

32°44'07.5"N, 96°27'53.2"W

1:11

Joshua

...you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you ...”

TAKE
««THE»»
LAND

Joshua 1:11

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORNEY

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORNEY
VISION INITIATIVE





LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

Our Lord is telling us that now is the time to actively implement his strategy for us to make as many disciples as possible in the coming years on the 80/20 corridor. By placing thriving churches at strategic locations along the corridor, offering compassion ministries to the hurting, and providing a Christian school for the children, combined with our current sports ministries, we will be highly effective at reaching people for Christ for years to come in an increasingly secular culture.

The next steps we need to take are as follows. First, we need to strengthen our home base by paying off our current debt and making some campus enhancements. Paying off our current debt would not only make us debt free, but also provide an additional \$1,000,000 per year, every year, in our budget for missions and church planting! We need to refresh and update the discipleship spaces for our preschoolers,

children, and teenagers which have not been touched since 2004. We also need to pour additional parking. Second, we need to acquire a property situated on either Hwy 80 or I-20 that we can transform into a community center to house our coming large-scale compassion ministries. We need the community center to be on a highway so that it is accessible to all the residents on the 80/20 corridor.

Through his Spirit and his Word in Joshua 1:1-11, the Lord is telling us that now is the time for us to take these next important steps in implementing his long-term strategy for our church family. In the following pages, you will find many more details about what I have just shared with you.

That his way may be known on earth, his saving power among all nations,

PASTOR NATHAN

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KEY DATES

- March 2026**
Take the Land Receptions
- April 12, 2026**
Kickoff Sunday
- April 19, 2026**
Prayer Emphasis Begins
- April 26, 2026**
Commitment Sunday
- May 3, 2026**
First Fruits Offering



TAKE THE LAND SUMMARY



Become debt free, creating \$1M annually for missions and church planting

Purchase and renovate a compassion center for large scale mercy ministries

Renovate spaces for preschool, children, and teenagers

Develop our K-12 Christian school

Become a large family of small to medium sized churches on the 80/20 corridor



OUR HISTORY



1903

A great revival May 18 through June 5 brought new converts and members as the church grew to 155. The church was valued at \$2,000!

1904-1908

God continued to increase the impact of First Baptist Church Forney and membership grew to 250 people.

1910

First Baptist Church Forney was wired for electricity and lights were purchased for the whole building for \$24.



1960

Brother Jerry Griffin is called as the pastor of First Baptist Church Forney. Membership increases to over 600 people.

1962

Interstate 20 was expanded and became the main highway through Forney.

1989

Membership continued to increase under Brother Jerry Griffin and had reached over 2,000 people.



2022

First Baptist Church Forney called Nathan Lino as new Sr. Pastor after the passing of Dr. Jimmy Pritchard.

2025

Through the prayer movement God began at First Baptist Church Forney, God saved 3,286 people and caused 251 people to be baptized!

2026

Take the Land capital initiative launches

1868

Two Baptist preachers, James Vance and Austin Manion, organized local residents in Mustang Creek and Markout to worship. This group would become the First Baptist Church of Forney.

1875

First Baptist Church Forney has grown to 25 members.

1876-1882

The Church of Christ began building a church but were not able to finish. The Baptists purchased and completed the construction to become the first denominational church in the town of Forney.



1918

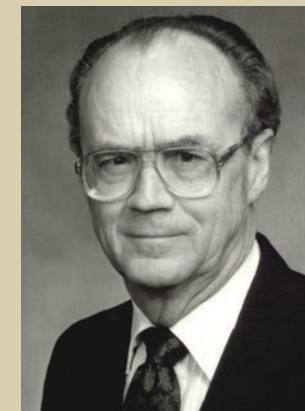
Tragedy struck as the wood frame building was struck by lightning and burned down.

