

GIVING GUIDE & WORKBOOK



MADERACHURCH

HOW DO I MAKE A FORWARD IN FAITH COMMITMENT?

THE PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE IS SIMPLE:

To help you prayerfully and creatively determine what God would have you give toward the Forward in Faith opportunity.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be faithful stewards of everything God has entrusted to us; that includes our time, talents, possessions, and financial resources. This guide focuses on our financial resources, but giving of our time, talents and possessions is also key to going forward in faith.

As **MADERA** CHURCH moves forward in building a permanent home for making disciples, each of us has an opportunity to participate in what God is doing.

This is not primarily about determining what the church needs from you, it is about asking:

"LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?"

We encourage you to pray, seek God's direction, and consider what a three-year faith commitment might look like for you and your family.

MANY BELIEVERS DISCOVER THAT GOD CAN DO FAR MORE THROUGH THEM THAN THEY ORIGINALLY IMAGINED WHEN THEY ARE WILLING TO TRUST HIM AND STEP **FORWARD IN FAITH**

THE 4 P'S OF A GOOD COMMITMENT

1

PRAYER | PRAYER STARTS IT ALL

Nothing prepares our hearts to respond to God like seeking His direction through prayer. Don't rush this process. Ask God to show you how He would have you participate.

2

PROPORTIONAL | GOD HAS ENTRUSTED DIFFERENT RESOURCES TO EACH HOUSEHOLD

The principle behind Forward in Faith is:

EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIFTS.

God is not comparing our gifts to one another. He is looking at the condition of our hearts and our willingness to trust Him.

3

PLEASING | NOT SIMPLY WHAT IS COMFORTABLE

Our goal is not to determine what is comfortable, our goal is to determine what is pleasing to God.

Ask yourself:

- Does this amount require me to trust God?
- Does this amount represent a genuine sacrifice?
- Does this amount express my gratitude for how Christ and His church have blessed my life and family?

4

PEACE | MOVE FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE

When we have sincerely sought God's direction, He often provides peace regarding our decision.

While a faith commitment may stretch us, we can move forward confidently knowing that we have sought to honor Him.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

MANY PEOPLE INITIALLY WONDER HOW THEY COULD POSSIBLY MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION. WITH **PRAYER, CREATIVITY, AND SACRIFICE**, MOST FAMILIES DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

1. PRIORITIZE

Rearrange your current spending priorities. Some families may choose to reduce discretionary spending in order to invest more significantly in God's work.

2. REDIRECT

Many expenses eventually come to an end. Car loans, educational expenses, or other temporary obligations may free up resources that can be redirected toward Forward in Faith.

3. INCREASE

Future raises, bonuses, commissions, or business income may provide opportunities for increased giving. Some families choose to dedicate a portion of future increases in income to kingdom purposes.

4. DONATE ASSETS

Appreciated assets such as stocks, real estate, business interests, or retirement assets may provide unique giving opportunities and potential tax advantages. Always consult your financial or tax advisor before making these gifts.

5. DELAY

Postponing a discretionary purchase can create significant giving capacity. A delayed vehicle purchase, vacation, remodeling project, or other major expense may allow resources to be redirected toward Forward in Faith.

6. GIVE FROM UNEXPECTED RESOURCES

Future inheritances, bonuses, asset sales, business proceeds, tax refunds, or other unexpected resources may provide opportunities for giving during the three-year commitment period. These ideas are not recommendations. They are simply possibilities to prayerfully consider.

WHAT COULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

EXAMPLE #1 | DELAYING A VEHICLE PURCHASE

An individual is planning to purchase a vehicle in 2027 with an expected payment of \$350 per month.

Instead, he decides to delay the purchase until after Forward in Faith.

- Redirected payment: $\$350 \times 36 \text{ months} = \$12,600$
- Initial gift from savings = \$2,000
- Additional faith gift over three years = \$1,500

TOTAL THREE-YEAR COMMITMENT: \$16,100

EXAMPLE #2 | A FAMILY WITH LIMITED MARGINS

A family realizes they spend approximately \$100 each week eating out.

After prayerful consideration they decide to:

- Eat out two fewer times per month
- Order water when dining out
- Commit a portion of a recent raise

Monthly impact:

- Reduced dining expenses = \$200
- Beverage savings = \$30
- Raise redirected to giving = \$75

Monthly Giving Capacity: \$305

Small changes, faithfully applied, can create a significant kingdom impact.

