

I know that you can do everything, and that your plans are

UNSTOPPABLE

Job 42:2 (GW)

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<http://www.impactpittsburgh.com/Unstoppable>

On April 19, 1970 a bold group of people met at Moon Middle School to start a new church in our area. They served the community, sacrificed time and money and followed God's leading as they purchased the Thorn Run property, built buildings and set the pace for those of us who would be influenced later.

Most of us have joined Impact somewhere in the middle of the journey. Today we stand on their shoulders and on the shoulders of others who, for nearly 47 years, have let God love them and love others through them. As we have continued in their footsteps, God has multiplied Impact's effectiveness by allowing us to break attendance records and, more importantly, see hundreds of changed lives and hundreds being baptized into Christ. He has also expanded our outreach by allowing us to become one church in multiple locations.

As we enter this next defining season for Impact Church, we believe we are entering the days of our greatest influence for Jesus (at least so far)! I want to invite you to examine our **UNSTOPPABLE** vision for the future. I hope this book will answer your questions and inspire you to join us in being relentless in your faith by letting God use you as part of His **UNSTOPPABLE** plan.

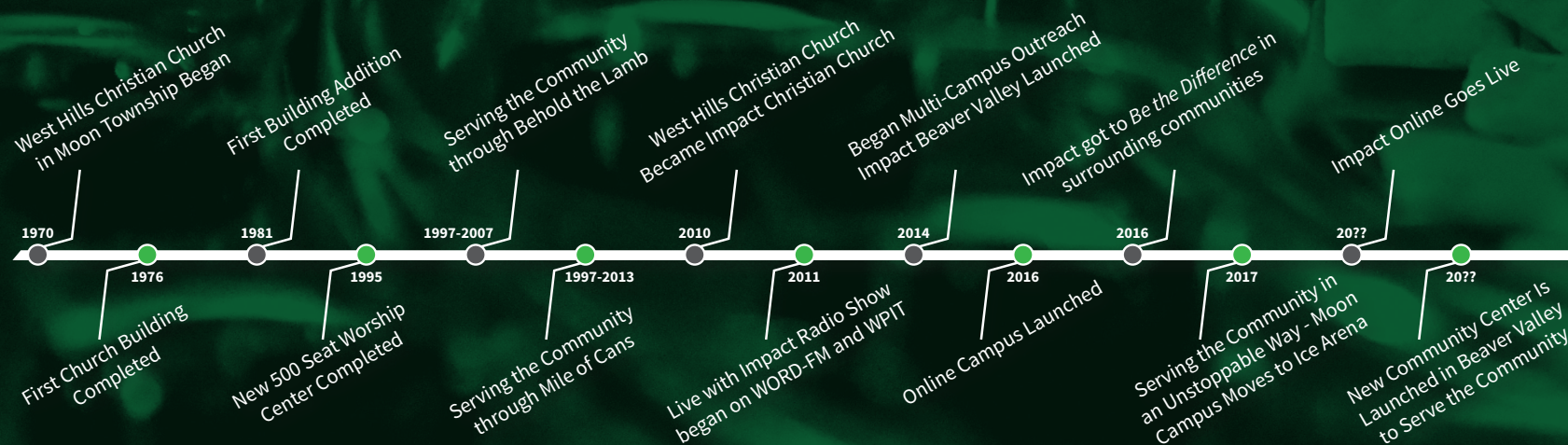
My challenge to you is to consider what it means for you to be part of God's **UNSTOPPABLE** plan. How does He want to stretch you and cause you to grow? We really believe generosity is transformational and that each of us will grow spiritually stronger when we accept the challenge to be radically generous. Imagine what it could look like if every single one of us participated in history-making, sacrificial generosity for the purpose of letting God love us and love others through us!

For me personally, this is a time of stretching and growing and trusting God in new and bigger ways in response to His extravagant generosity. I am praying you will join me in this exciting journey!

I love you, and I love being your pastor!

Steve Hammer
Lead Pastor

MOMENTS AT IMPACT



The **UNSTOPPABLE** Journey focuses on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts rather than on amounts or percentages. Each step of the **UNSTOPPABLE** Journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice. These are not steps you slowly ascend to get to God, but simply a way to evaluate your growth in generosity. Scripture encourages us to grow in every facet of our walk with Christ, including the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

As we engage in our next season of generosity, **Unstoppable**, we're praying and asking God for:

Our PRIMARY goal

that 100% of the people in our church would experience a life-changing encounter with God as it relates to their walk with Him and their generosity.

Our SECONDARY goal

to raise \$6.0M in generosity to be celebrated over the next two years in order to help fuel God's Unstoppable plan for Impact to be a relentless influence for Jesus.

This year we are embarking on the largest mission initiative we have ever attempted, fully confident that our holy God is leading us into uncharted territory to be an **UNSTOPPABLE** force for His Kingdom.

