



giving GUIDE

A practical guide to engaging in the make room initiative



valley
CHURCH







By the grace of God, we humbly yet boldly want to call everyone at Valley Church to be part of a **defining moment in the life of our church** ... to seek how God might desire all of us to stretch in faith and generosity to MAKE ROOM for God to move, to be family, and to grow the family.

From our earliest days, Valley has sought to faithfully follow Christ and invite others to join his family. We have witnessed the faithfulness of God in taking us from a handful of people gathered at Westridge Elementary to a church of thousands fully invested in **mobilizing everyone's God-given potential to deeply love Christ and their neighbors.**

We think back to when each of our families walked into Valley for the very first time and found a new home waiting for us. Others had allowed God to work through them to make sure Valley was ready to joyfully welcome us in. **And now, it's our turn.** We celebrate the opportunity to MAKE ROOM for the future as God continues to draw more people to himself.

As we consider this amazing privilege, **we unapologetically ask everyone who calls Valley Church home to prioritize giving over and above to this transformational opportunity and consider giving boldly, generously, and sacrificially to this four-year initiative.**

We ask every person and family to **prayerfully walk through this practical guide** to make a faith-filled decision that will impact the future of our church and our community.

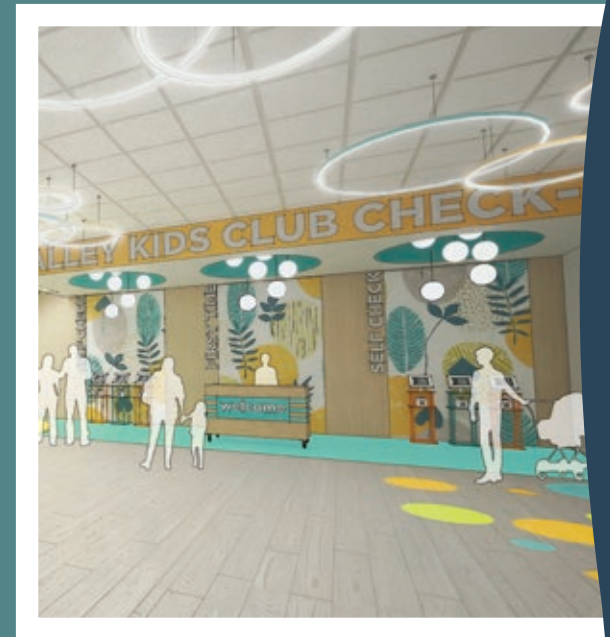
Now is the time to look forward in anticipation for all that God will do in us and through us as we MAKE ROOM together!

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE,

- Pastor Quintin and the elders



what could it look like to **make**eroom?



MAKE ROOM FOR
God to move

Making room begins with surrender. We give God all we are and ask him to work in us and through us. The Make Room initiative, first and foremost, is a multi-year spiritual journey during which we'll invite God to stretch us and shape us—showing us how we can make room for him to move in our midst individually and together.

MAKE ROOM TO
grow the family

God is growing our church family by adding people of all ages and backgrounds, especially in the next generation. As the people of Valley live out Love You Des Moines and OneLife, neighbors are becoming friends and these friends are becoming family. God's unstoppable kingdom has always been a grassroots movement—one person sharing good news with another, one generation passing the torch to the next. This is how his family grows, and a growing family is cause for celebration. Let's prepare by creating spaces that shout, "Come join us! We've been waiting for you!"

MAKE ROOM TO
be family

Through the gospel, God made us family. We want spaces that draw people together and allow for connection and deep conversation. When others see us being family, they want what binds us together: Jesus. Our neighbors are aching for this kind of belonging—and we yearn for our campus to reflect that we're the kind of family ready to welcome them with open arms.

The spiritual side of money

Presenting our gifts to God is an act of worship. Think about it: everything we have comes from God. If he is so generous to us, and we want to become more like him, we must prioritize our standard of **giving** over our standard of **living**. Where we put our money, we put our life. Let's put it into something with eternal value. Consider these four points to the spiritual side of money:

1

God owns everything.

When we think about personal finance, it's easy to make plans about what we're going to do with "our money." But when we think about "our money," it's important to understand what that really means. The money isn't ours in the sense that we own it; it's simply ours in the sense that we're responsible for managing it. The truth is, everything we have belongs to God.

2

Everyone is investing in something.

