

SETTING *The*
TABLE

INITIATIVE



EVERYONE'S INVITED

A photograph of a metal gate in a field. The gate is made of several horizontal metal bars and a vertical post. The background shows a line of trees under a grey, overcast sky. The foreground is filled with green grass and some small blue flowers. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

**Go through, go through the gates,
Clear the way for the people;
Build up, build up the highway,
Remove the stones,
lift up a banner over the peoples.**

I S A I A H 6 2 : 1 0

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YOU are part of a movement of God in southeast Texas that reaches so much further than the walls of a building.

*It's not about a building for people; it's about building people.
It's about building the Kingdom by equipping people to walk in abundant life
and live on **mission for Jesus.***

With so many rooftops in our community and so few steeples, we will raise the banner of Jesus over thousands of homes and families.

Today, we work soil and plant seed. Today, we go through the gate and remove the stones. Today, we begin to raise a banner of legacy for the glory of God that will outlive us.

We live today with vision for tomorrow and the impact that will be made for eternity.

Today we set the table for people to meet Jesus.







“
As we enter our sixth year as a church, Kelly and I are so humbled and encouraged at how God has been moving! Many people’s lives have been changed because of God’s presence and work, in and through the Declaration family.

Jesus practiced radical generosity and irresistible hospitality. So much so, His first miracle was to turn water into wine, so that the host of the wedding in Cana would avoid embarrassment and shame. In this, He would prove that not only was He able, but everything He would do was excellent. The party was shocked that the host would wait until the end of the celebration to bring out the fine wine.

In His mission of love to seek and save, His invitation to follow Him was often accompanied by feeding people or having a meal with people around a table. We see one of the most profound conversations happen with His disciples around a table. It was while reclining at that table that Jesus would break bread, representing His body that would be broken for us. He would talk about the cup of salvation, the wine that would represent His blood that He would shed on our behalf.

It was also at that table that Jesus would hold up a chalice of wine declaring that He would not drink of the wine again until we are with Him in His Father’s kingdom. There is a day

coming where we will gather around His great banqueting table that He is preparing for us. What an amazing, glorious day that will be. God wants everyone at His table. For God SO loved the world! ...

Today, we are being called to be Table Setters. What a privilege it is that Jesus calls us to follow Him, and to prepare the way for His return, and to prepare the way for people that He loves!

It’s amazing to see all that God has done in just a few years together. As we enter our sixth year as a church, Kelly and I are so humbled and encouraged at how God has been moving! Many people’s lives have been changed because of God’s presence and work, in and through the Declaration family. I believe God is just getting started. Our best days are yet to come! What a privilege it is that we get to set the table together and welcome all who has ears to hear!

As we look to build and expand His Kingdom, let’s be like Jesus and practice radical generosity and irresistible hospitality. Let’s set the table and prepare the way. Thank you for faithfully investing so to help people encounter and follow Jesus.

John Sherrill
 LEAD PASTOR

Note From Pastor John

Our History

2016 FEBRUARY 21st

More than 400 people gather to celebrate on Launch Sunday including over 200 children and students.



AUGUST

A launch team begins to form and Snyder Elementary is chosen as our first "home." The first interest meeting takes place at our area Nature Center. More than 85 families and over 100 children!

2017 JANUARY

We are a church that plants other churches, together giving \$50,000 to help start another new church in an area of need, all before we turn a year old!

DECEMBER

Christmas Give launches with what would grow to be Declaration Church partnering with every school in the GOHS & ROHS feeder zone to provide Christmas to families in need.



2015 FEBRUARY

John & Kelly accept a call to plant a church in Spring, TX, with the opportunity to reach over 65,000 homes with the gospel.

OCTOBER

Our first baptism service is held with more than 25 people being baptized.



2017 SEPTEMBER

Hurricane Harvey devastates the Houston area and God uses Declaration to respond and serve our community and beyond, with a Flood Of Love.



2018 APRIL

As our church family continues to grow, we commission our first group of elders.

2021 FEBRUARY

Declaration celebrates it's 5 year birthday with a rebrand capturing new vision language to fit who we are now as a church and how we are making our Declaration, "we are FOR JESUS. FOR PEOPLE."

2022 JANUARY

Declaration Cares partners with Flood Of Love helping pray with the sick in 5 area hospitals.

In 2021, we helped serve 60 hospital and homes visits, 85 food deliveries consisting of Meal Trains, grocery runs, and Get Better Soon baskets, over 300 personal phone connections, and countless hours of prayer for families in need.



AUGUST

DNA relaunches, formally known as Growth Track and streamlines who we are as a church and the why behind the what. DNA 1 is all about vision and how together we make a difference in God's kingdom. DNA 2 is for our church family to know how God created them uniquely and elevate their leadership.

DECEMBER

Our large outreach event, Christmas Bash, partners with local businesses to serve the community with food bags for the holidays.

JUNE

We commission our first international missionaries, Mark & Cathy Cornelison, to serve the people of Peru.



2019 DECEMBER

On December 20th, we purchase 85 acres and God gave us 27 acres on 2 tracks of land off 99/Grandparkway in Spring, TX.

2020 MARCH

Declaration Online launches with our online campus platform to help engage families to remote church service options in the midst of a global pandemic. This ministry continues to impact lives with viewership all across North America and 18 other countries. We have developed not just our Sunday morning service, but Epilogue, a deep dive into Sundays message and our Tuesday Morning Devotional along with varies online small groups.



OCTOBER

First Tomball Interest Meeting with over 50 people in attendance as we begin to plan a satellite location, Declaration Tomball.

DECEMBER

We develop a greater partnership with CISD helping further serve our GOHS and ORHS feeder zones through our Flood Of Love missions work with the Christmas Give (200+ kids) and the Backpack Drive (280+ kids).

