

2019



VOXCHURCH.ORG/WAKE-MY-HEART

**WAKE
MY HEART**

JOURNEY GUIDE

YOUR NAME



DEAR VOX CHURCH FAMILY,

I am so excited to begin our *Wake My Heart* campaign with you. God is stirring my heart so deeply, and I believe that we are on the verge of seeing some of the greatest miracles of our lives. Over the next nine weeks, we will journey together through our history, our mission, and the potential of our future. I am convinced that the vision of Vox Church resonates from the heart of God: To see the least-churched region in the United States become the most spiritually vibrant place on earth. Can you dare to believe with me that it's possible?

Right now, we are already in the middle of a spiritual movement. Hundreds of lives are being rearranged by God's Holy Spirit. Hundreds of families are being restored. Vox Church has reached a critical crossroads, and the *Wake My Heart* campaign is the hinge that opens the door. With every significant spiritual movement in history, there has always been a corresponding generosity movement. Before God can bring spiritual awakening to a region, he must bring spiritual awakening to our hearts, rearrange our priorities, and lead us to sacrifice for the sake of others.

Wake My Heart is a two-year, one-fund generosity campaign. This means that every dollar that is given to Vox over the next two years will be used to accomplish the three priorities outlined through the campaign. As you learn more about this initiative, I want to encourage you first to pray. Ask God to stretch you and wake your heart with what breaks his heart. Secondly, I want to ask you to plan. Prayerfully map out your plan to participate as God leads.

We believe with everything in us that now is the time! Now is the time for your loved ones to turn and follow Jesus! Now is the time for your heart to come fully alive! Now is the time to accomplish something together that we could never accomplish on our own! Thank you for taking this journey with us and for trusting God each step of the way!

Your friends,



Justin and Chrisy Kendrick





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HOW TO USE THIS JOURNEY GUIDE:

1. It's simple, follow along as we go! First, familiarize yourself with the Vision Section that outlines the three priorities of Wake My Heart. Then, follow the tab for each week in this Journey Guide.

2. Bring this Journey Guide to church every week for the entire nine-week series. Seek to make this a priority in your schedule.

3. Within each week's tab, you will discover an area for message notes, community group notes, a short daily devotional, and a prayer section. Engage this content every day, and invite the Holy Spirit to do a deep work in your heart.

4. Bring the Journey Guide to Community Group, and write down what you sense the Holy Spirit is speaking to you.



**UNDERSTANDING
*WAKE MY HEART***

**IT IS ALREADY THE HOUR
FOR YOU TO WAKE UP
FROM SLEEP,
BECAUSE NOW
OUR SALVATION
IS NEARER THAN
WHEN WE FIRST
BELIEVED.**

ROMANS 13:11 CSB

WHAT DOES GOD CARE ABOUT MOST?

Jesus made God's intentions crystal clear: His heart breaks for people. One human soul is worth more than all the treasure of this world put together (Mark 8:36). There are 14,810,001 people living in New England, and fewer people attend church or read the Bible in New England than any other place in America. This land needs a spiritual revival. We believe that now is the time for the statistics to change.

Wake My Heart is a two-year generosity campaign to lead 100 percent of the people at Vox to a place of 100 percent trust in God. Though God blesses us each in different ways and we are not equal in giving, we must learn to be equal in sacrifice.

PRIORITIES

For the next two years at Vox, every dollar given will help fund three major priorities.

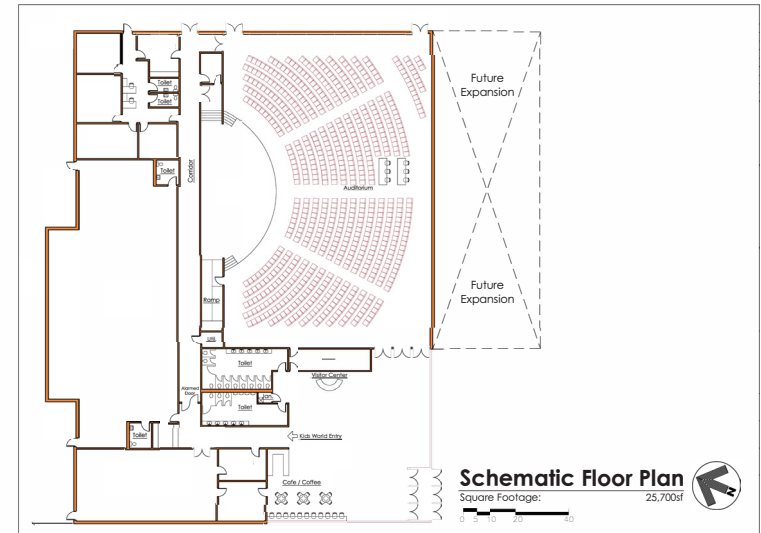
PRIORITY 1: STRENGTHEN OUR CURRENT MINISTRIES

Healthy things grow, and the goal of Vox is not size but life. In order to reach our region, we need a church full of people who are deeply in love with Jesus, a community that is thriving, and outreach that makes a difference. Adjusting for growth, the operating budget for years 2020 and 2021 are projected at \$4.5 million and \$5.2 million. Priority 1 is to keep these ministries healthy and growing in line with our core values.

PRIORITY 2: SECURE OUR FIRST ANCHOR LOCATION AND LAUNCH NEW CHURCHES

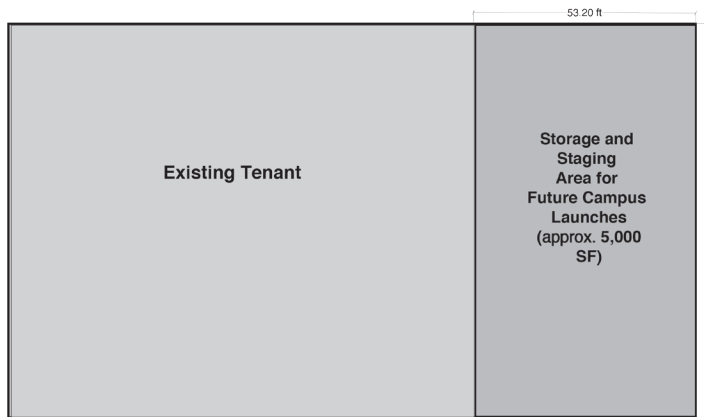
An “Anchor Location” is a term we use to describe a location that is larger by design to serve five to six other nearby campuses. This one location is a home base to launch new campuses to reach new cities, operates as a training ground for the development of leaders, and provides centralized office space serving our campuses. It will anchor us in permanency, stability, durability, and longevity.

Right now, Vox exists without any Anchor Locations. We plan to build our first Anchor Location within seven miles from the downtown New Haven area. This location will have a 700-seat facility, equipped with ample kids space and flexible meeting space for ministry throughout the week.



ANCHOR LOCATION MAIN BUILDING

Along with the main building, the Anchor Location will have additional facilities to house our Central offices, New Haven-based staff, and storage. This location will allow us to reach more people for Jesus, strengthen and expand ministry to kids and students, and develop more effective ministries to serve our community. It opens up many possibilities for all-church events, worship nights, and baptisms while providing much-needed care and outreach ministries for our cities.



VOX CENTRAL OFFICES AND STORAGE/CAMPUS LAUNCH PREP SPACE

Our plan is to begin the renovation and construction of this new space at the beginning of 2020. We hope to move our offices in the beginning of 2020 and open our first Anchor Location before January 1, 2021.

Vox is also in the middle of expanding our Greater Hartford footprint. With our Hartford location quickly reaching capacity at two services, Vox seeks to add service options in our Hartford and Springfield locations by the end of this year, followed by Vox Church New Britain in the spring of 2020.

Our goal is to stretch further than ever in 2020, relocating a team to Worcester, Massachusetts, New England’s second-largest city, to launch Vox Church Worcester. We would begin weekly services in Worcester as early as October 2020. The start-up costs of these expansion efforts are estimated at \$6.3 million in additional funding.

**PRIORITY 3:
ESTABLISH A SITE
ACQUISITION FUND**

As Vox grows across the region, we must get to a place where we can act when opportunity knocks. We have frequently found ourselves outgrowing our meeting spaces, with no larger rentals available, and no resources to fund opportunities before us. Our goal is to start a site acquisition fund of \$1 million to fund new opportunities for expansion of existing campuses.

OUR GOALS

Goal 1. 100 Percent Participation. The great prayer of this campaign is *that God would wake my heart to what breaks His heart*. Our prayer is that the people of Vox would learn through this effort to love God and love others more than any treasure in this life. Together, as our hearts come fully alive, God will be glorified, and New England will move closer to spiritual awakening. The first goal of Wake My Heart is 100 percent participation. That is, that every person who calls Vox Church home makes a personal sacrifice to see this mission advance. We will not be equal in the amount we give, but we can be equal in our sacrifice.

Goal 2. \$17 million over two years. We believe that if we succeed in Goal 1, then the second goal will be reached. *Wake My Heart* is a two-year, \$17 million, one-fund generosity campaign. This means that all of the money given to Vox over the next two years goes to these three priorities.

INTRODUCING **ONE FUND**

You may have participated in a traditional capital campaign in the past where you were asked to give both to a general fund for normal operating costs, and a project-focused fund, such as a new building. Our vision for Wake My Heart applies a different approach.

Wake My Heart is a two-year generosity campaign where all giving is focused around one unified vision and is directed into ONE Fund. Rather than being project-focused, a One-Fund campaign is priorities focused. With three specific priorities, this campaign goes beyond raising funds for a single project. The goal is to mature as a church in the grace of giving, and as we grow as disciples of Jesus, the mission advances into new arenas. We are ONE CHURCH, with ONE VISION that unites us, and ONE FUND that resources that vision.

On December 8th you will be invited to make a two-year ALL-IN commitment to *Wake My Heart*. We believe God will reveal to you the ONE number that will represent your total, radical, sacrificial generosity to the Kingdom over the next two years.

“But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”
- 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

TWO-YEAR ONE-FUND GOAL OF \$17 MILLION

What will it take for Vox Church to expand beyond our current borders? We must follow the biblical principle of proportionality—not equal gifts but equal sacrifice. This journey requires that we make our giving decisions through prayer.

Look at the chart below, and pray a bold prayer: “God, what do You want to do through me? Where do You see me on this chart?” Ask God, and He will tell you!