We've been taught to keep careful watch on our financial portfolios. God gives us the chance to invest in his Kingdom—a portfolio with eternal yields. Where we choose to invest is not only an indication of where our hearts currently are, but it is also a means of moving our hearts toward the things of God.

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19

3

We can't outgive God.

God is the most generous of all givers. He's already given us more than we can even comprehend—skills, resources, opportunities and his own Son for our salvation. When we recognize that our lives are overflowing with his good gifts, we naturally respond in generosity toward others and to advance his Kingdom.

4

Life is fuller when we trust him.

Jesus assured us that we don't need to worry about earthly matters, because God promises to take care of us. Trusting him with our temporary concerns frees us up to focus on the eternal—prioritizing the things that God prioritizes. Our lives become more on mission in every way, including our finances. We find joy, peace and intimacy with God when generosity grows in our hearts.

Some guidance from scripture

Jesus talked more about money than virtually any other subject in the Bible. He said, “Where your treasure is, your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). That means we declare something to be truly important when we invest our money in it. It’s interesting that one of Christ’s only compliments about a financial gift went to a very poor widow—not because of the size of her gift, but because she gave everything she had. Jesus also said that “to whom much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48). Scripture compels us to embrace these three principles (as well as others) in our prayers about giving:



God, reveal to me how I can demonstrate that I place high importance on your work in the world.



God, help me give a gift that reflects a sacrifice, demonstrating my trust in your provision.



God, show me how to bless someone else, using the blessings you’ve given me.

Two big questions to ask God:

why?

There are few things more spiritual than all people asking themselves where their deepest commitments lie and committing to pray about the sincerity and level of their support.

Frankly, most of us feel more fear than faith when it comes to our money. This is our opportunity to ask God to give us the faith to trust him with our whole lives, including our financial resources. We strongly believe that he will guide each of us to what our response should be to this initiative. The bold, open-handed prayer we're suggesting you pray asks the question: ***“God, out of what you have placed in my hands, what would you have me give to your work through Valley Church?”*** Paul wrote about how giving should never be forced nor obligatory, but a personal decision based on God's provision in each individual life (2 Corinthians 9:7).

how much?

We all have different resources allotted by God, and he desires that we give freely according to our capabilities. Ask God this: How do I give in accordance with the blessings you have poured into my life?



Discerning your role

To pursue the vision God has given us, we're encouraging all the people of God to engage in the work of God. It is our hope that you desire to be a part of advancing this vision, but perhaps you're wrestling with "how" or "what" this might require. In this guide you will find three questions designed to help you make a thoughtful, heart-felt, God-honoring decision related to a four-year faith commitment. This is both a spiritual and a financial exercise that we'd encourage you to undertake as a united household. For parents, this can be a valuable opportunity to help your children grow in their faith as they observe the practical outworking of your faith.



QUESTION 1:

WHAT CAN I REASONABLY GIVE?

Most of us have a sense for what we might be able to give beyond our current, regular level of giving. Chances are this number comes to mind quickly. Pencil it into the first line below. The second line will illustrate how quickly that can add up over four years.

1

BUDGET

I could give \$_____ a month from my discretionary household budget. At this level of giving, my four-year gift would be _____ x 12 months x 4 years = _____.

May this be a starting point for the prayerful consideration of how you will join in God's work.

QUESTION 2:

WHAT WOULD I BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE?

This is a question about choices and priorities. On the one hand, it is a math question—“If I went out to eat at a restaurant one less time per week, what else might I be able to give to God?” On the other hand, it involves probing our hearts and asking ourselves what we might be willing to do in order to realize something greater and more enduring. In fact, regardless of this initiative, this is an exercise we would do well to undertake regularly as a way to ensure our spending habits align with our priorities.

If you and I resemble the average American household, we have approximately \$20,000 of discretionary income per year. What might happen if we redirected some of that discretionary income to purposes that can change lives? We’re not saying eliminate all recreation, but perhaps there are temporal pleasures we might forgo to make an eternal investment. When done deliberately, the spiritual discipline of self-denial can be a truly transformative practice.

Take a moment to review the chart: One Family’s Plan for Creative Giving. What stands out to you? Might there be similar areas of sacrifice in your household?

