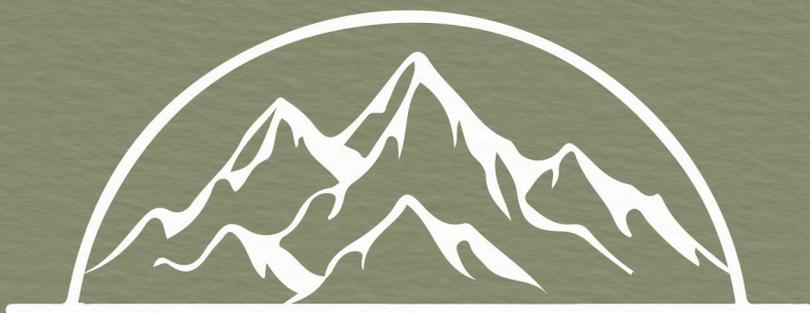




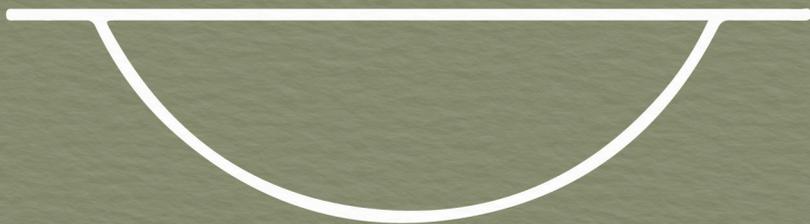
# STEADFAST GUIDE

A TWO-YEAR  
DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY





THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



# Buffalo Family,

As we step into this new season together, my heart is full of gratitude. When I look back on God's faithfulness to our church — story after story of lives changed, prayers answered, and grace poured out — I gain tremendous confidence for the future. God has been faithful in every chapter so far, and I believe He will be faithful in the chapters yet to be written.

We are calling this vision season STEADFAST, because the world around us feels anything but. Everywhere we turn, the cultural ground seems to shift—values, expectations, truth itself, all feel unstable. Yet in the midst of uncertainty, God invites us to stand on something unmovable. Not the sand of public opinion or passing culture, but the solid rock of Jesus Christ.

This is a season where God is calling us to become a STEADFAST church — Firm Foundation: firm in discipleship, deep in devotion, and Future Focused: Focused in purpose, in mission, and impact. A church where lives are transformed, families are strengthened, and our communities are touched by the hope of the gospel. A church prepared not only for today, but for the next generation.

Over the next two years, we will walk together on a discipleship journey designed to help each of us grow in spiritual maturity, obedience, and kingdom impact. This guide will give you a clear picture of where we're going and how every one of us plays a part. As Micah and I have prayed, God has been stretching our faith again — inviting us to trust Him more deeply with our time, our comfort, and our resources. I believe He will do the same for you, and all of us, as we follow Him faithfully into this vision.

Church, let's be STEADFAST in Christ. Let's build our lives — and our future — on the One who never changes.

With love and expectation,

Todd Nicholson  
Lead Pastor



**STEAD  
FAST**

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# PLANTING BUFFALO



# The story of Buffalo...

began in a restaurant in Lawrenceville, GA. Pastor Todd and Micah were eating lunch and dreaming about where God would take them in their next season of ministry. Planting a church came up in the conversation and felt a little crazy, but God kept knocking on their hearts. After much prayer and Godly guidance, the Nicholsons moved their family of three kids and three dogs to Helena, MT in December of 2021. They didn't know anyone in Helena but had faith that God would be with them.

After a year of prayer, planning, and building relationships, Pastor Todd and Micah, along with a team of 50+ adults, launched Buffalo Church on Sunday, January 29th, 2023 with 351 people in attendance. In the last three years, hundreds of lives have been transformed by the power of God, and Buffalo Church has grown to averaging over 600 people in attendance.

## **And God is not done yet!**

After three years of being a mobile church, God has led us to put down roots through the purchasing of a building and expanding His mission to include 24/7 ministry space for our church and our community. We believe we have the high calling of discipling the many people who now call Buffalo Church home, and it is our privilege to serve the families of Buffalo and help them discover their purpose and calling within His Church.