**One generation will praise
Your works to another
and will declare Your mighty acts.**

P S A L M 1 4 5 : 4

N A S B

Declaration is at a defining point in our history.

T H I S I S T H E M O M E N T .

This is the moment that we will look back on one day and say that God began to increase our influence in our city and expand our gospel impact in the lives of its people.

This is the moment that we raise the banner in Spring, TX and embrace the call of God to become a community-centric, region-impacting, and world-changing church.

We are not an institution. We are a passionate and intimate expression of the manifest glory of God! Our heart is to seek & build His Kingdom everywhere we go and in everything we do. It is the filter by which we make decisions and the lens we look through to ensure we are on track for all God has called us to do. And He has called us to do great and powerful things!

We are on co-mission with Him. We carry His heart, His love, His grace, and His DNA. We are ministers on mission. Because of this, we will joyfully and expectantly begin to **SET THE TABLE** with the entirety of our lives. By doing this, we prepare the way for

Jesus to move in power and we **SET THE TABLE** for the many people He loves to hear the good, life-changing news of the gospel.

In this moment, God has given us vision for even greater expansion of our mission.

In this moment, as we continue to work the soil and plant the seed, I believe God will have us break ground on constructing our first permanent ministry facility. This will soon enable us to take the lid off our current limitations and give us a limitless capacity to see God do more than we can hope or imagine.

In this moment, together, I believe we will see even greater gospel proliferation as we expand the ministry of Declaration into the community of Tomball, where we are already laying the groundwork for a new campus.

And this is only the beginning ...



Now the Lord said to Abram,
“Go from your country,
and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the
land which I will show you;
And I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you,
and make your name great;
and you shall be a blessing;
And I will bless those who bless you,
and the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the
earth will be blessed.”

GENESIS 12:1-3
NASB

Primary Goal

100% ENGAGEMENT

*Setting the Table is first and foremost
a discipleship initiative.*

We want to seek Him and His Kingdom first and we desire radical devotion to Christ and His Kingdom for every follower of Jesus. **Seeking him first means every area of our lives, lifestyle, influence, legacy & generosity.** Our prayer is for every person at Declaration to take his or her next step and grow in their kingdom generosity as followers of Jesus.

Giving is an important component of our worship of God and reflects the truest nature of our heart. Jesus had a lot to say about money. In fact, He linked these things together when He said, “wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Whether you’ve never given anything back to God before, or you’re a consistent and thoughtful giver, there is a next step God is asking you to take in your understanding on His true ownership of our resources and lives. All we ask of you as a church family is that you pray and ask God what he would have you give.

Our heart is that together, we will set the table for all God desires to do in the days and years to come!

Secondary Goal

\$5.8 MILLION IN GENEROSITY
OVER TWO YEARS

Set the Table for Mission & Multiplication to have great impact in our area and beyond.

Setting The Table for Mission

\$3.5 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

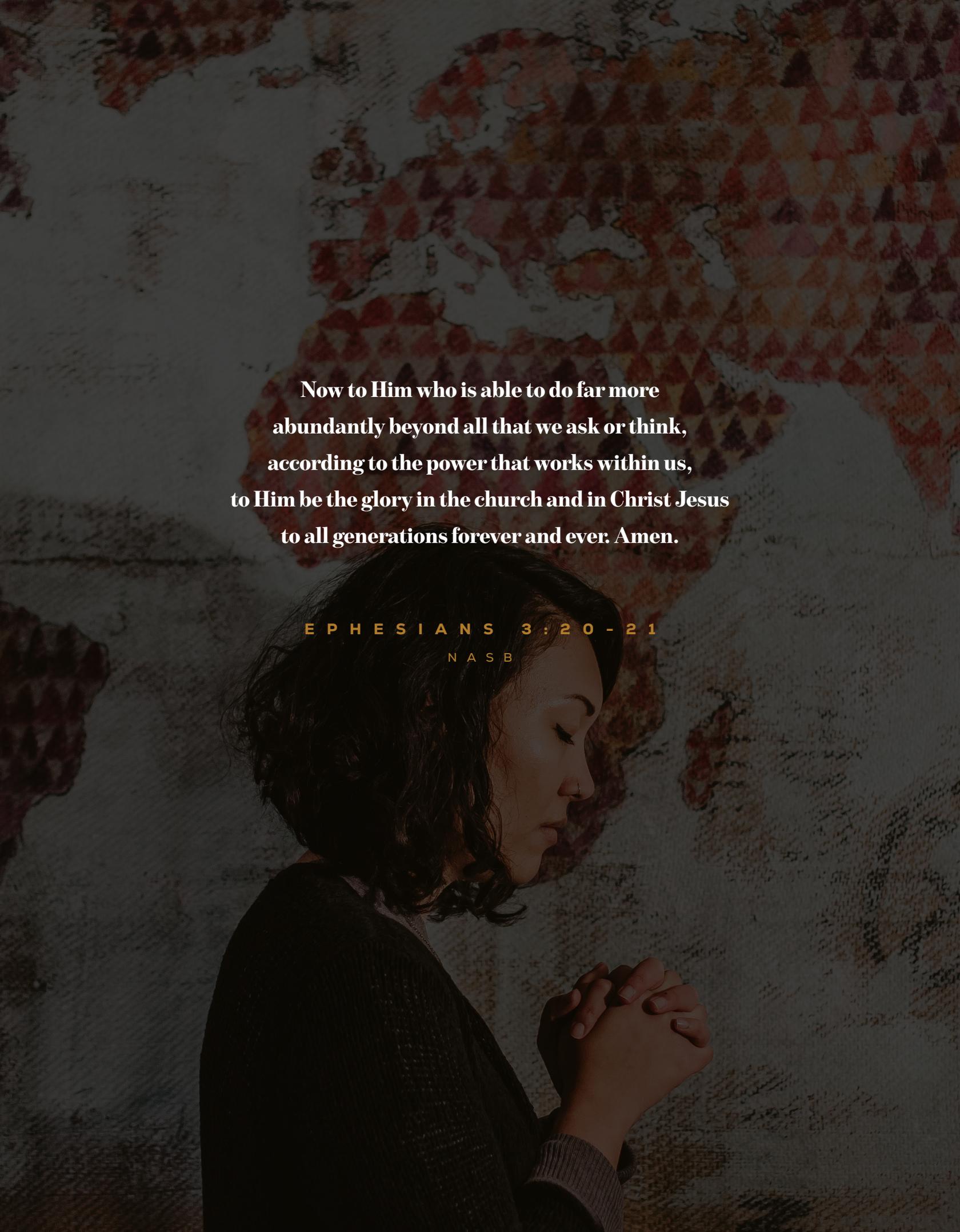
There are currently **over sixty thousand households within 10 miles of our church**, with many more to come. God has positioned our church to be a light, right in the center – the heart – of our community. But it doesn't stop there. God has already put a heart in Declaration with greater vision for a greater mission. Together, we will invest in our ongoing ministries while trusting God to accelerate and grow the life-change and discipleship that is happening. This part of our initiative fuels our general budget over two years – sustaining and growing every ministry we currently have, to continue helping people encounter and follow Jesus.