1919

A new church was built but many were discouraged because the total cost was almost \$30,000. \$29,000 was raised and during the first service the deficit was eliminated as the church became debt-free. This building was dedicated May 1, 1919.

1938

First Baptist Church Forney has swelled in attendance to 514 people!



1994

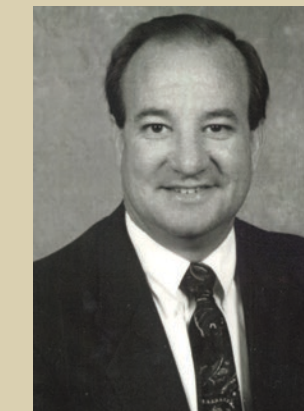
First Baptist Church Forney called Dr. Jimmy Pritchard as the pastor when Brother Jerry Griffin became the Director of the Kauf-Van Baptist Association. Membership grows to over 2,500 people.

1996

First Baptist Church Forney votes to relocate from Downtown Forney to the current campus of 32 acres.

2019

FBC Forney opens a new multipurpose facility and worship center.



LIFEGROUP LESSONS

APRIL 19, 2026

LifeGroup Lesson 1
“Stepping into the Promise”

APRIL 26, 2026

LifeGroup Lesson 2
“All In: The Faith That Moves Forward”

MAY 3, 2026

LifeGroup Lesson 3
“First and Best: The Theology of Firstfruit Giving”

We are inviting every person at First Baptist Church Forney to journey through a special series of LifeGroup lessons built around our Take the Land initiative. Beginning April 19, we will spend three weeks exploring what it means to respond to His call with courage, generosity, and faith. We will start in Joshua 1, where God commanded His people to arise and step into the land he had already promised them. From there, we will dig into the theology of cheerful, Spirit-led giving from 2 Corinthians 9, and wrap up on May 3 with a powerful look at the biblical concept of firstfruits. These lessons are designed not just to inform but to prepare each of us to respond faithfully to all that God is asking of us during this season.

These conversations are too important, and the questions too rich, to work through by yourself. If you don't have one, find and join a LifeGroup during this special season.

This vision initiative is about who we are becoming as a church family and will help us to discover what we are willing to trust God with as a body of believers. My prayer is that these three weeks in your LifeGroup will be some of the most meaningful conversations you have all year, and that each of us will walk away with a heart that is ready, a faith that is expectant, and a joy that only comes from saying yes to God.

PASTOR JAMES



APRIL 19, 2026

LIFEGROUP LESSON

Stepping Into the Promise

Think of a time when God called you to do something that felt bigger than you. What was your first reaction?

READ THE PASSAGE

Joshua 1:1-11

"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, 'Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses... Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you... This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'"

THREE KEY OBSERVATIONS

■ God initiates the call, not us. Joshua didn't wake up one morning and decide to cross the Jordan. God spoke first. Notice the passage opens with God addressing Joshua directly. In the same way, the vision to Take the Land at First Baptist Church Forney did not originate from Pastor Nathan. Instead, it began with God stirring the hearts of leaders like our previous pastor Dr. Jimmy Pritchard and other leaders in our church. When God calls, he has already prepared the way.

■ God's promise preceded the people's obedience. God told Joshua, "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you." Notice the past tense of that passage. God says "I have given" and not "I will give." The land was already theirs in the mind and promise of God. They simply had to walk into it. The same is true for us. God has already determined what he wants to do through the Take the Land vision initiative. Our role is to trust him enough to take the step of obedience he lays on our hearts.