TOTAL THREE-YEAR COMMITMENT: \$10,980

EXAMPLE #3 | RETIREMENT ASSETS

Retired individuals often have unique opportunities for charitable giving.

If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from an eligible IRA to Madera Church.

Depending on your circumstances, this may provide meaningful tax advantages. Because retirement and tax situations vary significantly, please consult your tax professional or financial advisor before making a gift decision.

COMMITMENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ HAVE I PRAYED ABOUT IT?
- ☐ HAVE I CONSIDERED THE RESOURCES GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO ME?
- ☐ HAVE I CONSIDERED EXPENSES I CAN REDUCE OR REDIRECT?
- ☐ DOES THIS COMMITMENT STRETCH MY FAITH?
- ☐ CAN I MAKE THIS COMMITMENT WITH JOY RATHER THAN PRESSURE?

PRAYER NOTES/WHAT I SENSE GOD MAY BE SHOWING ME

MY GIVING POSSIBILITIES

SPENDING I COULD REDUCE

DINING OUT, SUBSCRIPTIONS, ENTERTAINMENT, TRAVEL, OR OTHER DISCRETIONARY SPENDING

EXPENSES THAT MAY END

LOANS, TUITION, CHILDCARE, OR OTHER TEMPORARY OBLIGATIONS

FUTURE INCOME

RAISES, BONUSES, COMMISSIONS, BUSINESS INCOME, OR OTHER INCREASES

ASSETS/OTHER RESOURCES

SAVINGS, APPRECIATED ASSETS, TAX REFUNDS, INHERITANCE, OR ASSET SALES

WHAT COULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

TOTAL COMMITMENT	APPROX. MONTHLY
\$1,800	\$50
\$3,600	\$100
\$9,000	\$250
\$15,000	\$417
\$24,000	\$667
\$30,000	\$833
\$51,000	\$1,417
\$75,000	\$2,083
\$100,000	\$2,778
\$150,000	\$4,167
\$300,000	\$8,333

THESE ARE EXAMPLES ONLY—NOT SUGGESTED GIVING LEVELS.

EVERY HOUSEHOLD'S CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DIFFERENT. WE ARE NOT ASKING EVERYONE TO GIVE THE SAME AMOUNT.

WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW GOD WANTS THEM TO PARTICIPATE.

MY FORWARD IN FAITH PLAN

WHAT COULD I GIVE NOW? \$ _____

WHAT COULD I GIVE MONTHLY?

\$ _____ X 36 MONTHS = \$ _____

WHAT EXPENSES MAY END DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS? \$ _____

COULD I REDIRECT FUTURE INCOME?

\$ _____

COULD I GIVE FROM AN ASSET OR OTHER RESOURCE?

\$ _____

TOTAL THREE-YEAR COMMITMENT I AM PRAYERFULLY CONSIDERING: \$ _____

TAKE THIS NUMBER TO PRAYER.

DON'T SIMPLY ASK: "CAN I AFFORD THIS?"

ALSO ASK:

"LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?"

MAKING YOUR COMMITMENT

MY FORWARD IN FAITH COMMITMENT

One-Time Gift: \$ _____

Approximate Monthly Gift: \$ _____

Three-Year Commitment: \$ _____

Anticipated First Gift: \$ _____

GIVING METHODS

☐

ONLINE

☐

CHECK

☐

APPRECIATED ASSETS

☐

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE
DISTRIBUTIONS (WHERE APPLICABLE)

VISIT

MADERACHURCH.ORG/FIF

FOR COMPLETE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS &
AVAILABLE GIVING OPTIONS

GO FORWARD IN FAITH

You may never know everyone who will benefit from your faithfulness:

- The children who will grow up here
- The marriages that will be strengthened
- The believer who will discover spiritual gifts and learn to serve
- The family who will find a church home
- The person who will hear the Gospel for the first time.

We give today because God has given us an opportunity to invest in what He will do tomorrow.

Pray.

Seek God.

Make your commitment.

Then move **FORWARD IN FAITH**

PRAYER

Father, this is a big step for us. Strengthen our faith and help us grow spiritually through giving. Thank You for all You have given us. Help us to be cheerful givers and to trust Your promises. Use this opportunity for Your glory and for the growth of Your church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT? PICK UP THE **FORWARD IN FAITH: VISION** BROCHURE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BUILDING PROJECT, MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES, AND LONG-TERM VISION FOR MADERA CHURCH.

JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 7

Forward in Faith Teaching Series

FEBRUARY 7

Commitment Sunday

MARCH 7

First Forward in Faith Gift

KEY DATES