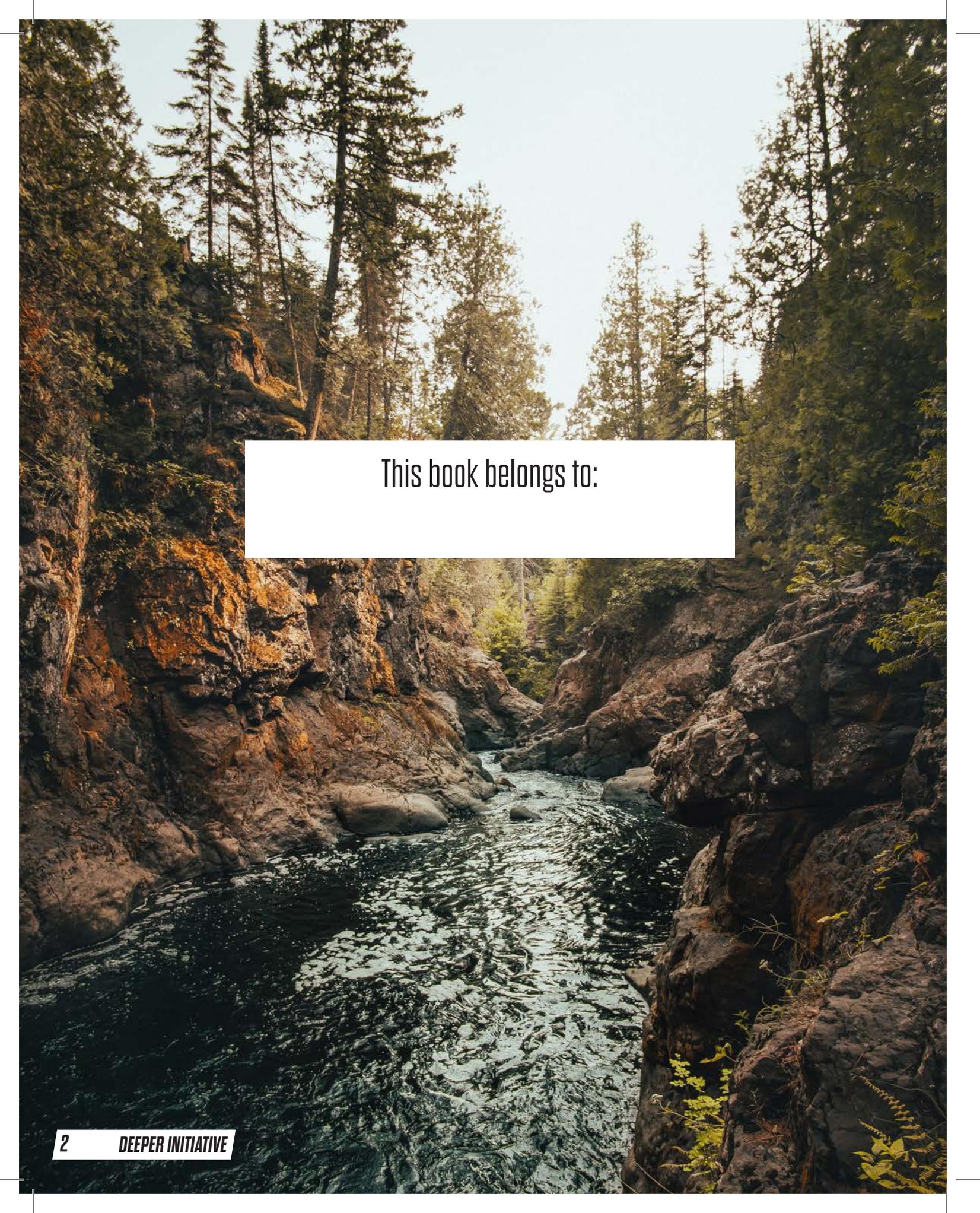




Deeper



This book belongs to:

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# ***FROM THE HOPPER FAMILY***

The last 10 years have been a ride! So many people have been saved, freed, trained and sent. As we get ready for this next season, our family is convinced that God has only begun to scratch the surface of what we could see Him do in the future. The best is yet to come! But before we jump into the vision for the future it is important that we pause and reflect on why we do what we do. Consider this question, what is your hearts deepest desire? Is it family, relationships, success, money, or even the mission of God? Proverbs 13:12 tells us that a desire left unfulfilled can leave our hearts sick. Anything we put over or before God as our deepest desire is destined to fail. The one desire that should be first is God himself, who will never fail.

This is certainly a season for God-sized dreams. What if we could see 5,000 baptisms and send 500 baptizers by 2032? That is exciting and worthy of giving our fullest effort. But even a dream this size is not worthy of being our deepest desire. In the Psalms, God calls us to pant for him like the deer pants for water. He calls us to make Him our one thing. We are called to desire His presence because that is where we believe we will find the fullness of joy. This is what Deeper is all about. The mission is exciting, and the moment is important, but our heart's posture before God is primary. Let us step into this season and beg God to give us a deeper desire for Himself. Our family can't wait to see what God will do through us because of what He will do in us!

**Pastor Andrew and Anna Hopper**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew Hopper" and "Anna Hopper" written together.



# SPIRITUALLY SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS

There are days and moments in our lives that we never forget. And maybe in the moment, we don't realize just how significant that event is. Sometimes it's as simple as a sermon we heard, or a baptism we saw. Other times it's witnessing someone hear the gospel for the first time, watching an adoption get finalized, or a moment that serves as the piercing reality of the gospel's truth. These spiritually significant moments change the trajectory of our lives, sometimes, forever.

The moments throughout the Bible are no different. Sometimes God just shows up. Many times in ways we weren't expecting and sometimes don't even understand. But when God shows up, we are changed by the Holy Spirit. People's plans are altered; their direction is changed.

It is God who initiates these spiritual moments. These moments where the Holy Spirit just shows up in our life. And in these moments we have a role to respond. We respond to the work that God is doing in our life. And many times this response simply looks like opening our hands in obedience. Obedience to baptism, missions, generosity, serving, sharing our faith, or a host of other things. This pattern of God showing up and us responding is a pattern throughout the Bible.

"They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us as He spoke with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'" (Luke 24:32) As the resurrected Jesus spoke with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the Holy Spirit moved in their **hearts** so powerfully that they described it as burning. It began in the heart.

"And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem." (Luke 24:33) When Jesus died, they had given up. They were leaving Jerusalem and returning to their former lives. But when the Holy Spirit moved in their hearts, they turned around and rejoined the other disciples. They opened their **hands** and released their doubts. They let go of one future they were walking toward and instead received the future that the Holy Spirit called them toward.

This pattern of heart and hands saturates the Bible. And it's still true today. Not only is this pattern of heart and hands true for us as individuals; it's also true for us as a church. It can be personal, and it can be corporate.



I can remember watching as 30 people from The Summit Church, after the Holy Spirit moved in their hearts, open their hands with their families, their careers, their relationships, and move their lives to the Triad to launch Mercy Hill Church. That was a spiritually significant moment.

I remember when it finally clicked for my two older sons and getting to baptize them as they responded to the gospel. That was a spiritually significant moment.

I remember being blown away by God's power when we went through the "For His Name" initiative where the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of our young church of 20-somethings and we opened our hands to give generously. God doubled what we thought was already out of reach. It was a spiritually significant moment.

I remember watching Mercy Hill baptize 150 people in a single day. God moved in our hearts, and we opened our hands to invite others, share the gospel, and call people to follow Jesus. It was a spiritually significant moment.

And here in this moment, as Mercy Hill celebrates 10 years and looks forward to the next 10, it seems like God is doing something significant among us again. And once again we must decide how we will respond to this moment.

Will this be a moment that we look back on as a spiritually significant moment for our church? A spiritually significant moment for us personally? When God is moving, it is up to us to respond.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Herrington". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Bobby Herrington**

*Lead Pastor of Ministries & Operations*

Mercy Hill being commissioned  
by The Summit Church.

# PREPARATION

If there was a Genesis to Mercy Hill's history, it probably goes back to the year 2011. During this time God began working in pastor Andrew's heart to plant a new gospel-centered church somewhere in North Carolina.

