



Growing Grace

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and He will establish your plans. —*Proverbs 16:3*



“We are involved in some of the most exciting days in the history of Grace Church. Our efforts in these days will direct the future ministry and mission of our church. Our Capital Campaign – Growing Grace – is underway. The challenge before us is great, but we are not alone. We have each other, and we have the ultimate model of generosity: Jesus Christ!

As your pastor, I strongly encourage each of you to begin your participation in the campaign in three ways: Pray, Study, and Share. Enclosed in this packet, you will find several items to help you get started. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with these resources.”

**John Woodrum
Lead Pastor**



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A Word from the Growing Grace Team

Will you commit to praying daily?

We often say that prayer is a top priority, but many Christians fail to practice it. Since our relationship with God is the key to everything we do for God's kingdom, it is the principal area of attack upon our Christian life. This is why it is so hard to pray, but God's power is unleashed as his people pray in faith. Many of you joined the twenty-four hours of prayer on Good Friday. A number of you have joined the prayer and fasting team. Why not join me in using the 40 day prayer guide? If you choose to participate in this special way, look for more information upcoming.

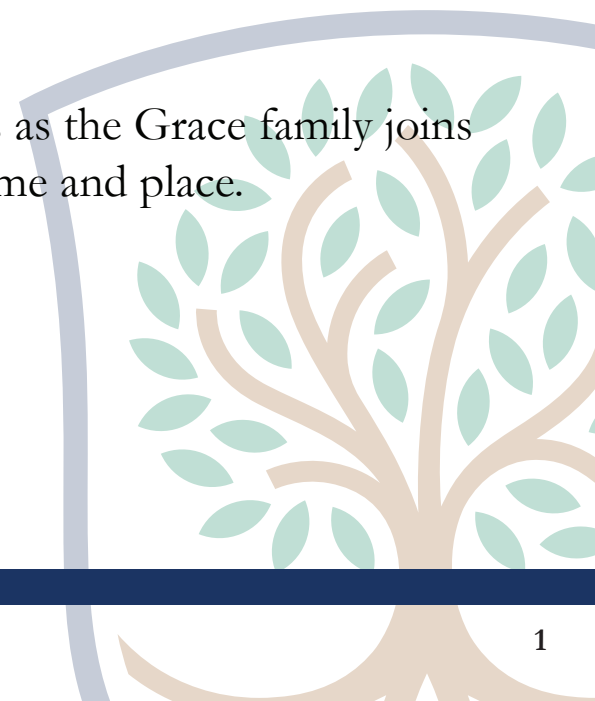
Will you commit to a five-week study?

As you should know, we are studying through the book of 2 Corinthians on Sunday mornings. God has orchestrated that we will be in chapter 8 in the weeks leading up to the Growing Grace Commitment Sunday. During this time, all of our KGroups will be doing sermon follow-up questions so we can dive deeper into what the Bible says about generosity. We will also provide additional study materials for these five Sundays. I hope everyone—adults, youth, and children—will join me in these studies. A schedule of opportunities available to you is also included in the packet.

Will you share the excitement?

Each and everyone's participation is important to us as the Grace family joins together in seeking to fulfill Christ's calling in this time and place.

— Growing Grace Executive Team



Grace Church Mission


Helping each other know and follow Jesus
in our home, city, and world.

Growing Grace is a natural next step of our mission at Grace Church.

These new facilities will allow us to partner with even more families to help them raise their children with a Christian worldview at Grace Christian Academy throughout the week, GKids on Sundays mornings and Awana on Wednesday nights.

Through these various ministries we help families know and follow Jesus in their home as a family, in our city as witnesses, and in the world as leaders and missionaries.

— Tony & Viviana Cooper

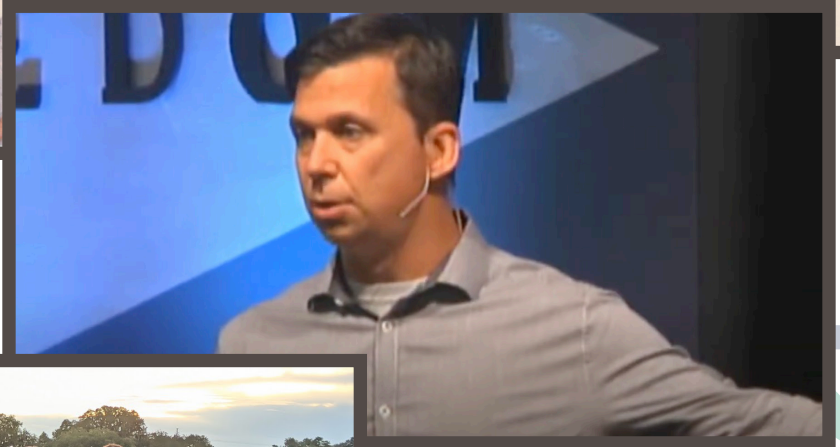


Many of us are being held hostage by bitterness
because we are not willing to give to others
what we have been given.