TENTATIVE GIFT PROFILE CHART

(cumulative gift over the two-year period)

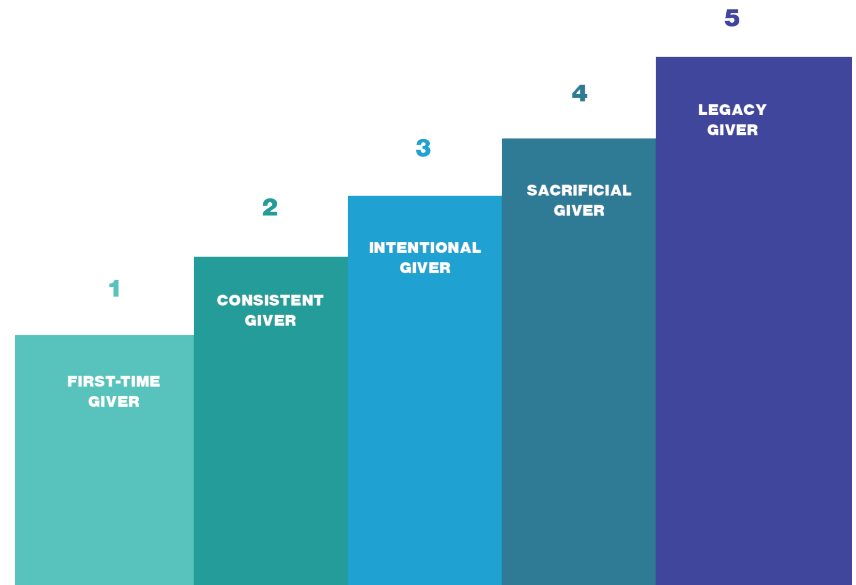
<u>PROFILE A:</u>	<u>MONTHLY GIFT OVER 2 YEARS:</u>
1 GIFT OF \$1,000,000	\$41,667
3 GIFTS OF \$600,000	\$25,000
4 GIFTS OF \$425,000	\$17,708
6 GIFTS OF \$200,000	\$8,333
(TOTAL \$5,700,000)	
<u>PROFILE B:</u>	
16 GIFTS OF \$100,000	\$4,167
20 GIFTS OF \$75,000	\$3,125
25 GIFTS OF \$50,000	\$2,083
35 GIFTS OF \$30,000	\$1,250
(TOTAL \$5,400,000)	
<u>PROFILE C:</u>	
80 GIFTS OF \$25,000	\$1,041
110 GIFTS OF \$20,000	\$833
150 GIFTS OF \$8,000	\$333
200 GIFTS OF \$2,500	\$104
(TOTAL \$5,900,000)	

GRAND TOTAL: \$17 MILLION

HOW MUCH SHOULD I COMMIT TO GIVE?

Growing in generosity is a vital part of following Jesus. Identify your next step.

1. **FIRST-TIME GIVER:** *I’ve never significantly given to Vox Church, but I feel called to take that step.* This is a step of faith both in God and in the leaders of the church.
2. **CONSISTENT GIVER:** *I’ve given to Vox occasionally, but today I am going to begin regularly giving a set amount.* This step requires planning and may include signing up for recurring giving on the church website or through your bank.
3. **INTENTIONAL GIVER:** *I’ve wrestled with the bigger questions of what I value most and have decided to give a substantial percentage of my income.* This step requires that you ask questions like, “Why am I giving more to my cell phone bill than to God?” You must wrestle with your choices in light of eternity and reprioritize your budget and your giving by percentage.
4. **SACRIFICIAL GIVER:** *I’m going to stretch my percentage of giving outside my comfort zone.* This step asks questions like, “Am I giving in a way that changes me?” Rather than your lifestyle governing your giving, now your giving governs your lifestyle. You commit to give in a way that’s larger than your current capacity.
5. **LEGACY GIVER:** *I’m giving audaciously to shape future generations and make an impact that outlives me.* This step requires that you no longer ask, “God, how much are You asking me to give?” but rather, “God, how much are You asking me to keep?” You don’t just consider the monthly or annual implications of your giving, but you rearrange retirement, property, and long-term assets in order to change the course of the future for the gospel.



**“GOD I PRAY THAT
YOU WOULD WAKE
MY HEART TO
WHAT BREAKS
YOUR HEART.”**

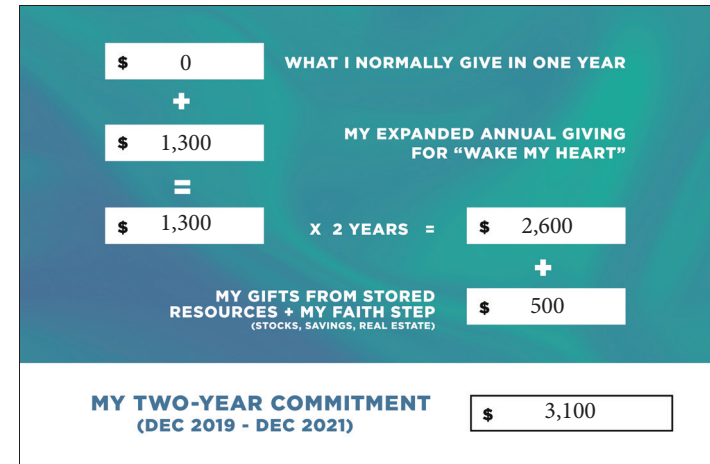
COMMITMENT CARD EXPLANATION

\$ <input type="text"/>	WHAT I NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR	
+		
\$ <input type="text"/>	MY EXPANDED ANNUAL GIVING FOR “WAKE MY HEART”	
=		
\$ <input type="text"/>	X 2 YEARS =	\$ <input type="text"/>
		+
	MY GIFTS FROM STORED RESOURCES + MY FAITH STEP <small>(STOCKS, SAVINGS, REAL ESTATE)</small>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	MY TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT (DEC 2019 - DEC 2021)	\$ <input type="text"/>

Use this sample Commitment Card as a worksheet as you consider your commitment to *Wake My Heart*. This card will be handed out numerous times during *Wake My Heart* and will always be available on Sunday mornings at the Next Steps Table. On Sunday, December 8, you will be invited to fill this card out to make your faith commitment for *Wake My Heart*.

GIVING SCENARIOS

Each of us embarks on the generosity journey at different starting points. Listed here are a few hypothetical examples of individuals making commitments at different points along the giving ladder. You may find yourself in a similar situation to one of these people. Each example illustrates how an individual or family can take the next step on the generosity journey through the *Wake My Heart* Campaign.



First-Time Giver

Michael is new to the faith and has never given before. He is now wanting to grow in several spiritual disciplines, including generosity. It's a huge step of faith for him. Michael has decided to give \$25 per week over two years, combined with a one-time gift of \$500 from his savings. Michael's total two-year commitment to Wake My Heart is \$3,100.



Consistent Giver

Jennifer has witnessed changes in her own life through the ministry of the church. So far, she has been giving if she has extra cash on hand when the church receives the offering. However, she 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 annual giving to \$1,750. With the addition of \$500 from a vacation savings fund, she will give \$4,000 to *Wake My Heart* over two years.



Intentional Giver

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



Sacrificial Giver

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



Legacy 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 to the church in recent years, but is inspired to increase her annual giving amount from \$13,500 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 *Wake My Heart* instead.



WEEK ONE

HEARTBEAT

In July of 2019, the Barna Research Group released its list of the top 10 most post-Christian cities in America. New England cities made up six of the top seven. There are 14,810,001 people living in this region, and fewer people attend church or read the Bible here than any other place in America. Why is this so important? Because you are living in the greatest mission field in the Western Hemisphere. God chose you for this time and this place. What will you do with the opportunity?

In Genesis 26 there is a story about Abraham's son Isaac when he returns to the land of his father. In Abraham's day, God had turned the land into an oasis with deep wells and an abundance of water. But after Abraham had died, his enemies had filled the wells with dirt and changed the name of the land.

In the same way, New England was once known as the land of spiritual awakening. Beginning with the Pilgrims, this is the birthplace of the Great Awakening and has produced more great spiritual movements than any other place in our nation. But the enemy has buried those spiritual wells and changed the name over the land. No longer is this land known as the place of spiritual awakening. Today, it's better known as the coldest spiritual place in America.

But the wells of spiritual awakening still exist beneath the surface. In the story, Isaac redigs the wells and gives them the names that his father Abraham had given them. In this way, the land becomes an oasis again.

God has called every one of us to live for a purpose bigger than ourselves. Why did God place you here in New England at this time? Could it be that you play a critical role in the spiritual awakening of the region?

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, October 21

Today's Scripture:

Mark 12:30

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

Reflect:

Is God the source and center of my whole life?

God's intentions toward us are always for good. He desires to be the center of our whole lives. Have you come to the end of yourself and wholly surrendered your life to Jesus? Life with its demands and distractions can leave us with a divided heart. A heart that chases after other things before God. This place of complete abandon to God is one we should visit often as a follower of Christ. Today, return to that holy and humble place before the cross of Jesus. Turn the words of today's scripture into a personal prayer.

Prayer:

Lord, my desire is to love You fully and completely.

Further Reading:

Proverbs 3:1-12

Tuesday, October 22

Today's Scripture:

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

Reflect:

Do I know what God cares about most?

Do you know that God wants to let you in on a secret? He wants to reveal to you what He loves the most. Take a moment and reread today's Scripture. Do you see it? God's heart is for people. He loves people. All of us. Those who are close to Him and those who far from Him. His heart longs for people to know Him.

Do you share that heart? Take time today and invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Ask Him to show areas of your heart that are hard, selfish, or indifferent toward others. Ask Him to fill you with the love He has for others.

Prayer:

God, I surrender to your love, the kind of love that takes action. Show me today how to love others like You do.

Further Reading:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Wednesday, October 23

Today's Scripture:

Matthew 9:35-38

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

Reflect:

God's heart breaks for people.

When we see Jesus, we see God. The Son perfectly mirrors the Father. When Jesus looked out at the crowds and saw their bruised and broken lives, His heart broke. As followers of Jesus, we are filled with that same heart of compassion. Deep within we want to live for more than just ourselves. Today spend some time examining your own life. Ask yourself: Am I living a self-absorbed existence or, like Jesus, do I see others? Does my heart break for others? Am I willing to live for something greater than myself?

Prayer:

God, I pray that you would wake my heart to what breaks Your heart.

Further Reading:

Psalm 139:1-6, 23-24

Thursday, October 24

Today's Scripture:

Mark 8:34-36

“And calling the crowd to Him with his disciples, He said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?’”

Reflect:

One human soul is worth more than all the treasures of this world put together.

While culture says that happiness is found in security and status, these verses point us toward self-denial and sacrifice. Jesus' words reveal life's greatest paradox. You want to save your life? Then lose it! You want to find your life? Then give it away! God desires that this journey of a surrendered heart would impact every area of our lives. Today, where in your life do you need to embrace the cross? What parts of your life are you holding back from God? What is He calling you to lose for His sake?

Prayer:

God, I want to apply heaven's priorities to every area of my life. Teach me Your divine value system.

Further reading:

Philippians 2:1-11

Friday, October 25

Today's Scripture:

Isaiah 9:2

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”

Reflect:

My soul is restless to be on mission with God.