■ Courage is commanded, not optional. Three times in this passage God tells Joshua to "be strong and courageous." That repetition is intentional. God knew Joshua and his people would be tempted to fear, to hesitate, to look at the size of the challenge instead of the size of their God. The antidote to fear in this passage is not confidence in themselves; it is confidence in God's presence. "For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you most from this passage in Joshua 1:1-11 and why?
2. God told Joshua to "arise and go" even though the task ahead was enormous. What is one area of your life not related to this vision initiative where you feel God is calling you to step forward in faith right now?
3. The land was already "given" before Joshua and the people took a single step. How does that change your perspective on Take the Land? Do you believe that God has already determined what he wants to accomplish through us?
4. Use this booklet to review the things we believe God wants to do in FBC Forney through this season. Which one excites you most?
5. God repeated "be strong and courageous" three times. What fears or hesitations do you personally need to surrender as we move into this season together as a church?
6. What does it look like practically for our LifeGroup to seek God together during this season?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close by praying specifically for boldness and for each member to have the courage to take their next step, whatever that looks like, in response to God's call during this Take the Land vision initiative.

APRIL 26, 2026

LIFEGROUP LESSON

All In: The Faith that Moves Forward

Apart from Jesus' sacrifice for you, what is the most generous thing you have ever witnessed or heard of someone doing? How did it affect you?

READ THE PASSAGE

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work... He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God... Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"

THREE KEY OBSERVATIONS

■ The principle of sowing and reaping. Paul uses the image of a farmer to describe generosity. A farmer who plants only a handful of seeds out of fear will harvest very little. But a farmer who plants generously, trusting the process, reaps an abundant harvest. Generosity works the same way. It is not a transaction with God but a posture of faith that opens our hands and says, "Lord, what I have is Yours." The Take the Land initiative is an invitation to plant seeds of faith that will bear fruit for generations to come.

■ The condition of the heart matters more than the amount. Paul is very clear: God does not want reluctant giving or giving driven by guilt. He wants cheerful givers! He wants people who give from a place of joy and freedom. This means every person's commitment in this campaign should begin not with a calculator but with prayer, asking God what he is inviting you to do. The amount is between you and God. The condition of your heart is what he is watching.

■ God is both the ultimate provider and the ultimate giver. Paul closes this passage with an expression of tremendous gratitude: "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" He is pointing to the gospel of our Lord Jesus, the greatest act of generosity in history. God gave his own Son. Jesus gave us his very life. Everything we give is simply a response to what he has already given us. Our generosity does not impress God; it reflects him. When we give, we look like our Father.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you personally that God "loves a cheerful giver"? What does a cheerful giver look like? What does an unwilling giver look like?
2. Paul says God will both supply AND multiply what we sow. How have you personally experienced God's provision when you stepped out in financial faith?
3. What is the difference between giving out of obligation and giving out of joy? What conditions of the heart lead to each?
4. How does the gospel shape the way you think about your own generosity?
5. As you think about your commitment to Take the Land, what is one thing you sense God asking you to trust him with?

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask God to produce cheerful, faith-filled generosity in every heart at FBC Forney during this special season. Pray specifically for the commitment service taking place in worship services today and that every person who walks through the doors of First Baptist Church Forney would come prepared in heart and spirit, having already sought God in prayer and ready to respond by faith. Pray that the generosity expressed today would not simply reflect what people can afford, but what they trust God to provide. Ask him to do something in this season at FBC Forney that could only be explained by his hand and that would cause our church to look back on this moment as a defining chapter in our story when God's people said yes together and God proved himself faithful to every one of them.

MAY 3, 2026

LIFEGROUP LESSON

First and Best: The Theology of Firstfruit Giving

When you get paid, what is the first thing you typically do with your money? What does that reveal about your priorities?

READ THE PASSAGES

Proverbs 3:9-10, Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Proverbs 3:9-10: "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."

Deuteronomy 26:1-11: "When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket... And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the Lord your God. And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house..."

FOUR KEY OBSERVATIONS

■ Firstfruits giving is an act of worship, not budgeting. In Deuteronomy 26, the Israelites were commanded to bring the very first harvest (not the leftovers, not what was convenient) to God as an act of worship. This act was deeply intentional. The one offering the firstfruits was saying, "God, before I know how the rest of the harvest will turn out, I trust You enough to give You the first of it." This is the opposite of how most of us approach money. We pay our bills, cover our expenses, and give God what remains. Firstfruits giving flips that order entirely! God goes first, and we trust him with everything that will follow.