God, in his providence, brought together 3 families and that's when the real work began. Pastor Andrew and Anna, Pastor Bobby and Allison, and Pastor Jeremy and Julianne were all attending and serving together at the Summit Church in Raleigh. Each family was trying to figure out what God had planned for their lives. At the time, Pastor Andrew was a campus pastor at the Summit Church and he approached Pastor Bobby and Pastor Jeremy about starting a new church somewhere in North Carolina. The 3 families had a fateful meeting at the Bob Evans Restaurant in Durham and decided they would team up to start a new church!

From there Pastor Andrew would join the church planting residency through the Summit Church and begin to make plans to raise up a launch team, decide where to plant, and lay the groundwork for a new work. The team decided on the Triad area of North Carolina to plant Mercy Hill. They then began to raise up a launch team from the Summit Church.

A launch team of 30 people were raised up, including 10 graduating college students. In the Spring of 2012 this team began meeting together regularly to establish the vision of what a new gospel-centered church in the Triad would look like. During this time God gave the team a supernatural unity around the vision of what a new work would look like. In the summer of 2012, the team would leave secure jobs and family behind to start a new church in the Triad!



# THE EARLY DAYS

During the Summer of 2012, the team moves to the Triad and begins to meet people and spread the word about a new church coming in the Fall of 2012. All summer the team continues to meet at Pastor Andrew's house.

Late in the Summer of 2012, Mercy Hill launches as a mobile church, setting up weekly, at Bur-Mil Park in North Greensboro. Almost immediately God began adding to their number and the church grows, and people are cramming into the tightly packed space. The church launched in the Fall of 2012 with 250 people in attendance!

*The church launched in the  
Fall of 2012 with 250 people  
in attendance!*

During this time God sends huge numbers of college students to Mercy Hill, and they ramp up the energy of the church. There's a buzz around the Triad about the gospel-centered preaching, the authentic worship, and the sheer volume of people who are being saved. A second service is added at night at Bur-Mil Park.

Right out of the gate, Mercy Hill is established as a church with a heart for the nations. Pastor Andrew leads the church to adopt the Yanasha people, a people group in the Amazonian jungle of Peru. During this time we began taking short-term mission trips there and praying that God will one day allow us to send long-term missionaries there.

Early in 2013, it became evident that the church was outgrowing the meeting space at Bur-Mil Park and it was time for the church to find a permanent home on Sunday mornings. Through God's providence, a Sunday morning space became available at the Regional road location and the church took a risk and upfitted what is now the Regional Road kids space to provide a worship environment that would fit almost 300 adults.



A full service at Bur-Mil Park in Greensboro.

# A BIG MOVE

During the Spring of 2013, Mercy Hill moves into the Regional Road location and launches Sunday morning services. Almost immediately, God continued to grow the church through people being saved and baptized. This was one of the most exponential growth seasons in the life of the church! The church more than doubled in size breaking 1,000 in attendance. The church had to continue to pursue every opportunity to facilitate the growth that God was bringing. During this time, we launched 2 more services at night totaling 4 services each Sunday. The space quickly became too small to sustain the growth of the church.

But God had a plan! After outgrowing the Regional Road kids space in the first 6 months the church set their vision on upfitting the current Regional Road worship space to sustain the exponential Acts 2 growth that God was bringing to the church.

It was during this time that the church stepped out in faith and launched the “For His Name” initiative to raise the funds to fully upfit the Regional Road Kids Space and adult worship space. During this initiative, the church set out to raise \$600,000 to take the next step. But God showed up in a huge way and doubled what was raised to \$1.2 million dollars, allowing us to upfit the current Regional Road worship space and completely renovate the former worship space into a new Kids Space equipped with check-in stations and more secure access.





# ***PUSHING INTO THE DARKNESS***

During this time, with space continuing to be an issue, Mercy Hill expands beyond the walls of the church. What started with early focus on the Yanessa is now expanding to partnerships across the globe, sending more and more people to the nations and further solidifying the church's sending culture.

Just like the early days at Bur-Mil Park, God continues to grow the College Ministry through the launch of the City Project Initiative. City Project begins as an opportunity to leverage the summer and invite college students to live in Mercy Hill families' homes, spend several weeks in intense discipleship, and gain experience sharing the gospel in international contexts. In just a few years Mercy Hill would begin designing a full sending pipeline that would pave the way for dozens to be sent to the Nations in the years to come.

Also, during this time, additional staff in age-based ministries, worship, and communications are added at a rapid pace to keep up with growth, and the early iterations of Mercy Hill's Ministry Residency come to fruition. Mercy Hill celebrates as people put their yes on the table to join the launch teams of other church plants and we see the first wave of long-term missionaries sent to the nations.

After years of praying that the church would grow to 500 by the fifth birthday, the church instead celebrates baptism number 500 shortly before September 2017! It was also during this time that the church broke 2,000 in attendance and the dream to plant Mercy Hill's campuses across the Triad was born!



# MERCY HILL CHURCH





# A MULTI-CAMPUS MOVEMENT

Setting our sights on a new campus strategy, Mercy Hill begins to strategically go to new communities rather than expecting people from those communities to come to one location. This all began as hundreds of people leave the Regional Road location to start a new work at the Clifton Road Campus, Mercy Hill's first campus launch in the Triad.

It was during this time that God continued to bless Mercy Hill through strategic mergers with smaller churches that were dreaming up a new chapter to their legacy. In the Bur-Mil days of Mercy Hill we merged with a small church, the Ridge Church, who decided to sow 10+ years of ministry and resources into our new church plant.

The momentum of mergers continued when God gave the vision to Edgefield Baptist Church to continue their ministry legacy by merging into Mercy Hill. This would eventually lead to the upfit and launch of the Edgefield Road location in 2018 which is today the Mercy Hill student center, where hundreds of students gather each week.

Not long after the launch of the Edgefield Road location God would send out hundreds to launch the High Point location in 2019, building on years of ministry to High Point University and the City of High Point. Mercy Hill upfitted a strategic location on highway 68 in High Point to launch this campus.

**Mercy Hill begins to strategically go to new communities rather than expecting people from those communities to come to one location.**

During this time, Mercy Hill goes through a stretch of launching one new campus per year with the goal of reaching more people with a wider footprint in the Triad. In 2020, an unlikely year to launch something new, God presented another strategic opportunity through a merger with Northeast Baptist Church. In the Fall of 2020 Mercy Hill upfitted the old Northeast Baptist

location to launch a new Mercy Hill campus in NE Greensboro.

Lastly, in 2021 God was faithful to a 10 year vision Pastor Andrew had to launching a Spanish speaking campus in the Triad. After years of praying and planning the Mercy Hill en Espanol was launched at the Clifton Road campus in 2021.

# ***GOD CREATED SERVANTS, NOT SPECTATORS***

During a sermon series titled “No More Spectators”, Pastor Andrew casts a vision for seeing the amount of serving outside the walls of our church rival the amount of serving inside the walls of the church, calling the church to get off the sidelines and onto the frontlines because God has called us to be

servants, not spectators. It was during this time that hundreds of Mercy Hill members began serving at non-profits throughout the community being the hand and feet of Jesus.

It was on the heels of this momentum that God began to do another unique work with one particular area of community ministry within our church. Early in 2020, God brought to fruition a vision of seeing 200 families step up within Mercy Hill to enter in to foster care and adoption ministry. This initiative was launched through a sermon series called “Chosen”.

In early 2020 Pastor Andrew preaches a sermon series called “Chosen” that brings foundational change and focus to our church in the area of foster care and adoption ministry. In doing so, he calls the church’s attention to adoption and foster care and dreams of seeing 200 Mercy Hill families step up. Mercy Hill raises \$250,000 to support families who are adopting.

The response to fostering and adopting is so great that an immediate need arises for tangible support for these families. Teams of “rope-holders” step up to support the families with prayer support, meals, and other acts of service.





# ***FROM PARTNERING TO PARENTING***

In 2019, Mercy Hill Church makes a drastic shift in planting churches by ceasing to merely partner with other church planters and instead raise up, train, resource, send, and care for our own church plants from within our own family. We are on our way to starting a family of churches.