To do this, we believe God isn't just calling us to be generous; He is calling us to a relentless impact. What might it look like in YOUR life to have a relentless trust in Jesus? Join us on this journey as we delve more deeply into **UNSTOPPABLE** and live out our relentless trust in the following three initiatives:

UNSTOPPABLE

\$6 MILLION OVER 2 YEARS

Over the next two years, we will continue our ongoing ministries of Reaching UP, Reaching OUT, and Reaching IN, including weekly services, Steel City Kids, PAC Student Ministries, Growth Groups, Revolution, and much more. These are our ministry objectives, funded by our general ministry budget, which is anything BUT general.

\$3 million

Relentless Impact

Over the next two years, we will step up our ministry to all the communities we serve as we let God love us and love others through us. We will renovate an old ice arena into a place where the community can build relationships with each other during the week and with Jesus on the weekends. We will continue to resource our Beaver Valley Campus and Online Campus to serve their communities and we will also reduce the debt significantly.

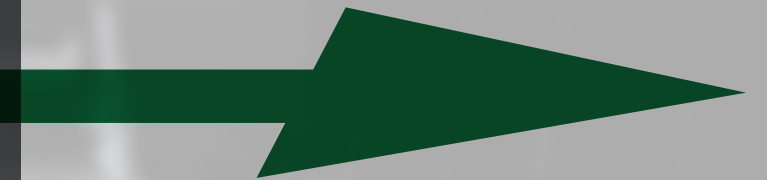
\$2.5 million

Relentless Community

Impact has always been about showing Jesus' love beyond our walls and that isn't changing! Over the next two years, we will continue unleashing compassion by increasing our global outreach through missions, by continuing our radio ministry, by funding a fourth Impact Campus, and by providing \$100,000 to complete a huge compassion project.

\$500 thousand

Relentless Compassion





\$3 million

RELENTLESS IMPACT

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<http://www.impactpittsburgh.com/Unstoppable>

We can focus on many different efforts at Impact over the next two years, but if we don't have a healthy church, we're sunk. God has continually used the people of Impact to do amazing things for His Kingdom and we know He wants to do more. It's essential that we maintain and grow what God has entrusted to us.

Resources allocated to Relentless Impact will allow us to continue the impact of our regular ministries. Steel City Kids, PAC Student Ministries, Revolution, Growth Groups, and worship ministry all continue as an aspect of this portion of Unstoppable. Think of this as the way we'll fund the typical expenses to make ministry possible.

DID YOU KNOW?

- We set the record for the most baptisms in one year in both 2015 and 2016 and plan to do it again in 2017!
- Our PAC Student Ministry is bursting at the seams!
- The percentage of our members in Growth Groups at all campuses is higher than the average Church. We even offer an Online Growth Group!

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\$2.5 million

RELENTLESS COMMUNITY

We want to unleash the ministry of Jesus EVERY DAY, so we need facilities for our community to thrive – to train today’s church and to reach today’s generation. Within the airport area, there are over 60,000 people. Many of whom are hurting, living in broken homes, grief-stricken, and seeking hope as well as over 30% of the population who are not involved in a life of faith. This has become a growing and diverse area, with the largest growing group being households of “married couples with children”.

Our mission continues to be to *let God love us and love others through us.*

DID YOU KNOW?



- 85% of all people who accept Jesus do so by age 18? Providing a community center will increase our impact on lost people!
- “Be the Difference” weekend included over 20 different projects to serve our communities.
- Our Growth Groups serve the community regularly through helping people with home repairs, volunteering at high school concession stands, and many other projects.



\$500 thousand

RELENTLESS COMPASSION

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<http://www.impactpittsburgh.com/Unstoppable>

Impact has always been about showing Jesus' love beyond our walls and that isn't changing! We will continue to unleash compassion both locally with our radio ministry, future campuses, and local supported missions; as well as globally through the missions we support around the world. In addition to our global outreach, we will be providing \$100,000 to complete a huge compassion project.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Impact currently provides monthly support for 10 missions, providing over \$90,000 per year in support.
- We have 3-7 families/individuals as first time visitors to Impact services each weekend, who first heard us on our "Live With Impact" radio show.
- In addition to helping people through our Good Samaritan Fund, we gave away over \$33,000 in 2016 to people in need through the "Power of \$1".

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NEXT STEPS

SO HERE'S WHAT WE'RE
ASKING OF YOU...

Pray

Our *relentless faith* doesn't come from our personality or even emotions but from seeking God through prayer. Ask God what He wants you to give to the Unstoppable initiative. As you are praying, we believe the Holy Spirit will be speaking to you. Take some time to reflect on what you think God is saying to you—even if it seems extreme!