– **Tony Evans**

History & Timeline of Grace

- **1979:**
A small group of believers begin a Bible study meeting in the Georgia Power community room.
- **January 11, 1981:**
Grace Church is officially named and calls its first pastor, Tad Boyle.
- **October, 1984:**
Purchase of a large parcel of land at the intersection of Lake Douglas and Alice St.
- **March 23, 1986:**
Congregation approves construction of a 3200 square foot Phase I building with money on hand plus commitment pledges.
- **June 1, 1986:**
Congregation approves beginning construction on Phase II because the bids on Phase I were lower than expected.
- **March 16, 1990:**
Phase III, the interior of the sanctuary, is completed and used for worship services.
- **September 1, 1994:**
Grace Christian School opens with an enrollment of 50 students and 6 teachers.
- **August 22, 1997:**
The second floor of the educational building is sufficiently finished for school to start with 213 students.
- **February 17, 2013**
Congregation calls John Woodrum as Senior Pastor, which he accepts
- **May 2020:**
Sunday services begin in-person after multiple weeks of online only services due to the pandemic. Steady numerical growth happens on Sundays, Wednesdays, and at GCA.
- **August 3, 2022:**
Grace Church ruling elder Sean Johnson begins tenure as GCA Head of School.



Before we get started ...

What will this campaign accomplish?

We are building 6 additional classrooms that will accommodate up to 22 students each, a dedicated school cafeteria with an industrial kitchen, a new entrance/lobby, and renovating the Gym bathrooms.

The completion of this project will allow GCA to completely vacate the old sanctuary (current dining hall) as well as two classrooms in the church building. These areas will be reimagined as dedicated children's ministry classrooms and a large group space.



Why are we doing this?

If we don't build this extra space we will have to start turning away students to the school due to capacity and the school is a big part of the ministry of the church.

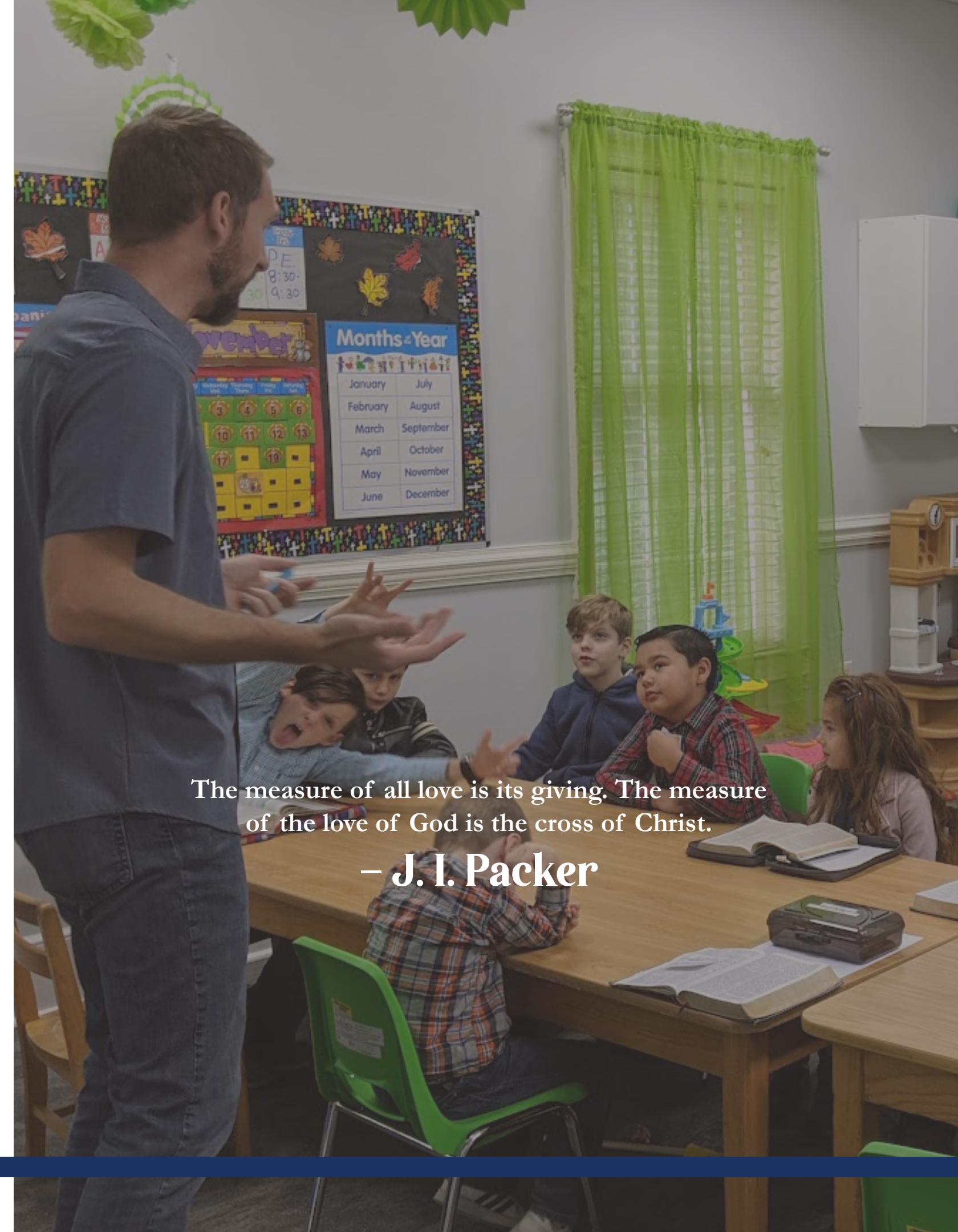
Our children's ministry, particularly Awana, is also hindered by the lack of available, dedicated space.

