BEYOND

For all generations

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNAL



Now to Him who is able to do ABOVE and BEYOND all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21 (CSB)



This Belongs To

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LETTER FROM PASTOR STEPHEN

Orchard Family,

When we say “YES” to Jesus, He always calls us into a future that is “BEYOND” what we could ask, think, or imagine.

The Orchard Church’s journey began long before its launch in October 2020. It began with the “YES,” prayers, and sacrifices of a small group of believers in 1990 who formed a small church. Then, the power of “YES” grew as another church came along in 2014 to support and strengthen the church, preparing us to launch The Orchard Church in 2020.

In the last six years, we have witnessed exponential growth including salvations, baptisms, and disciples. We’ve seen prayers asked and answered, miracles, provision, signs, and wonders. Yet, with all of the stories of God’s goodness and his provision in the past, I’ve never been more excited about what He is going to do through you and me—The Orchard Church—in the days to come as we go “BEYOND” our abilities and our community, for all generations in the name of Jesus.

My prayer is that every member of The Orchard Church will participate by giving our “YES” to Jesus for the building up of his church so we may continue in our purpose to make disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Together,

Dr. Stephen T. Buys
Lead Pastor The Orchard Church

Now to Him who is able to do ABOVE and BEYOND all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 (CSB)



WHAT IS THE BEYOND INITIATIVE?

You have undoubtedly heard of church capital campaigns, debt retirement campaigns, and giving campaigns. We chose to approach this as a giving initiative. What's the difference? A giving initiative isn't about a building: it is about building faith in each one of us and the Kingdom of Jesus among us. A stronger faith, a deeper trust, and a greater sacrifice will result in a more mature church with the needed resources and facilities to continue to live out our mission, "to be the church to the community."

This initiative is meant to initiate something new inside of each one of us as we join together in the continuation of a great work into which God has invited us. Over the next three years, God will take each of us BEYOND ourselves into the community and across generations both today and in the future as we accomplish the Great Commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ in our community, region, nation, and world.

As we endeavor to go BEYOND together, our prayer is also that your faith will grow as you begin to pray about your commitment, and that you will say "yes" to God's next step for you. We've included a copy of a Giving Guide in the back of this journal for your reference. We'll provide you with a new, hard copy on Commitment Sunday, November 15.

BEYOND ourselves. BEYOND our church. BEYOND our community. BEYOND our generation.

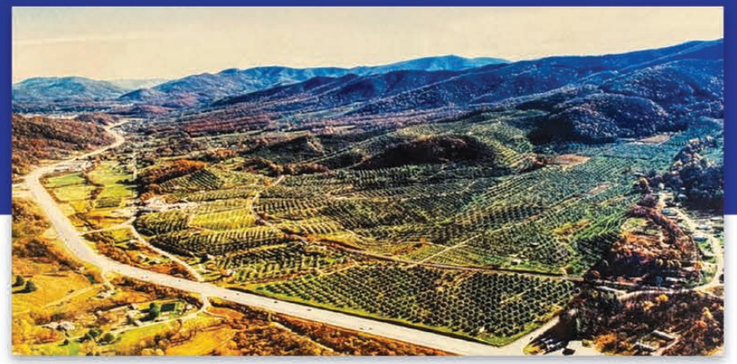
Numbers to Date Through September 2026

Waynesville Campus
882 Salvations
317 Baptisms
951 New Members
$1,971,751.97 given to outreach partners
22 planned mission trips

West Ashville Campus
48 Salvations
68 Recommitments
81 New Members
32 Baptisms

Hazelwood Baptist Church
Over one year of leadership consulting, prayer, program training, financial assistance, and hiring staff

Because of this – it is time to go *BEYOND!*







HISTORY

1985:

- The land itself was the largest apple orchard east of the Mississippi River.

1990-99:

- 99 people met at Bobbie Ann's Fish House to form Rehoboth Baptist Church.

1991:

- Rehoboth meets at the warehouse behind Western Steer Steak House.
- February 23rd, Rehoboth purchased their first building in Clyde, the former Mormon Building.
- March 10th, the first worship service is held in the new building.

