



UNFINISHED **PEOPLE**
UNFINISHED **CHURCH**
UNFINISHED **INFLUENCE**

Dear Grace Family,

I am so glad you are with us as we kick off a new initiative called UNFINISHED! God has a next step for every single one of us.

The step God has for you will be unique to you because we are all in different stages of our journey with Him. However, no matter the stage, while we are on this side of heaven there is a work to be done in and through us. God continues to refine our character and grow our faith. We are all UNFINISHED.

Grace has enjoyed an amazing history over the last 30 years. I can't wait to see how God uses us in the 30 years to come.

This workbook is to be your companion for the next 6 weeks as we explore what it means to be UNFINISHED and how God is leading us to become more like Jesus.

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Galatians 5:6

Here's what I am asking of you beginning October 13:

- 1 Bring this workbook with you to worship services each Sunday.
- 2 Participate in an Impact Group.
- 3 Prayerfully read the pages of this book and begin asking God for His will for your UNFINISHED story.
- 4 As God speaks to you and leads, step out in obedience and faith.

Welcome to the UNFINISHED initiative.

On the journey together,
Darren





THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

INSIDE

- 6** **TIMELINE**
celebrating our history
- S** **PRIMARY GOAL**
how will you respond?
- 10** **CURRICULUM**
studies for Impact Groups
- 42** **PRAYER**
a six-week prayer journal
- 46** **UNFINISHED**
primary & secondary goals
- 60** **ONE FUND**
description & explanation
- 62** **GENEROSITY**
creative ways to be generous
- 6S** **Q&A**
frequently asked questions

TIMELINE

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

Team from Lubbock, TX moves to San Antonio and Grace Community Church is planted and quickly moves from meeting in a home to meeting in the LaQuinta Inn



1989

Grace Community Church is officially incorporated as a 501c3 and formally established as a church



1990

An old carpet warehouse on Kitty Hawk Rd. is purchased as the new home of Grace



1991

The "Kids Wing" addition is added to the building to facilitate our growing kids ministry



2001

2006



Monterrey, Mexico Church Plant - Partnering with GCLA to help plant a church in Monterrey, Mexico

2009



Church Plant - The Waters, Grace's first domestic church-plant team is sent out to plant a church in the Cibolo area

2010



Governance Change - The leadership structure at Grace evolves to establish a lead-pastor model

2014



Construction is completed on the new building creating a much needed space for the worship center and opening up more room for the kids in the Family Ministry building

2016



Cuba Missions - First missions team is sent to Cuba to share the gospel

2016



Our church and friends rally to grieve loss, celebrate life, and initiate annual community engagement events

2017



Establish Strategic Community Partners - local ministry partners are identified and partnerships made to facilitate meeting the needs in our community

2019



Weekly attendance of 675+, 500+ local and global salvations, 120+ active volunteers, 120+ kids & students every Sunday, 5 mission teams sent to Mexico and Africa



UNFINISHED

is first and foremost a discipleship initiative. We want to learn new things about God and ourselves.

We are calling on every person in the Grace church family to invest in

UNPRECEDENTED

ways to see God work powerfully here in our church, our community,

and around the world.

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'VE EVER TAKEN.

1 PRAY FERVENTLY. Pray that God would multiply our efforts to make disciples and fulfill the Great Commission. Pray that He would do abundantly more than we ask or imagine for His great name.

My Prayer for UNFINISHED is:

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

My Commitment for UNFINISHED is:

3 GROW INTENTIONALLY. Attend each Sunday from October 13 through November 17. Engage in the UNFINISHED study with your Impact Group. Learn all you can about God’s heart and will for you and your resources.