More than 14 million people live in New England. God sees each and every one of them, and He is on a mission! His heart yearns for people to know Him. That's the focus of every Vox Church campus. To see people become more like Jesus, grow deeper in community, and see our cities transformed. And it is beginning to happen! Hearts are awakening to the gospel!

Inwardly, we all yearn to be part of something greater than ourselves. God is calling you to be on mission with Him. Today, ask God to show you how to use your time, gifts, and resources to be on mission with Him.

Prayer:

Lord, here I am. Teach me how to be on mission with You.

Further reading:

Matthew 25:14-30

Saturday, October 26

Today's Scripture:

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”

Reflect:

I am part of God's plan to bring spiritual awakening to this region.

Sometimes we can feel stuck. Until we read a verse like this. Then we begin to realize God's desire, power, and ability toward us is beyond measure. Within the Church and in each believer exists limitless power! How does His invisible power become visible to the world around us? It's by faith! Taking the step while believing God's power will work. So, do you need to get unstuck? Ask God for your next steps of faith. Then start walking! You will see the borders of possibility expand by your acts of faith.

Prayer:

Lord, I'm listening. What are my next steps of faith?

Further reading:

Ephesians 3:14-21, Acts 3:1-10

Sunday, October 27

Take time to review the verses and reflections from this week. The focus was on your relationship with Christ and how this frames His mission for your life. Journal what God has spoken to you about His call for you, and how you will respond to that call in your everyday life.



WEEK TWO

VISION

“There can only be two basic loves; the love of God unto the forgetfulness of self, or the love of self unto the forgetfulness of God.” –Augustine

What is vision? *Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion.* When you think of the church, what picture of the future produces passion in you?

...to see people experience the love of God...for families that were ready to give up to come back together...for those trapped in darkness to find light, those drowning in fear to find faith, those lost in depression to find hope, and those bound in addiction to find freedom...hearts awakened by the voice of the living God...

The *Wake My Heart* campaign is first and foremost about an inner work. We can either fall in love with self and forget God, or fall in love with God and forget self. When God begins to wake our hearts to His purpose, the priorities of Jesus begin to eclipse the priorities of self. Jesus has made his priorities clear: One human soul is worth more than all the treasure of the world put together (Mark 8:36). In every spiritual movement, there has been a corresponding generosity movement. To reach people in New England with the gospel, God must rearrange our priorities and burn his vision in our hearts. The expansion efforts at Vox aim to reach more people with the gospel while creating a healthy, vibrant church community.

***Wake My Heart* is a two-year generosity campaign to lead 100 percent of the people at Vox to a place of 100 percent trust in God.** Though God blesses us each in different ways and we are not equal in giving, we must learn to be equal in sacrifice.

PRIORITY 1:
STRENGTHEN OUR
CURRENT MINISTRIES

PRIORITY 2:
SECURE OUR FIRST
ANCHOR LOCATION AND
LAUNCH NEW CHURCHES

PRIORITY 3:
ESTABLISH A SITE
ACQUISITION FUND

BECAUSE WHEN
ONE HEART
IS CHANGED,

EVERYTHING
CHANGES.

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, October 28

Today's Scripture:

Matthew 16:18

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Reflect:

My soul needs a divine vision more than my body needs food.

In these verses, Jesus reveals His hidden plan to heal the world. It's His Church! The Church carries His divine burden for this broken world. It is motivated by the conviction that Jesus came to rescue the world, reveal God, and reunite us with our Creator. Those who are part of His Church lay down their lives for His cause.

Divine vision begins with a burden. Do you have a burden from God? What are doing with that burden? What are you risking for God to see that vision come to pass?

Today, invite the Holy Spirit to set your heart aflame with a burden that leads to divine vision.

Prayer:

My God, fill me now with Your divine burden and vision for my life.

Further Reading:

Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday, October 29

Today's Scripture:

1 Peter 2:4-5

“As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Reflect:

My faith grows through a relationship with Jesus and one another.

We all long to be fully known and fully loved. We find that longing fulfilled in our relationship with God through Christ. As we experience that profound nearness to God, it leads to profound nearness to others. As we grow closer to God, we find ourselves growing closer to our brothers and sisters in Christ. It's here that we find the faith to live out God's vision for our lives. God is inviting you to be a living stone within His house. What steps do you need to take this week to accept His invitation?

Prayer:

Lord, my life belongs to You. Enlarge my heart for Your Church, for the lost, for this region.

Further Reading:

John 21:1-19

Wednesday, October 30

Today's Scripture:

Ephesians 4:15-16

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Reflect:

My faith in Jesus grows through unusual devotion.

There's an unspoken pressure in the world to just go with the flow. To climb the corporate ladder, buy the bigger house, and fill our lives with distractions. Until, as believers, we experience something so life-altering, so compelling – something greater than living for ourselves. We find a devotion to God that consumes us. We find God calling us into a life of faith and purpose within the Church. It's here that we receive holy initiative to act on the burden He's placed in our hearts. How will you respond practically today to His call to unusual devotion?

Prayer:

God, I am hungry to see New England transformed by the gospel. Reveal to me the part I am to play in Your mission of the Church.

Further Reading:

Acts 2:42-47

Thursday, October 31

Today's Scripture:

Hebrews 11:24-27 (NIV)

“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.”

Reflect:

My acts of faith set God's promises in motion.

Moses was a visionary. He was looking ahead and saw greater things. God has led Vox Church to see greater things for New England. We believe our region will change from the least-churched region in the U.S. to the most spiritually vibrant place on earth. That's the vision that you are part of. Take some time today and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. How does God want you to participate in this vision for New England? What is holding you back? What steps do you need to take to overcome those hindrances?

Prayer:

God, fill me with a bold faith that obeys Your voice.

Further reading:

Hebrews 11

Friday, November 1

Today's Scripture:

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Reflect:

God wants His family to grow.

The power of individualism is written into the fabric of our culture. It drives us to pursue our own ambition and lose sight of the potential found in the greater whole. But we are a people ransomed from this way of life. This miraculous new birth in Christ reorients our heart away from self and toward God. God wants His family to grow. Your faith in action today will shape the spiritual climate for generations to come. Today, humble yourself before God. Ask Him to root out selfish ambition and instead fill you with His love.

Prayer:

Father, thank you that I am fully alive in You. Let Your will be done in my life today.

Further reading:

John 15:1-17

Saturday, November 2

Today's Scripture:

Psalms 84:10-11

“For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

Reflect:

Reorient your entire life around God and His Church.

The cross of Christ shows us that real love requires real sacrifice. These two always go hand in hand. Participation in the vision God has given the Church allows God to mature our faith. When I live a life of devotion, I practice the discipline of generous love. Our active involvement in His Church teaches us to love as He does. Today, ask the Lord to show you how to reorient your entire life around Him.

Prayer:

Father, I thank You for putting this vision for my city and my state to be spiritually vibrant. I commit my life to You and Your call for me.

Further reading:

Acts 3

Sunday, November 3

The focus this week has been on the importance of your part in His Body. Today look back over the Scriptures, reflections, and journaling you've done. How will you now apply all that God has spoken to you?



WEEK THREE

IMPACT

Does your life make sense in the light of eternity? What does your eternal investment portfolio look like right now? These are two of the most sobering questions in life. Though we seem to forget: life is short, and heaven and hell are real. This week, take time to wrestle with what is really at stake. Ask God to wake your heart for what breaks his heart.

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, November 4

Today's Scripture:

Luke 19:10

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Reflect:

Jesus believes lost people are worth it. Do I share that belief?

Jesus loves saving lost souls. And we are called, as His Church, to be on mission with Him. How can you begin to prioritize seeking and saving the lost with Christ? Begin taking these steps daily:

- View your day (your words, choices, actions) like a letter from God to the world.
- Pray specifically for three people you know who are far from God to be saved.
- Share Jesus on purpose every chance you get.

It's a joyful privilege to join in the mission of God because when one heart is changed, everything changes.

Prayer:

God, wake my heart for what breaks your heart.

Further Reading:

Luke 16:19-31

Tuesday, November 5

Today's Scripture:

John 6:27

“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal.”

Reflect:

If Jesus reoriented his entire life for the lost, shouldn't I be willing to do the same?

When you and I accept the new life that is found in Christ, we become one spirit with him. We are adopted into His family and become a living part of His body. This changes our priorities. If we truly believe that we will live in eternity, that belief must inform and direct every moment of our life. Begin asking yourself: How did eternity shape my day today? Reflect on your answers, then make practical changes as the Holy Spirit guides you.

Prayer:

Lord, help me reorient my life. Guide me to prioritize eternity each day.

Further Reading:

Luke 14:12-24

Wednesday, November 6

Today's Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.”

Reflect:

How can I receive the incredible love of God but not embrace his values?

Actions clearly reveal what we love and value. God's incredible love for us is unmistakably seen in the death and resurrection of His Son. As His followers, we too are called to put action to our values. Take some time and examine your life. What is it you couldn't live without? What consumes your heart and energy? Invite God in and ask Him to help you align your heart more with His. What step is He showing you to take today in this process?

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for valuing me enough to go the cross for my sin. By your Spirit, align my heart with yours.

Further Reading:

Luke 12:13-21

Thursday, November 7

Today's Scripture:

1 John 2:15-17

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

Reflect:

The truth of eternal life must reframe my world.

These verses reveal two basic appetites: (1) the way we desire things we don't have and (2) the confidence we place in what we do have. This life system of loving the world can lull us, and suddenly we find ourselves spiritually asleep. God desires to wake our hearts to eternity! Romans 13:11 tells us, “You know the time, it is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

Today, fully turn your heart toward God and invite Him in to awaken you as never before.

Prayer:

Lord, I turn my heart from the love of this world toward the truth of eternity.

Further reading:

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Friday, November 8

Today's Scripture:

Luke 15:8-10 (NIV)

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins 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.”

Reflect:

The reality of eternity sets my priorities.

Every day and in every place, God is seeking the lost. The Church is called to a sacred partnership with God. That call is to actively participate in his search and rescue mission. What fears or doubts keep you from living fully for eternity? Today, surrender all and receive the grace needed to reset your priorities around God.

Prayer:

Jesus, I surrender to You. Shape my life around your eternal priorities.

Further reading:

Matthew 18:10-14

Saturday, November 9

Today's Scripture:

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NIV)

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Reflect:

Does my life make sense in the light of eternity?

Every heart knows there's more to life than what we see. Our heart aches to live fully abandoned to God and to His plan to live beyond ourselves, to live for something greater.

To see a spiritual awakening in New England, we must see a corresponding generosity awakening. This means that the truth of eternity must now shape our whole lives. Take some time to ask yourself again: Does my life make sense in the light of eternity? Let the Holy Spirit guide you to discover the answer.

Prayer:

God, life is short. Help me live all my days for Your glory.