1993:

- March 21st, the search for land and a temporary location began as the church was at 80% capacity.
- April 18th, the building fund for a new location was established unanimously.
- October 19th, was voted into the Haywood Baptist Association as members.

1994:

- January 30th, Clyde "Little Gym" has been secured as a temporary facility to gather
- April 3rd negotiations for renting the Bank Building, once school begins, for another temporary space to gather.
- August 28th, a lease from Haywood County Schools was secured for the use of Clyde Elementary auditorium, cafeteria and Little Gym.
- A lease agreement from the City of Clyde was secured for 14 Broad Street for an Educational Building.

1996:

- October 20th, a unanimous vote of 134-0 was made to purchase the ten acres in the Barber's Orchard.
- November 4th, the closing for that property was held.

1997:

- February 23rd, the building committee was established.

1998:

- January 25th, architectural plans were approved and construction phases would be conducted on a debt free basis.

2004:

- Rehoboth Ground Breaking.

2005:

- The current downstairs facility was completed debt-free.



2014:

- Rehobeth Baptist Church joined Lake Hills Church as a satellite campus.

2018:

- Completed the upstairs worship center as a campus of Lake Hills Church.

2020:

- (Spring) - The Orchard Church was named through prayer, deliberation, and fasting.
- (Fall) - Launched as The Orchard Church on October 11, 2020 with 125 charter members.
- (Winter) - Paid off $486,000 in debt in just 6 weeks on December 13, 2020.

2021:

- Developed a 5-year vision plan called Our Vision Pursuit with vision, mission, purpose, priorities, and values for The Orchard Church.
- (Fall) - expansion of parking lot.
- October 19th, was voted into the Haywood Baptist Association as members.

2022 :

- Purchased The Orchard Church offices and began renovation process due to rapid growth.





2023:

- Expanded worship center to maximum capacity of 500 seats.

2024:

- Expanded Kids and PreK space.
- (Winter) - Long Range Planning Team, Finance Team, and Staff began research for land and space for expansion.

2025:

- Completed The Orchard Church Vision Pursuit in less than 5 years.
- Replanted a church in West Asheville called The Orchard Church West Asheville.
- Partnered in revitalization of Hazelwood Baptist Church.
- Launched an internship and residency program for aspiring ministers and pastors.
- 4 neighboring properties became available for purchase.
- (Fall) - Celebrated 5-year anniversary as The Orchard Church with 516 salvations, 234 baptisms, 696 members, and more than $1,000,000 dollars given to missions and sending and 1024 in attendance!
- Long Range Planning Team, Finance Team, Construction Team, and staff began building planning and development.

2026 :

- January - Exceeded 1,000 in physical attendance on multiple Sundays.
- Acquired 4 neighboring properties, providing needed acreage for facility expansion.
- It's time to go BEYOND!







SOME OF OUR MINISTRIES

Prayer: Matthew 21:13, “My house will be called a house of prayer.” The Orchard Church embraces this calling, intentionally focusing on prayer as a central part of our ministry.

Worship: At The Orchard Church, we strive to live out Psalm 29:2, ascribing glory to the Lord for who He is and what He has done.

Life Groups: Life Groups are the center point of discipleship at The Orchard Church. Life Groups are how a big church stays a small church. These smaller groups foster deeper community within our church and provide a space for people to use their gifts, talents, and abilities to build up the body of Christ.

Discipleship: Jesus’ last command was to go make disciples of all nations, so it is our first priority. That’s why our purpose is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ according to Matthew 28:18-20. At The Orchard Church, we offer discipleship ministries for multiple generations and seasons of life, including kids, students, men, women, and senior adults.

Men’s: Many men long for authentic godly friendships, brothers who will stand with them through life’s storms, listen without judgment, and celebrate their victories. Orchard Men’s Ministry is a place to find that kind of community. Together we encourage, challenge, disciple and grow into the men God has called us to be.

Women’s: Through the study of the Word, connecting to our Creator through prayer, and fellowship with other women, we purpose to set our faith in action. We learn to fully embrace the love of God in our own hearts first, then to influence others for Kingdom impact.

Seniors: Whether you’re married, single, or widowed, we invite senior adults to connect, grow in faith, and enjoy fellowship together. Our gatherings include devotionals, prayer, and sharing life experiences to support one another through challenging seasons.