A Growth Area for me through UNFINISHED 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 UNFINISHED by:

IMPACT GROUP STUDY GUIDE WEEK 2

WATCH WEEK 2 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your IG Leader and available at www.IAmUnfinished.church)

 **BIG IDEA:** God wants us to trust Him completely. He desires 100% surrender.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Look at the defining moments on pages 6-7. What stands out? What did it take for the original members to start and grow Grace Community Church, year after year?
2. Describe something in your life you have struggled with as it relates to trusting God.
3. Have you ever been changed by a decision you made to trust God or to surrender something to Him?

READ: Genesis 22:1-19

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”
“Here I am,” he replied.

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.

APPLICATION

In what ways do you think Abraham’s life was UNFINISHED?

After waiting so many years, God asks Abraham to sacrifice his only son. How does this make sense? What emotions might Abraham have wrestled with? What would you have felt?

In what ways is it easy to believe that the things God gives us are really ours?

In what ways are you UNFINISHED?

What prevents you from fully surrendering to God and trusting Him?

“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.”

Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set out together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

 **TAKEAWAY**

How is God leading you to surrendered faith in Him?

How can you trust and surrender to God more this coming week?

When you consider how Abraham sacrificed, how do you think God might be leading you to give sacrificially? Be specific.

Check out the weekly prayer guide on page 42.

But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer on behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

 **APPLICATION**

In what ways was David UNFINISHED? What is surprising or encouraging about David's life?

What prompted David's sacrifice in 2 Samuel 24?

What is unique about David's sacrifice? Why does David's sacrifice please God?

 **READ:** Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

 **READ:** Luke 18:18-30

A certain ruler asked Him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call Me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

“All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

When Jesus heard this, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.”

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Peter said to Him, “We have left all we had to follow You!”

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”


 **APPLICATION**

What is different about the widow's heart and the rich young ruler's heart?

IMPACT GROUP STUDY GUIDE WEEK 4

WATCH WEEK 4 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your IG Leader and available at www.IAmUnfinished.church)

 **BIG IDEA:** God wants to transform our lives through the presence of Jesus Christ—living for heaven, not earth.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe how earth can seem more like home than heaven. Why?
2. What is a significant spiritual moment you have had at Grace? What excites you about helping others have significant spiritual moments at Grace through your giving?

READ: Acts 9:1-18

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?”

“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes

he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to Your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name.”

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name.”

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized...

APPLICATION

In what ways was Saul UNFINISHED before meeting Jesus? What were Saul’s priorities?

What changed for Paul when he met Jesus?

How was Paul becoming filled with Christ's humility?



READ: Acts 20:17-35

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

"Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on

your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



APPLICATION

In these verses late in Paul's life, how is he living more for heaven than earth? How does Paul describe his priorities?

How is Paul's generosity more about God and others and less about himself?

How does Paul describe giving and receiving (verses 32-35)?




TAKEAWAY

Is your giving and generosity governed more by heaven or earth? How can you tell?

IMPACT GROUP STUDY GUIDE WEEK 5

WATCH WEEK 5 INTRODUCTION & STORY VIDEOS

(Provided to your IG Leader and available at www.IAmUnfinished.church)

 **BIG IDEA:** God wants to accomplish much more through us than we could ever imagine or do on our own.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read pages 62-65. When have you given your time or money to someone else, and how did it impact them?
2. Describe a time you had to trust God for something difficult you couldn't do on your own.
3. Have you ever had needs you did not believe God could meet?

READ: John 6:1-14

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed Him because they saw the signs He had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with His disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.

Philip answered Him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Another of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

When they had all had enough to eat, He said to His disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

APPLICATION

What did the disciples see as the problem?

What did the disciples see as the solution?

How do you think the disciples and crowd viewed Jesus differently in the end? Is your trust and heart more like the disciples or the little boy?



READ: 2 Corinthians 9:6-14

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

Now 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.



APPLICATION

What do you think is the difference between "sparingly" and "generously" (verse 6)?