We can't wait to see how God writes the next chapter of Buffalo Church!

# STEAD · FAST

resolutely or dutifully firm  
and unwavering



# DISCIPLESHIP

## JOURNEY GOALS

God is leading us into this two-year discipleship journey, and it is the first time ever for our church. Buffalo Church was planted for a season like this, and so were you, yet it's not about us. It's about Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

Our primary goal is to build disciples by answering the question, "What am I building my life on?" This primary goal challenges each and every one of us to take significant next steps of obedience to what God is calling us into in this next season.

We believe that God is inviting us to trust Him for the future mission of Buffalo Church in the city we love. We have a two year focus to help the families within Buffalo grow in their spiritual understanding, develop a clear vision to reach more people for Jesus, and opportunities to minister to the community of Helena more effectively.

**We accomplish this mission by building our church on these four pillars:**

**Steadfast Lives**

**Steadfast Families**

**Steadfast Community**

**Steadfast Impact**

# STEADFAST LIVES

We believe God wants men and women from Buffalo to go out and serve and expand His Kingdom one life at a time. We are praying for 10 families to be sent out to local communities to reach more people for Jesus through church planting, non-profit leaders, and relocating to their communities to have a kingdom impact.

We remain committed to making followers of Jesus through classes, bible studies, small groups, and more. Our heart is to see God baptize over 150 people within the next two years.

**You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.**

**Isaiah 26:3**



# STEADFAST FAMILIES

We will continue to invest in marriages, through classes like re|engage, developing healthier parents and families.

We will partner with schools and disciple the Next Generation of students and kids to lead our community.

It is our hope to continue to encourage and inspire Godly men within our community to lead and love their families to a surrendered life in Christ.

**Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.**

**Deuteronomy 7:9**

# STEADFAST COMMUNITY

Developing support for the Foster Care system in the state of Montana by raising up Foster Families and supporting Adoption and Foster Care Families.

Investing in a CARE NIGHT for our community, hosted on our new campus in 2027. (Classes & Groups for Grief, Parenting, Recovery, and more.)

We remain committed to our local partnerships in Helena by providing volunteer support and service as well as financial assistance.

**Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

# STEADFAST IMPACT

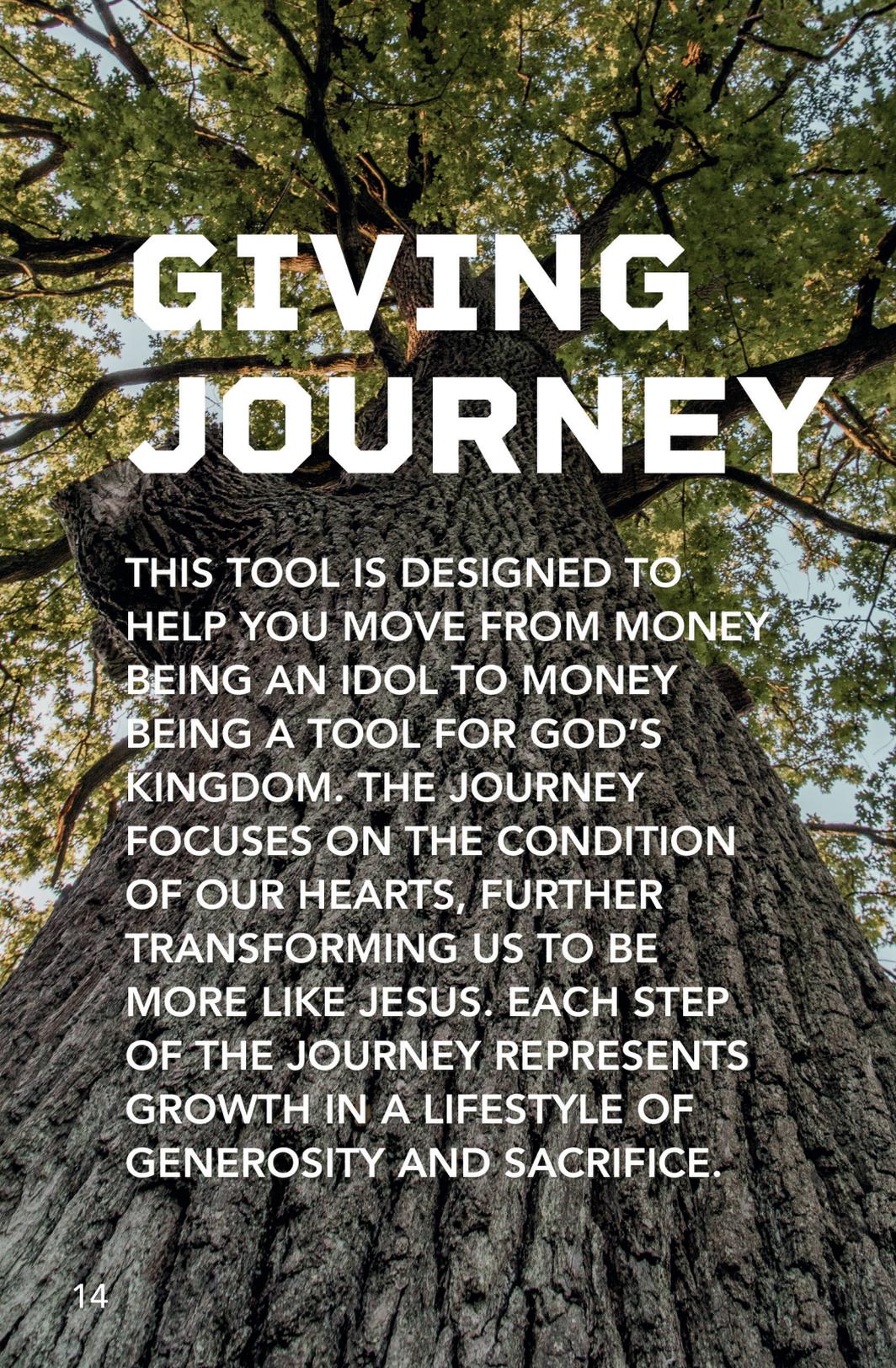
God is inviting us to have a lasting impact, not only in our city, but beyond. We believe this starts with 24/7 worship space, a permanent home for Buffalo.

We will continue to partner with church plants throughout the nation, and specifically send out leaders to serve churches in the Northwest.

We will also begin providing National & International Missions trips for our church to engage in partnering with the Gospel globally.

**Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.**

**Psalm 33:22**



# **GIVING JOURNEY**

**THIS TOOL IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU MOVE FROM MONEY BEING AN IDOL TO MONEY BEING A TOOL FOR GOD'S KINGDOM. THE JOURNEY FOCUSES ON THE CONDITION OF OUR HEARTS, FURTHER TRANSFORMING US TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS. EACH STEP OF THE JOURNEY REPRESENTS GROWTH IN A LIFESTYLE OF GENEROSITY AND SACRIFICE.**

## 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 decides to give something on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving. Someone who decides to make their gift recurring will be learning the behavior of consistency.

## INTENTIONAL GIVER

An Intentional Giver is someone who thinks about their giving in relation to their other financial priorities. This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize it in relation to other things on which they spend their money.

## TRANSFORMED GIVER

A Transformed Giver is someone who recognizes the power of the gospel and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. They give in a way that changes them, reflecting that their giving is governing their spending/saving, rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. They seek to honor God with ALL He has given them, whether that means direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource.

## FUTURE FOCUSED GIVER

A Future Focused Giver makes decisions in the short-term that have long-term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all relative to their generosity capacity. A Future Focused Giver is driven by the things of eternity, putting their hope in God and not in the things of this earth.

# THE ONE FUND THE ONE FUND

You may have been part of past giving initiatives where you were asked to give a second gift or commitment “above and beyond” your usual gifts to make special initiatives like new ministries possible. Normally, you gave that gift to a special fund, and you also continued to give your regular offering to a general fund.

During our Steadfast journey, we believe we’re all on this journey together to build disciples and a steadfast future. So, we want to encourage everyone to unleash their generosity toward these common goals.

This Steadfast journey will last for two years. During these two years, every gift that is given to Buffalo Church will go to our four key components of Steadfast Lives, Steadfast Families, Steadfast Community, & Steadfast Impact.