NextGen Students: Orchard Students exists as a Christ-centered community for 6th-12th grade students where they can know they belong as they learn about Jesus’ love for them and how to live according to the truth of God’s Word.

PreK & Kids: The heart of Orchard PreK & Kids Ministry is to partner with families in helping children build a strong foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Grounded in Scripture and guided by Christ’s example, our desire is to inspire and equip kids to know, love, and follow Jesus through a deep understanding of God’s Word.







Mosaic: Mosaic Ministry is specifically designed to minister and support any individual with special needs alongside their family at The Orchard Church.

Orchard College: For those who are 18-24 years old. Whether you are starting to build your future, in college, working, or unsure of what's ahead, this is your place to find community and grow in your walk with Jesus.

Missions & Sending: Sending is one of our four priorities, and our strategy is shaped by the concentric pattern described in Acts 1:8. We are on mission in our community, our region, our nation, and our world by raising interns and residents, as well as building sending partnerships to reach every one of those spheres.

The Orchard Church Residency: A 40- to 52-week paid training program designed to equip future pastors, missionaries, and ministry leaders. Residents gain hands-on ministry experience, intentional mentorship, and leadership development while serving in the local church. This program is ideal for those with a clear call to ministrys.

The Orchard Church Internship: A hands-on opportunity to dive into ministry. Whether you're serving in worship, youth, kids, communications, or another area, you'll gain real experience while helping us be the church to our community.

Connections: From the first smile in the parking lot to the people serving behind the scenes, each person plays a part in creating a place where others can feel welcomed, known, and connected.

Care: Our Care Ministry exists to walk alongside our church family in life's most difficult seasons of illness, loss, crisis, and hardship, offering prayer, presence, and practical support so no one has to walk through it alone.

Counseling: Orchard Counseling is a ministry of The Orchard Church that consists of a team of lay counselors who provide biblically-based services and 12-step programs to individuals, couples, and families.

PLACE: PLACE Ministry at The Orchard Church helps you uncover your God-given gifts, passions, and personality, so you can live out your purpose and serve others in a way that reflects how God uniquely created you.

Because of this – it is time to go *BEYOND!*



INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

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

OUR PRIMARY GOAL – 100% Participation

Our primary goal for the BEYOND Initiative is that everyone, from all generations, will engage in this journey and participate with radical generosity and sacrifice as we grow individually and collectively. It is not the gift amount that matters to God, but rather the obedience that God desires.

In this journey, we invite you to position your heart and mind toward these principles:

Align Your Heart With God's Heart

God has chosen to use The Orchard Church as a vital instrument of this eternal mission: 1 Timothy 2:3-4 says, "This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Say "Yes"

When we own the mission, we say "yes" in obedience and faith, without skepticism or spectating. We ask that you submit your heart, treasure, and obedience to the Lord. 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each person should give as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Equal Sacrifice Not Equal Gifts

God is the owner of all things. We look at what He has entrusted to us and don't ask, "What should we give?" The right question is, "What should we keep?" Let's be a people that gives sacrificially in accordance with His good pleasure.

Generational Legacy

We are standing on the shoulders of the spiritual prayers and sacrifices of the generations before us. Let's not just be the inheritors of a great heritage, but builders of a legacy that paves the way for our children, for generations to come.



SECONDARY GOAL – $12,000,000

When God's people unite in faith and generosity, He accomplishes extraordinary things. Seating capacity increases sending capacity. We must increase our facilities as we continue to train and deploy ambassadors for Christ. Just as the Israelites gave willingly and sacrificially to build the first temple (1 Chr. 29), and the early church gave generously and sacrificially for the equipping of the first church (2 Cor. 9), we are asking you to give toward the $12 million needed to:

Build a New Worship Space
Approximately 1,200 seats for more people to gather, worship, and be equipped with the Gospel.

Build a New Lobby/Entry Space
This new expansive space will create a welcoming environment for building relationships and multipurpose use throughout the week.

Build a Kitchen and Café
The kitchen and cafe will serve to host ministry events on Sundays and throughout the week for The Orchard Church and other ministries and organizations.

Build New Multipurpose Rooms for Discipleship
These spaces will be used to express discipleship through equipping, support groups, life groups, and ministry.