■ Firstfruits giving reflects who owns everything. The theology behind firstfruits is simple but profound: if the first belongs to God, it is because all of it belongs to God. The Israelites were reminded in Deuteronomy 26 that the land itself was a gift. They hadn't earned it; they inherited it. The same is true for us. Our income, our savings, our home, and all that we will ever have or own is a stewardship entrusted to us by our loving and generous God. Firstfruits giving is the ongoing acknowledgment that we are managers, not owners.

■ Firstfruits giving requires trust. Notice the order in Proverbs 3:9-10. Honor the Lord first and THEN the barns will be filled. The blessing follows the obedience, not the other way around. God is not asking us to wait until we see his provision before we give. He is asking us to give and

then watch him provide. For many in our church, this Take the Land vision initiative will feel like stepping out before the harvest is visible. That is exactly the point. Firstfruits giving is always an act of faith!

■ Firstfruits giving is shaped by God. In this passage, we see that God lovingly shapes the giving of his people according to his Word, calling them not only to obedience but to trust. Their tithes and offerings were not mere obligations; they were the firstfruits — a declaration that he alone is their provider. God was forming their hearts to give in faith, not fear, and in gratitude, not reluctance. When we give according to his design, with hearts anchored in trust, our giving becomes worship. It becomes a joyful response to his faithful provision in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the difference between giving God your "firstfruits" versus giving him your leftovers? Which best describes your current approach to giving?
2. Deuteronomy 26 connects the firstfruit offering to the story of God's faithfulness. The Israelites were to remember where they came from before they gave. How does remembering God's faithfulness in your own life fuel your generosity today?

3. Proverbs 3:9-10 promises blessing that follows obedience. Have you ever experienced this personally? What happened? Why shouldn't we take this as a passage to mean that I should give and expect God to meet my every financial dream?

4. What would it look like practically for you to make God the "first line" of your budget rather than the last? What would need to change?

5. As we wrap up this three-week series, what is one specific step of faith God is calling you to take in response to Take the Land?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close in prayer, thanking God for his faithfulness, asking for courage to give first and trust him with the rest, and declaring together that First Baptist Forney will Take the Land for his glory. Pray for the firstfruits offering that will be collected in service today. Ask God to do something amazing with this initial offering to show us that he is with us in this season as we journey together.

7 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

As we move forward in our Take the Land campaign, we are inviting every member of our church family to join us for seven days of prayer and fasting from April 19-26, 2026.

On the following page, you will find a variety of fasting plans to choose from. Pick one of the plans and join us each day as we pray and fast together using the devotional guide on pages 20-27.

EACH DAILY DEVOTIONAL INCLUDES:

A Key Scripture | The anchor verse for the day's devotional.

A Daily Devotional | A brief reflection connecting God's Word to our Take the Land initiative.

Guided Prayer Points | Specific, focused prayers to guide your time with God.

SUGGESTED DAILY PRACTICE

Find a quiet place. Begin by reading the Scripture slowly, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Read the devotional, then move on to the prayer points. Feel free to linger on any point which the Holy Spirit impresses upon you. Close by asking God specifically what he is saying to you and your family about this campaign. Consider using a journal to record what you hear.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR PRAYER & FASTING

Organize your day of fasting in advance. Schedule blocks of prayer, plan to get up early to begin the day in focused time with our Father, make sure you don't have any eating commitments with others, be extra aware of your personal holiness - eliminate all possible distractions and forms of temptation (ie: social media, binge watching shows)

Create your prayer list. Make a list of the matters for which you are fasting, please be sure to include Take the Land in your prayers!

Spend the majority of the early morning block of prayer focused on personal consecration and aligning your heart, mind, and will with the Lord's. Also, pray through your prayer list. As associated Bible verses or ideas come to mind, write them down on your prayer list.