What does Paul describe as important about a generous heart? How does Paul describe the result? (verses 7-8 & 10-14)

Paul says that we are given resources by God so that we can be generous on every occasion. So answer honestly: if you were God, would you give you more money? (verse 11)



TAKEAWAY

When you think of someone who has left a legacy of generosity, who is that person? Describe them.

What are you holding onto that God wants you to give?

Check out the weekly prayer guide on page 42.

MAKING AN UNFINISHED INITIATIVE
COMMITMENT

Exercise and reflection to do at home prior to Commitment Sunday (November 17)

- 1 List out the financial commitments you currently have—those 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 commitment you are planning to make for UNFINISHED. 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 UNFINISHED commitment? What if you wanted to raise your UNFINISHED 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?

- 3 If someone who didn’t know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you value?

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

- 5 If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what spiritual transformation will occur in you?

- 6 How will you leverage this change to influence others such as your children, your co-workers, 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, November 17. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process, and prayer is what gives us the bold heart of Christ within us.

A monthly gift of	over 24 months equals
\$10	\$240
\$25	\$600
\$50	\$1,200
\$75	\$1,800
\$100	\$2,400
\$150	\$3,600
\$200	\$4,800
\$300	\$7,200
\$400	\$9,600
\$500	\$12,000
\$600	\$14,400
\$700	\$16,800
\$800	\$19,200
\$900	\$21,600
\$1,000	\$24,000
\$2,000	\$48,000
\$3,000	\$72,000
\$5,000	\$120,000

MY/OUR COMMITMENT

\$ _____ What I/we would normally give in a year (regular giving, special projects, etc.)

+ \$ _____ My/Our expanded annual generosity as part of the UNFINISHED Initiative

= \$ _____

\$ _____ x 2 years = \$ _____

+ Gifts from my/our stored resources \$ _____

= \$ _____

MY/OUR TOTAL UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

\$ _____

December 2019 - November 2021

You may think your gift doesn't matter when compared to our total goal for UNFINISHED.

You're wrong! Every gift matters to God. It's not about the amount, but what that amount means to you. (Matt 12: 41-44)

Use this table to see how your monthly gift adds up over two years!

READ: Luke 15:8-10

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins each worth about a day’s wages and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

READ: Luke 15:11-13, 18-24

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.”

I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

 **APPLICATION**

What do these 3 parables tell you about God’s priorities?

Which of the people or objects in the parables does God INTEND for us to be? How does this reflect God’s highest goal for our lives?

What distracts me from aligning my life and priorities with God’s highest priorities?

 **TAKEAWAY**

How can people tell what my highest priority is?

What is the one thing I could do this week to better align my priorities to God’s highest priority for my life?

Where does giving fall on your priority scale?

PRAYER

WEEKLY REMINDERS

WILL YOU JOIN US IN PRAYER?

WEEK 1: October 13-19. Pray for God to be placed first in our lives and that the people of Grace Community Church all join in this effort to establish a deeper relationship with Him. *Matthew 6:33: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Week 2: October 20-26. Pray for God to stretch you, to increase your faith and look for ways to trust Him more. Pray that the people of Grace all join in this prayer effort to seek God's guidance and blessings. *2 Corinthians 5:7: "For we live by faith, not by sight."*

WEEK 3: October 27-November 2. Pray for your own sacrificial giving and how God may want to move you out of your comfort zone. Pray that your heart is open to follow God's Word. *2 Samuel 24:24: "... I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."*

WEEK 4: November 3-9. Pray for help from the Holy Spirit in what you still need to surrender to God. *Philippians 2:5-7: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."*

WEEK 5: November 10-16. Pray for amazement! Thank God for all His amazing works and for your continued amazement of Him. Pray for Commitment Sunday on the 17th. *Ephesians 3:20: "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."*

WEEK 6: November 17-23. Pray for the lost. How can you be used to reach the lost? How can we as the church, the collective people of God, reach the lost? Pray for God's blessing on the commitments made this Sunday. *2 Corinthians 20: "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER 18, 2019

A Night of Prayer

Our whole church body is invited to take part in an evening of prayer this Friday night. Please pray for God's leading in this corporate prayer.