Increase Parking and Improved Traffic Flow
The new and improved traffic flow, including more entrances and exits, and parking will support the building capacity, creating more space for guests to be welcomed and discipled.

Repurpose Current Worship Space for Multi-Generational Ministry
We are committed to creating environments for every generation including PreK, Kids, Students, College, and Adults.

Update/Expand Kids and Pre-K Ministry Space
The current space used for Kids and PreK ministry was once used to house the entire church. Now, it's used to serve 175+ children each week. It will be improved for even greater security, safety, and additional facilities needed to minister to as many children, including a new and closer playground area fit for kids of all ages.



New Worship Center

- Acquisition of neighboring properties
- Expansion of the gravel parking areas
- Civil engineering, stormwater, septic, and other site-preparation work
- Construction of the new worship center seating approximately 1,200 people with a gallery for discipleship and fellowship, backstage storage, restroom facilities, and ministry rooms
- Construction of the second-level mezzanine shell for future ministry use



Connection with Existing Facility

- Connector addition to existing facility that will include a welcome center, new restrooms
- Addition of an expanded kitchen and pantry coffee bar
- A new nursing mothers' room
- Additional ministry/meeting rooms
- Construction of outdoor walkways and covered portico with large entries



Updated Multi-Generational Space

- Improve current worship center for Student Ministry and multi-generational use
- Dedicated environments for every generation
- Improvements to current Kids and PreK spaces
- Enclosure of the exisiting covered portico/entrance to create a Next Gen Lobby
- Improved security measures throughout the existing facility



NEXT STEPS

BE YOU *BEYOND* YOU

PRAY FAITHFULLY

Pray that God will work in your heart first, then in the hearts of all the people of The Orchard Church, so that we will listen and obey.

COMMIT FULLY

Help us reach our goal of 100% participation by putting your "yes" on the table and encouraging others to do the same.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

Live and give in a way that stretches you and takes your faith to a whole new level.

CELEBRATE LOUDLY

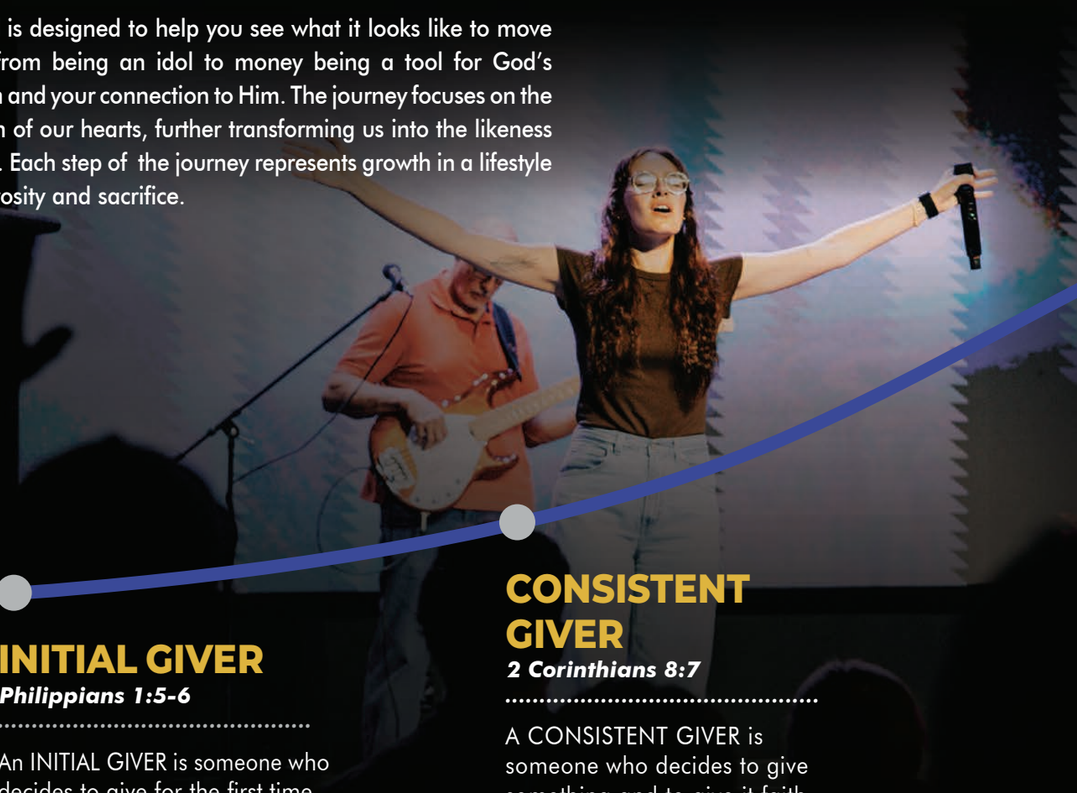
God will do amazing things in your life during this season, and we want you to champion His blessings enthusiastically with those around you.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 (ESV)