This new work began in the year of 2019. Pastor Eric Hovis, a Mercy Hill member, senses the call to plant a new church out of Mercy Hill to Tampa, FL. Pastor Eric begins a church planting residency within Mercy Hill and raises up a team of almost 50 people to be sent to Tampa, FL in the Spring of 2019 to plant New City Church.

Not long after God would raise up our next church planter, Carter Mundy, to plant a church in his hometown of Roanoke, VA. Pastor Carter's story is unique in that he and his wife Tamara were on the Mercy Hill Launch team of 30 that moved to the Triad to help Mercy Hill. It was during 2020 that Pastor Carter left his job at the Pregnancy Network and stepped off our directional elder team to raise up a launch team and plant Redemption Church in Roanoke.

In 2022 God would continue to raise up church planters out of our church family as Pastor Jeremy and Pastor Brody both sense calls to plant new churches. Pastor Brody Medford and wife Maddy become the first couple to be sent twice by Mercy Hill Church, this time to lead our first church plant in North Carolina, in Brody's hometown of Waynesville. Additionally, Pastor Jeremy who along with his wife Julianne, original launch team members, becomes the first staff member to be sent out to plant a church in an international context: Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Canada.

**We are on our way  
to starting a family  
of churches.**

# **YOU CAN'T QUARANTINE THE GREAT COMMISSION**

When Covid began to spread in North Carolina in March of 2020, very few of us knew the impacts it would have over the following two years. There were so many unknowns when the world first began to shut down in March of 2020. Health unknowns, economic unknowns, and church unknowns.

There is no doubt that 2020-2021 was a difficult 2 years for most people. Many people lost loved ones from Covid. People were lonely from the isolation. Kids and families struggled through remote learning. But God remained faithful, and the gospel remained powerful.

**But God remained  
faithful, and the gospel  
remained powerful.**

One of the things that Pastor Andrew reminded us of from the very beginning of the Covid pandemic is that you cannot quarantine the Great Commission! And as we look back there was nothing truer during that season. The church is not a building, but a people! And the people of God continued to do what the people of God do: we gather, group, give, and go.

After temporarily closing services in March of 2020, the church pivoted. We pivoted to outdoor services, online services, hybrid community groups, at home Kids Week, and a host of other ways to continue the mission and movement of the church.

And week by week, like God has always done in the church since Acts 2, God added to our number the people who were being changed by the gospel. Kids were baptized. Students came to Christ and began to live on mission. People were raised up and sent out to the nations. New churches were planted. New campuses were started. Disciples were made and churches were multiplied.

This was a trying time indeed, but also a time where God strengthened the church and taught us that God will remain faithful and the Great Commission indeed cannot be quarantined!





# ***BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE***

Coming to the end of 2021 this was a critical season in the life of our church. For years our leaders have dreamed about a new Home and Hub, as our Regional Road location continues to be in a rented space.

Our leaders prayed for wisdom during this season and dropped a pin on a map on the corner of 68 and Pleasant Ridge road. There wasn't a property for sale there, but that was the starting place for where we would draw the radius for our property search. This location was ideal for multiple reasons. It could be a hub for our campus strategy and ministry in the Triad, convenience to interstates, new apartments and businesses being built in the area, and because it was 1 mile from our current hub of ministry.

For months the search was going nowhere, until one day we connected to the property owners of the very property that we dropped that pin in months earlier. The 23 acres off 68 and Pleasant Ridge road would become Mercy Hill's future Home and Hub of ministry. But first we had to purchase and close on the property!

We went before the church at the end of 2021 and explained that this year the Multiply Offering would go to the normal things we give to, but also to the purchase of the 23 acres for the future Home and Hub. Not only were we raising money for the land, but we wanted to purchase the land in cash. God once again showed up in a miraculous way! We set out to raise 3 million dollars at the end of 2021. This would allow us to fund the ministry projects we identified and the purchase of the land.

God's people at Mercy Hill rallied around this vision and gave over 6 million dollars to the Multiply 2021 offering! It was an amazing moment in the life of our church. Not only would this allow us to purchase the land but it would allow for additional money to be set aside, money that God, in his providence, knew we would need for the construction project of our new Home and Hub.

And this brings us to where we are now. After 10 years of God being faithful to advance His mission of making disciples and multiplying churches, we are excited to see what God will do over the next 10 years!

For months the search was going nowhere until one day we connected to the property owners of the very property that we dropped that pin in months earlier.

***IN 10 YEARS, GOD TOOK THE SACRIFICE  
OF 30 PEOPLE AND TURNED IT INTO A  
DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT PLANTING  
CHURCHES ALL OVER THE WORLD.***

## ***CHURCH STATS***

**1** church

**5** campuses

**10** Years of Ministry

**13** Services

**1,466** Baptisms

**40** International Missionaries Sent Long-Term

**115** Short-Term Mission Trips

**127** Foster and Adoptive Families

**849** Kids attended Kids Week 2022

**314** Largest Students Gathering

At Mercy Hill, we believe the Bible has laid out a clear plan for discipleship and growth in Acts 2.



## Acts 2:45-47

They **sold their possessions** and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together **in the temple** and broke bread from **house to house**. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the **favor of all the people**. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## GATHER

The gathering exists to draw our hearts to God's grace in the gospel through worship, preaching, and serving.

## GROUP

We group together in community for discipleship by connecting relationally around God's word and prayer.

## GIVE

We give our first and best as a means of trusting Jesus as our deepest desire and leveraging our treasure for kingdom impact.

## GO

Choosing to go on mission in our neighborhoods and around the world is key to making disciples of every tribe, tongue, and nation.

# YOUR SPIRITUALLY

# SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS

As a tree grows taller and taller, its roots are at work pushing through clay and soil to establish the foundation that can grow healthy and bear fruit over a lifetime. If these roots fail to push through and grow, the tree will lose its ability to be healthy and will stop growing and eventually wither.

As you think about your own spiritual growth, for you to grow and mature in Christ you'll go through moments where you'll seemingly push through an obstacle or move in a new direction that changes the course of your life. God brings us through these moments to **establish our roots** and **grow us deeper** into Him that we may bear fruit for our lifetime. It's wise for us to take time to reflect on what He has done that we may remember and praise Him for the significant moments He has worked in our lives.

In the space to the right, write out your spiritually significant moments in your time at Mercy Hill. This may include you trusting in Christ and getting baptized, serving, experiencing healing, joining a group, becoming a foster parent, giving for the first time, stepping into a leadership role, or going on a mission trip.





***IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE MOST  
SPIRITUALLY SIGNIFICANT MOMENT  
IN YOUR LIFE IS STILL AHEAD?***