Further reading:

Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, November 10

The focus this week was on eternity. Take some time to revisit the Scriptures and reflections. How has God changed your heart as a result of the devotional this week? How will you live out those changes?



WEEK FOUR

PRAYER

“God, what do you want to do through me?”

“You know the time, it is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” Romans 13:11 (CSB)

Far too often, followers of Jesus don't take the time to wrestle with the above question. Scripture teaches that God's ways are higher than our ways. Our ways are realistic; God's ways often defy reason. Our ways are colored by emotion; God's ways transcend feeling and cut to the heart. When most of us think of investing in God's kingdom, our first thought is, “What is practical?” But what if God is seeking to do something deeper in us? What if God is seeking to rearrange our hearts and our lives? Martin Luther King spoke of what he called a *Dangerous Unselfishness*. This week, pray a dangerously unselfish prayer: “God, what do you want to do through me?”

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, November 11

Today's Scripture:

John 10:4 (NIV)

“When He has brought out all His own, He goes on ahead of them, and His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.”

Reflect:

God wants to have a conversation with me.

Our question for this week is, “God, what do you want to do through me?” As we build a relationship with God through his Word, we also find that Scripture lays the foundation for personal communication with Him, those face-to-face conversations that we call prayer. Lingering in that place with God prepares our heart and softens our soul to know Him more intimately. It's here that we expect God to speak, ask for specific things, and draw near with humble reverence. Today, come near to God believing that He wants to have a conversation with you.

Prayer:

Father, I draw near in faith and I'm listening.

Further Reading:

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Tuesday, November 12

Today's Scripture:

1 Corinthians 6:17

“But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him.”

Reflect:

Your spirit is your primary means of communication with God.

As a believer in Jesus, you know the voice of God. You've heard it before! His voice has a unique tone and sound. It can sometimes come as a tug on your soul, an inner peace, a nudge, a Scripture verse, or an impression. The more we practice hearing and obeying His voice, the more familiar we become. Through prayer, God is waking your heart for what is breaking His heart. Keep asking Him what He wants to do through you. Respond to His voice by action in faith.

Prayer:

God, I am willing to hear what breaks Your heart and re-order my life around You.

Further Reading:

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Wednesday, November 13

Today's Scripture:

Matthew 21:21-22

“And Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

Reflect:

Prevailing faith finds its confidence fully in the nature of God.

Jesus desires the measure of faith He's given us to grow. That growth becomes evident in our capacity to trust Him, obey Him, and live generous lives. What is God saying to you as you seek Him for the *Vox Wake My Heart* campaign? How will He have you participate?

Prayer:

God, show me how to be faithful with all you have given me.

Further Reading:

Philippians 4:4-9

Thursday, November 14

Today's Scripture:

Proverbs 23:26 (MSG)

“Dear child, I want your full attention; please do what I show you.”

Reflect:

As I pray, God aligns my heart with His will.

The process of prayer brings transformation in the heart of the one praying. Prayer redirects our focus off self and onto God. It teaches humility, stretches our faith, and sharpens our focus for His will. Today seek God and allow Him to align your heart with His will.

Prayer:

God, show me what You want to do through my life today.

Further reading:

James 5:13-20

Friday, November 15

Today's Scripture:

Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Reflect:

Enduring faith brings eternal reward.

Prayer requires persistence. If prayers are not answered immediately, resist allowing an inaccurate view of God to grow in your heart. Instead, keep praying from the perspective that God is good, He is for you, and the answer is coming soon. Do this by praying His promises in Scripture. Activate your faith by praying out loud. Pray until you sense His assurance in your soul. His desire is to show you what He wants to do through your life.

Prayer:

Lord, I set my heart to pray and not give up.

Further reading:

Luke 18:1-8

Saturday, November 16

Today's Scripture:

Romans 13:11 (CSB)

“You know the time, it is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

Reflect:

God wants to show me clearly what He wants to do through me.

Ever notice how little kids can fall asleep in random places? Even some adults can fall asleep regardless of what's happening around them. However, there are some moments that we cannot afford to sleep through! We are experiencing one of those moments in New England. God is turning the least churched region in the U.S. into a spiritually vibrant place! Every week lives are changing, community is growing, and cities are impacted with the gospel. What does God want to do through your life in this movement in New England?

Prayer:

God, I want to live fully for you all the days of my life. Wake my heart!

Further reading:

Mark 14:32-42

Sunday, November 17

This week the focus was on seeking the Lord in prayer for how He wants to work through you. What has God said to you? What is your response to this? Are you eager to obey or struggling? Spend some time surrendering to the good plans God has for you.



FOR THE GLORY
OF GOD AND THE
TRANSFORMATION
OF OUR CITY

WEEK FIVE

PRIORITIES

Priorities have the power to set the entire trajectory of your life. Clear priorities may be the single greatest force to drive your life to a desired destination. Within each of us, there is a battle between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Self. What is God saying to you about your priorities?

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, November 18

Today's Scripture:

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

Reflect:

Life's greatest priority is to abide with the Shepherd.

Our time on Earth isn't ultimately about staying busy, making money, and being entertained. It's about knowing our Good Shepherd, Jesus, and finding the joy of walking closely with Him. This is a journey of modeling Jesus as we point others to the gospel. It's about surrendering our will for His. As we filter all our time and resources through this greater priority, we are empowered to live a life of divine productivity. Today, let Jesus be your greatest priority.

Prayer:

God, I return to the Shepherd of my soul. Restore me in Your presence.

Further Reading:

Psalm 23

Tuesday, November 19

Today's Scripture:

Philippians 3:8-9

"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith."

Reflect:

God is reprioritizing my heart.

When we encounter God, everything changes! We find that everything we used to value – wealth, status, comfort, accomplishment – seems like nothing in comparison to knowing God personally. God becomes bigger and more important than anything else. This is the first sign of a reprioritized heart. Can you say with confidence that this is the condition of your heart? Or do you find yourself constantly choosing other loves over God? By His grace, surrender your heart fully today.

Prayer:

Jesus, You are the supreme treasure of my heart.

Further Reading:

Matthew 13:1-23

Wednesday, November 20

Today's Scripture:

Psalm 73:25-26 (NIV)

“Whom have I in heaven but You?
And earth has nothing I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.”

Reflect:

Who do I live for? God or myself?

A reprioritized heart gives us a new perspective. No longer is our heart full of comparison, jealousy, greed and an obsession with comfort. We stop living as if the world revolves around us. Instead, we find our hearts filled with the God-kind of love that knows it's more blessed to give than receive. Our capacity for radical obedience expands. And every time we give, our love for God and his Church matures. Today, how is God asking you to reprioritize so that He truly is your everything?

Prayer:

God, I no longer want to live for myself. Give me a heart that is fully Yours.

Further Reading:

Matthew 16:24-28

Thursday, November 21

Today's Scripture:

2 Corinthians 6:11-13 (MSG)

“Dear, dear Corinthians, I can't tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn't fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren't small, but you're living them in a small way. I'm speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!”

Reflect:

A reprioritized heart is a wide heart.

Busyness, insecurity, culture, and even our own emotions can cause us to live with a small and narrow heart. But when we live with a wholehearted devotion to Christ, we find our true identity in His Word. We live with wide hearts that choose endurance over retreat and action over avoidance. Where is God trying to widen your heart now? How are you resisting this? What practical steps is He prompting you to take today to live more expansively in Him?

Prayer:

God, I lay down all my fears and doubts, and I step into the wide space of living wholeheartedly for you.

Further reading:

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Friday, November 22

Today's Scripture:

Mark 6:37a (NIV)

“But He answered, ‘You give them something to eat.’”

Reflect:

God multiplies what I fully yield to Him.

God is calling each of us to allow the priorities of Jesus to eclipse the priorities of self. As this happens, we will see a radical shift in both habits and perspective. Moving away from the tendency to think that what we have belongs to us, we then embrace the truth that all we are and all we have belongs to Him. By His Spirit, we develop a bias toward action that seizes opportunities to live for his eternal purpose. There is a spiritual movement happening here at Vox Church that is impacting New England. What action do you sense God calling you to regarding your current priorities? How will you respond to His voice?

Prayer:

God, I give You all I am and all I have. Use these for Your Kingdom and Your glory.

Further reading:

Mark 6:30-44

Saturday, November 23

Today's Scripture:

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

“But seek first His kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Reflect:

You are called to be part of a community that applies heaven's priorities.

People are God's top priority. Over half of New England's population lives within 15 minutes of its 10 largest cities. At Vox Church our top priority is to join God's mission by planting thriving churches in every cultural center across this region. This means all of us together spreading the life of Jesus to this dying world. This is the burning vision that fuels this community! To do this, Jesus must rule every area of our lives. Imagine what we could accomplish together if we let Him do just that?

Prayer:

Jesus, once again, I surrender. My heart is Yours, my God.

Further reading:

Matthew 6:25-34

Sunday, November 24

Take the time to review this week's Scriptures and what you've heard God speak to you. How is God addressing your current priorities? What adjustments do you sense Him leading you to? Make a solid list of practical steps toward change. Receive the grace from God to live in that change starting today.



WEEK SIX

SURRENDER

God intended your heart to be like a river of living water. But tragically, throughout life, boulders get thrown into the river and slow down the current. What rocks have gotten stuck in your river? What obstacles exist in your heart? What clutter needs to be cleared out for you to trust God fully?

SERMON NOTES

Week 6: Surrender

Lined area for sermon notes on the left page.

Lined area for sermon notes on the right page.

WEEKLY PRAYER:
Father, I surrender all
I am and all that I have.

Three horizontal lines for writing a prayer response.

Three horizontal lines for writing a prayer response.

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, November 25

Today's Scripture:

Matthew 22:37 (NIV)

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Reflect:

The consecrated life recognizes idols.

It's been said that an idol is anything you cannot live without. It's what absorbs your heart and imagination more than God. We all have them. They form from the brokenness within our own hearts and can keep us from fully surrendering our lives to Christ. Are you aware of yours? Will you allow the Holy Spirit to begin revealing them to you? If so, today with confidence draw near to the throne of grace. Receive His mercy and grace that lead to freedom.

Prayer:

Lord, open my eyes to anything within my heart that comes before You.

Further Reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Tuesday, November 26

Today's Scripture:

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Reflect:

The consecrated life embraces faith that works.

Through Jesus, we have a relationship with our Father. So, we don't work for acceptance from God, instead, we live from the position of acceptance in Christ. It's from this place we live consecrated, faithful lives. Today, let's go deeper in that walk of consecration. Ask yourself: What is so central and essential to my life that if I lost it, life would not be worth living? If the answer is anything other than your relationship with Jesus, it's time for deeper surrender.

Prayer:

Jesus, by your Spirit, take me to that fuller place of surrender today.