GENEROSITY JOURNEY

This tool is designed to help you see what it looks like to move money from being an idol to money being a tool for God's kingdom and your connection to Him. The journey focuses on the condition of our hearts, further transforming us into the likeness of Christ. Each step of the journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice.



INITIAL GIVER

Philippians 1:5-6

An INITIAL GIVER is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's work in their lives and His instructions about giving. This is someone who chooses to give something and trust God and the leaders of their local church with this gift.

CONSISTENT GIVER

2 Corinthians 8:7

A CONSISTENT GIVER is someone who decides to give something and to give it faithfully on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving. Often, someone who chooses to make their gift a "recurring gift" will be someone who is learning the discipline of consistency.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

Luke 14:28-30

An INTENTIONAL GIVER is someone who thinks about and prioritizes their giving in relation to their other financial priorities. This giver starts to make their giving to God's Church an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize it in relation to other things on which they spend their money.

SURRENDERED GIVER

Colossians 1:15-20

A SURRENDERED GIVER is someone who recognizes the power of the Gospel and has surrendered 100% of their resources toward honoring God 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. The Surrendered Giver isn't just concerned with what they ARE giving but is more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why. They seek to honor God with ALL He has given them, whether that means direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of their existing resources.

ETERNAL GIVER

1 Timothy 6:6-19

An ETERNAL GIVER is someone who is thinking about the longer-term impacts of generosity rather than just their short-term month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. An Eternal Giver makes decisions in the short term that have long-term effects as they relate to their generosity and 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 and their ability to "store up treasure" there, putting their hope in God and not in things of this earth.



BEYOND GIVING INITIATIVE

What God desires to do through the BEYOND Initiative will begin with prayer and be completed through our obedience, just as the generations before us. Now, we invite you into that same practice as we respond to the very real need before us as we prepare to go BEYOND us, especially unto the coming generations. As you pray and ask for God's direction on what He would have you give, please consider using this guide that spurs you on toward greater generosity and sacrifice as we seek to go BEYOND for Jesus.

We ask for you to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God over the next three years. Please take time to think and pray, and then we will provide you with a new hard copy card on Commitment Sunday, November 15th.

Over the next three years I/we make a faith commitment of:

$ _____ **First Fruits Offering** on Sunday, December 6, 2026

Plus a 3-year commitment of:

$ _____ **Weekly** for 156 weeks (3 years)

$ _____ **Monthly** for 36 months (3 years)

$ _____ **Annually** for 3 years

$ _____ **Asset Gift** (approx. value)

Examples: Stocks, Bonds, Securities, Charitable Trusts, Personal Property, Appreciated Real Estate, Paid-Up Insurance Policies

For a total of:

$ _____

to The Orchard Church in support of the BEYOND Initiative.

Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Contributions to the BEYOND Initiative will begin Fall 2026 and continue through Fall 2029. The three-year initiative will launch on Sunday, December 6, 2026, when we bring our First Fruits Offering. This commitment is above and beyond your current tithes and offerings to The Orchard Church.

FAQS

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?
Pray, seek God's leading, commit to what He asks of you, and join us in the journey. Attend the six-week BEYOND series (October–November, 2026), engage in a small or life group environment, reflect on weekly sermons using the Discipleship Journal, and share why you are committing to support the BEYOND initiative with family and friends.

HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?
Your commitment is intended to be for three years, from fall 2026, to fall 2029. Anyone is also invited to join the initiative at any point over the next three years.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MY GIVING TO OTHER FUNDS?
BEYOND is a giving initiative, meaning that all commitments and gifts to the BEYOND Initiative are considered separate from, above, and BEYOND usual tithes and offerings. In addition, we ask you to continue to give tithes and offerings to The Orchard Church to support the mission, ongoing ministry, sending, and outreach.

WHY NOW?
Our community and church is growing significantly, and we have a unique opportunity in this season to expand our resources and capacity to reach more people for the Kingdom of Jesus.

HOW LONG HAS THE PLANNING FOR THIS PROJECT BEEN GOING?
A group of church leaders began dreaming, praying, researching, and planning in the summer of 2022. In 2024, our Long Range Planning Team believed that we would need to consider relocation as a result of our growth. Then, God provided the opportunity to acquire the four neighboring properties, allowing for the needed land to expand our facilities and parking at our current location.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR THIS INITIATIVE?
Proverbs 11:14 says "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." The following leadership teams and ad hoc teams have contributed years of prayer, research, and planning to lead us to this current state including: Long Range Planning Team, Pastoral Team, Finance Team, Construction Team, Building Team, and the Fundraising Team, along with a number of experienced professionals for a total of more than 50 people.

IF GIVING IS A MATTER BETWEEN YOU AND GOD, WHY DO WE ASK YOU TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A COMMITMENT CARD?
We recognize that we are to trust God for everything in our lives, including the financial resources to care for his church. We also know it is important to plan ahead. Your commitment allows us to make plans with respect to cash-flow, expenses, and constructibility, being good stewards of the resources with which God entrusts to us.

HOW ELSE CAN I GIVE?
Giving of time, talents, and treasures are all biblical mandates from Jesus himself, as He said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19-20). The promise of treasures in heaven are directly related to the seeds we plant in this life for the harvest in eternity. Monthly commitments are beneficial in our regular budgeting and operating costs. As the Lord leads, you can also give from "stored resources" like stocks, living wills property, or other assets.

WHAT IF I'VE NEVER GIVEN BEFORE?
The BEYOND Initiative is designed for everyone, whether you're a first-time giver or already committed. Every dollar given over the next three years to the BEYOND Initiative will fuel this initiative. We can't think of a better time to start.

WHAT IF I'M NEW TO THE ORCHARD CHURCH?
No matter how long you've been here, BEYOND is an opportunity to grow in your faith, connect with the heart of God, and join the mission of The Orchard Church.

WHAT IF I'M IN DEBT?
If you're paying off debt, focus on financial health while seeking ways to give as God leads. We can connect you with financial planning and budgeting resources if needed.

WHAT IF I'M A STUDENT OR ON A FIXED INCOME?
Generosity isn't about the amount; it's about the heart. Give as God leads, and trust that every contribution matters to Him and to us.



Devotional Week 1

BEYOND the Shore

OCTOBER 11

Luke 5:1-11 ESV

1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he
was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the
fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of
the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat
down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he
said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon
answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down
the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their
nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help
them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when
Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful
man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that
they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners
with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching
men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Going BEYOND

1. The sermon reminded us, “Today, we’re living in someone else’s BEYOND.” Who are some people whose faith, sacrifice, obedience, or generosity helped make your current walk with Jesus possible? How does remembering their “BEYOND” challenge the way you think about your own?
2. Jesus asked Simon to offer what was already in his hands — his boat — before Simon ever saw the miracle. What has God already placed in your life that He may be asking you to make available to Him? Consider your time, home, finances, influence, gifts, relationships, experience, or availability.
3. Peter’s experience told him that deep-water, daytime fishing did not make sense, but Jesus still said, “Put out into the deep.” Where might Jesus be asking you to obey His word over your own experience, expertise, comfort, or assumptions?
4. The catch was so large that the nets began breaking and the boats began sinking, and others had to come help. The sermon connected this to the need for everyone’s active participation in what God is doing. Where do you sense God calling you to move from watching, hearing, or benefiting to actively participating?