After much prayer, our elders and school board have considered both the timing and the plan and have by consensus decided that this is where God would have us go next.

Why are we doing this now?

We are doing it now because God has blessed us with organic growth in the school and church. Christian education has become an attractive option for more and more families and our church's impact will be hindered if we don't act now!





The measure of all love is its giving. The measure
of the love of God is the cross of Christ.

– J. I. Packer

Growing Grace Goals:

Primary Goal:

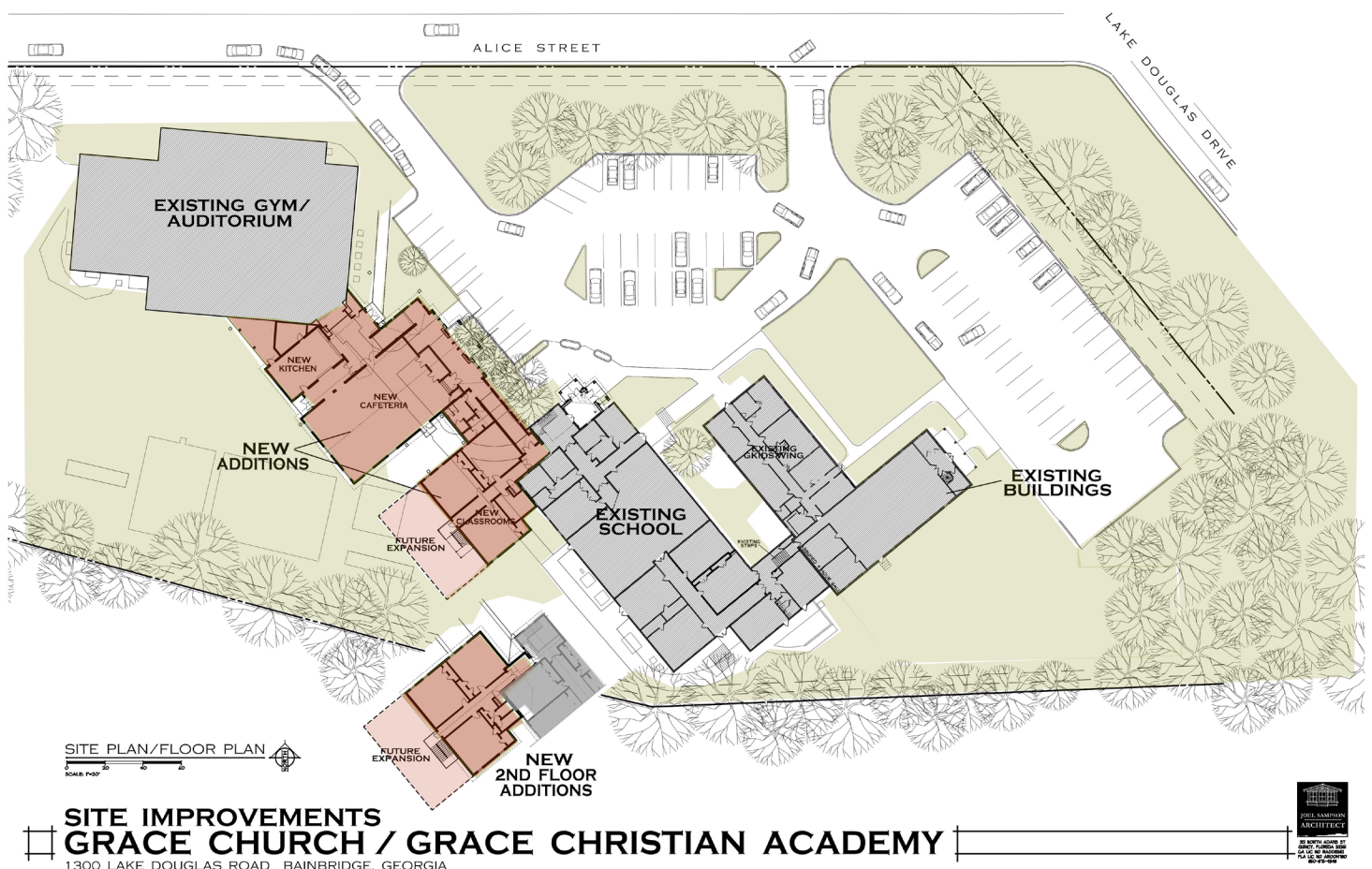
100% Participation

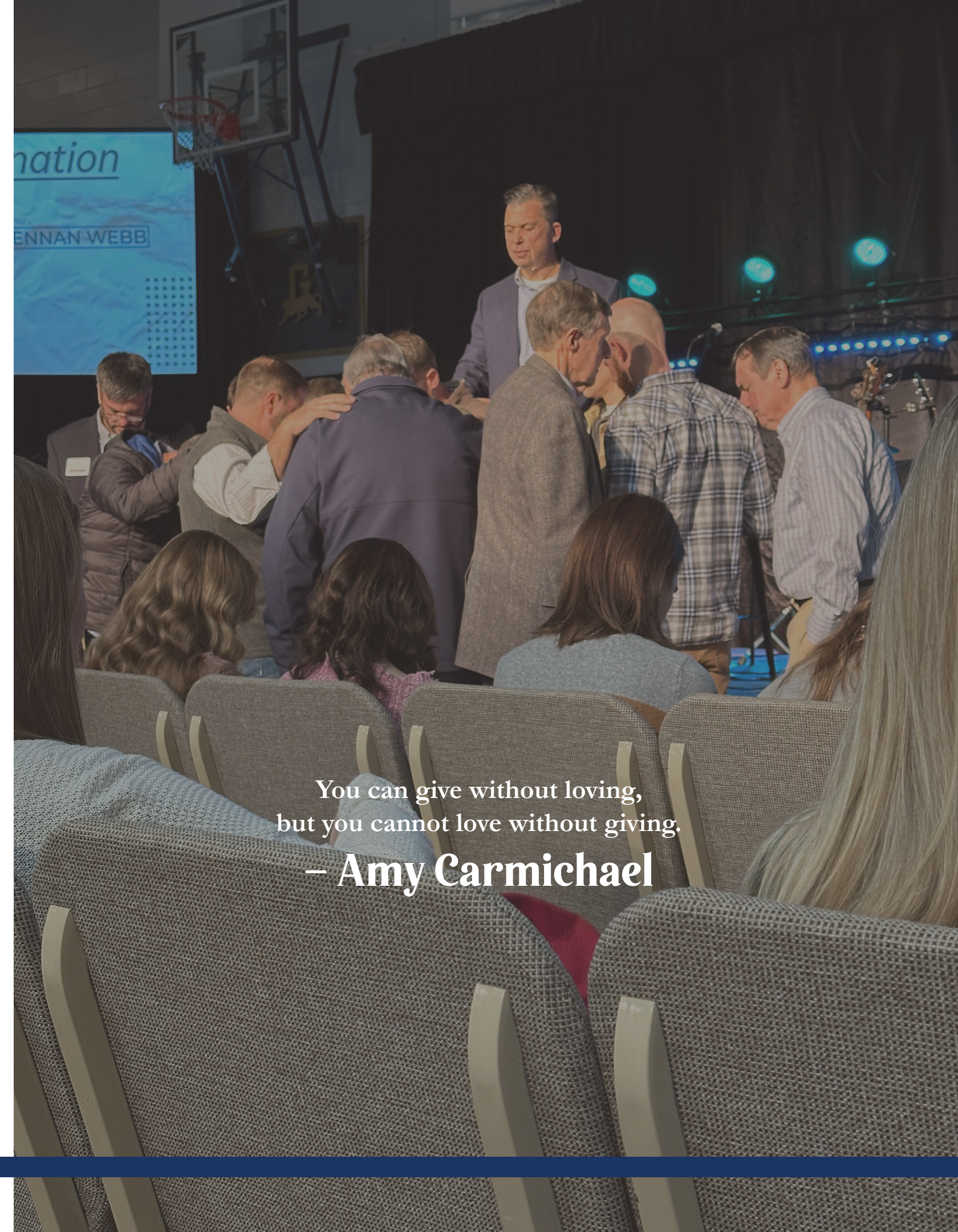
Current Estimate:

\$3.5 Million

Project Scope


- Six additional, modern classrooms to accommodate the increase in enrollment at GCA
- New Cafeteria and Fellowship Hall
- Two additional sets of bathrooms
- Additional parking
- Water drainage solution to support future expansion
- Continuous corridor between the Education Building and the Gym
- Four additional, dedicated GKids classrooms
- Dedicated GKids auditorium





You can give without loving,
but you cannot love without giving.