During your second block of prayer, spend a little time retuning your heart with the Lord through Scripture reading, singing, and re-consecration. Then, spend a good amount of time praying through your prayer list.

Throughout the day, let your hunger pangs remind you to talk to the Lord about your prayer list and the associated Bible verses and ideas that have come to mind.

FASTING PLANS

1. Fast 1 Day of the Week
2. Give Up 1 Meal a Day
3. Give Up 2 Meals a Day
4. 800 Calories a Day
5. Daniel Fast: Unlimited Fruit, Vegetables, Nuts



DAY 1

Sunday, April 19

A New Assignment

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel." **Joshua 1:1-2**

DEVOTIONAL

Every great movement of God begins with a divine call. Joshua didn't wake up one morning and decide to lead a nation into new territory. God spoke and changed everything! For First Baptist Church Forney, this is our Joshua moment. The Lord has been preparing us, shaping our leaders, growing our congregation, and positioning us to step into something far greater than we could accomplish on our own.

We stand at the edge of our own Jordan River. The land before us represents everything God has called us to: freedom from debt, excellent spaces for children and teenagers, a family of churches across the 80/20 corridor, and a community center that becomes a refuge for the hurting. The question before us is the same one Joshua faced: will we trust God's Word enough to cross?

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for the specific calling he has placed on First Baptist Church Forney in this season.

- Ask the Lord to speak clearly to every member of our church family about their part in this vision initiative.

- Pray that our congregation would receive this moment as a divine assignment.

- Intercede for Pastor Nathan and ask God to confirm his direction and strengthen our resolve to follow after whatever the Lord asks us to do as a congregation.

- Pray that fear and hesitation would give way to holy expectation as we begin these seven days of prayer together.

Close in your own words, speaking from your heart to the Father about what he has shown you through today's reading.

DAY 2

Monday, April 20

Every Place You Set Your Foot

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.

Joshua 1:3

DEVOTIONAL

The promise we read here is breathtaking in its scope: every place your foot treads. But notice the implied condition in the promise: they must actually take the step. God's provision awaits those who move in faith. The Israelites could have claimed the promise theoretically while staying safely on the east side of the Jordan. But promises are only inherited through action.

For us, this means that the land God has prepared: debt eliminated, renovated children and teenager space, a full K-12 school, a family of churches across the 80/20 corridor, and a compassion center for mercy ministries waits for our feet to move. Our giving is one form of stepping forward. Our prayers are another. Our commitment Sunday on April 26 will be our collective foot crossing the Jordan. But that step only means something if we are stepping into it faithfully in prayer and preparation through these next few days.

PRAYER POINTS

- Ask God to reveal the 'land' he specifically wants our church to claim in this season.

- Pray over the geographic territory of the 80/20 corridor and that God would go before us as we plan future church plants.

- Intercede for the children and students who will be impacted by renovated ministry spaces and an expanded K-12 Christian school.

- Ask the Lord to stir faith in our congregation so that our commitment Sunday is an act of worship, not obligation.

- Pray for families who are on the fence and that God would make his will clear to them.

Close in your own words, speaking from your heart to the Father about what he has shown you through today's reading.

DAY 3

Tuesday, April 21

Freedom from Debt

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. **Joshua 1:6**

DEVOTIONAL

Sometimes debt is not merely a financial condition but serves as a limitation on mission. Every year we spend almost one million dollars servicing our remaining debt. Every dollar spent in this way is a dollar not feeding the hungry, not launching a new church campus, and not funding the expansion of our Christian school. But God has placed before us a real and achievable goal: eliminate our debt and redirect nearly one million dollars annually toward kingdom expansion.