Setting The Table for Multiplication

\$2.3 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

We also need to root ourselves deeply as Declaration grows wide. We need an anchor and a home to further God's mission through Declaration. We need a permanent face and footprint in our community that lends strength and stability. This part of our initiative will enable us to break ground to build the first phase of our ministry campus, which will expand our reach and impact! This will also sow money into the expansion of Declaration's heart and vision for church planting as well as help seed the launch of a campus in Tomball. Equipping is also deeply important as it pertains to multiplication. Because of this, we are engaging in a strategic partnership with The Bible Seminary to offer classes at our Declaration campus upon completion.

*Our projected cost of our ministry campus is \$8.5M. We are anticipating financing \$4.5-5M as the remainder from the proceeds from selling frontage acreage of our land and gifts from the Setting the Table initiative.



Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

E P H E S I A N S 3 : 2 0 - 2 1
N A S B

Next Steps

*We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God and your family and to take the greatest faith step of generosity you've ever taken as we move together to accomplish God's vision for us through **Setting the Table**.*

FOUR SPECIFIC WAYS WE ASK YOU TO ENGAGE:

Pray

PASSIONATELY & PERSISTENTLY

Ask God to work in the hearts of everyone at Declaration and give us a passion for seeking His Kingdom first, above all else. (Matthew 6:33)

Commit

FULLY & FAITHFULLY

Ask God to give you a renewed sense of urgency and passion for the gospel! Help us reach our primary goal of 100% engagement in Setting the Table. Pray and simply commit to all that God asks of you. (Psalm 37:5)

Give

GENEROUSLY, CHEERFULLY, EXPECTANTLY

Ask God to show you what generous, faith stretching giving looks like for you and your family. Cheerfully and expectantly commit to give generously. (2 Cor. 9:6-8)

Declare

JOYFULLY & BOLDLY

As God speaks and moves during our journey together, share your story of how God is teaching, growing, and encouraging you to encourage others. Be about declaring His mighty acts! (1 Chronicles 16:8)

Save the dates

Our faithful engagement with God during these days will literally **SET THE TABLE** for gospel Kingdom legacy that will outlive us all. The seeds we are faithfully, cheerfully, and willingly sowing today will reap spiritual harvest for generations to come!
What an exciting time this is!

M A R C H 0 6

Setting the Table Initiative Begins

M A R C H 0 6 - A P R I L 1 0

Setting The Table Series

A P R I L 0 1

Advance Commitment Night

A P R I L 1 0

Commitment Sunday

The Journey of a Giver

This tool is designed to help a person move from money being their “god” to money being a tool for God’s Kingdom. The Journey of a Giver focuses on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts rather than on amounts or percentages, further transforming us into the likeness of Christ. Each step of the journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice. These are not steps you ascend to get to God, but simply a way to evaluate your growth in generosity. Scripture encourages us to grow in every facet of our walk with Christ, including the grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7)



INITIAL GIVER

Partnership in the gospel.
(Philippians 1:5-6)

An INITIAL GIVER is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God’s Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the church with this gift.

QUESTION TO ASK:

God, do I trust You as my Provider? Show me how to demonstrate to You my trust in You by starting somewhere and beginning to give, to you.

CONSISTENT GIVER

Since you have excelled, excel here too.
(Corinthians 8:7)

A CONSISTENT GIVER is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well of course; it just requires more discipline.

QUESTION TO ASK:

The apostle Paul says we should excel in this grace of giving. God, am I giving on a consistent basis that shows my desire to excel in this area of discipleship? Show me how to become more consistent and disciplined in my giving.