– Amy Carmichael



Charity is a virtue which, when our affections
are perfectly ordered, unites us to God.

For by it we love him.

– **Augustine of Hippo**

“What is God calling you to do?”

PRAY

ask God for guidance on how you can participate

READ & ENGAGE

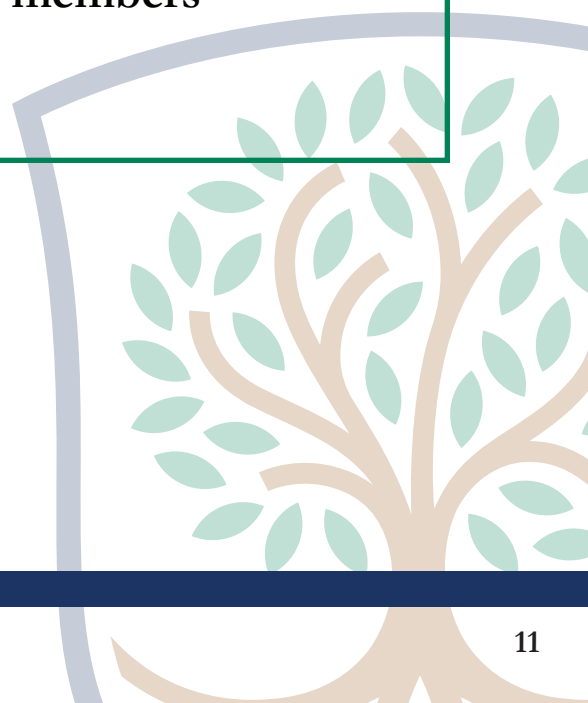
in the campaign materials provided

PARTICIPATE

in the events and worship services

DISCUSS

your commitment with your family members



FAQ

How much is this project expected to cost?

3.5 million dollars

What are we building?

A building between the education building and the Gym. It will include six classrooms, additional/updated bathroom facilities, a new entrance to the gym and a foyer area to congregate.

The completion of this project will allow GCA to completely vacate the old sanctuary (current dining hall) as well as two classrooms in the church building. These changes will allow us to reimagine that area for dedicated children's ministry classrooms and a large group space.

When will construction begin?

After the pledges are calculated the leadership will begin in earnest to finalize construction plans and secure financing. Groundbreaking will follow soon after.

Is the school raising money for this project?

Yes the school has a concurrent campaign running to raise money it will require partners from both entities giving sacrificially to make this project a success. They are having separate meetings to educate their stakeholders that don't have a church affiliation.

How long will the construction take?

Construction plans are not finalized but we are expecting 6 months to a year.

Will I be obligated if I make a pledge?

You will not be obligated to pledge, but if you make a pledge the leadership will make decisions on financing, timing and scope based on the total pledge amounts.

How long is the pledge period?

The pledge period is 36 months.

When do I make my first pledge payment?

We have a commitment Sunday coming up on May 19. After your pledge has been made, you will make your payments at whichever interval you wish: lump sum, monthly, annually, etc.

Is there a website where I can go for more information or to make a donation?

Yes, you can go to GrowingGrace.info

Why aren't we building a sanctuary?

While an auditorium is certainly a need of our church and school, this project addresses a more urgent need that stems from our current growth.

What happens if we don't raise the full amount?

Ideally, we would like to raise all of the funds we need to fully complete this campaign; however, the architect we are working with has broken the project down into three phases (classrooms, cafeteria, kitchen) if needed.

Will we continue to have church meetings in the Gym during construction?

Throughout the various phases of construction, we may have to operate with changes such as main entry doors, but the interior of our current facilities will be minimally affected. Construction fencing will provide safety and prevent entry into the work area.





Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.

– **A.W. Tozer**

“What God is calling you to do?”

The following pages provide an opportunity to dive deeper into our Biblical study on fear, faith, and practice generosity.

Bring this journal to church each week and let it serve as a starting point for conversation in your small group and in your home.

Big Idea of this Series:

Being joyfully generous demonstrates the genuineness of our faith as we follow the pattern of our generous Savior.

- **Head Change:**
To know that our generosity, while patterned after God’s generosity toward us, falls infinitely short of the gift we’ve been given in Jesus.
- **Heart Change:**
When your faith grows, giving joyfully in response to God’s goodness is a sign of this growth. Giving should be a delight, not a duty.
- **Hands Change:**
To take one step toward being generous with our resources.