Romans 12:5: "so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

NOVEMBER 15-16, 2019

24 Hours of Prayer

Sign up to spend 30 minutes in prayer between 6 PM Friday November 15th and 6 PM Saturday November 16th as we head to Commitment Sunday.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

SHARE YOUR STORY

God isn't through with any of us.
we all have next steps and growth areas.
Share your journey and how God is shaping you
through UNFINISHED to encourage others.

— SHARE YOUR UNFINISHED STORY —

1 Visit IAmUNFINISHED.church online. From there, you'll find a story section.

2 Post your story publicly to social media and use the hashtag **#IAmUNFINISHED**.



UNFINISHED

PRIMARY GOAL 100% ENGAGEMENT

UNFINISHED is first and foremost a discipleship initiative. We want to learn new things about God and ourselves. We are calling on every person in the Grace church family to invest in unprecedented ways to see God work powerfully here in our church, our community, and around the world.

Whether you've never given anything before, give every now and then, or are a consistent giver, there is a next step God is asking you to take in this journey.

SECONDARY GOAL \$3.85 MILLION

Our secondary goal is monetary. This is a one fund initiative, so the goal amount includes our total ministry operating budget for the next two years (UNFINISHED People), renovations to our facilities (UNFINISHED Church), and expanded outreach efforts—in our community and around the world (UNFINISHED Influence).

If 100% of people at Grace get fully engaged, we expect to see an increase in generosity like we've never seen before!



1 UNFINISHED People \$2 Million

Our mission is to CONNECT with those far from God, FORM them into fully devoted followers of Christ, and ENGAGE them in mission to a needy world.

During this two-year initiative, we will maintain our giving to the ongoing ministries and future operational expenses at Grace, while keeping our eyes on the mission and reaching our community with the Gospel by:

- expanded ministry for seniors, first responders, and those experiencing divorce.
- more comprehensive Impact Groups strategies, particularly in regard to leadership development, men's and women's groups, and young adult groups.
- bolstered ministry to families, couples, students, and children.
- partnerships with local foster and adoption agencies, churches in economically depressed areas of San Antonio, as well as missions in Cuba, Mexico and Africa.

2 UNFINISHED Church \$1.7 Million

The Kids and Student ministry space is limited and desperately needs an overhaul to ensure even greater levels of security and safety while maintaining ministry effectiveness. Our current facilities have provided a hub for us to pursue and provide faithful ministry in our community. However, the space remains UNFINISHED. We will renovate and build out our existing facilities to create a more efficient use of ministry spaces by:

- renovating the Family Ministry building to increase ministry areas that provide a safer, more welcoming, and efficient use of the entire space.
- connect the Worship Center and Family building to improve guests' first-time experience and increase lobby gathering and ministry space.



Street View Main Entrance

- ▲ A look from Kitty Hawk Rd. at the new main entrance created by the added lobby space connecting Building A and Building B.
- ▼ A look from above of the new main entrance with reconfigured driveway and roof elevations.