SAMPLE: ONE FAMILY’S PLAN FOR CREATIVE GIVING

POTENTIAL RESOURCES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	4 YEARS
Eliminate 1 meal out per week	\$70	\$280	\$3,360	\$13,440
Eliminate 2 coffees per week	\$11	\$44	\$528	\$2,112
Cancel 1 subscription (ie. Hulu, Netflix, etc.)		\$16	\$192	\$768
Reduce entertainment/shopping		\$50	\$600	\$2,400
Reduce Christmas budget			\$100	\$400
Reduce vacation budget			\$400	\$1,600
Scale back cable/internet or cell phone package		\$20	\$240	\$960
Gift 20 shares of stock				\$2,000
Gift a portion of income tax refund			\$400	\$1,600
FOUR YEAR TOTAL			\$5,820	\$23,280*

**This number is not intended to communicate a sense of expectation relative to your amount. It is simply an illustration designed to facilitate brainstorming.*

We encourage everyone to work through Our Family’s Plan for Creative Giving on the next page. This is a great opportunity to include children to aid in their fiscal and spiritual growth.

OUR FAMILY'S PLAN FOR CREATIVE GIVING

POTENTIAL RESOURCES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	4 YEARS
Eliminate ___ meal(s) out per week				
Eliminate ___ coffees per week				
Cancel ___ subscription(s) (ie. Hulu, Netflix, etc.)				
Reduce entertainment/shopping				
Reduce Christmas budget				
Reduce vacation budget				
Scale back cable/internet or cell phone package				
Gift 20 shares of stock				
Gift a portion of income tax refund				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				
FOUR YEAR TOTAL				

2

REPRIORITIZE

+ \$ _____

QUESTION 3:

WHAT CAN I GIVE THROUGH GREATER RELIANCE ON GOD?

If the first question was about reason and the second question about priorities, then this question is more focused on faith. What if your four-year commitment was a step of faith? What would it look like if your commitment caused you to rely on God in a greater capacity?

When asked with humility and a genuine spirit, this question positions us to experience God's faithfulness in new ways. How can you exercise faith as you consider your pledge? Don't miss the blessing of asking this question.

3 FAITH FACTOR
+ \$ _____



Putting it all together

Pray about these numbers. Pray that God will give you great clarity and peace about them, that they may be gifted with open hands, and that God will guide you to adjust these figures—in either direction—if they are not aligned with his will. If married, pray over this with your spouse or family.

<h1>1</h1>	<p>BUDGET What can I reasonably give (above my regular tithe)?</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>
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<h1>2</h1>	<p>REPRIORITIZE What can I give up for a priority I love more?</p>	<p>+ \$ _____</p>
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<h1>3</h1>	<p>FAITH FACTOR What positions me to rely on God in a greater capacity?</p>	<p>+ \$ _____</p>
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<h1>4</h1>	<p>YEAR COMMITMENT</p>	<p>= \$ _____ TOTAL</p>
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VALLEY CHURCH make room COMMITMENT CARD

After prayerful consideration, I/we pledge to support Valley Church's Make Room Initiative with a gift totaling \$_____ over four years.

I/we plan to make this gift:

- \$_____ monthly for 48 months
- \$_____ annually for 4 years
- Other _____

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I/we understand that I/we can change this at any time by contacting the church office.

Together we can achieve the vision

If each of us makes a prayerful, heartfelt commitment to God's work, the cumulative results will be amazing! We believe our goal is achievable if every person in our church will prayerfully consider what God would want them to give. We may not give equally, but we can sacrifice equally. The graphic is not intended to suggest various giving tiers, but rather to demonstrate how our goal might be realized as God speaks to each one of us individually. What is important to note is that every pledge matters and—collectively—we can reach our goal.



ways to give

Cash or check. If giving by check, you can give to the ministries fund and the Make Room Initiative on the same check. Just indicate the amount designated for each on the memo line.

Electronically. Online at valley.church/give.

Stock transfer. Instead of liquidating appreciated stock and paying capital gains, the stock can be directly donated from your account to a brokerage account set up by Valley Church . The donor avoids tax and, at the same time, can count the transfer as a charitable donation. Valley Church will sell the stock and use the proceeds to fund the Make Room Initiative.

Other assets. Surprisingly, 90% of the world's wealth is in material goods. Many of us have collectibles, coins, annuities, vehicles, IRA distributions, land, and other valuable assets. If you would like to explore giving an "in-kind" donation that would result in a full tax write-off, please call us at 515.226.9973.



Annuities



Vehicles



Land



IRA Distribution



Coins



Collectibles



valley
C H U R C H

V A L L E Y . C H U R C H