Week 1: LOVE GIVES!

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

It is a joy and privilege to participate in God's work by giving generously of my resources.

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions

Paul tells the Corinthians that the Macedonian churches gave generously during a time of affliction. They gave beyond their ability and, out of their joy, begged “for the privilege to share in the ministry to the saints.” We will spend our money on something, and there is no shortage of wants and needs begging for our attention. Giving to the Lord and His work, however, is such a privilege and joy because we have the opportunity to participate in God’s work in the world and invest in something that has eternal dividends.

- Paul begins with an example, not a plea. Why do you think he did this?
- When have you experienced generosity from someone unexpected? How did that experience influence your generosity?
- What was the “grace” that God gave to the Macedonian Christians (8:1)?
- Why did Paul mention this to the Corinthians?
- What challenges were they facing?
- In what ways were the Macedonians excellent examples of generosity?
- What can we learn from them about giving?
- What makes people who’ve experienced hardship generous givers?
- The Macedonian Christians recognized that the Jews had given the Macedonians the most precious thing they had – the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, they were eager to help because they were overwhelmed with gratitude. Do you remember a time when gratitude for the gospel moved you to sacrifice and give to others?

Scripture Meditation:

2 Corinthians 8:1–4

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

Prayer for the Week

Father, when we remember the abundant grace You have given us, then giving to Your kingdom work is pure joy. Make our hearts tender and help us to give generously with a loving and sincere heart as You provide the resources. We thank You, praise You, and give You all the glory and honor!

Practical Ideas for Living & Giving Generously

Why is giving so hard?

“Nearly every day, we make financial decisions. Some are small—should you get a cup of coffee at McDonald’s or splurge for the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks? Some are big—which house, which car, which college? Some concern the future—how much should you spend on Christmas, which retirement funds should you choose?

Probably the most challenging decision we make with money is the decision to give. Giving creates tension. We wonder, “If I give this away, how will the gap be filled?” That’s why giving is such a big deal. Nothing invites God into our lives like giving. Giving is a tangible way we declare our trust in and commitment to God. Giving often paves the way for God to show up in our lives in a powerful way.

Giving is not just a financial decision - it’s a deeply spiritual decision. We have put this magazine together to help you consider how God has blessed you and how the Spirit might invite you to trust the Lord during the Growing Grace campaign. You’ll find ideas that will help you pray and consider how God is leading you to participate.

It’s all about Jesus,
— Pastor John

The most effective path to generosity is a spiritual path where you set your heart on things above. Then, your financial priorities will naturally flow out of your spiritual priorities.

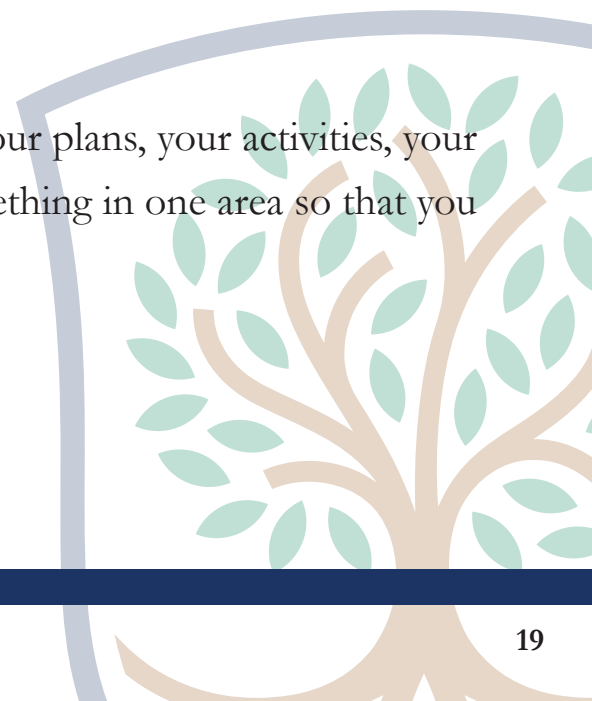
People often describe this as “living a generous lifestyle.” It is always a temptation to give to God in such a way that it makes little impact on how you live. The challenge of living a generous lifestyle is to intentionally and prayerfully find ways to do just that—to let your giving touch your living!

King David declared,

I will not give to God that which costs me nothing.
(2 Samuel 24:24).

He understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver. A gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the life of the giver! This is the spirit of lifestyle generosity—“If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me.”

Lifestyle generosity is a level of giving that affects you—your plans, your activities, your attitude and your approach to life. It means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another.



Week 2: More than Money

2 Corinthians 8:5

Giving generously can be evidence that I have given myself first to the Lord.