Arial View Main Entrance

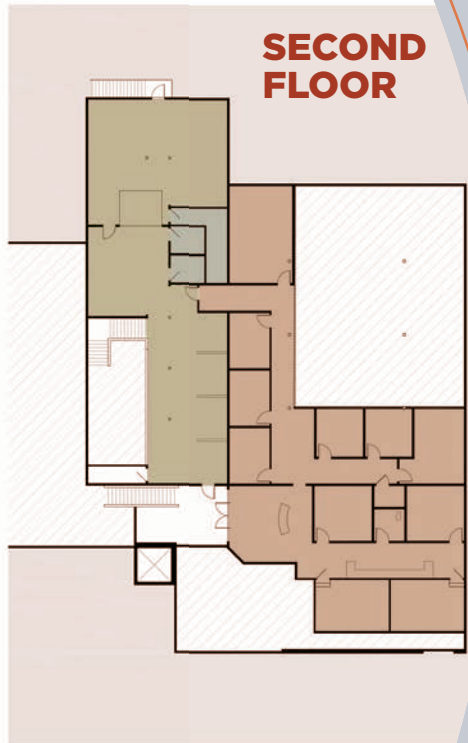
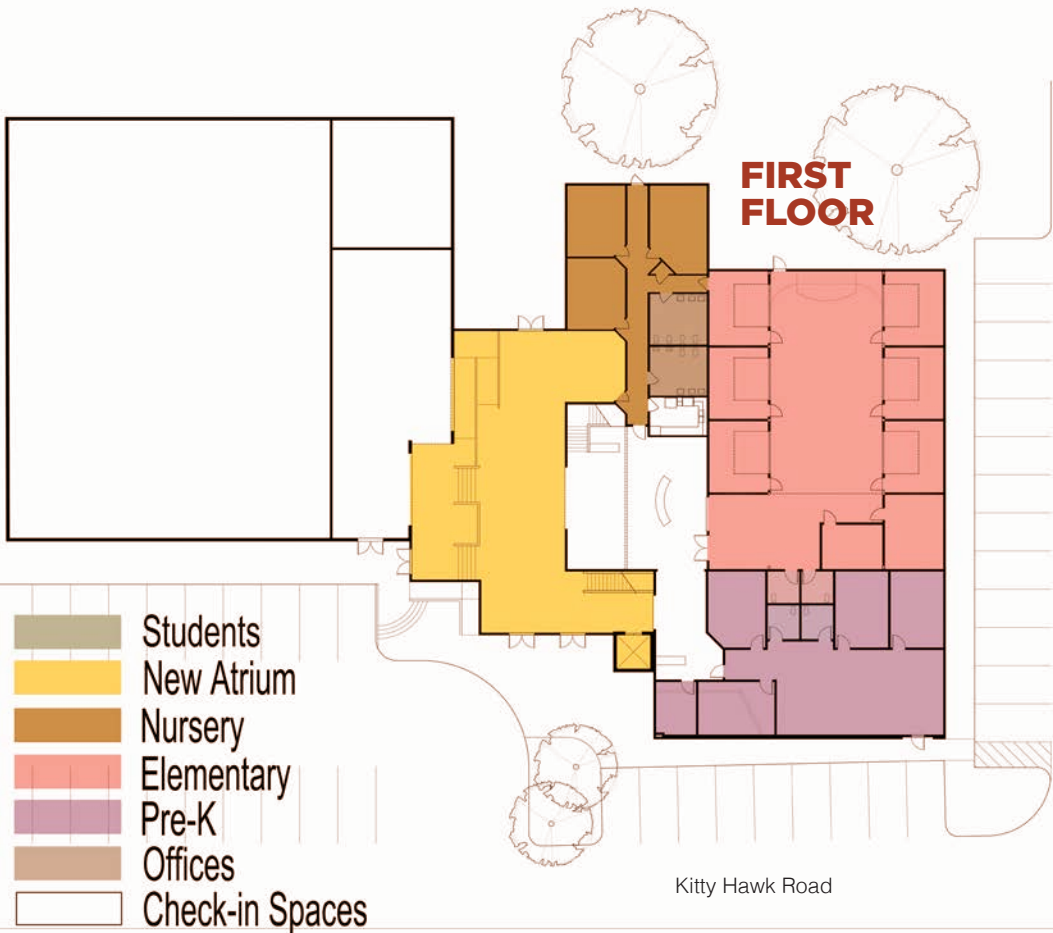


Themed Out Kids Lobby

- ▲ A look at the design concept for the new kids check-in and lobby space. The final design will carry on into each ministry small and large group spaces.