This is not about financial management. It is about obedience and stewardship on a grand scale. When the debt is gone, we will not simply breathe easier... we will advance further. The courage Joshua needed was not bravery in the abstract; it was the courage to actually lead people into a new reality. God is calling all of us to that same courageous leadership.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray specifically for the remaining debt to be retired through this campaign.
- Ask God to give every family wisdom about what sacrificial generosity looks like for them in this season.
- Pray that the \$1M annually freed by retiring the debt would be deployed with wisdom and maximum kingdom impact.
- Ask the Lord to multiply every dollar committed and given, just as he multiplied loaves and fishes.

Close in your own words, speaking from your heart to the Father about what he has shown you through today's reading.

DAY 4

Wednesday, April 22

Be Strong and Courageous

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. **Joshua 1:9**

DEVOTIONAL

God does not command us to manufacture courage. He commands us to draw it from his presence. The phrase "do not be afraid" appears throughout Scripture not as a dismissal of real fear, but as a redirection. God is telling us not to let fear be our guide, because he is with us. The antidote to fear is not willpower; it is the abiding awareness of God's presence.

For some in our congregation, the ask of this vision initiative may feel daunting. The numbers may seem large. The vision may feel ambitious. That is precisely where faith lives: in the gap between what we can accomplish naturally and what God has called us to accomplish supernaturally. Be strong. Be courageous. Not because this is easy, but because God is with us wherever we go. That promise is not a platitude but is the foundation of every bold step we take.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for those in our church who are wrestling with fear or doubt about their ability to give and ask God to replace anxiety with faith.
- Intercede for the spiritual atmosphere of our church and for unity, faith, and holy boldness to characterize these days.
- Pray that God's presence would be palpable in our services on commitment Sunday.
- Ask the Lord to remove every distraction, division, or discouragement that the enemy might use to undermine this moment.

Close in your own words, speaking from your heart to the Father about what he has shown you through today's reading.

DAY 5

Thursday, April 23

Consecrate Yourself

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." **Joshua 3:5**

DEVOTIONAL

Before the Israelites crossed the Jordan, Joshua gave them a specific command: consecrate yourselves. Set yourselves apart. Prepare your hearts. The crossing was not to be a logistical exercise but was to be a sacred act, and sacred acts require sacred preparation.

We are just a few days from commitment Sunday. This is a moment for consecration. Not because God requires us to earn his blessing, but because the posture of our hearts determines what we receive from his hand. Consecration means turning off the noise, spending time in silence and prayer, examining our hearts, confessing what needs confessing, and presenting ourselves as living sacrifices. The amazing things God wants to do in and through us are not held hostage by our consecration. God can use any person for his glory. However, our ability to perceive and participate in what God wants to do certainly is dependent on our state of consecration.

PRAYER POINTS

- Spend time in personal confession today. Ask God to search your heart and reveal anything that hinders faith or generosity.
- Pray for a spirit of consecration to fall upon our entire church this week.
- Ask God to prepare the hearts of those who are guests and will learn of this campaign for the first time on commitment Sunday.
- Pray that our commitment service would be remembered as a holy gathering and not a church event.

Close in your own words, speaking from your heart to the Father about what he has shown you through today's reading.

DAY 6

Friday, April 24

The Ark Goes First

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. **Joshua 3:3**

DEVOTIONAL

The ark of the covenant represented the manifest presence of God. When the priests picked it up and began moving toward the Jordan, the message to Israel was clear: God goes first. The people didn't strategize the crossing and then invite God to bless their plan. They followed where his presence led.

This is the spirit of faith-based giving. We don't give money to support a plan we have already approved and feel comfortable with. We give because we are following the presence of God into territory that may feel unfamiliar. The capacity to follow God's leading, even when the Jordan is at flood stage and when the path seems impossible, is the posture that changes history. Let us be a people who go where God leads.