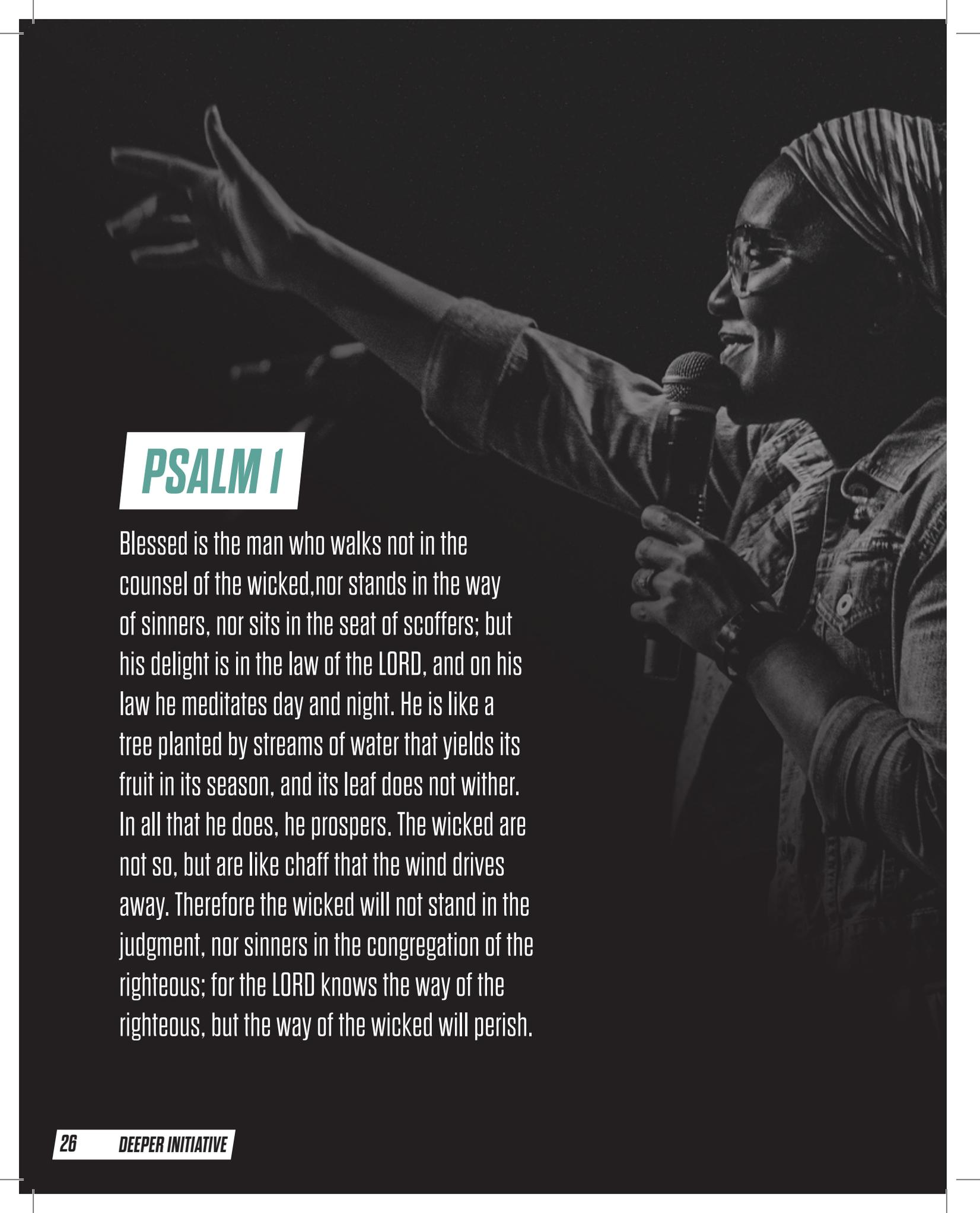
***WE BELIEVE GOD***

***WANTS TO DO MORE IN***

***AND THROUGH US...***

***ARE YOU READY?***

If so, turn the page



## PSALM 1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.



# Deeper

What is your heart's deepest desire? While it's a simple question—it's not an easy question. Many times in life we can desire created things more than our creator. Our deepest desire can be for family, relationships, work, money, success, or any number of other things.

But Proverbs 13:12 says that when these desires are left unfulfilled it can leave our hearts feeling sick: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a fulfilled desire is a tree of life." What is the one desire that God will never leave unfulfilled? The desire for God himself! When God is our deepest desire in this life, God will always fulfill that desire with more of himself.

What if there was a season where God wanted to collectively give us a deeper desire for himself? Church, we think that moment is now!

It's time for the Deeper Initiative, a 2 year discipleship initiative, where we beg God to give us a deeper desire for himself and as a result see the ministry, multiplication, and mission of Mercy Hill Church go wider through us! When we grow deeper, God grows us wider.

# PRIMARY GOAL

## 100% ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR HEARTS AND HANDS



### Our Hearts

Is God your deepest desire? We are praying that every person at Mercy Hill will deepen their relationship with Jesus in this season and make him their deepest desire. As Psalm 42:1-2 says we want our souls to thirst after God himself.



### Our Hands

Does the way we live our life reflect God as our deepest desire? When God becomes the deepest desire of our hearts, he opens our hands for a life of generosity and mission! This is why we are praying that every person that calls Mercy Hill home will engage with the Deeper Initiative by opening our hands in generosity and going deeper in our commitment to the mission.

# SECONDARY GOAL

## \$30 Million for Mission Advancement over 2 years

We believe that as God deepens his roots in us individually and as a church the fruit of the gospel will go wider through us. We believe God has identified three areas to focus our mission of making disciples and multiplying churches in this season. And we are trusting God to move through each of us over the next two years to raise \$30 million to accomplish the vision he has given us.



### Deeper Ministry — \$15 Million

**Through a deeper investment in discipleship...** Our core mission of making disciples and multiplying churches happens through the Acts 2 flywheel: Gather, Group, Give, and Go. In this season we want to make a deeper investment in our campuses, discipleship ministries, and ongoing church planting and mission efforts.



### Deeper Multiplication — \$10 Million

**Through a new home and hub...** Over the next 2 years we will establish a new home and hub of Mercy Hill church on 23 acres in a central location in the Triad. This home and hub will be a launching pad for church plants, new campuses, seminary students, new residents, as well as host our broadcast campus.



### Deeper Mission — \$5 Million

**Through new mission opportunities...** We plan to deepen our mission efforts like funding more short-term mission trips, scaling adoption and foster care ministry, planting more campuses through mergers, scaling our worship culture, residency scholarships, and a deeper commitment to give towards international missions.



# ***DEEPER MINISTRY - \$15 MILLION***

Through a deeper investment in discipleship...

Our core mission of making disciples and multiplying churches happens through the Acts 2 flywheel: Gather, Group, Give, and Go. In this season we want to make a deeper investment in our campuses, discipleship ministries, and ongoing church planting and mission efforts.

- Our regular general 2 year budget for all Mercy Hill Campuses
- Continued staffing and resources to fuel growth and discipleship opportunities in kids and student ministries
- Commitment to invest in raising up and sending out leaders through community groups, serve ministries, mission opportunities, and residency programs









# ***DEEPER MULTIPLICATION - \$10 MILLION***

## **Through a new home and hub...**

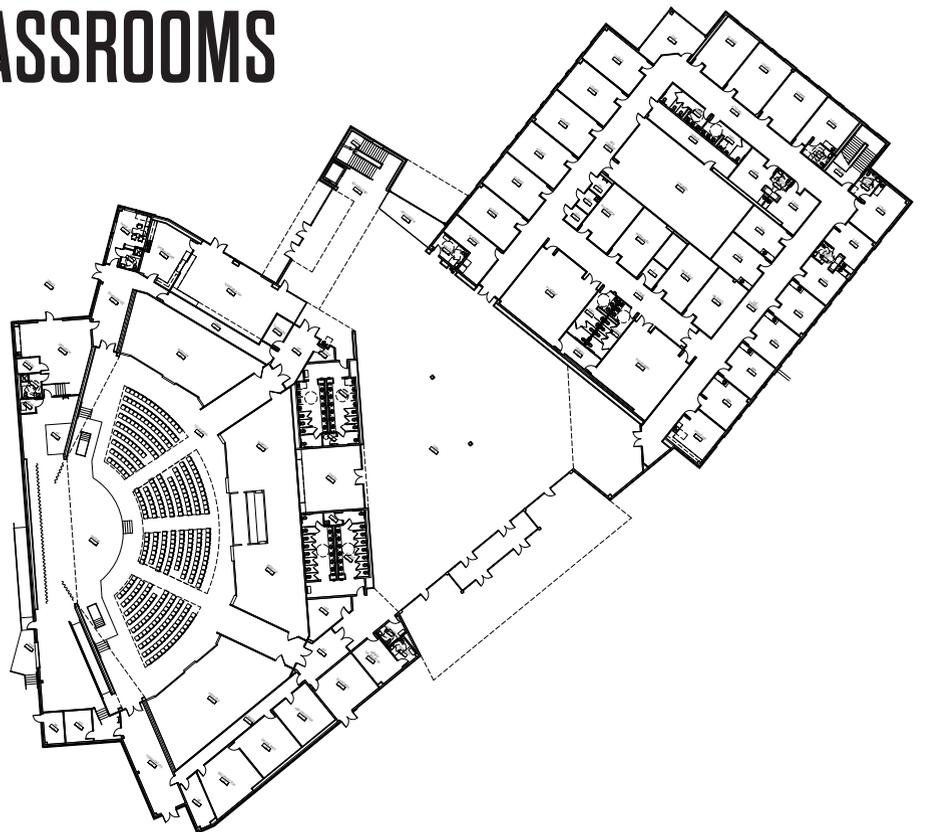
Over the next 2 years we will establish a new home and hub of Mercy Hill church on 23 acres in a central location in the Triad. This home and hub will be a launching pad for church plants, new campuses, seminary students, new residents, as well as host our broadcast campus.

