



TO KNOW CHRIST &
MAKE HIM KNOWN.

Giving GUIDE



FIRST
OPEN
BIBLE
CHURCH



Making Room for Our Community

At First Open Bible, we believe God is calling us to grow alongside our community, becoming a multi-generational and multi-cultural church where everyone can experience the love of Christ in a welcoming family. Our “Make Room” campaign is about more than buildings—it’s about creating space for people to encounter Jesus, form meaningful relationships, and raise up the next generation of believers.

Our Story Since 2016, when Pastors Harris and Sarah Holsapple stepped into leadership, God has guided First Open Bible through seasons of growth and faithful ministry. What began as a season of renewal has now expanded into a thriving church family that holds two Sunday services. Since 1942, First Open Bible has been privileged to steward a rich heritage of God’s Spirit moving in powerful ways, with His tangible presence and His everlasting Word transforming lives, families, and our community.

But with growth comes the need for space. To continue welcoming everyone God sends our way, we must make room.

The Vision Through the “Make Room” campaign, we will renovate and expand three key areas of our church, ensuring that First Open Bible can serve our community for generations to come.

The Goal Our first phase requires raising a minimum of \$1.3 million over the next two years. Every dollar invested will create more room for lives to be changed by the gospel.

Your Invitation Because “Chrch” isn’t the same without U, we would love for you to come and be a part of what God is doing at First Open Bible. Together, we can honor the rich heritage of His Word and His Spirit while creating space for the next generation to experience His presence in a life-changing way.



MAKE ROOM FOR God to move

Making room begins with surrender. We give God all we are and ask him to work in us and through us. The Make Room initiative, first and foremost, is a multi-year spiritual journey during which we'll invite God to stretch us and shape us—showing us how we can make room for him to move in our midst individually and together.

MAKE ROOM TO grow the family

God is growing our church family by adding people of all ages and backgrounds, especially in the next generation. As the people of First Open Bible live out our faith, neighbors are becoming friends and these friends are becoming family. God's unstoppable kingdom has always been a grassroots movement—one person sharing good news with another, one generation passing the torch to the next. This is how his family grows, and a growing family is cause for celebration. Let's prepare by creating spaces that shout, "Come join us! We've been waiting for you!"

MAKE ROOM TO be family

Through the gospel, God made us family. We want spaces that draw people together and allow for connection and deep conversation. When others see us being family, they want what binds us together: Jesus. Our neighbors are aching for this kind of belonging—and we yearn for our campus to reflect that we're the kind of family ready to welcome them with open arms.



The spiritual side of money

1

God owns everything.

When we think about personal finance, it's easy to make plans about what we're going to do with "our money." But when we think about "our money," it's important to understand what that really means. The money isn't ours in the sense that we own it; it's simply ours in the sense that we're responsible for managing it. The truth is, everything we have belongs to God.

2

Everyone is investing in something.

We've been taught to keep careful watch on our financial portfolios. God gives us the chance to invest in his Kingdom—a portfolio with eternal yields. Where we choose to invest is not only an indication of where our hearts currently are, but it is also a means of moving our hearts toward the things of God.

3

We can't outgive God.

God is the most generous of all givers. He's already given us more than we can even comprehend—skills, resources, opportunities and his own Son for our salvation. When we recognize that our lives are overflowing with his good gifts, we naturally respond in generosity toward others and to advance his Kingdom.

4

Life is fuller when we trust him.

Jesus assured us that we don't need to worry about earthly matters, because God promises to take care of us. Trusting him with our temporary concerns frees us up to focus on the eternal—prioritizing the things that God prioritizes. Our lives become more on mission in every way, including our finances. We find joy, peace and intimacy with God when generosity grows in our hearts.

Some guidance from scripture

Jesus talked more about money than virtually any other subject in the Bible. He said, “Where your treasure is, your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). That means we declare something to be truly important when we invest our money in it. It’s interesting that one of Christ’s only compliments about a financial gift went to a very poor widow—not because of the size of her gift, but because she gave everything she had. Jesus also said that “to whom much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48). Scripture compels us to embrace these three principles (as well as others) in our prayers about giving:

“
God, reveal to
me how I can
demonstrate that I
place high
importance on your
work in the world.

“
God, help me
give a gift that
reflects a sacrifice,
demonstrating
my trust in your
provision.

“
God, show me how
to bless someone
else, using the
blessings you’ve
given me.

Two big questions to ask God:

Why?

There are few things more spiritual than all people asking themselves where their deepest commitments lie and committing to pray about the sincerity and level of their support.

How much?

We all have different resources allotted by God, and he desires that we give freely according to our capabilities. Ask God this: How do I give in accordance with the blessings you have poured into my life?