Further Reading:

James 2:14-26

Wednesday, November 27

Today's Scripture:

Hebrews 6:19-20a (NIV)

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.”

Reflect:

The consecrated life carries a hope that stays.

Hope is a confident expectation of good. It carries with it the power to resist fear, to relinquish idols and to run our race with endurance. This hope makes us immovable and steadfast. It helps us release our fears and doubts, and turn back to the true One, the living God. Then we are willing to put action behind our confession of faith and to love sacrificially. Today, let the Holy Spirit renew your hope.

Prayer:

God, I believe Your plans for me are good. Fill me with hope. Move me in faith.

Further Reading:

1 Timothy 6:3-19

Thursday, November 28

Today's Scripture:

Matthew 19:21-22 (NIV)

Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Reflect:

The consecrated life runs deeper than culture.

We live in a materialistic society where money often determines value and identity. Many times it's easier to trust our retirement account more than God with our future. This desire for money or the concern about not having enough can outweigh our commitment to God and His mission. However, when we turn to Jesus, our identity is now securely found in Him. He is our source. He never leaves us and never fails us.

What are the triggers that cause you to overspend, obsess about not having enough or keep you from trusting God? Surrender those and receive freedom from God.

Prayer:

God, show me where my trust is misplaced. Then, recalibrate my heart to fully trust in You.

Further reading:

Matthew 19:16-30

Friday, November 29

Today's Scripture:

Proverbs 11:24 (MSG)

“The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.”

Reflect:

The consecrated life speaks louder than comfort.

There is power found in the life of a believer who is fully devoted to Christ. This is the person who doesn't always look for the comfortable road. They first look for the gospel road. They know there is something more compelling than their own comfort. This ready and willing attitude to give flows from a heart that knows God is the ultimate giver. Today surrender your craving for comfort and open your heart to God's grace for giving.

Prayer:

Lord, increase my devotion to You by enlarging my heart of generosity.

Further reading:

Luke 10:25-37

Saturday, November 30

Today's Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 3:11a (NIV)

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart.”

Reflect:

The consecrated life lasts longer than time.

The truth of eternal life fills the heart of every follower of Christ. It frames our entire perspective and reorients our priorities. It means that I can choose sacrifice over instant gratification. I can focus more on my heart growing close to God than my bank growing bigger and bigger. It allows me to choose the unseen approval of heaven over earthly applause. Today spend time worshipping the God who sets you free from all the idols that used to control you.

Prayer:

Jesus, I am grateful that You exchanged Your perfect life for my broken one. This is what I live for.

Further reading:

2 Corinthians 4

Sunday, December 1

This week God is calling you to grow deeper in consecration. The evidence is seen in a life lived set apart and wholly for God. Go back over all that God has said to you this week. How will you live differently now?



WEEK SEVEN

SACRIFICE

In the body of Christ, God never intended for us to be equal in giving. He is the Master of all, giving to each as he sees fit. We are, however, called to be equal in sacrifice. What would sacrifice look like for you?

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, December 2

Today's Scripture:

Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)

"As Jesus looked up, He saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' He said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'"

Reflect:

Always begin with what you have.

The economy of grace says, begin with what you have. Remember the boy who gave his five loaves and two fish to Jesus and fed thousands? Or Moses offering his staff when God asked him what was in his hand? How about the widow who gathered all the jars she had for Elisha? Each simply began with what they had. And each was part of an incredible miracle! As you give your resources to the mission of Jesus, He transforms our dollars and cents into redeemed lives, restored marriages, broken hearts made whole and much more! Today, allow God to show you how to begin with what you have.

Prayer:

Lord, help me see clearly how You desire me to sacrifice for Your mission.

Further Reading:

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Tuesday, December 3

Today's Scripture:

Luke 14:26 (NIV)

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple."

Reflect:

What holds supreme value in my heart?

In today's reading passage, Jesus deals with the most important calculation of your life. He asks the question: What holds supreme value in your heart? He says that relationships, family, and even our own life must not be first. Our plans, dreams, and desires need to come second to following him. Do the math! Being His disciple will cost everything! Honestly, our hearts long for this depth of commitment to Him. Today, what part of you may be hiding from this? What part of you is protecting "what's yours"? The truth is absolute devotion leads to ultimate joy.

Prayer:

Jesus, all I have belongs to You.

Further Reading:

Luke 14:25-33

Wednesday, December 4

Today's Scripture:

2 Corinthians 9:6

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

Reflect:

A surrendered heart redefines sacrifice.

When we catch a glimpse of the power of God's grace, sacrifice takes on a new meaning. His grace inspires us to give ourselves first to the Lord. We stop struggling with whether we should give, and now we see everything as belonging to Him. Today, will you surrender your heart even more and allow the Holy Spirit to redefine sacrifice for you?

Prayer:

Lord, I lay my heart before You. I open my heart to the influence of Your grace.

Further Reading:

Acts 4:32-35

Thursday, December 5

Today's Scripture:

2 Corinthians 2:14

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere.”

Reflect:

My sacrifice releases the fragrance of God.

In Mark 14, we meet a woman who displayed extravagant devotion. She recognized a unique moment with Jesus and poured out what she had. Mary didn't make a donation to Jesus; she sacrificed in a way that impacted her financial future. What inspired this? Is it possible that she somehow got a glimpse of the sacrifice Jesus was about to make? The only truth powerful enough to motivate such sacrificial love is the truth of Jesus giving his life for yours. How does God want to spread his fragrance through your life?

Prayer:

Lord, guide me in the sacrifice that releases the fragrance of the gospel.

Further reading:

Mark 14:3-9

Friday, December 6

Today's Scripture:

Hebrews 12:1-3

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Reflect:

His love motivates my sacrifice.

As followers of Christ, we are no longer motivated by guilt. In Christ, all striving for God's approval has ceased. Our choices aren't based on cultural acceptance or personal convenience. Instead, the love of God compels us. We live and give in direct proportion to what Christ has given us. Do you find yourself still responding out of fear, guilt or anything other than God's love for you? Lay those things down today. Receive a fresh filling of God's love for you.

Prayer:

Lord, I believe in the love You have for me. I open my heart to You fully right now.

Further reading:

Philippians 3:12-21

Saturday, December 7

Today's Scripture:

John 13:34

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

Reflect:

Sacrifice matures love.

Genuine love is the most captivating force on earth. And God has called us to reveal that love. The challenge is it can be costly. Opening your home, caring for others, serving your city, and giving of your resources – all these things are counterintuitive. We fear giving will leave us with not enough. But the truth is, in Christ, we have a reservoir of abundance! Choosing this higher love causes us to spiritually grow. Every time we give it away, our souls expand. God's love within us grows when we act in faith and obedience to Him.

Prayer:

Lord, teach me how to mature in love by giving and serving others.

Further reading:

Romans 12:9-21

Sunday, December 8

Jesus willingly chose to sacrifice His life for ours. This week, God has been encouraging you to grow deeper in genuine love and sacrifice. After reviewing the past week, how will you practically respond to all that God has spoken to you? How will sacrifice affect your everyday life?



WEEK EIGHT

COMMITMENT

Now is the time for the people of God to embrace the power of making a commitment. For too long, God's people have been a reflection of our culture, avoiding commitment for selfish reasons. Together, we will each make a faith commitment. By faith commitment, we mean a pledge to give over the next two years that stretches our faith and pushes us to a new level of trust in our relationship with God. For you: what number says, "I'm all in?"

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, December 9

Today's Scripture:

1 Kings 8:61 (NIV)

“And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by his decrees and obey His commands, as at this time.”

Reflect:

Do I consistently apply what I profess to believe?

Having Jesus in your life changes everything! The practices of genuine Christianity must be applied to our daily lives for them to be real. This means our highest commitment in life is to live authentically for Jesus. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you answer today's reflection question. What is He showing you? What practical changes do you sense Him prompting you to make?

Prayer:

Lord, may my heart be first and wholly committed to You.

Further Reading:

James 1

Tuesday, December 10

Today's Scripture:

Matthew 13:44

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Reflect:

When grace prevails in your heart, you leave all to follow Jesus.

This verse goes against the grain of a world filled with skepticism and half-heartedness. Our culture champions that “one foot out the door” way of life. Instead, Jesus calls you to dig deep roots of commitment to Him. How will you live? Non-committal and unsure? Or will you joyfully lay down all for Jesus and his mission?

As you point your life toward the supreme value found in Jesus, God wants to speak specifically and uniquely to you. Ask Him what this type of full commitment means for you.

Prayer:

God, grant me the grace to fully commit all to You.

Further Reading:

Luke 12:35-48

Wednesday, December 11

Today's Scripture:

1 Samuel 17:32 (NIV)

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

Reflect:

The chains of the ordinary are only broken by acts of extreme commitment.

God is inviting you to a life of greater things. To do this, you must let go of the temporal things you cling to, take your focus off self, and embrace extreme commitment. The good news is that in Christ, you have the capacity for this kind of determination. As you recognize that everything you do echoes in eternity, your spirit produces a grit that fully commits to God and His mission. Are you willing to accept His invitation today into a life of greater things?

Prayer:

Jesus, You are my example of extreme commitment. Help me to follow You.

Further Reading:

1 Samuel 17

Thursday, December 12

Today's Scripture:

Romans 12:2

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Reflect:

I can make an eternal impact with temporal resources.

Biblical Christianity drastically changes the lens through which finances are viewed. God's Word renews your mind to the truth that God is your Father, and He actually owns everything. Soon you discover that the joy of Christ far outweighs the happiness of possessions. Fear and selfishness lose their grip on your heart. Now your choices and commitments are made in light of the truth of eternity. Continue to surrender your life to Him.

Prayer:

God, I desire a life that is compelled by Your love for me. Today guide me and renew my mind.

Further Reading:

Galatians 6:1-10

Friday, December 13

Today's Scripture:

Romans 8:32 (NIV)

“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?”

Reflect:

I can't take my old pattern into my new calling.

Have you ever gone back to an old pattern of life? Maybe a dysfunctional relationship, past addiction, or an old way of reacting to life's circumstances? Today God wants you to surrender the old. He desires you to turn from that past identity and step into a deeper relationship with Him. What's keeping you from fully living in your new identity in Christ? Remind yourself today that nothing is too difficult for God, and that God is for you.

Prayer:

God, I release the old and embrace the new.

Further Reading:

Romans 8:31-39

Saturday, December 14

Today's Scripture:

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NIV)

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

Reflect:

Nothing is impossible when 100% of the Church gives 100% of themselves.

Each week at Vox Church, God is moving in powerful ways. And we are just getting started! Together, what could we accomplish in New England for the glory of God? Could we see thousands saved? Entire cities transformed by the gospel? Social problems solved? Family trees changed? Yes, this is possible! But every spiritual movement has gone hand in hand with a generosity movement. How is God prompting you to commit to His mission?