- A hub that equips us to send out 25 church plants in the next 10 years
- A hub to build teams to plant campuses in new communities all over the Triad
- A larger home that allows us to grow more people through the Acts 2 Flywheel to go to the nations
- A broadcast location that strengthens the current campuses through resourcing



# ***THE RIDGE CAMPUS COMING FALL 2023***

- **23.1 ACRES**
- **81,000 SQ. FT. BUILDING**
- **11,500 SQ. FT. MAIN LOBBY AREA**
- **1,545 SEATS IN WORSHIP SPACE**
- **750+ ON-SITE PARKING SPACES**
- **25 KIDS CLASSROOMS**





\* renderings subject to change

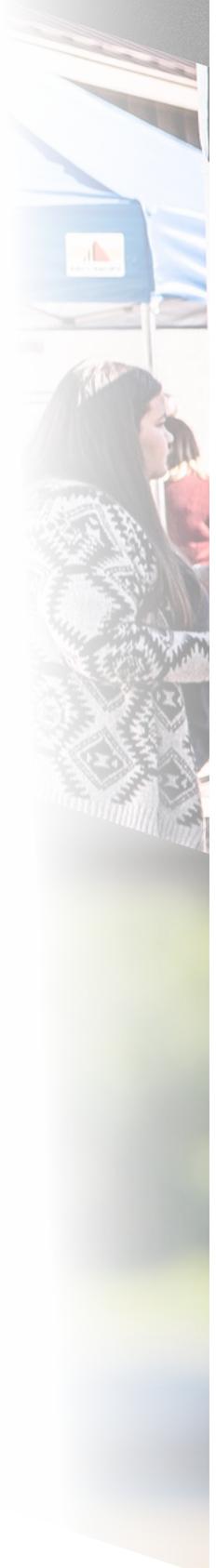


# ***DEEPER MISSION - \$5 MILLION***

## Through new mission opportunities...

We plan to deepen our mission efforts like funding more short-term mission trips, scaling adoption and foster care ministry, planting more campuses through mergers, scaling our worship culture, residency scholarships, and a deeper commitment to give towards international missions.

- Scale adoption and foster care ministry to support families and eventually empty the local foster care systems
- Seek opportunities to plant campuses through church mergers in strategic locations around the Triad
- Scale our worship ministry culture to raise up musicians, starting in student ministry, to lead Mercy Hill worship and be sent out to church plants all over the world
- Scholarship residents at Mercy Hill so that finances are never a hindrance from someone receiving theological and practical ministry training
- Send more finances towards strategic international missions partnerships to advance the mission to the ends of the earth





ServiceMASTER  
Clean









# Looking ahead...

What are you hoping God will do in our hearts as a church as we engage with the question of God being our deepest desire over the next two years?

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After reading about all that we are praying God will do through us to advance His mission in the next two years, what stands out as the most exciting to you? Why?

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What are you praying God will do in your heart and through your hands during the Deeper Initiative over the next two years?

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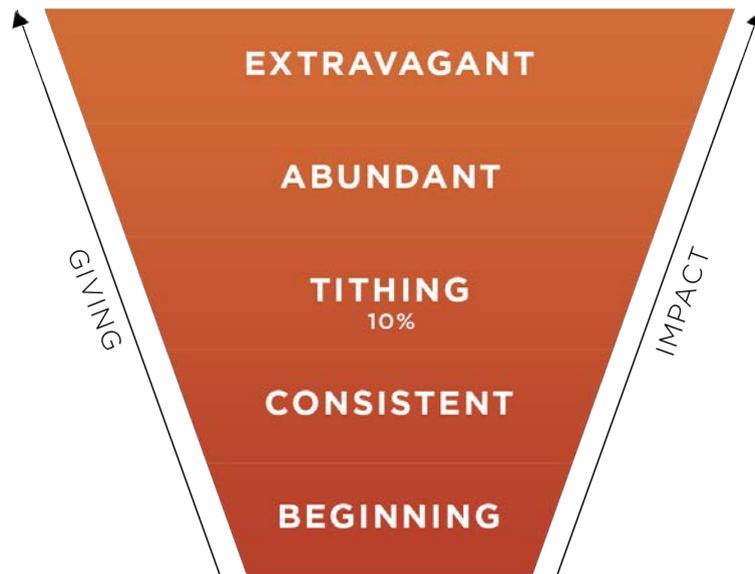
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# GENEROSITY PATHWAY

At Mercy Hill we want to equip you to grow in generosity. We've developed the generosity pathway to help you see where you are right now and create clear next steps for your growth. As we move from beginning givers towards extravagant givers, we not only increase our giving but also our kingdom impact.



## BEGINNING

Every journey begins with a first step. If you've never given before, take the first step on the Generosity Pathway by giving a gift today.

## CONSISTENT

If you have given something in the past, but are not giving regularly, your next step is to become a consistent giver. Paul tells the Corinthian church to set aside some money every week for generosity. Setting up a recurring gift is a great way to become a consistent giver.

## TITHING

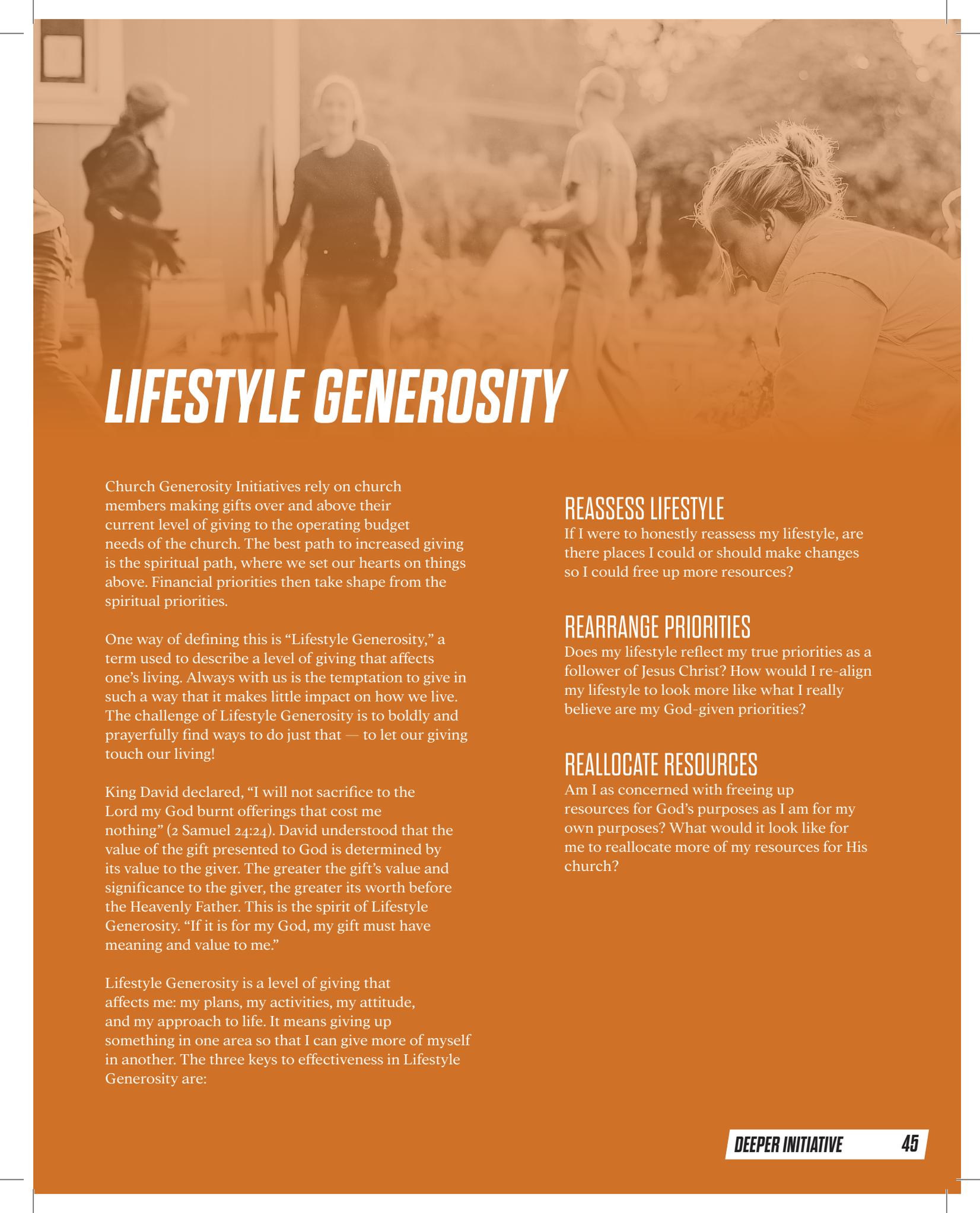
Simply put, tithing is giving the first 10% of everything God has given us back to God. Tithing is an important step that moves us from the act of giving towards a heart of true generosity.