PRAYER POINTS

- Ask God to be tangibly present and leading in every aspect of this campaign.
- Pray that our church leadership would have clarity about where God's 'ark is moving' in terms of next steps.
- Intercede for members who feel they cannot give significantly, and ask God to make a way where there seems to be no way.
- Ask the Lord to confirm to each family what their commitment should be as they seek him this week.
- Pray that our congregation would cultivate a culture of following God's lead in all financial and ministry decisions, not just during this season.

Close in your own words, speaking from your heart to the Father about what he has shown you through today's reading.

DAY 7

Saturday, April 25

Every Man Ready

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

About 40,000 ready for war passed over before the Lord for battle, to the plains of Jericho. **Joshua 4:13**

DEVOTIONAL

Every man ready. There is something stirring about this image. Presented to us is an entire community prepared, aligned, and moving in the same direction. Not some of them. Not the most committed ones. All of them. Joshua 4:13 describes a unified advance, and that unity was not accidental. It was the result of following God's word together, preparing together, and consecrating together.

Tomorrow is commitment Sunday. We want to arrive not as isolated individuals making private financial decisions, but as a unified army of believers who have prayed together, fasted together, and heard from God together. If you haven't yet determined your commitment, today is the day. Bring your decision before the Lord today. Ask him to confirm what you should do. Come ready tomorrow to give not out of peer pressure, but out of a deep, prayerful conviction that God has called you to step forward.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for every single member and regular attender of FBC Forney, and ask God to prepare each heart for tomorrow.
- Pray for practical provision for those whose finances are uncertain. Ask God to provide clearly and specifically for each of them.
- Ask the Lord to bring a spirit of unity across every age, background, and giving capacity in our congregation.
- Pray against any distraction that might keep families from coming and being part of the special work the Lord wants to do in the life of FBC Forney tomorrow.
- Ask God to set the spiritual atmosphere for commitment Sunday and that it would be a day of joy, faith, and kingdom advancement.

Close in your own words, speaking from your heart to the Father about what he has shown you through today's reading.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, April 26

Take the Land

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them... This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **Joshua 1:6, 8**

DEVOTIONAL

Today is the day! Our times of prayer and fasting have led us to this moment. It's commitment Sunday. Joshua and the Israelites did not wait at the edge of the Jordan indefinitely. There came a time to move and so it is with us. For FBC Forney, that time is now.

Everything we have prayed for over the last week is before us. A debt-free future that channels nearly a million dollars annually into planting churches across the 80/20 corridor. Renovated spaces where our children and teenagers will encounter the living God. A full K-12 Christian school that will form the faith of a generation. A community center where the hungry are fed, the addicted find freedom, and the vulnerable receive dignity.

What will take place today is not a financial transaction. It is an act of worship. When you place your commitment card in the offering buckets, you are saying to God: "I believe You. I trust Your call. I am crossing the Jordan." None of us are crossing this Jordan alone. We are crossing together, as a family of faith, into land God has already promised as he leads the way.

Let's Take the Land. Together. Today.

PRAYER POINTS

- Begin the day in worship and thank God for the seven days of preparation and for what he is about to do.
- Pray for every family as they drive to church this morning — that God would give them peace, clarity, and faith.
- Ask the Lord to receive our collective commitment as an act of worship.
- Intercede one final time for the vision in its entirety: debt eliminated, renovated spaces for children and teenagers, a full K-12 school, a family of churches, and a community center to extend compassion to our neighbors.
- Ask God to make this day in the life of First Baptist Church Forney a defining moment for generations to come.

Close in your own words, speaking from your heart to the Father about what he has shown you through today's reading.

GIVING PYRAMID

100 x \$5,000 = \$500,000

200 x \$10,000 = \$2,000,000

55 x \$18,000 = \$1,000,000

20 x \$25,000 = \$500,000

10 x \$50,000 = \$500,000

5 x \$100,000 = \$500,000

5 x \$250,000 = \$1,250,000

2 x \$500,000 = \$1,000,000

2 x \$1,000,000 = \$2,000,000

1 x \$1,500,000 = \$1,500,000

WAYS TO GIVE



Online

www.fbcforney.org or through the FBC Forney App



Text

Text "TAKETHELAND" to 972-419-4366



In Person

Drop your gift into the offering buckets during any of our Sunday morning services.