Prayer:

Lord, grip my heart with Your mission today.

Further Reading:

Matthew 5:13-16

Sunday, December 15

This week's focus has been a commitment to the mission of God. Use your time today to reflect on how God has spoken to you over these past days and weeks. Ask Him for wisdom to move forward in obedience. Trust Him to guide you in every decision.



WEEK NINE

GENEROSITY

An act of faith releases the power for a miracle. In Luke 5, the paralyzed man was not healed until after his friends lowered him through the roof to see Jesus. Their act of faith sets the stage for this miracle. As we each trust God and give, our collective acts of faith set in motion salvation, healing, and deliverance for others.

WAKE MY HEART DEVOTIONAL

Monday, December 16

Today's Scripture:

Isaiah 12:3

“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

Reflect:

I exist to display God's glory by living from the well of His divine love.

It's the love of God that compels you to live a radical sacrificial life. His grace empowers you to deny self and live for His kingdom. By that same spirit, Vox Church exists for the glory of God and the transformation of cities. It's possible to see New England spiritually awakened in our lifetime. The extraordinary generosity needed comes from ordinary people who choose simply to live differently. How is God leading you to give? Allow your giving to be a work of the love and grace of God that influences your heart.

Prayer:

Lord, let my generosity flow from a heart that's been changed by Your love.

Further Reading:

John 4

Tuesday, December 17

Today's Scripture:

1 Corinthians 9:24-26

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.”

Reflect:

True generosity is fueled by grace.

An encounter with grace leads to new ambitions. A new passion fills your heart. The desire to love and serve God and live for another world consumes us. It's important to understand that God wants you to enjoy your life and His blessings. He also calls you to a higher form of happiness, one that is found when you live with a full heart and an open hand. Today, come before God with a grateful heart for all He has done for you. Then, open your hands and ask Him to guide you into a greater generosity by His grace.

Prayer:

God, I live freely with a heart full of grace and open hands of generosity.

Further Reading:

2 Corinthians 8

Wednesday, December 18

Today's Scripture:

Psalm 24:1-2

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.”

Reflect:

Everything belongs to God.

One of the first steps to a generous life is the realization that your life, health, mind, strength, job, and even the air you breathe belongs to God. Do you struggle with surrendering to this truth? Are you still attempting to keep areas of your life under your own control? Today ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any corners you’re keeping from God. Release those areas and trust God for freedom.

Prayer:

Lord, You have begun a good work in me. I trust You to complete it, and I yield to Your hand.

Further Reading:

Acts 20

Thursday, December 19

Today's Scripture:

Romans 5:17

“For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.”

Reflect:

God is a giver.

Many view God as a taker. Sometimes we all believe that He wants to take our fun, our friends, our joy, our identity, and our money. This misunderstanding of grace comes when you fail to recognize that His actions display His character. Before you turned to Him, He came to you. Jesus took your place and forever freed you from sin. God is the ultimate giver. Failure to see this keeps us all grasping for control. What thoughts come to mind when you think about God? Take some time today and answer that question. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal more truth about who God really is.

Prayer:

God open my eyes to see You in truth.

Further reading:

Romans 5

Friday, December 20

Today's Scripture:

Ephesians 3:20

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.”

Reflect:

God entrusts the generous with more.

God is looking for his Church to step out in obedience to His Word. He wants you to live like you believe that He can do more than you could ask or think. Do you believe that today? Do you know Him as your provider? Have you discovered the divine joy found in eternal investment? Is your heart beating for His agenda? Spend some time reflecting on these questions. Let the Lord speak to you.

Prayer:

God, my desire is to allow You to work great things through my life. Help me live for You.

Further reading:

Matthew 14:22-33

Saturday, December 21

Today's Scripture:

Proverbs 3:9-10

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”

Reflect:

Generous giving produces the surplus that enables the Church to transform cities.

The dream to see New England spiritually alive is possible if 100% of his Church gives 100% of themselves. Over these past nine weeks, God has been waking your heart for what breaks His heart. How will you respond? Will you allow Him to stretch your faith and trust Him on a whole new level? As you do, you will discover that sacrificial giving leads to abundant blessing, not overwhelming lack.

Prayer:

God, wake my heart for what breaks Your heart.

Further reading:

Acts 4

Sunday, December 22

Together we have journeyed through eternal principles that must guide our lives as followers of Christ. As you review this past week, how is God stirring your heart? Journal what He is speaking to you about your part in the *Wake My Heart* campaign. Make a list of practical next steps and commit them fully to the Lord. Trust in His grace to complete His good work in your life.



COMMITMENT

WHERE TO START?

After praying, we're asking you to consider what role God would have you play in giving toward *Wake My Heart*. Can you imagine what it will be like to see new people coming to Jesus and realizing that God has enabled you to give more than you ever dreamed possible over two years...that your heart expanded as you became more open-handed and generous...and most of all, that you helped open the door for hundreds of people to discover a relationship with Jesus?

Over the past eight years, Vox Church has been marked by generous people who were willing to sacrifice their resources so that others could discover the love of God. We know God hasn't given everyone the ability to give the same dollar amount, but he does call us to bring what we have, mix it with faith, and be part of something bigger than ourselves. Even if you've never given to God's work before, this is a good time to begin. Everyone can participate in some way!

Often, some sort of sacrifice is required to get to where you want to be. For us to expand and continue to make an impact in our cities, our region, and around the world, it's going to take sacrifice. It's going to take some shifting of priorities, spending, and giving. If we want to reach those around us, we need to make an opportunity for them to be reached. And we can do this—but not without you!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 8. It's our Commitment Sunday, where we'll be turning in our *Wake My Heart* commitments together as a church. The real journey will begin from there as we faithfully bring our gifts over the next two years.

The best place to begin is by talking with God about what's on your heart and mind, specifically concerning this giving commitment. Be honest and open about it. At its core, this is a spiritual journey. It's not about guilt or obligation. REMEMBER, THE IDEA ISN'T TO FIGURE OUT A MATHEMATICAL FORMULA. IT'S ABOUT GIVING JESUS ACCESS TO YOUR HEART AND LETTING HIM LEAD YOU IN THE FINANCIAL DECISION.

In the next few pages, we have a generosity trail guide mapped out for you. Along the way, you will discover some PRINCIPLES and a WORKSHEET to help you and your family decide what your NEXT STEP ON THE GIVING LADDER is supposed to be and WHAT YOUR GIFT CHART NUMBER is. Let's begin our journey.

GOD'S TRAIL GUIDE FOR GIVING

The Bible has a lot to say about giving and attaches many promises to it. Giving is a responsibility and a privilege. With that in mind, here are four biblical principles on giving from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

1. EVERY BELIEVER IN EVERY CHURCH SHOULD GIVE.

Giving is a universal practice. The apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers, "Follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia" (NLT). In other words, Paul was saying, "They did it in Galatia—you need to do it in Corinth. They did it in Macedonia, and we need to do it here. Every church should do this." It was not just something the Corinthians were asked to do; it is asked of every believer. No one is exempt from giving.

2. WE LEARN THAT GIVING IS TO BE DONE CONSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY.

"On every Lord's Day," Paul said in verse two, "Put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned" (NLT). The idea is to consistently take a percentage of your income and set it aside for the work of God. This is what the Scripture tells us we ought to do. And then, as you do this, you are able to invest it in His Kingdom.

3. GIVING IS A PERSONAL ACT.

Notice that Paul says, "Each of you should put aside some amount of money" (verse 2 NLT). Paul's point is that every one of us should set aside an amount of money to give. Even children ought to be taught this. Giving to God's work is a personal act for every single believer.

4. WE SHOULD PREPARE OURSELVES TO INVEST IN THE WORK OF GOD.

The apostle Paul told the believers to "Put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering" (1 Corinthians 16:2, NLT). Paul is saying to prayerfully consider how much to give. Do it in advance. It should never be a last-minute or flippant practice. Paul also says, "in relation to what you have earned." In other words, not all of our gifts will be equal, but our sacrifice should be. Our giving should be in proportion to what we earn. Giving is an opportunity to be an obedient Christian. Take it seriously, but do it cheerfully. So, individually we must...

DELIBERATE—TALK WITH GOD

Go to God and ask that His will be done in your life. It's important that you are striving to follow the direction He has for you and that you find the doors He wants you to walk through.

DETERMINE—YOUR STARTING POINT

Wake My Heart is not based on equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. In other words, not all of our gifts will be of the same amount, but every one of us can meaningfully invest in proportion to the resources God has given us to work with. So, determine where you are at on the giving ladder and the next step God is asking you to take.

DEFINE—WHAT SACRIFICE LOOKS LIKE FOR YOU

What changes can you make in your life that will better enable you to invest in what you believe in? How can you give in ways that will make a difference in you? These are often personal and specific to your lifestyle and budget. They are areas you know God is asking you to make changes and sacrifices in.

DECIDE—CREATE A PERSONAL GIVING PLAN

We thought it would be helpful to explain what commitment IS and IS NOT. A commitment IS a heartfelt decision to get behind what Vox Church is doing—and it's something you make that's between you and God. A commitment is NOT a contract or legal agreement. So decide, trust, and work out your giving plan.

DONATE - EVALUATE STORED RESOURCES

Another way you can contribute to *Wake My Heart* is by giving from stored resources. Most likely your commitment will be from giving that's done over the two years, plus from stored resources that you liquidate and give in lump sums.

Ok, now that we have the principles of biblical generosity down, and a general map of how to go about it, let's go deeper in the journey and fill out your GIVING WORKSHEET.

GIVING WORKSHEET

We encourage you to sit down and go through this worksheet and include family (if applicable) as you ask. "God, what do You want to do through me?" As you work through these seven steps, it most likely will be an eye-opening experience. You will discover the possibilities in determining your level of generosity.

STEP 1: PRAY

Yes, it is true, you will have to do more than pray, but do not do anything until you pray! Begin by using the following as a guide:

ADORATION (1 MINUTE): Celebrate how great God is.

CONFESSION (1 MINUTE): Admit areas in your life that may be outside of God's will for you or areas that may not be pleasing to God. You can even confess your hesitation to engage in the process.

THANKSGIVING (1 MINUTE): Think about the many aspects of your life for which you can be grateful (i.e. a car to drive, a place to live, food to eat, clothes to wear, job that provides an income, etc.).

SURRENDER (1 MINUTE): Relinquish all that you have. This may be the hardest part of this prayer progression. The physical action of turning your open palms upward may help you visualize your willingness to let go of what God has given to you.

*"Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*
Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)

STEP TWO: EVALUATE YOUR INCOME

It's important to have a realistic starting point, so start with what is known, your income.

SALARY #1:\$ _____
 +
 SALARY #2:\$ _____
 +
 YEAR 1 POTENTIAL RAISE/BONUS/COMMISSION: \$ = _____
 SUBTOTAL

Now, determine what portion of that God is asking you to commit. For most of us, income alone will not take us where we want to go toward making a legacy-type commitment to our church.