Discuss

Talk with your spouse, family members and your Impact Growth Group about what you are sensing God leading you to do and about what this commitment will mean for you in the next exciting season of your walk with Jesus.

Take An Unstoppable Step

Growing as a follower of Jesus is a journey of ongoing steps of trust in Jesus. We don't grow without taking steps of faith. Growing in generosity requires us taking the step of trusting Jesus as we give what He has called us to give, because we value Him more than anything. Mark your calendar now for Commitment Weekend, April 1/2, and prepare to experience a defining moment for our Church and for your personal faith. We are asking you to make a sacrificial commitment to radical generosity—whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading and take an unstoppable step—nothing more, nothing less.

<http://www.impactpittsburgh.com/Unstoppable>

The Unstoppable Journey

The Unstoppable Journey (next page) focuses on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts rather than on amounts or percentages. Each step of the Unstoppable Journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice. These are not steps you slowly ascend to get to God, but simply a way to evaluate your growth in generosity. Scripture encourages us to grow in every facet of our walk with Christ, including the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

Commitment Weekend April 1/2

THE *UNSTOPPABLE* JOURNEY

INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time. This person decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the church with this gift.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

An Intentional Giver is someone who is beginning to think about his/her giving in relation to other things on which he/she spends money. For example, this type of giver begins asking the question, “Why am I giving more to Verizon than I am giving to God? Should I be giving to God more than I give for my mortgage each month?” This giver starts to make his/her giving an intentional choice that reflects how he/she prioritizes it in relation to the other things on which his/her money is spent. This may also be the point of intentionality when someone begins to tithe (gives 10% of his/her income) or reflects about a certain amount/percentage that he/she wants to give to God.

CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis. Often, someone who decides to make his/her gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. Anyone who chooses not to give online can be a consistent giver as well; it just requires more discipline.

SACRIFICIAL GIVER

A Sacrificial Giver is someone who begins to make CHANGES that COST something in his/her lifestyle. A Sacrificial Giver begins to ask the questions, “Am I giving in a way that changes me? Am I giving in a way that is offering up to God that which costs me something of myself? Am I giving in a way that causes my lifestyle to be different and to reflect the transformation Christ is making in me?” A Sacrificial Giver’s commitment to giving actually governs the rest of his/her lifestyle. This is much the same way that someone who has a mortgage that is “larger than his/her current situation” has to adjust the rest of his/her expenditures to meet that obligation. A Sacrificial Giver has a giving commitment that is “larger than his/her current situation” so that he/she will have to adjust the rest of his/her expenditures to meet that commitment.

LEGACY GIVER

A Legacy Giver is someone who is thinking about the long-term impact of generosity rather than just the shorter-term of month-to-month or even year-to-year. A Legacy Giver makes decisions in the short-term that have longer-term effects as it relates to his/her generosity capacity. He/she thinks of what home he/she can buy, what car he/she can purchase, how much savings he/she will choose to keep- all in relation to his/her generosity capacity. A Legacy Giver is no longer asking the question, “God, how much are you asking me to give?” A Legacy Giver is asking the question, “God, how much are you asking me to keep?” He/she asks this so he/she can release the rest for Kingdom purposes. A Legacy Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal, something that will govern his/her larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Sacrificial Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Legacy Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, and the like.

<http://www.impactpittsburgh.com/Unstoppable>

Your Commitment

GIFT CHART

\$6 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

As you pray about how God would ask you to give during this time, use this Gift Chart as a tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you towards greater generosity as we embark on the Unstoppable initiative together.

Gifts Needed	Gift Level	Annual Gift of	Monthly Gift Of	Gift Level Total
1	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$25,000	\$600,000
2	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$12,500	\$600,000
5	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$600,000
12	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$2,500	\$720,000
20	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$600,000
30	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$833	\$600,000
45	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$675,000
80	\$9,000	\$4,500	\$375	\$720,000
120	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$600,000
MANY	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$285,000

TOTAL GIFT GOAL \$6,000,000

Your total commitment includes your annual giving, plus your expanded generosity to **UNSTOPPABLE** over a period of two years from April 2017 to April 2019.

\$ _____ *What I/We normally give in a year*

+

\$ _____ *My/Our expanded annual generosity for UNSTOPPABLE*

\$ _____ *x2 Years* = _____

+

Gifts from my/our stored resources \$ _____

↓

\$ _____

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT TO THE UNSTOPPABLE INITIATIVE
April 2017 through April 2019

UNSTOPPABLE

Study Guide

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Be Yourself

Through the next four weeks, devote a few minutes each weekday to read the suggested verses from the reading guide along with the reflection questions and pray. The most important part of your time is reading the Bible, reflecting on what you read and journaling in the pages provided. The cool part is that the entire Impact community will be doing this together for the next four weeks.