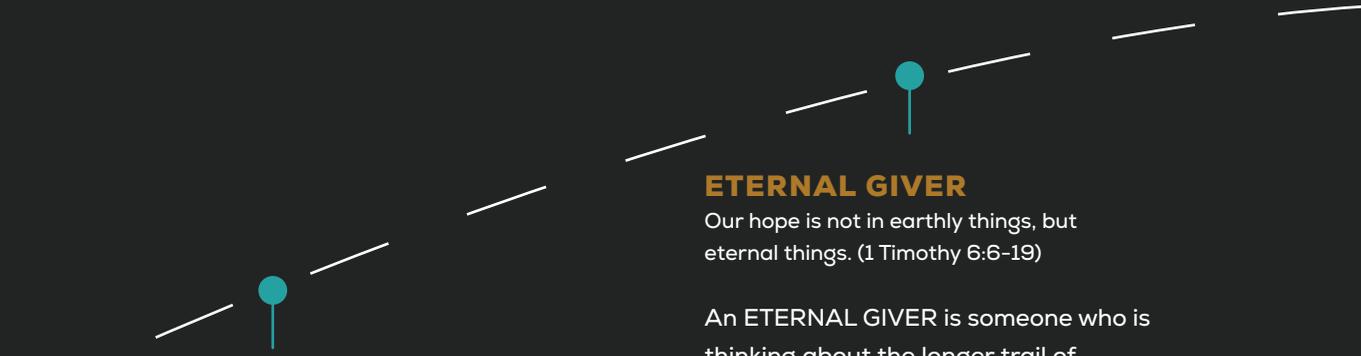
INTENTIONAL GIVER

Making your giving purposeful/planning.
(Luke 14:28-30)

An INTENTIONAL GIVER is someone who thinks about their giving in relation to their other financial priorities. This giver makes an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize giving in relation to other ways they spend money.

QUESTION TO ASK:

Does the relation of my giving to my other financial priorities accurately reflect how I feel about God? Or do some changes need to be made? God, show me what it looks like to truly recognize You are one and that I should give in such a way that puts You first.



SURRENDERED GIVER

Jesus went first and gave it all, so we surrender our lives to him. (Colossians 1:15-20)

A **SURRENDERED GIVER** is someone who recognizes the power of the gospel and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Surrendered Giver is someone who gives in a way that changes them, in a way that reflects that their giving is governing their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver isn't just concerned with what they **ARE** giving, but is more concerned with what they're **NOT** giving and why, and they seek to honor God with ALL He has given them, whether that means direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource.

QUESTION TO ASK:

God, what am I **NOT** giving and why? Am I truly honoring You with 100% of what You have given me, not just a portion? God, show me what it looks like to honor You with all of my heart, soul and might.

ETERNAL GIVER

Our hope is not in earthly things, but eternal things. (1 Timothy 6:6-19)

An **ETERNAL GIVER** is someone who is thinking about the longer trail of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month- to-month generosity or even year-to-year. An Eternal Giver makes decisions in the short term that have longer term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all in relation to their generosity capacity. An Eternal Giver is driven by the things of eternity, putting their hope in God and not in the things of this Earth.

QUESTION TO ASK:

God, do I make large resource decisions in light of eternity or in light of my time here on Earth? God, show me how to better recognize that You are one and all things are submissive to You and driven by my love and devotion for You – not for the purposes of merely this moment, but for the purposes of eternity.

One Fund Initiative

*This is a **one-fund initiative**.*

*That means we are taking a great step of faith together to trust God for this amount to **fuel our ENTIRE mission** April 2022 thru April 2024.*

We ask during this One Fund Initiative that the Lord would challenge us to reflect on various aspects of our influence, lifestyle, generosity, and legacy as a disciple of Jesus. Why these things? Because our heart is to carry the heart of Jesus, and to set the table for everyone God loves to be able to hear His message and receive His invitation to the table!

My Influence

How am I influencing the people around me in how I follow Jesus in my generosity? How might God be calling me to grow in this area?

My Lifestyle

Does my lifestyle represent the coming Kingdom? Am I fighting for eternal, Kingdom moments in the things I desire, or do I focus too much on earthly ones? Does my lifestyle reflect a heart that is seeking and building His kingdom first, or seeking and building my own?

My Generosity

How is God inviting me to grow in generosity as an expression of trust in Him and gratitude? Is how I give back to the Lord currently a reflection of grateful and prayerful first fruits giving?

My Legacy

What do I want my legacy to be? Would others say I have pointed to Christ in my life or to myself? If given the opportunity to hear someone describe my life and legacy, what would they say according to how I live currently?

Setting The Table Initiative will last two years. In those two years, every gift given to any of the churches in the Declaration Church will go to the Setting The Table Initiative– to help us set the table for mission, multiplication, and engagement. We’ve included a sample commitment card so you can see how a “One Fund Initiative” works.

Please take the time to fill this out, but don’t worry, you’ll get a new one on Commitment Sunday on April 10th.

MY COMMITMENT

\$	<input type="text"/>	What I/we would normally give in a year (regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)
+ \$	<input type="text"/>	My/Our expanded annual generosity as part of the SETTING THE TABLE Initiative
= \$	<input type="text"/>	x 2 years 
	\$	<input type="text"/>
Gifts from my/our stored resources	+ \$	<input type="text"/>

MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR COMMITMENT

\$

April 2022 - April 2024

Setting The Table

GIFT CHART

As you pray and ask God how to give during this time, allow this gift chart to be a discipleship tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you towards greater generosity as we **SET THE TABLE** to love Jesus, declare His greatness, and live on mission.

Gifts Needed	Two-Year Gift-Level	One-Year Gift-Level	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$500,000
1	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$250,000
3	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$450,000
5	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$500,000
6	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$450,000
7	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$455,000
12	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$600,000
18	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$630,000
20	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$500,000
25	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$375,000
30	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$300,000
35	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$262,500
55	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$275,000
MANY	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$252,500
Total Gift Goal				\$5,800,000

**“Comfort, comfort my people,”
says your God.**

**“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.
Tell her that her sad days are gone
and her sins are pardoned.**

**Yes, the Lord has punished her twice over
for all her sins.”**

**Listen! It’s the voice of someone shouting,
“Clear the way through the wilderness
for the Lord!**

**Make a straight highway through the wasteland
for our God!**

**Fill in the valleys,
and level the mountains and hills.**

**Straighten the curves,
and smooth out the rough places.**

**Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.**

The Lord has spoken!”





