| 8 | \$150,000 | \$75,000 | \$6,250 | \$1,200,000 |
| 15 | \$100,000 | \$50,000 | \$4,167 | \$1,500,000 |
| 20 | \$75,000 | \$37,500 | \$3,125 | \$1,500,000 |
| 32 | \$65,000 | \$32,500 | \$2,708 | \$2,080,000 |
| 40 | \$50,000 | \$25,000 | \$2,083 | \$2,000,000 |
| 55 | \$35,000 | \$17,500 | \$1,458 | \$1,925,000 |
| 65 | \$25,000 | \$12,500 | \$1,042 | \$1,625,000 |
| 85 | \$15,000 | \$7,500 | \$625 | \$1,275,000 |
| 125 | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$417 | \$1,250,000 |
| 175 | \$7,500 | \$3,750 | \$313 | \$1,312,500 |
| 200 | \$5,000 | \$2,500 | \$208 | \$1,000,000 |
| 325 | \$2,500 | \$1,250 | \$104 | \$812,500 |
| many | \$1,000 | \$500 | \$42 | \$770,000 |
| TOTAL GIFT GOAL: \$27,000,000 | | | | |

PART 5 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES MY FEARLESS COMMITMENT CHANGE MY TITHE AND ADDITIONAL GIVING?

During this two-year period, every dollar given to West Side is a contribution toward our Fearless Initiative. This means that everything — including our general ministry budget, our local and global mission work and our campus expansion projects — will be fueled by Fearless.

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

1. Pray About Your Role

First and foremost, we are asking you to pray and seek God's direction on what he is asking of you. Fearless will be catalyzed by prayer, so please pray daily for what God will do in your life and through our church.

2. Engage in a Fearless Group

What better way to grow, ask questions and ignite your spiritual enthusiasm than to join a 5-week Fearless group with others who are on the same journey. To register, visit wschurch.org/FearlessGroups.

3. Discern God's Direction

Spend time in personal reflection with God using the Fearless book. Then, initiate healthy conversations with others about what you're learning.

4. Make a Sacrificial Commitment

We ask that you make a sacrificial commitment that stretches your faith like never before. Be as generous as you can for the sake of others. Give in a way that changes you.

5. Mark Your Calendar for Advance Commitment Night

On Sunday, October 21 we will gather on the portion of our church property where the future worship center will be constructed. This worship experience will be a defining moment for our church as we offer our commitments and pray for the next generation that will come to know Christ at West Side.

6. Prepare to be Amazed

We are asking God for a season of personal and collective growth that only he can generate. Open your eyes and prepare your heart to see God at work in a new way.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL NON-MONETARY WAYS THAT I CAN GIVE TOWARD FEARLESS?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward the Fearless Initiative. You might have stocks, property, or another form of stored resources with which God has blessed you and from which he might be prompting you to give. If you need assistance facilitating gifts of property or stock, please contact West Side's Director of Finance, Brenda Lavin at BrendaL@wschurch.org.

HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?

We ask that everyone make a two-year commitment to Fearless. Your commitment will begin with the offering on Big Give Sunday, which takes place on December 2, 2018. Fearless will conclude in December of 2020.

WHAT IF I AM IN DEBT RIGHT NOW? SHOULD I STILL GIVE?

If you are currently making payments to eliminate debt, we commend you for your progress on this important goal. You should continue to do so. If we can help you on the journey to become debt-free, please let us know. West Side offers biblically-based budget counseling, financial planning resources and an annual course entitled Financial Peace University (next offered in early 2019).

Being in debt doesn't give us a pass on giving, however. Giving isn't about what God wants **from** you, but what he wants **for** you. God instructs us to find a way to give with joy at all times, regardless of our circumstances. Please contact us if you would like to speak with a budget counselor.

WHAT IF I HAVE NEVER GIVEN TO WEST SIDE BEFORE?

Fearless was crafted with you in mind. Fearless is a one-fund generosity initiative, meaning it is different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving. Fearless is a call to sacrificial generosity for everyone. If you have never given before, this is your chance to get in the game!

WHAT IF I AM NEW AROUND HERE?