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions

The Macedonian Christians gave themselves first to the Lord and then gave their resources for God's work.

- What did Paul mean by "and this, not as we expected" in verse 5?
- Paul compared the relatively poor community of Macedonia to the wealthier community of Corinth. Why?
- What does it mean that they gave themselves "first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us?" (Verse 5)
- Read Colossians 1:18. How does this verse connect to generosity?
- God's grace makes a difference in the lives and attitudes of His people. How have you seen this in your life?
- What values do you hold about your money that may compete with the values of the kingdom of God?

Scripture Meditation:

2 Corinthians 8:5

and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

Prayer for the Week

Father, may we each prayerfully examine ourselves and give sacrificially, knowing that all things we have come from You. We pray that our giving will always bring You glory and honor in this community.

Giving Pathway

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.

(2 Corinthians 8:7-15)

A **Consistent Giver** is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving on a regular basis. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

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

(Luke 14:28-35)

Currently, the place I'm at in my journey is:

- Initial Consistent Intentional Sacrificial Lifetime

A **Sacrificial Giver** is someone who recognizes the cost that Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Sacrificial Giver is someone who gives in a way that changes them, in a way that reflects that their giving is governing their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. (Colossians 1:15-18, 22-23)

A **Lifetime Giver** is someone who is thinking about the longer tail of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. A Lifetime Giver makes decisions in the short term that have longer-term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal, something that will govern their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Sacrificial Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Lifetime Giver makes lifetime or longer-term giving commitments that govern his/her larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, and the like. (1 Timothy 6:6-19)

I believe God is calling me to grow my generosity by ...

Week 3: Growing in the Grace of Giving

2 Corinthians 8:6-8

Just as I should strive to excel in all areas of spiritual growth, I should also excel in giving generously.

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions

Sometimes, we try to separate our money from other areas of life, like faith, speech, knowledge, and love (see verse 7). But Paul says that we should not only strive to grow and excel in these areas but also to abound in the grace of giving. Sometimes, our spending decisions and habits can tell more about our values and faith than just about anything else. It can be a test of our genuineness (see verse 8).

- What was Titus assigned to do?
- What was Paul asking the Corinthians to do (verse 7)?
- How can you develop a spirit of joy when giving?
- If you find it hard to give generously, how can you improve?
- How should you approach giving when you do not have a lot to give?
- If this was not a command, then what was it (8)?
- In what area do you need to ask God to give you a more willing heart to give?

Scripture Meditation:

2 Corinthians 8:6–8

Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you — see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

Prayer for the Week

Lord, let our core values as born again believers reflect our true faith as we move forward with the building expansion to provide for the growing needs of Grace Church and its ministries.


How We Get There:

We all Commit to Praying, to Giving, to Growing Grace.

The Significance of a Commitment:

During worship on May 19th, our church family will have the opportunity to celebrate God's grace and generosity as we turn in our commitment cards.

You will receive your physical card before Commitment Sunday. Below is an example:

 **Growing Grace**

**Commit to:
Praying, Giving,
& Growing Grace.**

We are invited to commit our hearts in faith to share the love of Jesus Christ in our growing community. Imagine the work we can achieve with God's help. Through the Growing Grace campaign, I/We will endeavor to give over and above my/our regular donations to the school.

Over the next three years I/We plan to give accordingly:
\$ _____ Weekly for 156 weeks
\$ _____ Monthly for 36 months
\$ _____ Annually for 3 years

I/We wish to give to the Growing Grace campaign by other means:
Description: _____

Estimated Value of Asset Given: _____
for example: Stocks, Bonds, IRA Distributions, Securities, Personal Property, Appreciated Real Estate, Paid Up Insurance Policies, Charitable Trusts

Estimated Three-Year Total: _____

Signature: _____
Your commitment is an indication of your intention to give as you are able.

Personal Information
(please print)
Date: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____

City: _____
State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Gift Profile Guide

The “Three-Year Commitments” chart shows how it will be possible for us to secure our goal for this campaign and the “Personal Giving Potential” chart shows how each commitment could break out in weekly, monthly, or annual giving.