STEP THREE: LIFESTYLE CHANGES AND/OR ALTERED SPENDING

(Use the space provided to write the total two-year savings created by that sacrifice.)

SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU THINKING:

LESSEN CAR PAYMENTS	\$ _____
SELL CAR & PURCHASE A USED CAR WITH NO PAYMENTS	\$ _____
EAT OUT LESS OFTEN	\$ _____
CUT BACK ON SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ _____
REGULATE THE AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF GIFTS GIVEN	\$ _____
SCALE BACK CELL PHONE & INTERNET USAGE	\$ _____
MODIFY TYPE AND NUMBER OF VACATIONS	\$ _____
ADJUST CABLE TV/DIRECT TV COVERAGE PACKAGES DOWNWARD	\$ _____
TRIM DOWN ENTERTAINMENT	\$ _____
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COFFEE RUNS	\$ _____
DECREASE NEW CLOTHING PURCHASES	\$ _____
PAY OFF A BILL AND CONTINUE THAT PAYMENT TO <i>WAKE MY HEART</i>	\$ _____
DO YOUR OWN HOUSEKEEPING, LAWN CARE	\$ _____
OTHER: _____	\$ _____
SUBTOTAL	\$ _____

It's important in this journey to include your spouse in the conversation if married, or the entire family if you have children. It's an important step in the development of your family. Most of us think that our kids will not be willing to sacrifice, but many kids are more comfortable than adults with the process. They have implicit and childlike faith and belief in a BIG God. So if you have children, include your kids!

STEP FOUR: ACTIVELY CONSIDER YOUR ASSETS (STORED RESOURCES)

THIS INCLUDES MANY DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES:

PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS THAT HAVE APPRECIATED IN VALUE SUCH AS:

HOME	\$ _____
LAND	\$ _____
TIMESHARES	\$ _____
APARTMENTS	\$ _____
CONDOS	\$ _____
VACATION HOME	\$ _____
STOCKS AND BONDS	\$ _____
RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS	\$ _____

COLLECTIBLES SUCH AS:

CARS	\$ _____
STAMPS	\$ _____
TRADING CARDS	\$ _____
COINS	\$ _____
MEMORABILIA	\$ _____

DEPRECIATED OBJECTS SUCH AS:

MOTORCYCLE	\$ _____
CLOTHES	\$ _____
BOATS	\$ _____
JEWELRY	\$ _____
ARTWORK	\$ _____
THINGS THAT COULD BE SOLD ON EBAY	\$ _____

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

STEP FIVE: TIME AND TALENT

Consider putting your time and/or talent into play to generate resources...

GO BACK TO WORK	\$ _____
WORK ONE ADDITIONAL DAY A WEEK	\$ _____
START A NEW BUSINESS TO GENERATE INCOME	\$ _____
TAKE AN OUTSIDE "SEASONAL" JOB OPPORTUNITY	\$ _____
WORK OVERTIME	\$ _____
WORK AN EXTRA SATURDAY	\$ _____
CREATIVE & ARTISTIC HOBBIES, JEWELRY MAKING, POTTERY, ETC.	\$ _____
SUBTOTAL	\$ _____

STEP SIX: DENIAL OR A GENUINE ACT OF SACRIFICIAL FAITH

As seen in the Bible, God often taps people on the shoulder and asks them to do something extraordinary. This is the sort of out-of-the-ordinary faith that can only be attributed to a prompting of God's Spirit. It's the type of commitment that a financial planner may think is foolish, but God may very well consider quite smart. It's hard to suggest what this opportunity may be for you, but we believe God will lead some of us toward this very place.

FOR INSTANCE:

YOU DECIDED TO RETIRE, BUT YOU DELAY IT FOR TWO YEARS TO GIVE THOSE RESOURCES TO THE CHURCH	\$ _____
POSTPONE OR SLIDE BACK RETIREMENT BY TAKING MONEY OUT OF YOUR 401K/403B/IRA	\$ _____
DIVERT DOLLARS FROM CHILDREN'S COLLEGE FUND	\$ _____
SUBTOTAL	\$ _____

*It could very well be that there are dollar amounts that can be assigned to every one of these steps/categories. **Total them up.** Yes – it is going to take God's help to accomplish it, but if we could do it on our own, then we might be tempted to take the credit for what only God can do!*

TOTAL TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT (What God wants to do through me/us)

\$ _____	Current Giving
+	
\$ _____	Expanded Giving
=	
\$ _____	Annual Giving
X 2 years = \$ _____	
+	
\$ _____	(Stored Resources & Faith Step)
=	
<hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/>	
GRAND TOTAL	
over the next two years	

STEP SEVEN: THE COMMITMENT...TRUST GOD!

The real journey will come over the next two years. We hope you'll keep a journal of the amazing and unexpected ways God will work and provide in your life to accomplish your faith commitment. Go on our website under Wake My Heart and share your story!



A closing thought from Pastor Justin...

Way to go! You've wrestled with this process and God is doing a deep work in your heart! You will never be the same! God is "searching the whole earth for people who are totally committed to Him." (2 Chron. 16:9). I believe that is exactly what God is doing at Vox Church! I believe that is the life you are stepping into!

Just wait and see what God will do both through this church and in your own life. It may be far above what we have dared to ask, hope or think. He's going to do it—but NOT WITHOUT YOU. God works his miracles through us and we get to share in His joy and His glory!

THANK YOU for engaging in the *Wake My Heart* journey!



FAQ

A WORD ABOUT FAQs

“FAQ” is simply shorthand for “Frequently Asked Questions.” At Vox we strive to be transparent, engaged, and available to our church body so that we all can be on the same page and accomplish God’s purposes through Vox in unity and with much joy. FAQs help accomplish that “same page” goal and serve as an effective way to communicate information to everyone at Vox that one-on-one or after-service conversations can’t accomplish. Your Vision booklet had an initial round of FAQs and this section serves to add to that. You can submit additional questions to:

WakeMyHeartQuestions@voxchurch.org.

Q. WHAT IS WAKE MY HEART?

A. In short, *Wake My Heart* is a two-year generosity campaign that enables us to accomplish the vision God has given us for Vox Church. Through discipleship in generosity, we believe we can see our Vox family raise \$17 million over the next two years.

Q. WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES OF WAKE MY HEART?

A. We have three critical areas of ministry that need to be resourced and achieved. First, we will invest here at home by strengthening current ministries. Due to wonderful growth and God's transforming work in people's lives, we are experiencing unprecedented growth in this region. Our rapid growth and expansion through church planting have the historical markers of a movement rather than just a church that is growing. Firstly, we want to ensure that our current ministries are developing in strength and effectiveness. Secondly, we need to establish our first anchor location that will allow us to reach and retain a larger portion of the harvest of souls God is sending our way. From that larger facility, we will have the permanence, durability, flexibility, and size to serve all our church planting efforts more effectively. Thirdly, through *Wake My Heart* we will create a site acquisition fund that will enable us to act quickly and strategically in providing additional locations, land, buildings, etc. for our current and future church plants. To fulfill the mission that God has for us, we must advance all of these critical areas of ministry simultaneously. To move forward toward the vision, we cannot simply advance based on the crisis or need-of-the-moment. Rather we need to be on the front end of managing growth and expanding in a healthy way. God is awakening the lost in our region and we are striving to stay in step with the Spirit as He moves upon the hearts of people, who today are far from God, but tomorrow we pray will find hope and healing in Jesus through Vox.

Q. IS THIS A BUILDING CAMPAIGN?

A. No. A building or capital campaign is focused solely on buying land, building or renovating a building. It's project-focused. *Wake My Heart* is priority-focused, looking at the bigger picture of what needs to be funded to ensure we are accomplishing our

vision in the best way possible. It is a challenge to our congregation to "grow in the grace of giving" as the means God intends for His Church to fund ministry. We have ONE VISION that unites us, and we have ONE FUND that resources that vision. That ONE FUND then funds the PRIORITIES that serve the entire church. As each of us who call Vox Church their home pray, "God, WAKE MY HEART," He will lead us into personal and spiritual growth that overflows in extravagant generosity.

Q. SO ONE FUND IS DIFFERENT THAN HAVING MANY FUNDS?

A. Yes, One Fund is a type of generosity campaign that, instead of giving being allocated specifically to a special building fund, or mission fund, or another type of fund, it will go into one MINISTRY FUND and be used to expand the impact of our church at all levels. This approach is so much more effective because it keeps us thinking about the priorities and funding them appropriately, ensuring that they are effective. The One Fund creates an opportunity for individuals and families at Vox Church to fund all the amazing work God is doing through us locally, regionally, and globally. It's a strategic way to ensure we remain one church with one vision, with many locations.

Q. WHAT THEN WILL IT TAKE TO FUND OUR ONE VISION PRIORITIES?

A. It will require expanded generosity by our entire church body. Annual giving to Vox Church in 2018 was \$4 million, and we are on pace to expand that in 2019. For the next two years, 2020 and 2021, we believe we will need \$4.5 and \$5.2 million respectively to fund current ministries. That \$9.7 million will meet Priority One of *Wake My Heart*. To secure our first Anchor Location and launch two new Vox locations will require another \$6.3 million. That will meet Priority Two of *Wake My Heart*. We anticipate our site acquisition fund will need \$1 million. That will meet Priority Three of *Wake My Heart*, for a total of \$17 million. Obviously, this generosity won't happen automatically, but can only happen by our entire church growing in their generosity. That is the goal of *Wake My Heart*.

Q. WHAT'S THE EXPECTATION OF WAKE MY HEART?

A. Our prayerful expectation is for everyone to take the next step on the spiritual and generosity journey God has set before each of us. Yes, it will require God waking our hearts to the brokenness of our world, and for each of us to let God leverage our lives to build His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. These next two years are about growing in our walk with Jesus, personally and collectively as a church.

Q. SO ALL CAMPUSES ARE PARTICIPATING IN WAKE MY HEART?

A. Absolutely. It wouldn't work if they didn't! Vox is "One Church, Many Locations." That means we are all interdependent, working together to awaken New England and beyond to the gospel of Christ. We started with one campus and then another and then another to now having seven campuses and more on the way. That is the strategy God gave to Pastor Justin with the intent that it would replicate itself over and over. It was through the generosity of that first campus that we were able to expand. As each campus has come on board, they became generous in seeing other campuses expand and launch. We truly have been functioning as "One Church, Many Locations," meeting the needs each other has had. So, *Wake My Heart* is a one church, all church, all campuses campaign. It's in our DNA to do it this way.