As we look at all that God is calling us to over the next two years, your support in building a Steadfast future is more important than ever. On the next page, you’ll see copies of the giving chart and commitment card. Use these as tools while praying through how God can use you throughout the Steadfast journey.



# 2-YEAR GIVING CHART

As you pray and discern how God would call you to give during this time, use this giving chart as a discipleship tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity as you build the Steadfast life that Jesus offers.

GIFTS NEEDED	2 YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$500,000
1	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$12,500	\$300,000
1	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$8,333	\$200,000
1	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$100,000
2	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$150,000
5	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$325,000
5	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$250,000
10	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$350,000
10	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$250,000
10	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$833	\$200,000
10	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$150,000
25	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$250,000
50	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$375,000
75	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$375,000
90	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$225,000

TOTAL: \$4,000,000

# COMMITMENT CARD

We've included a copy of the Commitment Card in this guide, so you can begin planning toward your commitment and what it will mean in your journey with God over the next two years. Take your time praying through this moment. We will provide you with a hard copy of the card on Commitment Sunday, March 15.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

What I/we would normally give in a year (regular giving, tithes).

My/Our expanded annual generosity as part of the Steadfast initiative.

x 2 years

Gifts from my/our stored resources: + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL 2-YEAR STEADFAST COMMITMENT**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

March 2026 -March 2028

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

A tall, slender evergreen tree stands in the foreground, its dark trunk and branches silhouetted against a bright, hazy sky. The sun is visible as a bright glow behind the tree's trunk. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with some snow patches on the lower slopes. The overall scene is a serene, natural landscape.