THESE COMMANDMENTS
 that I give you today are to be on your hearts.
Impress them on your children.
 Talk about them when you sit at home
and when you walk along the road,
 when you lie down and when you get up.

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7



New Layout and Floor Plan

This new, fully-renovated floor plan allows us to reconfigure and maximize the current footprint we have while adding approximately 4000 sq ft of new lobby, office, and flex space.

Included in this new layout is...

- A new main entrance into one connected lobby space
- Added lobby gathering space
- New back entrance from existing courtyard space
- New entrances to kids and student ministry spaces
- Pre-K kids moved downstairs to new space
- Built out Elementary Ministry space with added rooms
- New bathrooms in every ministry space
- New Student Ministry gathering space upstairs
- Added second story space for offices and flexible ministry space
- Reconfigured kids check-in lobby with new check-in locations
- Added elevator for 2nd floor accessibility

3 UNFINISHED Influence: \$150,000

We have UNFINISHED ministry opportunities in our community and throughout the world. This initiative will fund future ministry opportunities that expand the Gospel by:

- continued investment in the future plans of a church plant in the San Marcos/New Braunfels area.
- partnering with area churches to establish various recovery groups.
- building out a resource that addresses the unique ministry needs of those who are and have served in our military.
- expanding global partnership and ministry to Africa, Cuba, and Mexico.

UNFINISHED TOTAL GOAL

\$3.85 MILLION

To accomplish everything God wants to do through us here at Grace, we have a collective goal of \$3.85 million. Please join us in prayer that we will meet or exceed this goal to fulfill His purpose through us in our community and around the world.





GRACE
AROUND
THE
WORLD



REACHING
BEYOND
OUR WALLS

UNFINISHED STORIES

EACH OF US HAS A STORY.

No matter where you are on your journey of spiritual growth with God, we absolutely believe God has more in store for you.

Realize that some of the most life-changing, influential, and engaging days of your life are still ahead.



“The fact that something can be a raw object and then through time and through effort and through refining and finishing it can turn into something amazing. I think all of us in the hands of the Maker can do amazing things, and I’m excited to see where that growth leads for us and our kids.”

Nate and Beth Bohn

58



“It truly is family... not only our children but our grandchildren come here, and that speaks volumes.”

Bo and Peggy Weeks



“I can’t put it into better words than... the Lord guided me onto this parking lot. I walked in and I’ve been at home here ever since.”

Steve Shuemate



“They remembered our names... and that was impressive to me because it made me feel like okay, we’re actually connecting with these people. We’re not just showing up every Sunday. The support we receive makes me want to invest more in this church.”

Macie and Shondrea Shaw

59



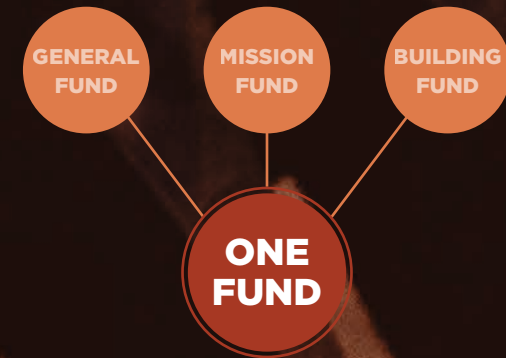
“I think generosity plays a huge part of our step of faith. Tithing, actually giving ten percent, in what we make - we made that decision and it’s really been a huge blessing. Because at first - I didn’t think we could. And now there’s just no question about it. Somehow the money is there.”

John and Marcy Ward

ONE FUND

You may have been part of church campaigns previously where you were asked to give a second gift “above and beyond” your usual gifts to complete special projects. At Grace these have been used to make new buildings and ministries possible. In the past, 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 don’t have a baseline for their “usual giving” or who aren’t able to really celebrate the total giving at Grace in one single number.

We believe we’re all on one mission—“CONNECT with those far from God, FORM them into fully devoted followers of Christ, and ENGAGE them in mission to a needy world.”