We believe the local church has the most compelling mission to which we can give our lives. We would love for you to make West Side your church home as we bring hope to our world through Fearless. You can get started by signing up for First Step, which happens the first Sunday of every month. Go to wschurch.org/FirstStep to learn more.

WHAT IF I HAVEN'T BEEN BAPTIZED?

Like other spiritual disciplines, giving draws us closer to God. The Bible says: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19). Whether you have taken the spiritual step of baptism or not, we would encourage you to still join us in Fearless. We believe it will draw you closer to God and hopefully to a place where you are ready to make the decision to surrender your life to Jesus through baptism.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

We have several options for giving. One is to drop your gift in the offering buckets as they are passed each week during our offering time. **The best and easiest way to give** is to enroll in automated giving at wschurch.org/give. Another option is to fill out a giving envelope (found in seat backs throughout the Worship Center).

WHAT IF I CANNOT FULFILL MY COMMITMENT OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

While your Fearless commitment should be realistic, it should also stretch your faith (and likely your checkbook). If a personal or financial hardship changes your circumstances to a point where you're unable to fulfill your Fearless commitment, don't hesitate to let us know. We'd be honored to offer you prayer and counsel during a difficult time.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

CHECK OUT OUR EXTENDED FAQ RESOURCE AT

wschurch.org/FearlessFAQ

IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT

Sunday, October 21 || 6:00PM

Please plan to join us for a worship service that will be remembered as a defining moment in our church's history. Register online at wschurch.org/Fearless. KidCare for children birth-5th grade is available upon RSVP.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 4

This is the day each Westsider will celebrate what God is doing in their life by putting pen to paper and turning in their Commitment Card. (An example of this card can be found on page 37).

BIG GIVE SUNDAY

December 3

This Sunday is the first opportunity to give toward Fearless. Whether your gift represents the first month of your Fearless giving or a larger percentage of your overall commitment, Big Give Sunday will act as the financial catalyst for Fearless.



PART 6: DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 1 | FOLLOW FEARLESSLY

WEEK 2 | TRUST FEARLESSLY

WEEK 3 | PRIORITIZE FEARLESSLY

WEEK 4 | SURRENDER FEARLESSLY

WEEK 5 | BELIEVE FEARLESSLY

WEEK 1 | MESSAGE NOTES Follow Fearlessly

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For daily devotions, check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 1 - Follow Fearlessly

Opening Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the emotions or reactions you have about money and the Church?
- 2. What is a memorable experience you have had regarding giving in the Church?

Teaching and Story Video

Pray together as a group. Then play the Teaching and Story Video for week one.

Find Teaching & Story Videos at **wschurch.org/fearless**

Further Discussion from Scripture:

Read each Scripture passage below aloud in your group. Then give your group a few minutes to journal their answers to the following questions before discussing them together.

GOD CALLS US TO THINGS WE CANNOT YET SEE

Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." 1. God called Abraham (Abram at the time) to a life he could not yet see. What would it take for you to trust God's plan for your life—even if it means leaving familiar and comfortable places?

2. What areas of your life do you look to for security? Family? Friends? Money? Your career? Your talents and abilities? How do those things impact the way you follow God's lead?

3. What fears do you have for your future?

LET'S LEAVE THE COUNTRY OF FAMILIARITY AND LET'S GO ON AN ADVENTURE WITH GOD THAT REQUIRES US TO DEPEND ONLY ON HIM.

Colossians 1:3-14

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 4. How would your generosity be affected if you followed God fearlessly?

5. What decisions would you need to make to give in such a generous way?

6. What do you hope your story of generosity looks like during this Fearless season? What's your next step toward living and giving fearlessly?



WEEK 2 | MESSAGE NOTES Trust Fearlessly

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 2 - Trust Fearlessly

Opening Discussion Questions:

- Why is it difficult to trust people? Why do we have so many trust issues?
- Describe a time when you trusted someone and it turned out positively? What does it take in order for true trust to be present?

Teaching and Story Video

Pray together as a group. Then play the Teaching and Story Video for week two.