# SERMON NOTES







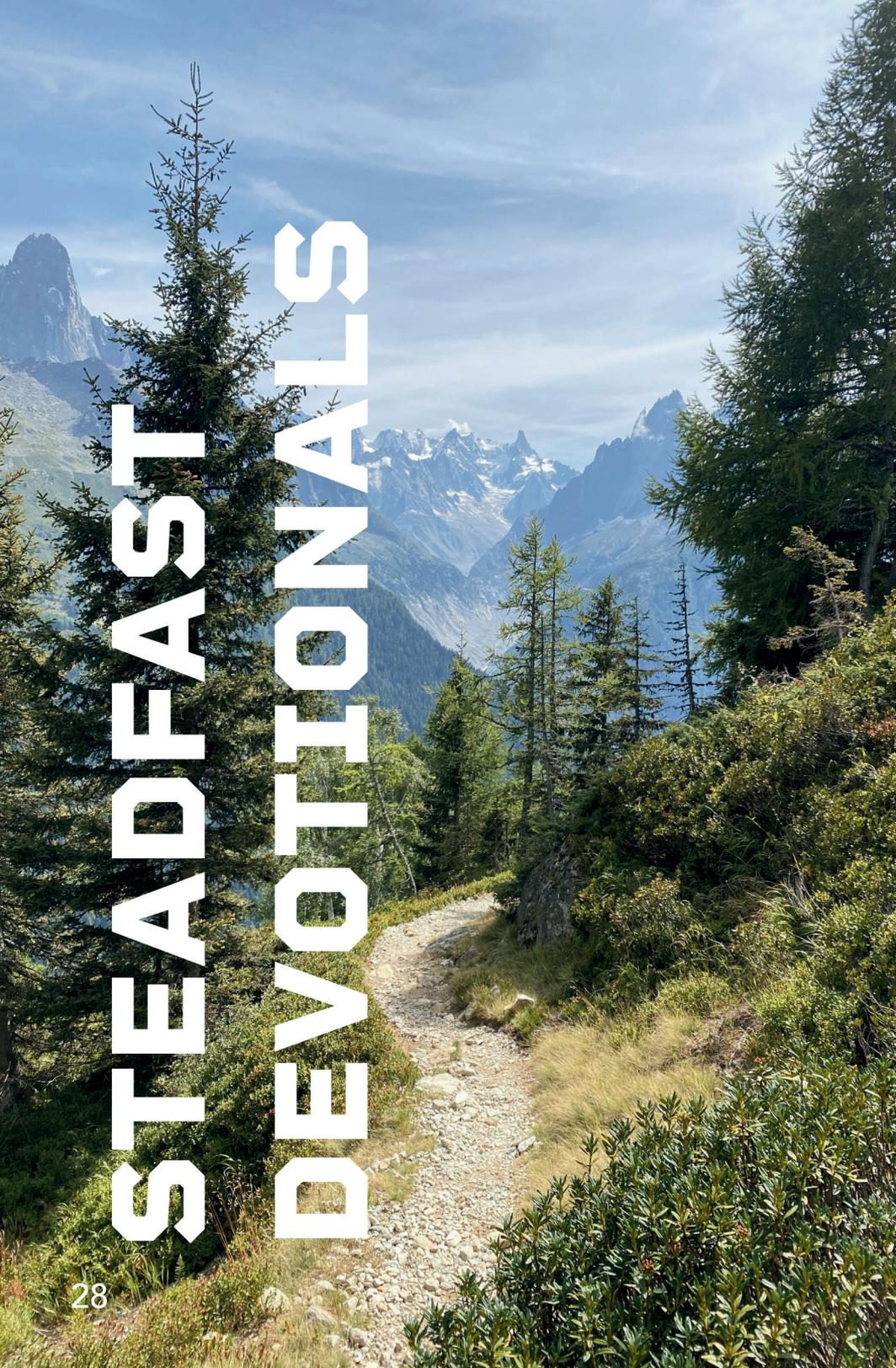












# STEADFAST DEVOTIONALS



## **FIRM FOUNDATION, FUTURE FOCUSED.**

The Steadfast Devotionals walk through the journey of Joshua from the Old Testament and what it means to build steadfast faith.

As we move through our four-week series, we have included four devotionals for each week.

Spend time reading the scriptures and meditate on them throughout your week. Incorporate the weekly challenge into your life and spend time with God in prayer.

Our prayer for you is that this season draws you closer to the Lord and builds a steadfast faith that will impact those around you.

## GET READY!

So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.'"

Joshua 1:10-12

Have you ever gone on a trip without packing anything? You get in the car with nothing but yourself, not even a wallet or an extra change of clothes. Sounds ridiculous, right? But this is what we will do with our relationship with Jesus. We will go into seasons or situations without preparing for the emotional, mental, or spiritual battle ahead. We don't take the time to truly hear from Lord - we just expect Him to do all the work for us.

God told Joshua to get the people ready to cross into the Promised Land, the land they'd been waiting 40 years to take. He could have gathered everyone to celebrate and throw a big party. He could have walked around arrogantly saying, "I've been chosen to do this," and assumed that because God spoke to him, he didn't need tell anyone about it. But Joshua chose to obey God, telling everyone to "Get ready."

### CHALLENGE

What does, "Get ready" mean to you? When you go on trip, you make plans and prepare, because it's the responsible and wise thing to do. But are you doing that in your relationship with Jesus? Are you chasing after Him through reading His Word, talking and listening to Him, and cultivating Godly relationships? Take some time to ask God this week, and you can use the next page to process, how you can be more intentional with your relationship with Him?

### PRAY THIS

God, You made me, and I believe You guide all my steps. You know all things, and my future is in Your hands. Help me to know what preparations I need to take in order to keep following after the plan You've laid out for my life. I don't want to assume You'll be with me. I want to honor You with my decisions, my time, and my obedience.



## CONSECRATE YOURSELVES

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

Joshua 3:5

Consecrate means "to make or declare something sacred, to dedicate." When Joshua told the people to consecrate themselves (notice he didn't ask, it was a command), he took preparations for their journey into the Promised Land to a deeper level. Last week's devotional was about staying prepared for what God wants to do in us. But consecration is about intimacy. Not only should we want to chase after Jesus, but we need to be asking Him to make us more like Him, fully devoted to being a servant of Christ.

Culture tells us to devote ourselves to a career, money, selfish desires. Jesus' life was countercultural. He said, "I did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matt. 10:45). When we consecrate ourselves before the Lord, we are devoting our life to Him, not just bits and pieces, but everything. Why do we do this? Look at Joshua 3:5 again. Because "tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." Our devotion means we get to see Him do amazing things in our lives, our families, and our community.