## ABUNDANT

Abundant giving goes above and beyond what might be normal or expected. When we take a step into abundant giving, it looks like consistently giving above the tithe in a way that showcases the transforming work Jesus has done in our lives.

## EXTRAVAGANT

An extravagant giver lives a life that demonstrates that every single resource, financial or otherwise, is a gift from God and to be used for his glory. Taking a step into extravagant giving means there is nothing withheld, and every area of your life is freely and joyfully given for kingdom purposes.



# LIFESTYLE GENEROSITY

Church Generosity Initiatives rely on church members making gifts over and above their current level of giving to the operating budget needs of the church. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where we set our hearts on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from the spiritual priorities.

One way of defining this is “Lifestyle Generosity,” a term used to describe a level of giving that affects one’s living. Always with us is the temptation to give in such a way that it makes little impact on how we live. The challenge of Lifestyle Generosity is to boldly and prayerfully find ways to do just that — to let our giving touch our living!

King David declared, “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24). David understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver. The greater the gift’s value and significance to the giver, the greater its worth before the Heavenly Father. This is the spirit of Lifestyle Generosity. “If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me.”

Lifestyle Generosity is a level of giving that affects me: my plans, my activities, my attitude, and my approach to life. It means giving up something in one area so that I can give more of myself in another. The three keys to effectiveness in Lifestyle Generosity are:

## REASSESS LIFESTYLE

If I were to honestly reassess my lifestyle, are there places I could or should make changes so I could free up more resources?

## REARRANGE PRIORITIES

Does my lifestyle reflect my true priorities as a follower of Jesus Christ? How would I re-align my lifestyle to look more like what I really believe are my God-given priorities?

## REALLOCATE RESOURCES

Am I as concerned with freeing up resources for God’s purposes as I am for my own purposes? What would it look like for me to reallocate more of my resources for His church?



# ***WHAT IS A ONE FUND?***

You may have been a part of church-giving initiatives in the past during which you were asked to give a second gift “above and beyond” your usual gifts to make special initiatives like new buildings and new ministries possible.

Normally, you gave that gift to a “Building Fund” and you also continued to give offerings to the “General Fund.” At Mercy Hill, we believe that it is all one mission to make disciples and multiply churches. So we want to encourage all of us to unleash our generosity towards that mission.

The Deeper initiative will last for two years. In those two years, every gift that is given to Mercy Hill Church will go to the three key components of Deeper: Deeper Ministry, Deeper Multiplication, and Deeper Missions.

# TWO-YEAR GIVING CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool—let it be something that inspires and challenges you towards greater generosity for Kingdom impact as He works in and through you.

| GIFTS NEEDED | TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL | ANNUAL GIFT | MONTHLY GIFT | GIFT LEVEL TOTAL    |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1            | \$2,500,000         | \$1,250,000 | \$104,167    | \$2,500,000         |
| 1            | \$1,500,000         | \$750,000   | \$62,500     | \$1,500,000         |
| 2            | \$1,000,000         | \$500,000   | \$41,667     | \$2,000,000         |
| 4            | \$500,000           | \$250,000   | \$20,833     | \$2,000,000         |
| 5            | \$250,000           | \$125,000   | \$10,417     | \$1,250,000         |
| 7            | \$150,000           | \$75,000    | \$6,250      | \$1,050,000         |
| 15           | \$100,000           | \$50,000    | \$4,167      | \$1,500,000         |
| 18           | \$75,000            | \$37,500    | \$3,125      | \$1,350,000         |
| 25           | \$65,000            | \$32,500    | \$2,708      | \$1,625,000         |
| 45           | \$50,000            | \$25,000    | \$2,083      | \$2,250,000         |
| 80           | \$35,000            | \$17,500    | \$1,458      | \$2,800,000         |
| 95           | \$25,000            | \$12,500    | \$1,042      | \$2,375,000         |
| 125          | \$15,000            | \$7,500     | \$625        | \$1,875,000         |
| 175          | \$10,000            | \$5,000     | \$417        | \$1,750,000         |
| 225          | \$7,500             | \$3,750     | \$313        | \$1,687,500         |
| 275          | \$5,000             | \$2,500     | \$208        | \$1,375,000         |
| Many         | \$2,500             | \$1,250     | \$104        | \$1,112,500         |
|              |                     |             |              | <b>\$30,000,000</b> |

# COMMITMENT CARD

We've included a copy in this book so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God over these next two years. Please take time to think and pray through this, and then we will provide you with a new hard copy on **Commitment Weekend, November 10 + 13.**

 **DEEPER**

\$

+\$

=\$

What I/we would normally give in a year  
(regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)

My/Our expanded annual generosity as a  
part of the Deeper Initiative.

x 2 years →

\$

Gifts from my/our stored assets. +\$

**MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR DEEPER COMMITMENT**

\$

December 2022 - December 2024

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

CAMPUS

*He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

**PSALM 1:3**

# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Pray Expectantly

Pray Ephesians 3:20 alongside our leadership that God would do abundantly more than we can ask, think, or imagine during the Deeper Initiative.

## Commit Fully

Fully commit to what God wants to do in you and through you during this season in our church. Commit to do whatever God asks of you.

## Give Generously

Ask God to show you what it looks like to open your hands in a way that shows that God is your deepest desire. Ask God what it looks like to cheerfully give your first and best in this season.

## Lead Others

Encourage others in your sphere of influence to engage with the Deeper Initiative personally, and as a part of the church. Communicate your enthusiasm for all God is going to do in us and through us over the next few years.

Our prayer for you during this season is that you will go deeper with Jesus than you've ever gone before. As we begin the Deeper Initiative, we believe that each one of us will wrestle with the question, "Is God my deepest desire?" Our hope is that we will allow our roots to grow deep in Him and our fruit to go wide that many may know Him. Each week we will utilize this guide for sermon notes, personal study, and our community group guides. If you're not currently in a community group, go to [mercyhillchurch.com/community-groups](http://mercyhillchurch.com/community-groups) to join a group today.

## ***SERMON SERIES DATES***

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| W1   Desires Fulfilled  | 10/13 + 16 |
| W2   Deepest Desire     | 10/20 + 23 |
| W3   First Desire       | 10/27 + 30 |
| W4   Deepest Love       | 11/3 + 6   |
| W5   Deepest Commitment | 11/10 + 13 |

## ***KEY DATES***

### **ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT**

October 24, 2022

### **COMMITMENT WEEKEND**

November 10 + 13, 2022

**WEEK 1 | 10/13 + 16**

## “Desires Fulfilled”

### **PROVERBS 13:12**

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,  
but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.



Before starting this study, take a moment to sit quietly before the Lord. Open your Bible, clear your mind, and focus your thoughts on him.

Read Proverbs 13:12. Highlight words or phrases that stand out to you. What drew you to these words and why?

Write about a desire in your life that was fulfilled and/or a hope that was deferred. How did it mark your life?

Read through the following passages and write what the person in the passage was hoping in that was left unfulfilled:

Genesis 3:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_ (to be like God)

Genesis 25:29-34 \_\_\_\_\_ (birthright)

Acts 5:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_ (money)

Read Philippians 3:7-8. How does the gospel change what we desire?

How is Jesus calling you to go deeper with him this week?

## TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Repent of seeking other desires over him.

Thank him for fulfilling our true heart's desire in Jesus.