Find Teaching & Story Videos at **wschurch.org/fearless**

Further Discussion from Scripture:

Read each Scripture passage below aloud in your group. Then give your group a few minutes to journal their answers to the following questions before discussing them together.

FAITH IS NOT JUST BELIEVING IN GOD, BUT BELIEVING THAT GOD'S PROMISES ARE RELIABLE AND THAT GOD'S PRINCIPLES AND COMMANDS ARE NOT JUST RIGHT, BUT RIGHT FOR US.

For daily devotions, check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan

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Genesis 15:1-6

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

 Can you think of a time in your life or in someone else's life where God revealed himself in this type of way and made the seemingly impossible possible? Describe.

2. What are some of God's promises given through his Word that you are still waiting for and trusting him to keep? What is God teaching you in this season?

Genesis 17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram*; your name will be Abraham**, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

* Meaning "high father" ** Meaning "father of a multitude"

3. Why do you think God changed Abram's name?

4. Do you ever feel you have been "named" by a situation of your past? How might God be trying to "change your name" while he is leading you forward and asking you to trust him?

5. As you think about this Fearless Journey and specifically the Fearless commitment God is asking you to make, what fears are preventing you from trusting in God fully?

How can the group pray for you?



WEEK 3 | MESSAGE NOTES Prioritize Fearlessly

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 3 - Prioritize Fearlessly

Opening Discussion Questions:

- 1. Who is the most committed person you know? To what are they committed?
- 2. What does commitment mean to you? To what are you committed?
- 3. When has commitment cost you or caused you to rearrange your priorities?

Teaching and Story Video

Pray together as a group. Then play the Teaching and Story Video for week three.

Find Teaching & Story Videos at **wschurch.org/fearless**

Further Discussion from Scripture:

Read each Scripture passage below aloud in your group. Then give your group a few minutes to journal their answers to the following questions before discussing them together.

A FUTURE PROMISE IS MORE VALUABLE THAN A PRESENT POSSESSION.

For daily devotions, check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan

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Genesis 13:1-17

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord. The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

1. Abraham clearly had different priorities than Lot in this situation. What were Abraham's priorities as outlined in this passage?

What were Lot's priorities?

2. There is a passage in Proverbs that states, "The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller" (Proverbs 11:24 MSG). How does this truth play out in this passage? 3. In order for Abraham to be generous, he had to stay committed to following the ways of God. Do you feel you are committed to following God's priorities in terms of generosity? In what ways do you want to be more fearless?

4. As you think about the priority of your generosity to God's Kingdom, do you feel you are committed to generosity above your other financial priorities? Another way to put this might be, does your level of spending control your level of giving, or does your level of giving control your level of spending? Be as honest as you possibly can.

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Paul, a New Testament parallel to Abraham in many ways, impresses upon the early church at Corinth—and upon us as the Church of today—the importance of giving in such a way that we believe God will "increase our store of seed" and will "enlarge the harvest of our righteousness" (verse 10). Focus on verse 11: "You will be enriched in every way so you can be generous on every occasion." Why does God give resources to us? So we can have more money for ourselves? So we can feel more secure? So we can impress others and feel significant? NO! It's so we can be generous on every occasion! 5. Let's ask ourselves a convicting question: If you were God, would you give you more money?

REFLECT AND PRAY ON WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO TRULY PRIORITIZE GOD IN OUR GENEROSITY

For daily devotions, check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan



WEEK 4 | MESSAGE NOTES Surrender Fearlessly

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 4 - Surrender Fearlessly

Opening Discussion Questions:

- 1. What have you have sacrificed in your life? What did that mean for you? How did it change you?
- 2. What would be very difficult for you to give up something that if you were asked to sacrifice, you're not sure you could?

Teaching and Story Video

Pray together as a group. Then play the Teaching and Story Video for week four.

Find Teaching & Story Videos at **wschurch.org/fearless**

Further Discussion from Scripture:

Read each Scripture passage below aloud in your group. Then give your group a few minutes to journal their answers to the following questions before discussing them together.

GOD, WHAT HAVE YOU GIVEN TO ME BEFORE THIS MOMENT TO ALLOW ME TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THIS MOMENT?