SETTING *The*
TABLE

W O R K B O O K

Week 01

READ: GENESIS 12:1-4 (NASB)

1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “**Go from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you;** 2 And I will make you into a **great nation**, and I will **bless you**, and make your name great; and **you shall be a blessing;** 3 And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And **in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**” 4 So Abram went away as the Lord had spoken to him.

READ LUKE 14:1-24 (NLT)

1 One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely. 2 There was a man there whose arms and legs were swollen. 3 Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in religious law, “Is it permitted in the law to heal people on the Sabbath day, or not?” 4 When they refused to answer, Jesus touched the sick man and healed him and sent him away. 5 Then he turned to them and said, “Which of you doesn’t work on the Sabbath? If your son or your cow falls into a pit, don’t you rush to get him out?” 6 Again they could not answer.

7 When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: 8 “When you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? 9 The host will come and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! 10 “Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, ‘Friend, we have a better place for you!’ Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. 11 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 Then he turned to his host. “When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. 13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.” 15 Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, “What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!”

16 Jesus replied with this story: “A man prepared a great feast (**great banquet**) and sent out many invitations (**invited many guests**). 17 When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ 18 But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’ 19 Another said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’ 20 Another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ 21 “The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and **invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.**’ 22 After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘**There is still room for more.**’ 23 So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. 24 For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.’”

Q U E S T I O N S F O R R E F L E C T I O N :

Use the space below and following notes pages to write out your thoughts.

1. What is the most humbling truth about Jesus inviting you to "His Table?" Have you taken your seat at the Table? What was your struggle to accept His invitation?
2. How has feasting at Jesus' Table changed your appetite for life? Once we truly taste and see the goodness of God, it's hard to have an appetite for anything else. What are some ways you engage God, daily, for your spiritual nourishment?
3. In your own words, describe what You think the significance of God's table means. What does it mean to you, personally?
4. Take a moment to meditate on the great feast that awaits us all. Try to picture the crowd gathered. Who's sitting beside you? Who else do you wish were there? How will you help them feel welcome at the Table?
5. Who are some people right now that you know God desires to be at His great banquet, and at His table? Do you feel any sense of urgency to share this good news with them? Write down the names of any people God brings to your mind that He desires to be at His table.

P R A Y :

Jesus, give me a passion for Your presence, and a love for people. Grip my heart with gratitude today for Your invitation that You have issued to me to be at Your table. Jesus, give me a heart of irresistible hospitality and radical generosity. Increase my faith to step out as You call me into Your promise and purpose for my life. May I choose to surrender to You in every way. I pray all this in Jesus' name – Amen.

R E A D I N G P L A N :

Monday: Colossians 1:3-23

Tuesday: Joshua 1:1-18

Wednesday: Proverbs 3

Thursday: Hebrews 13:1-6

Friday: Matthew 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 2

S O N G S F O R W O R S H I P :

Do It Again – Elevation Worship

Stir A Passion – Worship Central

Pour Me Out – Seacoast Music

I'm Desperate For You – Red Rocks Worship

Start With Me – Seacoast Music

World Needs Jesus – River Valley Worship

Week 02

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-12 (NLT)

1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. 2 **They are being tested by many troubles**, and they are very poor. **But they are also filled with abundant joy**, which has overflowed in rich generosity. 3 For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, **but far more**. And they did it of their own free will. 4 **They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift** for the believers in Jerusalem. 5 They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

6 So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and **encourage you to finish this ministry of giving**.

7 Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. 8 I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. 9 You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. 10 Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. 11 Now you should finish what you started. **Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving**. Give in proportion to what you have. 12 **Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly**. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Use the space below and following notes pages to write out your thoughts.

1. A hard heart can keep us from setting the table for others. Do you get excited when you think that God desires you to be a table setter, so to prepare the way for Him to move in the hearts and lives of other people? What do you believe God is trying to show you regarding table setting, and how are you feeling challenged currently as it pertains to setting the table?
2. Who in your sphere of influence (family, neighbors, co-workers, or others) have you possibly resisted inviting to the table? What is keeping you from inviting them? Have you taken the time to pray for them and invite them to a weekend service?
3. As we've walked through our own season of trial and trouble over these last few years, we may feel depleted. God, however, is calling us to be like that of the churches in Macedonia. In what ways is God working right now in your heart? What are some things He is lovingly convicting you of, or revealing to You about His table, hospitality, and generosity?

4. When you think of giving back to God financially, do you consider it a privilege or is it challenging to you? Would you consider yourself generous; if so, why, and how?

5. Have you emotionally, mentally, and spiritually tied generosity directly to Jesus? Do you see giving and generosity as a ministry, and part of your worship? How do you believe that our giving impacts table setting?

P R A Y :

Jesus, I pray you begin to work in my heart regarding my generosity and giving. Would you expand my view of money and stewardship? Father, give me an unspeakable joy when it comes to giving. Would You remove any preconceived notions I may carry from past experiences? Open my eyes, my hands, and my heart to You in this season, and grow me in giving / biblical generosity. Help me see the real purpose for it and may I willingly and joyfully begin giving back to You out of a deep gratitude. Have the fullness of my heart, Lord, and may that drive every decision I make in how I steward this life You have given me. I pray all this in Your name, Jesus – Amen!

R E A D I N G P L A N :

Monday: John 13:1-17

Tuesday: Philippians 2:1-11

Wednesday: 1 John 3

Thursday: Luke 6

Friday: Luke 12:1-48

Saturday: Matthew 10

S O N G S F O R W O R S H I P :

For The Sake Of The Worship - Bethel Worship

The Church - Elevation Worship

New Thing - Passion Music

This Is A Move - Brandon Lake

God Of Revival - Bethel Music

Have It All - Bethel Music

Week 03

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8 (NLT)

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 **You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."** 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need, and plenty left over to share with others.