Ask him to help your life reflect him as your deepest desire.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,  
but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

- Proverbs 13:12

## Opening Question

What's the craziest/funniest thing you hoped for as a kid? Did it happen?



Scan for  
this week's  
video.

[deeper.mercyhillchurch.com](http://deeper.mercyhillchurch.com)

Below are the questions for discussion in community group this week. If you can, take some time to think through the questions before community group each week.

Read through Proverbs 13:12 together, share anything God is revealing to you through personal study or the sermon.

What stood out to you from the sermon and/or study this week?

Share briefly about a desire in your life that was fulfilled or a hope that was deferred. How did it mark your life?

What are the differences between hope in Christ and worldly hope?

How does the gospel change our desires?

## PRAY TOGETHER

Take time in prayer to confess to one another the things, other than God, that we tend to put our hope in. Pray for one another to seek God as our deepest desire.

**WEEK 2 | 10/20 + 23**

## “Deepest Desire”

### PSALM 1

Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.  
The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.



Before starting this study, take a moment to sit quietly before the Lord. Open your Bible, clear your mind, and focus your thoughts on him.

Read Psalm 1. Highlight words or phrases that stand out to you. What attracted you to these words and why?

In Psalm 1 we see that we live our lives out of our deepest desires. List and rank some of your deepest desires in life.

Our desires naturally take us deeper into whatever it is we desire. We meditate on what we desire, and we desire what we meditate on. List out the things that you spend most of your time meditating on. What does your list reveal about what you desire?

What are you putting your roots into? Where do you look for security for your present and future?

How is God calling you to go deeper in him this week? How is he calling you to lead others deeper?

## TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Take time to be with the Lord and listen to what he is inviting you to.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,  
but the companion of fools will suffer harm.  
- Proverbs 13:20

## Opening Question

If you could go anywhere or do anything what would it be?



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Below are the questions for discussion in community group this week. If you can, take some time to think through the questions before community group each week.

Read through Psalm 1 together, sharing anything God is revealing to you through personal study or the sermon.

What's a word or phrase that stood out to you from Psalm 1? Why?

Why does what we meditate on matter?

What are the types of things you meditate on and what does that reveal about your desires?

How could your life look different in a few weeks, or months, if you were to go deeper in rooting yourself in Christ? What fruit could He grow?

## PRAY TOGETHER

Take time in prayer to confess to one another the things we meditate on and desire more than Jesus. Pray for one another to seek God as our deepest desire.

**WEEK 3 | 10/27 + 30**

## “First Desire”

### **COLOSSIANS 1:15-23**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.



Before starting this study, take a moment to sit quietly before the Lord. Open your Bible, clear your mind, and focus your thoughts on him.

Read Colossians 1:15-23. Highlight words or phrases that stand out to you. What stood out to you and why?

What does it look like for Jesus to be first in our life?

In what ways could your life more reflect that Jesus is first?

Does your generosity reflect Jesus as first in your life? Practically speaking, does your generosity affect your saving and spending decisions or do the saving and spending decisions lead your giving?

## TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Take time to be with the Lord. Ask him to take you deeper in your trust of him and submission to him as first in every area of your life, including your finances.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

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

## Opening Question

First and Worst. In 90 seconds, share your first and/or worst experience of one of the following moments in your life: Going to the zoo/circus, event, new school/job, joining a sports team or club, or vacation to a new place.



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Below are the questions for discussion in community group this week. If you can, take some time to think through the questions before community group each week.

Read through Colossians 1:15-23 together, sharing anything God is revealing to you through personal study or the sermon.

What challenged you in the sermon this week?

Why is it important to start with the truth that Jesus is first, rather than how we may prioritize Him in our lives?

Does your giving reflect Jesus as first in your life? Practically speaking, does your generosity affect your saving and spending decisions or do your saving and spending decisions lead your giving?

What does it look like in your life to let your priority of Christ drive your finances?

## PRAY TOGETHER

Take time in prayer to confess to one another the things we are holding onto more than Jesus. Pray for one another to seek God as our deepest desire and for our generosity to reflect that.

# WEEK 4 | 11/3 + 6

## “Deepest Love”

### **DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5**

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.



Before starting this study, take a moment to sit quietly before the Lord. Open your Bible, clear your mind, and focus your thoughts on him.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Highlight words or phrases that stand out to you. What drew you to these words and why?

Why do you think God commands us to love him?

What promises do you see in Scripture for those who love the Lord?

Deuteronomy 7:9 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:3 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:33 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:5-11 says that we are, “alive to God in Jesus.” Why is it important that “because of the gospel, God sees us as being in Jesus?”

What the difference between living in gratitude from Jesus’ love rather than living for his love?

## TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Take time to be with the Lord. Thank him for his perfect love shown in Christ. Ask him to take you deeper into his love and to live your life in light of his great love.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus  
- 1 Timothy 2:5

## Opening Question

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?



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video.

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Below are the questions for discussion in community group this week. If you can, take some time to think through the questions before community group each week.

Read through Deuteronomy 6:4-5 together, sharing anything God is revealing to you through your personal study or the sermon.

What is the difference between Christian love and the love portrayed by the world?

How does the gospel change how we think about love? (Living to earn it or because its already been given?)

How does this gospel way of thinking about love change how we live?

## PRAY TOGETHER

Take time in prayer to confess to one another the areas we are seeking to gain love instead of resting in the love of Jesus. Pray for one another to seek God as our deepest desire and for the way we love to reflect that.

## WEEK 5 | 11/10 + 13

### “Deepest Commitment”

#### NUMBERS 13:25-33

At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.”

But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”



Before starting this study, take a moment to sit quietly before the Lord. Open your Bible, clear your mind, and focus your thoughts on him.

Read Numbers 13:25-33. Highlight words or phrases that stand out to you. What words caught your attention and why?

Why do the spies (other than Caleb) give a negative report?

What things does fear hold you back from?

Read 1 John 4:18 – How does the perfect love of Jesus affect how we make decisions in defining moments?

As you consider committing to live with God as your deepest desire, what are you praying God would do in and through you over the next two years?

## TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Thank him for his perfect love that casts out fear. Ask God to give you courage to trust him as your deepest desire. Pray for what he would do in your life and in our church in the coming years through the Deeper Initiative.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Commit your work to the LORD,  
and your plans will be established.  
- Proverbs 16:3

## Opening Question

What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?



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video.

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Below are the questions for discussion in community group this week. If you can, take some time to think through the questions before community group each week.

Read through Numbers 13:25-33 together, sharing anything God is revealing to you through your personal study or the sermon.

What things distract us from the work and power of God?