For daily devotions, check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan

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Genesis 22:2-18

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he Himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

For daily devotions, check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan 1. After Abraham waits decades for a son, God now asks him to be willing to sacrifice his son, Issac on the altar of the Lord. What emotions go through your mind and your heart after reading this passage?

2. It is tempting for us to believe that anything given to us by God is OURS, not his. How does this passage remind you of things in your own life that you do not view as completely surrendered to God, but still as *yours*?

3. What is preventing you from fearlessly surrendering to God and his plan for your life? 4. Do you believe God can and will do something THROUGH you and IN you during this Fearless season? How do you think God is seeking to use you and your resources in a way that brings glory to him, even when you may not know the specific path ahead?

JESUS GAVE IT ALL FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

For daily devotions, check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan 5. To run the race with Jesus means committing to the race and not growing weary along the way. Jesus gave his life for us because of the joy set before him in heaven. When you think about that type of sacrifice and that we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," how do you want to respond?

6. If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you value? Would that statement be true about you? Is there something that needs to be modified as you think about this Fearless season ahead?

For daily devotions, check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan



WEEK 5 | MESSAGE NOTES Believe Fearlessly

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 5 - Believe Fearlessly

Opening Discussion Questions:

- 1. Have you ever been the only person who believed something when no else did?
- 2. Would you consider yourself most naturally to be a person of belief or of cynicism?
- Name one hope or prayer you have for West Side as we embark on this two-year Fearless Journey. Write these down as a group as we prepare to make our commitments this weekend.

Teaching and Story Video

Pray together as a group. Then play the Teaching and Story Video for week five.

Find Teaching & Story Videos at **wschurch.org/fearless**

Further Discussion from Scripture:

Read each Scripture passage below aloud in your group. Then give your group a few minutes to journal their answers to the following questions before discussing them together.

Genesis 18:16-32

When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it." Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?"

He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"

He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?"

He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

1. This story demonstrates the importance of relentless prayer for people who need to be connected to God. Something to remember as we talk about this story is that Jesus had not come yet as an atoning sacrifice for the world. When Jesus came and the gospel story was fulfilled, he literally paid for the sins of the whole world of every single woman and man—so that people in cities would not have to be destroyed by God as a result of their own sin. But God uses stories in the Old Testament like this one to remind us it is important for us to pray big, bold prayers, believing God will act on our prayers in accordance with his Word. Would you say you are a person of big belief in what God can do? Do you pray big, bold prayers? What's your prayer in this season... For yourself? For West Side? For our region? For our world? 2. This Fearless Journey is not ultimately about raising \$27 million dollars. It's about 100% of us praying big, bold prayers for God to do something new in our hearts. It's about trusting him more than ever before. It's about unleashing a fresh wave of hope in our world. Is this what you are doing for Fearless? Is this how you have been thinking about your giving and sacrifice? Reflect on this and share your thoughts, nervousness, excitement and prayers with your group.



church.org/reauli

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 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, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

For daily devotions check out our Fearless Bible Reading Plan at wschurch.org/readingplan



PERSONAL REFLECTION

(For your eyes only. Please complete prior to commitment Sunday.)

List your current financial commitments—those which go beyond a one-time payment and have a time duration associated with them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, etc.

List the commitment you are planning to make for the Fearless initiative. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change one or more of these other commitments to be able to fulfill your Fearless commitment? What would it take for you to raise your Fearless commitment? If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you value?

"Choose this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15). Choose to make your giving to God the type of priority you want it to be. What will that mean for your Fearless commitment?

If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what spiritual change might occur in you?

What impact do you hope your commitment will have on your friends, family, children, co-workers, etc.?

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PRAY FEARLESSLY

GOD, YOU HAVE BEEN SO GOOD TO ME! Take a moment to specifically thank God for what he's done for you.

I NEED YOUR HELP AND YOUR WISDOM. Talk to God or journal, quietly mentioning things that you need from him.

TAKE MY FEAR AND HELP ME TRUST YOU. Be open to how God asks you to live boldly for him.

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."

Phillippians 4:6-7 (MSG)