Q. WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO ANY EXPERIENCE IN GIVING BEFORE?

A. We all have been there, where we came to Christ and had to be challenged to grow in generosity. The Apostle Paul exhorted Pastor Timothy to "encourage" his people to be generous and not be delinquent in doing that. To those who have not participated in giving much, or at all, this is your opportunity to start creating and expanding your generosity story. We encourage you to use the *Wake My Heart* campaign as your "test" to see how faithful God is in return. Place your treasure in God's work at Vox Church and your heart will follow, your faith will expand, your trust in God will grow, and your DECLARATION

that God is FIRST will deepen. Ephesians 3:20-21 says, "He will do exceedingly abundantly above and beyond all that we can ask, think or imagine." God's blessings take many forms including breakthroughs in relationships, health, vocations, attitudes, habits, hang-ups, finances, and healings. That's the generosity story that you are creating for you and your family. In Philippians 4:17 Paul gave his motivation for why he exhorted generosity so much to the New Testament churches: "I am not trying to get something from you, but I want you to receive the blessings that come from giving." That's our motivation as well, to truly see you blessed, as we learn to trust God together and build His Kingdom. We don't give to get, we give to grow and we give because we love. God will always bless the cheerful giver.

Q. HOW THEN DO I WAKE MY HEART TO GENEROSITY?

A. First and foremost, 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 on the giving ladder. Engage in personal reflection with God in this Journey Guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life. Recognize that this may involve a struggle as you sense God's call to rearrange life priorities, spending habits, and giving from stored resources. But don't be afraid. Luke 6:33 says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Expect your commitment to grow over time. Follow His leading and 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 *Wake My Heart* commitments—something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, December 8, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will be a defining moment for our church and our faith.

Q. WHY DO I NEED TO MAKE A TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT?

A. Not only can making a commitment be an act of discipleship, but it is also a helpful tool for the church to ensure responsible financial planning. Setting an intention for giving over the next two years and sharing that intention with the church allows Vox Church to make informed decisions about its financial investments in ministries, missions, locations, and plants. More importantly, it demonstrates that you are all in with God using your life and resources to bring people to Jesus.

Q. WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN MY WAKE MY HEART COMMITMENT?

A. In *Wake My Heart*, we are challenging you to grow in the practice of giving. As you consider your financial commitment over the next two years you will want to factor in the following: (1) what you typically give on a weekly basis, (2) your step of faith increase over what you typically give, (3) any special offerings you plan to give, and (4) any stored resources you plan to give. The Commitment section of the Journey Guide was designed to help you be led of the Spirit in figuring this out.

Q. WHAT ARE “STORED RESOURCES”?

A. Stored resources are the funds or assets you have other than income. You may want to explore unique ways you can give toward this campaign. For example, you may have savings, stocks, bonds, or other investments that you decide to gift to the church. You may have a boat, a vacation home, or a collection that God may lead you to give. Or, you may want to consider whether God is calling you to simplify your lifestyle in a way that frees you to give more to Him. What would your life look like if you let go of some of the “stuff” you’ve been holding on to?

Q. WHAT IF I AM CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL STRESS OR HARDSHIP?

A. If you are currently struggling with unemployment, or if you are carrying the heavy load of substantial debt, we are here for you. An excellent resource for you is Financial Peace University, a course that helps you develop a plan for taking control of your finances. If you are in need of care, our pastors and leaders would love to meet with you to discuss your current situation. As you work to overcome financial barriers to giving, consider that giving isn’t about what God wants from you; rather it’s about what God wants for you. *Wake My Heart* is fundamentally about a heart change - one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God -- and that looks different for all of us. Ultimately, we would like for 100% of us to be a part of *Wake My Heart* so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually stretching season at Vox.

Q. ISNT GIVING TO OTHER CHARITIES THE SAME AS GIVING TO THE CHURCH?

A. As followers of Jesus, God calls us to give first to His church for the work of the body of Christ. At Vox, we know firsthand that God changes people through His Church - we regularly hear stories of transformation. Giving to charities or other specific causes will absolutely help people in need; however, the gospel of Jesus transforms the heart forever and causes amazing practical change in this life right now. When you give to the church, you are investing in people who will be transformed and will in turn transform our world. We are convinced that the local church truly is the hope of the world, and we would love for you to make Vox Church your home and join us through *Wake My Heart*. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your priority. We need you on the team!

Q. IF WE ARE COMMITTING TO WAKE MY HEART, HOW WILL THIS AFFECT OUR NORMAL GIVING AND OFFERINGS?

A. Everything that is given to Vox over the next two years moves us ahead on this effort. The bulk of this Journey Guide is focused on helping us dig into 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 goal of \$17 million, we would still do this campaign. 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.

Q. CAN YOU DEFINE SACRIFICE?

A. A simple definition is: to give up something I want, something I need, or something that represents security. Most likely your commitment will come from excess income, decreased spending, liquidating assets, generating more money through the use of time and talent, or through sacrificing something. It is deciding upon what I can give up, do without, postpone, or alter in order to give to the mission of Vox over the next two years.

Q. WHAT DOES THE SLOGAN “NOT EQUAL GIVING, BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE” MEAN?

A. It recognizes that we all have different financial capacities, so we can't do a fair share approach to giving. But we all can find the ground level when it comes to sacrifice. Everyone sacrificing is the goal. So from the smallest gift to the largest gift, every person can say, “This gift is sacrificial for me.”

Q. IS IT OK TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GIVE AN AMOUNT THAT I DON'T HAVE RIGHT NOW?

A. Yes! That is called faith and it pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). In fact, the Macedonian Christians who were living in poverty insisted on giving to the struggling Christians in Jerusalem, so much so, that Paul said of their giving that they “gave what they were able, and even beyond their ability” meaning they committed future resources by faith.

Q. IS SACRIFICE OF MONEY A BIBLICAL PRACTICE?

A. Absolutely - The book of 2 Samuel quotes King David as saying, “I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.” The essence of sacrifice is that it COSTS us something. This type of giving is pleasing to God, because it demonstrates our reliance and faith in Him, and that is when BIG things begin to happen. Mary broke the alabaster jar of perfume upon Jesus that was worth one year's wages. Jesus commended the widow who gave her last two coins. When Zacchaeus said he was giving half of all he owned, and repaying those he had defrauded, Jesus said, “Salvation has come to this household.”

Q. WHAT IF I TEND TO TAKE A RATIONAL APPROACH TO DECISION-MAKING?

A. It will be tempting to give based on REASON. That would mean looking at my budget and figuring out what I could afford - what's “reasonable.” It doesn't take any faith to give by reason alone. The Scripture adds to our reason REVELATION. Revelation asks, “How much am I willing to trust God?” When you make giving a matter of prayer, your decision becomes an act of worship. Giving by revelation requires that you see life from God's perspective.

Here are some simple steps to consider during this process:

Think about ALL that God has done in your life since you have been part of the church, as well as how you've seen Him change others. Think about people you know who don't yet know God and His love for them. Let it sink in that people need Jesus as Lord and Savior.

1. Talk it over with God, both individually, and together with your spouse. Pray constantly, “God, I invite You to guide us.”
2. Discuss what sacrifice could mean for you. Pray, “Lord, what do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will in my church?”
3. Decide in faith and commit to sacrificially give at Vox over the next two years.

Q. SO WHAT IS AN AVERAGE GIFT?

A. There is no formula for determining that commitment nor is there an "average gift" benchmark. Stewardship is not about "equal gifts but about equal sacrifice." Instead of measuring your gift by the dollar amount, use the "measures" below:

Does this investment make a difference to me? Does this gift change me, change my whole commitment level? Was this a prayerful decision seeking God's will? Did I even invite God to be a part of this decision process? Did I have a real conversation about this decision with my spouse, children, family, church family, etc? Did I learn something about commitment and giving? Did I take a step of faith that deepens my own discipleship? If everyone else in the church made a sacrifice equal to my own (in terms of commitment rather than dollars), would God be honored by that level of commitment/investment? Did I ask, "Where do You want us to go on the giving ladder, God?"

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY FAITH COMMITMENT?

A. You most likely will start planning for your commitment to be an amount that fits within your budget. It will probably be a conservative amount that you believe you could give over the next two years. But it probably isn't sacrificial, nor will it stretch your faith to make that kind of commitment. A faith commitment will require you to grow your commitment number by thinking through how you could alter your spending, liquidate assets, and postpone spending. Now you realize you are sacrificing for the Kingdom and increasing your faith in God as provider and protector. As your commitment continues to grow, you come to Commitment Sunday and write a number on your card that will require two years of giving to fulfill that amount. It will require God to work in your life and circumstances to enable you to give that amount. You now realize you have to commit this amount by faith, believing God will enable you to fulfill your sacrificial commitment where you don't know where all the money will come from, or when it will come over the two-year giving phase.

Q. CAN EACH MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY MAKE A SEPARATE COMMITMENT?

A. Yes – Even students and young children can learn the values of commitment, generosity, faith, and sacrifice by filling out their own commitment cards.

Q. IF I MAKE A FAITH COMMITMENT, BUT MY CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, HOW DOES THAT WORK?

A. We understand that a lot can happen in two years! Your commitment is not a contract, but a sacred agreement between you and God. We do, however, believe that "God is able to make all grace abound to you," and we are asking in faith that the favor of God will be released in your life like never before as you step out in faith. Life happens, and we understand that you may need to adjust. Have faith and excitement as you expect great things to come your way.

Q. WHEN DOES MY FAITH COMMITMENT BEGIN AND END?

A. The *Wake My Heart* campaign goes from January 2020 through December 2021. We are also asking everyone to prayerfully consider bringing a "Step of Faith" offering during the weekend of December 15. The idea of this offering is to give the campaign a healthy boost out of the gate. We're asking you to pray about giving a significant portion — up to 10% (or more) if you are willing and able — of your total two-year gift commitment. This offering, as well as any year-end contributions over our current budget, will go toward *Wake My Heart*.

Q. REMIND ME AGAIN WHY WE NEED TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE?

A. Thanks for asking. It's because this is what the Church, note the capital "C" in Church, the Body of Christ, formed into local churches is called to do. Matthew 28:18-20 says, "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have comma-

nded you." Until every person knows Jesus we will always find a way to make room for more. *Wake My Heart* is a journey that will make room in our hearts for the people He desires to add to the family of God.

Q. SO WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

A. We are leaning heavily on the Holy Spirit to guide our entire church body through the days ahead. We want you to: 1) Pray, "God, what do You want to do through me and my family?" 2) Position yourself to be available and willing to do what God asks you to commit to in sacrificial generosity over the next two years. 3) Fill out a Commitment Card when it's time on December 8 in obedience to what God tells you to do! While you may have to wrestle with the challenge to trust God, rearrange your priorities for a season, or maybe even commit like the Macedonians did "as they were able and even beyond their ability" by faith. You should feel no pressure, stress, manipulation, coercion or worry throughout this journey. God will be faithful to you.