READ: ACTS 4:24-37 (NLT)

(For more context read vs 1-23)

24 When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: "O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them 25 you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, 'Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? 26 The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.' 27 "In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. 28 But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. 29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. 30 Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. 32 **All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.** 33 The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. 34 There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them 35 and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. 36 For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. 37 He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Use the space below and following notes pages to write out your thoughts.

1. The Apostle Paul shares that we should not give reluctantly or under pressure. Many translations say, "under compulsion." Have you ever felt compelled to do something out of obligation but not out of true joy? What caused you to feel and act in this way? Have you ever felt this way about your giving? Why?
2. Paul speaks a great deal about the provision of God as he is urging the early church at Corinth to give generously, as he does here in vs 8. You might infer that trusting in God's provision must have been a struggle for them, due to how much he wrote about this in his letters. Do you wrestle with trusting in God to provide? Be as honest as you can.

3. The remarkable actions of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin were evidence of them “being with Jesus.” Would others say this about you and the actions you take? Do you demonstrate evidence of having spent time with Jesus in how you live your life?

4. Part of what emboldened these early believers was the recency of the gospel. Jesus had literally just died for them so recently, and so the spreading of the gospel message was urgent. Do you feel an urgency to the gospel? Does it still feel recent to you? Does it impact your actions? Does it impact your generosity?

5. Part of what is so remarkable in Acts 4 about how these early believers gave is that they didn’t allow what they didn’t have to drive them. Rather, they gave from what they DID have - and they did so quite abundantly. Are you giving from what you do have, or are you allowing the focus on what you don’t have hinder your generosity?

P R A Y :

Jesus, I pray for humble, open hands. Help me to be overwhelmed by Your generosity to me and may that have indelible impact on how I think, feel, and respond to You. Jesus, give me the gift of a cheerful, willing heart. May that posture drive every decision I make. Help me to be a good steward of Your resources and move me with passion for Your mission and for multiplication. Because of Your gospel and what it has done in and to me, may I answer Your call to follow You whole heartedly with everything I am. My life belongs to You. My family belongs to You. My career belongs to You. Every detail of my every day is because of You, Jesus. Give me vision for what it is You are calling me to do, where You are calling me to go, and how and what You are calling me to give. – Amen!

R E A D I N G P L A N :

Monday: Deuteronomy 14:22-28

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 6:1-19

Thursday: Luke 21:1-4

Friday: Galatians 6:1-10

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 9

S O N G S F O R W O R S H I P :

Joy - Housefires

Build My Life - Pat Barrett

How Good Is He - Vertical Worship

There Is A Cloud - Elevation Worship

Heart Of God - Hillsong Young & Free

Same God - Elevation Worship

P R A Y :

Jesus, like Mary, may I be moved deeply, simply by Your presence. Jesus, guard me from any manipulation like that of Judas. May I never hold back lavishing You with my worship ... may I never withhold anything from You! How amazing, that Mary would pour out her worship by washing Your feet with such a valuable essence. Judas would think this to be so reckless and wasteful. And even more amazing is that You, Jesus, would know Judas, but still wash His feet with such love. Father, may everything about my life be lavished at Your feet in worship. I pray for You to speak to me, lead me, guide me in the days to come. Whatever You ask Lord, may my answer be a resounding YES! May I give thanks in, and with everything! In the perfect name of Jesus I pray – Amen!

R E A D I N G P L A N :

Monday: Exodus 20:1-24

Tuesday: Luke 9:1-17

Wednesday: Genesis 22:1-18

Thursday: 1 Kings 17:2-16

Friday: Exodus 36:1-7

Saturday: 2 Kings 4:42-44

S O N G S F O R W O R S H I P :

Such An Awesome God - Maverick City Music

Jesus, We Love You - Bethel Music

Give Thanks - Steffany Gretzinger

Nothing Else - Cody Carnes

Where You Are - Leeland

Nothing Without You - Will Reagan

Week 04 cont.

PRE-COMMITMENT PRAYERS:

You're aware by now that the goal of Setting the Table has always been larger, fuller, and deeper than making a financial commitment, important and necessary as that commitment is.

Setting the Table is really a statement about who we are, what we believe, and how we choose to live. When Jesus says, "Follow me," He's inviting us to a whole new way of living and relating to people in community. This community is characterized by love, joy, and peace. This also gives us an unflinching will to do our part in making this world a place where God's Name is revered; and Jesus' call to love God, neighbor, self, and—yes—even our enemies, is not just something we talk about.

Being table setters has become our deepest commitment, our ongoing gift to the people of Spring, TX, and beyond, ... indeed to the people of the entire world! This is all because we believe in our bones God has a seat at the Table for everyone. He hasn't given up on anyone, and neither have we, nor will we!

Prayerfully, as we consider the commitment of generosity God is inviting us to make in days to come; let's begin to offer these following prayers, morning, and evening, as we unite in heart, passion, and mission.

As you pray, ask the Father for help in making the right financial commitment as we 'Set the Table' at Declaration, because the matters we're praying about today require passionate faith and extensive resourcing.

As we pray, pray that our church is gripped with a heart of irresistible hospitality and radical generosity. Pray from a posture of humility, belief, and faith. Pray, unified as one, from a place of gratitude for having a place at His table. Pray for those who do not have their reservation confirmed at His table. May we all have a renewed passion for our mission as a church and for Kingdom multiplication! ---- All for Jesus and for people!