### CHALLENGE

Have you fully devoted yourself to God's will and purpose for your life? Where can you be more like Jesus for your family and friends in the area of servanthood? This week, show Your devotion to God by spending time with Him. Turn on worship music and praise Him, or write a prayer of thanksgiving on the Reflections page. Tell the Lord how much He means to you and let Him do the same.

### PRAY THIS

Father, I am so grateful for Your faithfulness in my life. You are such a good God. I want to know you more and grow in my intimacy with You. When I do this, I am becoming more like You. Show me how I can be more devoted to Your will and Your ways for my life and my family.



## MAKE FLINT KNIVES

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

Joshua 5:2-3

God has a reason for everything He says and does. And this passage of scripture is no exception. By this point, the Israelites had seen the amazing things we talked about in last week's devotional from Joshua 3. In Joshua 4, the Jordan river had dried up and everyone crossed over into the Promised Land on dry ground. Their devotion led them to a miracle! But soon after, God asked for more. And the Israelites quickly realized that crossing into the land was one thing, but taking it for God's glory was another.

God's people were now in uncharted territory. There were lands to conquer and enemies to fight. God needed to prepare them for the unknown, which meant cutting away what may be holding them back. It was a painful but necessary sacrifice to show their devotion once again.

God will give us opportunities to trust Him throughout our walk with Him. He doesn't stop - but we do. We think that if we trust Him once or twice, He's satisfied with that. But God's desire for us is to keep growing, because He has so much more to give and do through us. Even when it's painful, He is doing His best work because His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

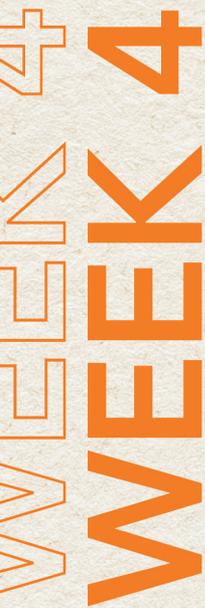
### CHALLENGE

The Israelites had to make a painful sacrifice - God asked them to be circumcised AGAIN. What are you willing to cut away for Jesus? How will you keep trusting God when He allows you to go through hard things or asks you to lay down your desires to follow Him? Read Joshua 5 and 6 this week, and watch what God does through Joshua and the Israelites. Write your thoughts and prayers on the Reflections page.

### PRAY THIS

Lord, thank you for wanting more for me. I'm sorry for not always being willing to cut things away from my life, for not trusting You when I go through pain and hurt. Holy Spirit, create in me a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Ps. 51:10). I want to live my life for Your glory and honor, God.





## LIVE FOR THIS!

"Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."

Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

**Joshua 14:12-14**

Caleb was not a young man. He was 85 years old, and yet, he asked for the hill country. Caleb was Joshua's righthand man, which is safe to say that he could have done anything he wanted. He put in his time in the desert for 40 years. He was faithful to the Lord his entire life. It seems only right that he move into a quiet spot and enjoy his retirement.

But that's not Caleb's story. Caleb insisted on taking what the Lord had promised. He wanted all the territory to be taken for God, and he was willing to fight and sacrifice in order to do so. And his reward? A land that has remained in his family for generations. Oh and the view from the top of the hill was probably pretty amazing too.

Let Caleb be an example to us all that God can use us, no matter what we think our limitations are. He didn't bow down to the status quo. He served the Lord wholeheartedly and believed in the Lord's promises. We can too.

### CHALLENGE

You are never too young or too old to be used by God. When you follow after God with your whole heart, He promises to be with you. How can you be more like Caleb? Is there something holding you back from being courageous for Jesus? Are you living a comfortable life or a bold one? Read through Joshua 14 this week and answer these questions on the Reflections page.

### PRAY THIS

God, I know you have me here for such a time as this. Don't let me give in to my fears that I cannot be used by You. Give me the courage to live my life for Jesus and serve others wholeheartedly. I want to hear Your voice and do Your will, Lord. Thank you for always calling me to more.





**FOR FAQs AND OTHER RESOURCES,  
PLEASE VISIT  
[BUFFALO.CHURCH/STEADFAST](https://buffalo.church/steadfast)**



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