In Kind Gift

We welcome gifts such as real estate, cars, jewelery, etc.



Scan

Scan the QR code to give



Tap Disc

Tap the disc at the seat in front of you to give



*FBC Forney can receive gifts of stocks, bonds, crypto currency, and assets. All gifts are tax deductible. To discuss any of these options, please call the church Business Office at 972-564-3357.

GIVING LEVELS

Starting with your present giving, ask God how you can take the next step to deepen your stewardship. The Take the Land campaign at First Baptist Church Forney depends on all of us participating at the level God wants for us.

1. POTENTIAL GIVER

You are not yet giving - You can take your first step and start giving. Going from giving nothing to giving something is a huge step and is transformational in the Christian life. When you begin to give, you are doing more than changing your finances; you are changing your heart and aligning it with God's heart. Generosity is about the decision to trust God with what he has given you.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." —2 Corinthians 9:7

2. EMERGING GIVER

You are giving occasionally - You can take the next step to give intentionally and proportionally.

You're not opposed to giving to God, but your giving is irregular and not intentional. Why not prayerfully choose a percentage, start giving regularly to God and see what he does? Consistency in giving is not about legalism but about building a rhythm of trust and surrender in your everyday life. God honors the heart that chooses, week after week, to put him first.

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." — Malachi 3:10

3. TITHING GIVER

You are giving 10% faithfully - You can take the next step and give extravagantly for the kingdom.

You've developed the discipline of tithing and have no doubt seen God's provision again and again. You are ready for the next step. You want to give out of generosity. True generosity is not driven by a number or a percentage but by a deep love for God and a desire to see His kingdom advance. As you move beyond the tithe, you will discover that the greatest reward of giving is not what you receive, but who you become.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." — Matthew 6:21

4. EXTRAVAGANT GIVER

You are giving above and beyond the tithe - You can ask God to guide you into a new place of joyous generosity.

This is for those already generously giving beyond their tithe. You've experienced the fulfillment of God's promises and provisions. You're ready to take your next step into abundant generosity. But it is still a challenge and will require great faith. Abundant generosity asks you to hold your resources with an open hand, trusting that everything you have belongs to God and is available for His purposes.

"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share." — 1 Timothy 6:17-18



WHAT'S NEXT

There are strategic moments in each of our lives when God calls us deeper, asking us to take the next step in our journey. These moments are the difference between living and leaving a legacy. As we go deeper in our relationship with God, we learn what it means to value him above all else. God is the Giver of Life. He is our Provision. As we learn to give, we learn to risk. As we risk, we trust. As we trust him, we come to know him more. It's in these moments that we hear God's voice loud and clear.

PRAY

You might feel ready to give right here and right now. That's great! But most of us will need time over the coming weeks to think and process through where we are and what God wants us to do next. Use the prayer prompts in the daily devotional to guide you as you pray for this campaign.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

There is no formula, no quick accounting, no percentage target for your commitment. This is a very personal journey for everyone involved. One person might make a million dollar gift without changing their lifestyle, while another gives \$10 a week and has to radically adjust their spending. After you ask God for wisdom, listen for his voice to tell you how he wants you to participate.

TURN IN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD

Whether you intend to give online or each week as we pass the offering buckets, go ahead and fill out your commitment card and turn it in on April 26 or drop it by the church office during the week. This isn't a binding contract but helps us plan and be strategic about what we are able to achieve together for God's purposes through Take the Land.

TELL YOUR STORY

Tell others about why you believe in this vision. Let your friends know why this is so important to you that you're making changes in your lifestyle to give. Your story will inspire others but only if you tell it!

COMMITMENT CARDS WILL BE RECEIVED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026.