M O R N I N G P R A Y E R :

Dear Lord,

As night yields to day and, with it, darkness to light, we pray with one voice and purpose: Your Kingdom come; Your will be done! May the long night of despair and frustration patiently wait for dawn's first rays of hope in those who are searching for their seat at the Table. We see them every day. Lord, save our children, sons, and daughters who have wandered into distant, seemingly godless places. Save those who're fighting crippling addictions, people who are wracked by the pain of broken marriages, and the ones who have lost the will to live. Build in us an army of love and opportunity on their behalf. Help us to notice, receive, and cherish the widow and orphan, the worker who has lost her job, the grandparent who has but days to live, and the child whose life is cut short by disease. And please, God, save those who in their own self-sufficiency have lost sight of their deep need for You, people who are going about their paces, building little empires, with no awareness that they too, are blind, poor, naked, and lost.

We confess to You our own shortsightedness, our distracting preoccupations, our tendency to set our minds on the things of this world rather than things above, and inordinate spending on things that don't count for much. God, help us to see as You see, to see what You see, to love as You love, to be like You. We are under no delusions about our role in Setting the Table. It is Your Table. We are merely its waiters and bussers, dishwashers, and place setters. Please give us everything we need to be utterly faithful to our assigned tasks - strength, health, vitality, grace, and purpose.

Prepare us today, Lord, to establish enduring commitments of hope and love in this good work, to search our own hearts completely, with vision and honesty, to withhold nothing that might be used of You to make another seat available. God helping us, we will do our best. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

E V E N I N G P R A Y E R :

Father,

As the twilight falls, we are settling in for the night - our resolve firm and our minds at rest. By Your grace we have lived and breathed grace all this good day. Thank You.

Help us now to recollect the day's treasures, as well as its frustrations, honestly and openly.

We pray with joy for the people You've placed in our paths, for deep conversation, for words of encouragement, for opportunities to demonstrate Your love. We thank You for assisting us in doing good things we really didn't care to embrace, for the Spirit's gentle promptings to enter the pain of others, for a vision larger than our own small version of the world's need. In all this, we sense You're still very much here—Immanuel—God with us!

But Lord, we are also painfully aware of our shortcomings, neglect, and uncaring moments of boredom. We are cognizant of our occasions of apathy, of our instances of resisting the Spirit's strong promptings. And, Father, we confess our complete need for Your healing of our own lives.

As we labor at the Table, we recognize not only the needs of others but also our own need for renewed hope. Help us not to despair. We can take a little defeat here and there, but, dear God, don't allow us to let it sink in. We freely accept Your forgiveness and mercy for ourselves, as well as those You've called us to love, in Jesus' Name.

Help us once more to search our hearts thoroughly as we envision our commitment to Setting the Table. As You have not held back anything we really need, may we in turn open our hands freely, honestly, and generously as agents of Your love on earth.

God, grant us rest—deep, full, and cleansing—renewing rest.
Tomorrow awaits.

We want to resume our place at the Table ready for its challenge and opportunity!
In Your holy and powerful name, Jesus, we pray -- Amen.

Week 05

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15 (NLT)

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And **don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure.** "For **God loves a person who gives cheerfully.**" 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need, and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." 10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, **he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.** 11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So **two good things will result from this ministry of giving**—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. 13 As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. 15 Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

READ: MALACHI 3:10 (NLT)

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

READ: MATTHEW 6:33 (NLT)

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

READ: LUKE 6:38 (NLT)

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Use the space below and following notes pages to write out your thoughts.

1. Describe what seeking first Him and His kingdom could look like in your life? How might this impact you, your family, your lifestyle?
2. As God calls us to irresistible hospitality and radical generosity so to set the table for people that He loves, in what ways are you being challenged right now spiritually? ... Financially?
3. Is the gospel message so compelling that if Jesus asked you to leave it all behind to follow Him, could you and would you choose to obey? Imagine God calling you now to take a step of faith that would require you leaving behind what is comfortable and convenient, safe, and familiar. What would some of the tangible challenges be for you to obey God?

4. Jesus calls us on co-mission with Him to set the table. Other than financially, what may the Lord be calling you to in this season in a deeper way so to be a table setter?

5. List anything God is bringing to your mind and heart. Are you being challenged in any way, and if so, how? Do you sense any conviction in any way? If so, describe ...

P R A Y :

Father You have been so kind and generous to us, as Your people. We pray now for a passionate response to Your gospel. To Your kindness. To Your generosity. God, You have poured out Your blessings and favor upon us over, and over. May we respond in kind with a willing, cheerful, and generous response of worship, to You. Speak to us as Your church, this week. Move in us in a powerful way! Thank You Jesus for how You have already moved and provided for us as a church family. We know You don't need us for anything, but thank You for desiring to use us to glorify You and to build Your kingdom! May we seek You first, Your kingdom and righteousness, and may that drive us to a deep love for You, and the people You love. Give us even greater vision for the days to come! Make our hearts beat fast for Your Word, Your Name, Your people, and those who aren't here yet! Thank You for allowing us the privilege of serving You by being table setters in our city, our state, and this world! May we prepare the way for You, and for the many who You will bring into Your house, through our worship, service, and generous giving. We pray all this in Your name, Jesus – Amen.

R E A D I N G P L A N :

Monday: Acts 4

Tuesday: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Wednesday: Ezekiel 36:1-7

Thursday: Acts 5:1-16

Friday: Luke 10:25-37

Saturday: 1 Kings 10:1-13

S O N G S F O R W O R S H I P :

Holy Spirit Come - Patrick Mayberry

Jesus Over Everything - The Belonging Co.

How Good Is He - Vertical Worship

None But Jesus - Hillsong Worship

For The Sake Of The World - Bethel Music

First Love - Kari Jobe

3. Name a time where you saw God move in power to faithfully provide for you, even when you were struggling to believe He would/could. Describe what that meant to your faith in that season.
4. When you think about setting the table for people, what excites you most about the season we find ourselves in? What are you praying for and anticipating God will do in and through us as a church body because of the Setting the Table Initiative?