Apply

- **Name your “boat.”** Write down one thing God has already placed in your hands that you can make available to Him during this BEYOND Initiative.
- **Take one “at Your word” step**. Identify one act of obedience you believe Jesus is asking of you, even if it stretches your comfort, schedule, assumptions, or resources.
- **Pray about your participation.** Ask God how He wants you to move from simply living in someone else’s “BEYOND” to helping create a “BEYOND” for future generations.

My Prayer



Devotional Week 2

BEYOND the Storm

OCTOBER 18

Matthew 8:23-27 ESV

23And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” 26And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

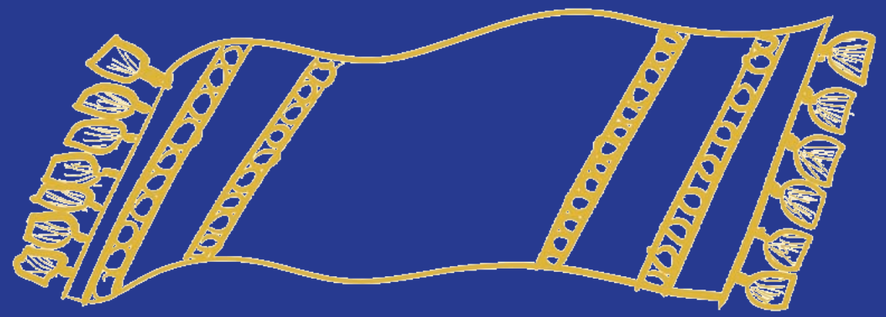
Going BEYOND

1. What familiar place, comfortable rhythm, or safe assumption might Jesus be asking you to move BEYOND in this season?
2. Go back a little further and read the preceding verses to this story in Matthew 8:19-22. Consider the difference between the scribe who talked about following Jesus and the disciples who actually got into the boat. Where is there a gap between what you say you believe and what you are actually doing in obedience?
3. How do you normally respond when obedience leads to difficulty? Are you tempted to think, "If God is in this, why is it so hard?" How does this passage challenge that assumption?
4. The sermon asked, "How many of us are trusting God for our circumstances when we should be trusting God with and in our circumstances?" What current storm, pressure, fear, or uncertainty do you need to trust Jesus with right now?

Apply

- **Get in the boat.** Identify one specific way you need to move from intention to participation in this BEYOND Initiative: praying, serving, giving, inviting, encouraging, leading, or making room for others.
- **Name the storm.** Write down one storm you are facing and pray the disciples' prayer: "Save us, Lord." Then ask Jesus to help you trust Him with and in that circumstance.
- **Look toward the other side.** Make a list of people who may be reached, discipled, welcomed, or served because our church chooses to go BEYOND comfort and convenience.

My Prayer



Devotional Week 3

BEYOND the Mat

OCTOBER 25

Matthew 9:1-8

1 And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. 2 And behold, some
people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he
said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” 3 And behold, some of
the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” 4 But Jesus, knowing their
thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, ‘Your
sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man
has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—”Rise, pick up your
bed and go home.” 7 And he rose and went home. 8 When the crowds saw it, they were
afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Going BEYOND

1. Who are some people God used to pray for you, invite you, encourage you, teach you, challenge you, or carry you toward Jesus when you could not get there on your own?
2. What obstacles often keep you from carrying people to Jesus? Consider fear, busyness, inconvenience, awkwardness, cost, pride, or the assumption that "someone else will do it."
3. Jesus saw the faith of the paralyzed man's friends and first gave the man courage, belonging, and forgiveness before He gave him physical healing. How does this challenge the way you think about people's deepest needs? Are you more likely to focus on visible problems or eternal needs?
4. The man walked out carrying the very mat that once carried him. What part of your story once represented weakness, brokenness, shame, or need—but could now become a testimony of God's power?

Apply

- **Name your mat carrier.** Write down the names of people God used to carry you toward Jesus. Thank God for them, and consider sending one of them a note of gratitude.
- **Pick up a corner.** Identify one person in your life who needs to be carried toward Jesus through prayer, invitation, encouragement, service, generosity, or persistent love.
- **Refuse to be a spectator.** Choose one specific way to participate in becoming a church full of mat carriers during the BEYOND Initiative.