These charts also show that ... **every commitment makes a difference!**

Three-Year Commitments

\$3,500,000

| # of Commitments | Amount of Each |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$500,000 |
| 1 | \$250,000 |
| 5 | \$100,000 |
| 5 | \$75,000 |
| 8 | \$50,000 |
| 10 | \$36,000 |
| 10 | \$24,000 |
| 15 | \$15,000 |
| 25 | \$10,000 |
| 30 | \$7,200 |
| 50 | \$3,600 |
| Other Commitments | under \$3,600 |

Personal Giving Potential

| Total 3 Year | Annually | Monthly | Weekly |
|--------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| \$500,000 | \$166,667 | \$13,889 | \$3,205 |
| \$250,000 | \$83,333 | \$6,944 | \$1,603 |
| \$100,000 | \$33,333 | \$2,778 | \$641 |
| \$75,000 | \$25,000 | \$2,083 | \$481 |
| \$50,000 | \$16,667 | \$1,389 | \$321 |
| \$36,000 | \$12,000 | \$1,000 | \$231 |
| \$24,000 | \$8,000 | \$667 | \$154 |
| \$15,000 | \$5,000 | \$417 | \$96 |
| \$10,000 | \$3,333 | \$278 | \$64 |
| \$7,200 | \$2,400 | \$200 | \$46 |
| \$3,600 | \$1,200 | \$100 | \$23 |

Week 4: You are Rich!

2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus is the example of sacrificial and generous giving.

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions

Because of Jesus' poverty, many are made rich.

- In what sense was Jesus rich and then became poor? Read Philippians 2:5-8.
- How does Jesus' example motivate generosity?
- In what way has Jesus made every believer rich?
- When did Christ take your debt and give you His riches? (Will a few people share their salvation testimony?)
- Read Ephesians 6:10-13. Based upon these verses, do we, by default, have on the armor of God? If not, what does that tell us?
- In regards to money matters, how are you vulnerable to defeat without seizing the gospel and arming yourself? Before you answer that question, read 1 Timothy 6:9-11, Luke 12:34, and Ecclesiastes 5:10).
- When you are feeling stingy and reluctant to give, what should you do to imitate Jesus (be practical)?
- Have you ever heard of someone protesting against their church by withholding their giving? What do you think about this?
- Why is the struggle of money not about the amount of money that you have?
- Do you agree with this statement: "Generosity reveals the depth of our trust in God"? Why or why not

Scripture Meditation:

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Prayer for the Week

Father, examine our hearts and show us any areas in which we need to repent for things we do which are strictly self-serving. Thank you for giving us ears to hear Your voice and to give according to Your will. Please empower us to trust You and to share our resources sacrificially.

Week 5: Giving in God's Economy

2 Corinthians 8:10-15

Generous giving is not measured by equal gifts but by the equality of sacrifice.

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions

As each one gives generously to the Lord's cause, the pooling of resources result in greater work for God's Kingdom.

- What do you learn about God's economy from these verses?
- What is the primary goal that governs Paul's appeal for gifts?
- When did the Corinthians first commit to this collection? Based upon what we've learned so far in 2 Corinthians, what is probably the reason(s) for the delay?
- Why do you think money issues have the potential to erode trust in the church more quickly than other issues?
- Why is it important for the church of Jesus to talk about money frequently?
- What does verse 12 say in regard to following through on commitments?
- Share an example of something you started for God and did not finish. Why did this happen? What can you learn from it?
- What does verse 13 mean? Is this a concern for you? Is it a legitimate concern?
- What does our culture tell you that you need when, in fact, the Bible probably wouldn't name it as a need?
- Why does Paul call it "fairness" for the more well-off to give to the less fortunate?
- What would you say to someone who has the attitude, "I have earned what I have and it's fair for me to keep it?"
- Paul does not specify what that proportion or percentage should be. Paul leaves that to each person individually. How do you decide what to give?
- What Old Testament event is Paul referring to in verse 15 (see Exodus 16:18)? How is this relevant?
- What care does Paul take to avoid suspicions of dishonesty or self-interest as he handles this large gift (8:16–24)?

Scripture Meditation:

2 Corinthians 8:11

So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.

Prayer for the Week

Father, may we as a church body join hands to love You with our whole heart and obey You out of our love for You. Place within us a desire to give generously to the new project Grace Church is embarking upon to minister more effectively.

Growing Grace: Next Steps

Thank you for joining in this journey towards greater generosity. As we continue this Growing Grace campaign, here are the next steps of what's coming:

- 1. Attend Advanced Commitment Night - May 11, 2024
at 6pm in the Gym**
- 2. Attend Commitment Sunday – May 19, 2024**
- 3. Pray for God's favor and blessing to go before us.**
- 4. Become informed by engaging with the campaign materials,
by attending events and by asking questions.**
- 5. Commit to discussing and praying about making a 3-year
commitment over and above your current giving.**
- 6. Be an ambassador of accurate information.**

Let's all join together today in praying for the Growing Grace campaign.

Through the Holy Spirit we will be refreshed, renewed, and ready to invest together to more fully fulfill Grace Church's mission of "knowing and following Jesus in our home, city, and world."

— Pastor John



A lack of generosity refuses to acknowledge that
your assets are not really yours, but God's.

– **Tim Keller**



**Growing
Grace**

grace
CHURCH

gracechurchga.org

229.243.0532

1300 Lake Douglas Rd.

Bainbridge, GA 39819