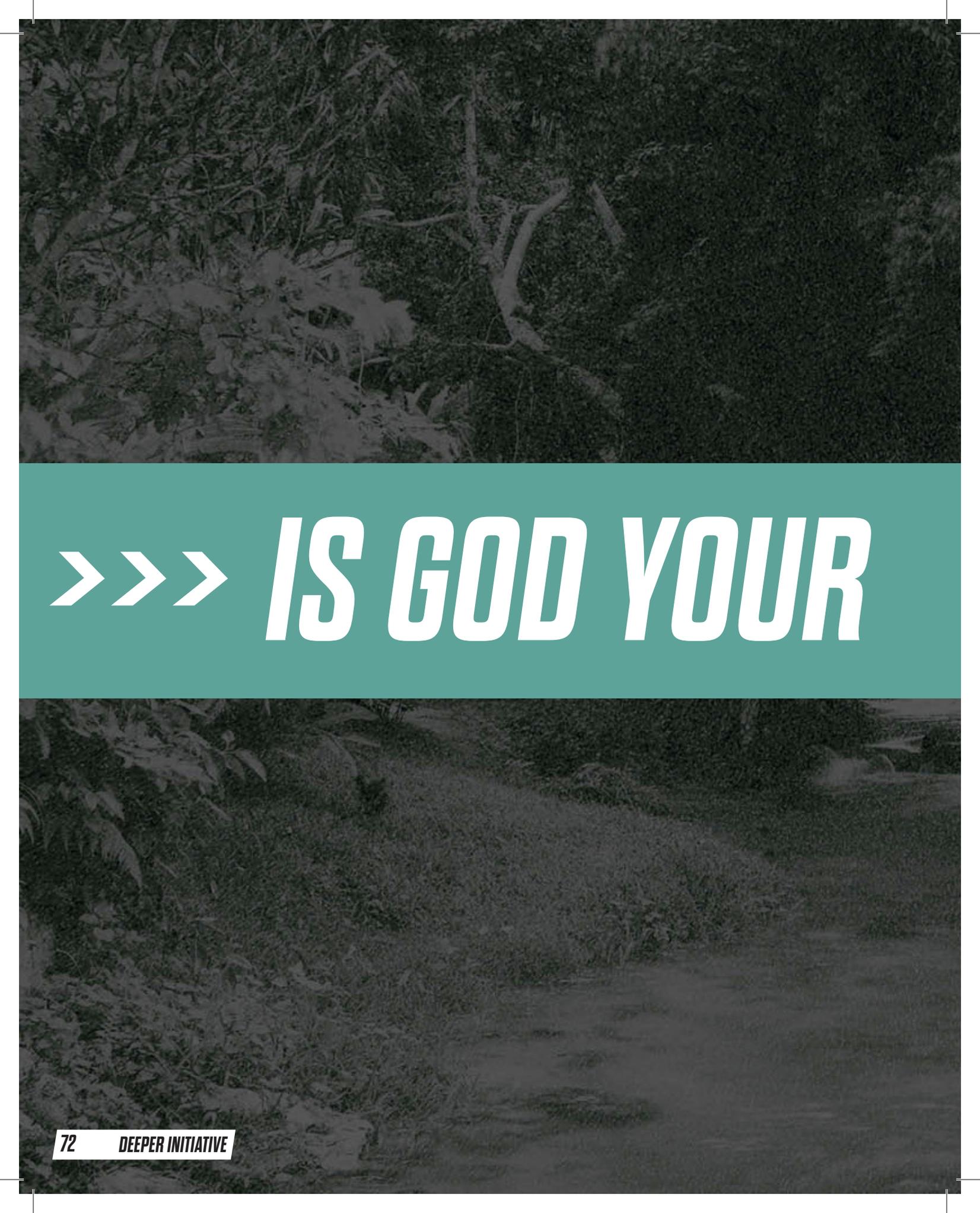
How does the gospel inform how we make decisions in defining moments?

What things are you praying for, personally, as you consider committing to go deeper with God over the next 2 years?

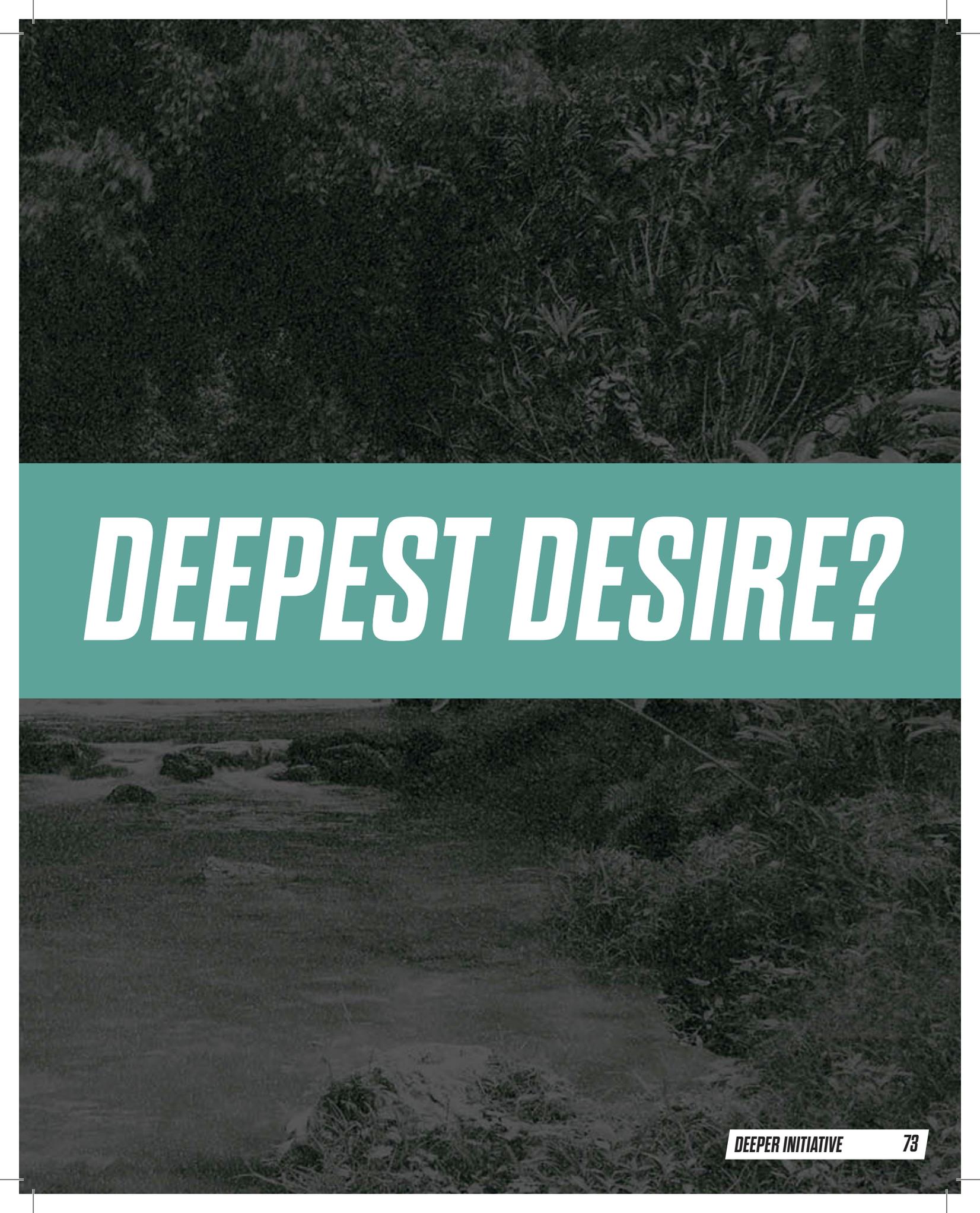
What things you are excited about for where we are heading as a church through Deeper?

## PRAY TOGETHER

Take time in prayer to confess to one another any struggles or fears with making a commitment. Encourage and pray for one another to seek God as our deepest desire and for the courage to commit to let our lives reflect him as our deepest desire.



**>>> IS GOD YOUR**



# *DEEPEST DESIRE?*

# FAQS

## What are you asking me to do?

Pray expectantly. We ask that you would pray that God would do abundantly more than we can ask, think, or imagine during the Deeper Initiative. This means for Mercy Hill as we cast vision, for you and your family. Pray that God will deepen your love and devotion to him through this initiative.

We are asking that we would see 100% engagement from our church. We want to see you and your family fully commit to what God wants to do in you and through you during this season at Mercy Hill.

Finally, ask God to show you what it looks like to open your hands in a way that shows that God is your deepest desire. Ask God what it looks like to cheerfully give your first and best in this season.

## How long is my commitment?

We are asking everyone to make a two-year commitment to Deeper. Your commitment will start December 1, 2022 with our first Big Give weekend and culminate on December 31, 2024.

## Are there additional ways besides cash that I can give to Deeper?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards Deeper. You may have stock, property, or other items of that nature. Or you may have some stored resources that God has blessed you with that He is calling you to give out during this time.

Please let us know if you need assistance in facilitating non-cash gifts. We would be happy to help you with that. You can contact our finance team through [info@mercyhillchurch.com](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.com).

## What if I've never given to Mercy Hill before?

Deeper is a great first step for you to start your giving journey at Mercy Hill. We believe that God calls us to give our first and best to him. At Mercy Hill, we consider this a 10% tithe. If this is your first time ever giving to Mercy Hill, this is your chance to join together with Mercy Hill as we take steps to go deeper in our giving for the sake of the Gospel.

## What if I'm new to Mercy Hill?

We are so glad you're here! Deeper is going to take our whole church on a journey to deepen our discipleship and desire for God. Whether you've been at Mercy Hill for 10 years or this is your first day, Deeper is for you. If you're ready to make Mercy Hill your home, participating in Deeper is a great way to go from being connected to the crowd to committed to the family.