P R A Y :

Father, as we approach Palm Sunday, may we see Your deep commitment to us and be passionately compelled to a deep commitment to You. Thank You for this family called Declaration. Thank You for the table that was set for me, and us, long ago so - that I/we would come to know You. As we come into Your presence today, in Your house, move in us and upon us. I pray You would be exalted with everything that we are, Jesus. Our hearts, our hands, our humility, our gratitude, and our giving back to You. As we make first fruit, worship driven commitments this week, we have faith that You will provide everything needed to build Your church, so we can build Your kingdom. You don't need us, but You choose to use us, and may we be so humbled by this truth! What a privilege that You have provided for us, so we can live abundantly and give back generously. What a joy and honor that we get to 'Set the Table' for many others and for future generations. Together we are making an eternal difference that will have deep impact long after each of us are gone. This is a holy, defining season, Father, and I pray we are moved beyond measure at Your goodness, all You have done, all You are doing, and all You are going to do! Bless You, Jesus! Speak to each heart exactly what it is You ask of us; and like Abram ... may we step in faith and obedience. We are blessed to be a blessing, Father! We pray all this in Your mighty, holy name. Amen.

R E A D I N G P L A N :

Monday: Galatians 6:1-10

Tuesday: Genesis 45

Wednesday: Luke 7:1-10

Thursday: Luke 19:1-10

Friday: Matthew 6:19-34

Saturday: Matt 14:14-21

S O N G S F O R R E F L E C T I O N :

Homecoming - Bethel Music

Carried To The Table - Leeland

This Is The Kingdom - Elevation Worship/Pat Barrett

What He's Done - Passion

The Church - Elevation Worship

God Of Revival - Bethel Music

FAQs

What is the “Setting The Table” Initiative?

The “Setting The Table” Initiative is a two year, one fund, discipleship initiative that calls our whole church family to live a Matthew 6:33 lifestyle. We will challenge ourselves to live radical generosity for God in the areas of influence, legacy, generosity and lifestyle. Every dollar of our financial generosity given will go to one fund and be used in mission and expansion as described in our primary and secondary goals.

If we are committing to Setting The Table, how does this change my giving to missions, the general fund, and other special offerings?

During this two-year period (April 2022 – April 2024), every gift you bring to God through Declaration Church is a contribution to Setting The Table Initiative. Through the “One Fund” approach we are taking, all ministry initiatives and all money supporting those initiatives which will be included in Setting The Table.

How long is my commitment?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment, which is 24 months. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin in April 2022 and it will culminate in April 2024.

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

If you are currently making payments toward debt, we commend you for making progress toward financial freedom. We would be honored to help you on this journey by recommending budgeting tools and resources if that is helpful to you. Being in debt does not, however, excuse us from bringing our first and best to God. Generosity back to God is not about what God wants from you, but what He wants for you. Often, our small groups at Declaration will offer a Financial Peace study to assist your family in getting on the road to financial freedom. We believe your freedom is God’s will and we would be honored to help you find freedom in your finances and stewardship.

What if I am new around here or what if I’ve never given through Declaration before?

The primary goal of Setting The Table Initiative is 100% engagement. One person can’t do everything but everyone can do something. In the Generosity Journey (page 15), we are reminded that taking a step of obedience is what matters and what brings God’s blessing. So even when you are new to a journey of generosity, ask God how you can be radically generous towards Him, listen for an answer and be obedient. Every dollar is celebrated and valued in a One Fund Initiative!

How can I be a part of Setting The Table and what are you asking of me?

You can absolutely be a part of Setting the Table by engaging, and our hope is that you will! Our prayer is for 100% participation of our church body at large, whether in person or online. Participation is first and foremost taking a faith step forward in the areas of discipleship and generosity. While we encourage Biblical tithing and sacrificial giving, we never want anyone to feel an obligation, but rather, the opportunity to live in obedience to the Lord in the area of stewardship. Because of this, all we ever ask is that you to pray and ask God about giving through Declaration. Then, we ask you simply be obedient to what He asks of you, as soon as You discern His prompting.

Here is specifically how you can be a part of Setting the Table:

In this season of united prayer, study and commitment, we ask that you pray and ask God what he would have you and your family commit in your journey of generosity through giving. Then, on April 10 as part of our Palm Sunday service, we ask you to make a commitment, in a new way, like you ever have before! Take this step of faith with us! Secondly, we ask that you engage in a small group, and serve on a team at Declaration. Commit to community as well as a journey of generosity over the next two years. This is how together, we set the table to prepare the way for the Lord to move in the lives of His people! In this time, your giving may look different than it has before, so take some time in personal reflection with God as you go through this Setting The Table Book. Remember that faith commitments now will reap a harvest of legacy long after we have gone. And finally, as God pours out his blessings on you and your family through your obedience, we ask you to declare. Let us know and let others know what God is doing! Speak praise out loud Declare his mighty acts! This will not only bless the heart of God, but it will encourage and bless others!

Have more questions?

Email table@settingthetable.org



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But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 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— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-11

ESV

You cannot serve God
without serving people.

WE ARE **DEVOTED** TO
SCRIPTURE & THE HOLY SPIRIT
PRAYER & HIS PRESENCE
COMMUNION & COMMUNITY
REMEMBRANCE & REDEMPTION
GENEROSITY & GRACE

WE **DESIRE**
AUTHENTICITY OVER APPEARANCE
INTIMACY OVER INTELLECT
PASSION OVER PERFORMANCE
KINGDOM OVER CONSUMERISM
SERVICE OVER SELFISHNESS

WE ARE **FOR JESUS & FOR PEOPLE!**



DECLARATION

FOR JESUS. FOR PEOPLE.

SETTINGHETABLE.ORG