Frankly, most of us feel more fear than faith when it comes to our money. This is our opportunity to ask God to give us the faith to trust him with our whole lives, including our financial resources. We strongly believe that he will guide each of us to what our response should be to this initiative. The bold, open-handed prayer we’re suggesting you pray asks the question: **“God, out of what you have placed in my hands, what would you have me give to your work through First Open Bible Church?”** Paul wrote about how giving should never be forced nor obligatory, but a personal decision based on God’s provision in each individual life (2 Corinthians 9:7).



Discerning your role

To pursue the vision God has given us, we’re encouraging all the people of God to engage in the work of God. It is our hope that you desire to be a part of advancing this vision, but perhaps you’re wrestling with “how” or “what” this might require. In this guide you will find three questions designed to help you make a thoughtful, heart-felt, God-honoring decision related to a four-year faith commitment. This is both a spiritual and a financial exercise that we’d encourage you to undertake as a united household. For parents, this can be a valuable opportunity to help your children grow in their faith as they observe the practical outworking of your faith.



QUESTION 1:

WHAT CAN I REASONABLY GIVE?

Most of us have a sense for what we might be able to give beyond our current, regular level of giving. Chances are this number comes to mind quickly. Pencil it into the first line below. The second line will illustrate how quickly that can add up over four years.

1

BUDGET

I could give \$_____ a month from my discretionary household budget.

At this level of giving, my four-year gift would be \$_____ x 12 months x 2 years = \$_____.

QUESTION 2:

WHAT WOULD I BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE?

This is a question about choices and priorities. On the one hand, it is a math question—*“If I went out to eat at a restaurant one less time per week, what else might I be able to give to God?”* On the other hand, it involves probing our hearts and asking ourselves what we might be willing to do in order to realize something greater and more enduring. In fact, regardless of this initiative, this is an exercise we would do well to undertake regularly as a way to ensure our spending habits align with our priorities.

Take a moment to review the chart: **One Family’s Plan for Creative Giving**. What stands out to you? Might there be similar areas of sacrifice in your household?

POTENTIAL RESOURCES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY
Eliminate <u>4</u> meal(s) out per week	\$70	\$280	\$3,360
Eliminate <u>2</u> coffees per week	\$11	\$44	\$528
Cancel <u>2</u> subscription(s)		\$16	\$192
Reduce entertainment/shopping		\$50	\$600
Reduce Christmas budget			\$100
Reduce vacation budget			\$400
Scale back cable/internet or cell phone		\$20	\$240
Gift <u>20</u> shares of stock			\$2,000
Gift a portion of income tax refund		\$400	\$1,600
Other:			
Other:			
ONE YEAR TOTAL			\$5,820
ONE YEAR TOTAL x 2 = TWO YEAR TOTAL			\$11,640

OUR FAMILY’S PLAN FOR CREATIVE GIVING

POTENTIAL RESOURCES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY
Eliminate ____ meal(s) out per week			
Eliminate ____ coffees per week			
Cancel ____ subscription(s)			
Reduce entertainment/shopping			
Reduce Christmas budget			
Reduce vacation budget			
Scale back cable/internet or cell phone			
Gift ____ shares of stock			
Gift a portion of income tax refund			
Other:			
Other:			
ONE YEAR TOTAL			
ONE YEAR TOTAL x 2 = TWO YEAR TOTAL			\$

2

RE-PRIORITIZE

+ \$



QUESTION 3:
WHAT CAN I GIVE THROUGH
GREATER RELIANCE ON GOD?

If the first question was about reason and the second question about priorities, then this question is more focused on faith. What if your four-year commitment was a step of faith? What would it look like if your commitment caused you to rely on God in a greater capacity?

When asked with humility and a genuine spirit, this question positions us to experience God’s faithfulness in new ways. How can you exercise faith as you consider your pledge? Don’t miss the blessing of asking this question.

3

FAITH FACTOR

+ \$



Putting it all together

Pray about these numbers. Pray that God will give you great clarity and peace about them, that they may be gifted with open hands, and that God will guide you to adjust these figures—in either direction—if they are not aligned with his will. If married, pray over this with your spouse or family.

1

BUDGET

What can I reasonably give (above my regular tithe)?

\$

2

REPRIORITIZE

What can I give up for a priority I love more?

+ \$

3

FAITH FACTOR

What positions me to rely on God in a greater capacity?

+ \$

4

YOUR 2 YEAR COMMITMENT

= \$

TOTAL



FIRST OPEN BIBLE
make room
COMMITMENT CARD

After prayerful consideration, I/we pledge to support First Open Bible’s Make Room Initiative with a gift totaling \$_____ over two years.

I/we plan to make this gift:

☐ One time gift of: \$_____

☐ \$_____ monthly for 24 months

☐ \$_____ annually for 2 years

☐ Other _____

☐ In memory of _____

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I/we understand that I/we can change this at any time by contacting the church office.

TO KNOW CHRIST & MAKE HIM KNOWN.



WAYS TO GIVE:



SCAN TO GIVE



MOBILE APP



WEBSITE



CASH OR CHECK

Consider including the “Make Room” campaign
in your estate planning.



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