The UNFINISHED Initiative will last two years. In those two years, every gift given to Grace will go to the UNFINISHED Initiative, a single fund that includes:

- UNFINISHED Investment in our Vision
- UNFINISHED Impact in our Community
- UNFINISHED Influence in the World

We’ve included a sample commitment card on page 35 so you can see how a “one fund initiative” works. Please take the time to fill this out, but don’t worry: You’ll get a shiny new one to submit on **COMMITMENT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17.**

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 Stewardship 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 to:

- **Reassess your lifestyle**
- **Rearrange your priorities**
- **Reallocate your resources**

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

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 capital stewardship campaigns find a way to give through sacrificial commitments made in faith and coupled with priority budgeting.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

	Sell asset and gift net proceeds	Give asset directly
Value of Asset	\$12,000	\$12,000
Original Purchase Price	\$3,000	\$3,000
Amount of Appreciation	\$9,000	\$9,000
Capital Gains Tax*	<u>\$1,350</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Proceeds to Church <i>(asset value minus taxes)</i>	\$10,650	\$12,000

**Assumes 12-month holding period, 15% capital gains tax.*

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.

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 Grace Community Church 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 commitment to carry on the work of the church for future generations.

GIVING SCENARIOS

Each of us embark 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 a commitment card could be completed accordingly.

Which of the following giving scenarios fits you best?



INITIAL GIVER

Michael is new to the faith and has never given before. He is now starting several spiritual disciplines, including generosity. It's 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 UNFINISHED initiative.



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 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 UNFINISHED initiative.



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. UNFINISHED, however, has prompted them to tithe a full 10%. It will require some adjustments to give \$12,000 a year, but they know it's what God is calling them to do. Also, they've 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.



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 UNFINISHED initiative.



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 she 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 UNFINISHED 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 UNFINISHED commitments—something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, November 17, for this defining moment in the history of Grace.

How is UNFINISHED different from previous generosity initiatives?

We are more focused on everyone at Grace 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 \$3.85 million, we would still do this initiative. Whether we're just starting in our giving journey or we're very committed givers, we all have a next step to take and room to grow in this area.

How does \$3.85 million over two years compare to current giving at Grace?

Our current annual giving is approximately \$950,000, multiplied by two years is \$1.9M. So, in essence, we're believing God to grow our resources by \$970,000 per year for a total of \$3.85 million.

Are there additional ways besides cash that I can give toward UNFINISHED?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward UNFINISHED. 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. Ryan Gernand, our Executive Pastor, is able to assist with all such gifts. (ryan@DiscoverGrace.church)

What if I have never even given to Grace before?

UNFINISHED was crafted specifically with you in mind. UNFINISHED is a "one fund" generosity initiative. It's 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 aren't yet giving. UNFINISHED is a call to sacrificial, gospel-

centered generosity for absolutely everyone at Grace. 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 Big Give offering on Sunday, December 8 and it will culminate in November of 2021.

What if I am new around here?

UNFINISHED 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 Grace your home and join us in UNFINISHED. 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 home.

**What if I don't have a job right now?
What does that mean for my UNFINISHED
commitment?**

UNFINISHED is about your total, radical, sacrificial generosity to God's mission at Grace. 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. UNFINISHED 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 don't 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 UNFINISHED so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually-stretching season at Grace.

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

If you are someone currently seeking to make payments to pay off debt right now, 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 isn't about what God wants from you; rather, it's about what God wants for you. It should be our joy and privilege to give at all times. Please visit with Pastor Darren if you need assistance with this or if you would like to speak with a budgeting counselor. We would be honored to help you!

WHERE YOUR
TREASURE
IS, THERE YOUR
HEART
WILL BE ALSO.

Matthew 6:21

**WE ARE
UNFINISHED**



701 Kitty Hawk Rd. | Universal City, TX 78148
DiscoverGrace.church | IAmUnfinished.church