My Prayer



Devotional Week 4

BEYOND the Basket

NOVEMBER 1

Matthew 14:13-21

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by
himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.
14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and
healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This
is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages
and buy food for themselves.” 16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them
something to eat.” 17 They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” 18 And
he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass,
and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing.
Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them
to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full
of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men,
besides women and children.

BEYOND the Basket

Going BEYOND

1. Most people don't struggle believing God can do great things—they struggle believing God can do great things through them. Where have you been tempted to believe that what you have to offer is too small to matter?
2. The disciples focused on what they lacked, but the little boy simply offered what he had. Are you more likely to focus on what you don't have or to surrender what you do have? What "basket" has God already placed in your hands?
3. The sermon said, "The miracle began when someone stopped focusing on what was missing and offered what was available." What is one area of your life that you need to stop withholding and start surrendering to Jesus?
4. Consider this statement: "The miracle was never in the basket. The miracle was in the hands that held it." How does that truth encourage you as you pray about your role in God's work through The Orchard Church?

Apply

- **Spend time this week thanking God** for what He has already placed in your hands instead of focusing on what you wish you had.
- **Identify one area of your life**—your time, gifts, finances, influence, or abilities—that you need to intentionally place in Jesus' hands.
- **Pray that God would use** your surrendered "basket" to bless others and make an eternal difference for future generations.

My Prayer



Devotional Week 5

BEYOND the Boat

NOVEMBER 8

Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other
side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went
up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but
the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was
against them. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the
sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said,
“It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying,
“Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” 28 And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command
me to come to you on the water.” 29 He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and
walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid,
and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” 31 Jesus immediately reached out
his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped
him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

BEYOND the Boat

Going BEYOND

1. Jesus called Peter BEYOND the safety of the boat. What "boat" in your life feels safe, familiar, or comfortable, but may now be keeping you from following Jesus where He is calling you?
2. Peter's request revealed both doubt and faith: "Lord, if it is You...command me to come." Faith is not the absence of doubt, but rather it is obedience in the middle of doubt. Where are you allowing doubt to keep you from obeying Jesus? How might you begin to leverage your doubt into faith instead?
3. Peter began to sink when his attention shifted from Jesus to the effects of the storm. What circumstances, fears, or distractions most often pull your eyes away from Jesus? How can you intentionally keep your focus on Him this week?
4. The sermon concluded by reminding us that the goal is not the miracle—the goal is worship. How has God used a difficult season, an act of obedience, or even a failure to deepen your worship and dependence on Christ?

Apply

- **Identify your boat.** Write down one area where Jesus is calling you to move BEYOND comfort, fear, or control.
- **Take your next step.** Choose one specific act of obedience this week that reflects Jesus' invitation to "Come."
- **Pray "Lord, save me."** Whenever fear or doubt begins to rise this week, turn your attention back to Jesus with Peter's simple prayer, trusting that His grace is greater than your weakness.

My Prayer



Devotional Week 6

BEYOND our Ability

NOVEMBER 15

Mark 12:41-44

41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into
the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a poor widow came and put
in two small copper coins, which make a penny. 43 And he called his disciples to him and
said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are
contributing to the offering box. 44 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but
she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Going BEYOND

1. As we conclude the BEYOND series, consider how Jesus has stretched your faith over these past few weeks? In what area have you experienced the greatest personal growth or challenge?
2. Jesus looked BEYOND the size of the widow's gift to the condition of her heart. If He were looking at your life today, what would your priorities, decisions, and generosity reveal about what you treasure most?
3. The widow trusted God with everything she had. Where are you relying more on your own security than on God's provision, and what would deeper trust and surrender look like in that area?
3. This series has challenged us to go BEYOND our own ability and trust God's. As you look ahead, what step of sacrificial obedience—through your finances, time, relationships, priorities, or future—is Jesus calling you to take next?

Apply

- **Give yourself first.** Spend time this week surrendering your heart to Jesus before considering any other response. Ask Him to reveal any area you have been reluctant to fully trust Him with.
- **Pray before you decide.** Whether it involves your generosity, your time, your gifts, or your future, ask Jesus, "What would require faith? What would reflect surrender? What are You asking of me?"
- **Take your next BEYOND step.** Write down one specific act of obedience you will take this week as a response to what God has taught you throughout this series.

My Prayer

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