With a Group

We were never meant to go on this journey alone. Being a part of a Growth Group at Impact is one of the most important aspects of your spiritual growth. We hope you will use the next four weeks to meet with a small group of people who also want to be “Unstoppable”. Each week, the Scripture will be dug into deeper as each of us takes the journey to become what Jesus is calling us to become. If you have never been in a Growth Group before, this is a perfect time to join. To find a group, stop by the Unstoppable Hub or visit [impactpittsburgh.com](http://www.impactpittsburgh.com) and click on “Get Connected” then “Growth Groups”.

<http://www.impactpittsburgh.com/Unstoppable>

Week 1 Message Notes

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Week 1: Unstoppable Transformation

Group Discussion

BIG IDEA: Transformation begins with a *calibration* of the heart.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the pre-conceived assumptions you have about money and the Church?

2. What is a positive experience you have had regarding giving in the Church?

KEY POINTS FOR WEEK 1:

- What we have is not our own (Deuteronomy 6:4-12).

- We need to purify ourselves from past thinking (Hebrews 10:19-25).
- Jesus desires for it to cost us something when we follow Him (Luke 9:18-27).
- God removes all excuses when He calls us to give (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-12

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-12 (CONT.)

When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- It is often said in teachings on giving, “God owns it all.” Do you believe this? How does this truth play out in your life currently? Be specific.

HEBREWS 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- In what ways do we allow the past to hold us back? In what ways do we find encouragement from the past?

LUKE 9:18-27

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

“Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- What does it specifically mean to you to: (a) deny yourself, (b) take up your cross daily, (c) follow Christ, and (d) lose your life?

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- What barriers might God be asking you to remove so that you can fully trust Him with your future and with the Unstoppable story as it relates to your generosity?

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

PRAYER FOCUS: THAT OUR HEARTS MAY BE CALIBRATED TOWARDS THE HEART OF JESUS.

Week 2 Message Notes



Week 2: Unstoppable Faith

Group Discussion

BIG IDEA: Faith is trusting and following Jesus, even when we don't see the end of the road.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it difficult to trust people? Why do we have so many trust issues?
2. When was a time when you trusted someone, and it turned out for the positive? What does it take in order for true trust to be present?

KEY POINTS FOR WEEK 2:

- God calls us to things we cannot yet see (Genesis 12:1-3).

- God asks us to trust Him so that we put our faith in Him, not in our own ability to chart things out for ourselves (Genesis 22:2-8).

- Stop setting your mind on the things of earth (Hebrews 11:8-12; 17-19).

- God does not want generosity FROM us. He wants it FOR us. He wants it to cause us to be a huge influencing force for Him (Colossians 1:3-14).

GENESIS 12:1-4A

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

So Abram went...

Reflection Question:

- To what do you look in order to ensure that your path tomorrow will be okay? Family? Friends? Money? Your career? Your talents and abilities? What does your security for the present and the future lie in?

GENESIS 22:2-18

Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged

the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Reflection Question:

- What is preventing you from trusting in God and in His plan for your life? What is preventing you from being fully committed to Him and trusting Him with something He is asking you to do?

HEBREWS 11:8-12

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

HEBREWS 11:17-18

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- Where is your focus? How can we better set our minds on the “stuff of heaven” rather than the “stuff of earth”?

COLOSSIANS 1:3-14

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion

of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What would it mean for your generosity if you truly had a full view of trusting in Christ and what giving generously actually meant? Have you ever experienced this? Do you feel that you have already “arrived” in this area, or do you still have room to grow?

PRAYER FOCUS: *HELP US TO HAVE FAITH LIKE ABRAHAM- TO FOLLOW JESUS EVEN WHEN WE CAN’T SEE THE END OF THE ROAD.*

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Group Discussion

BIG IDEA: Generosity has a tremendous effect on others.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever been the only person that believed something in a crowd of people who didn't?
2. Would you consider yourself a person of belief or a person of unbelief?

KEY POINTS FOR WEEK 3:

- The little boy believed he could be used by God (John 6:1-14).
- Our resources can have a multiplicative effect when we believe in God's promises (2 Corinthians 9:10-15).
- God removes all excuses when He calls us to give (John 6:1-14)

JOHN 6:1-14

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread

JOHN 6:1-14 (CONT.)

for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- How do you think God is seeking to use you and your resources in a way that brings glory to Him and shines light on His name, even when you may not know the specific path ahead?

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10-15

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- If you were God, would you give yourself more money? Reflect on this as honestly as you can.
- When has God stretched your limited resources (physically and emotionally) far beyond what you could have imagined? In what way do you need to trust Him to do so now?

PRAYER FOCUS: *HELP US TO PUT ASIDE OUR EXCUSES IN ORDER FOR GOD TO STRETCH US BEYOND WHAT WE COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED.*

Week 4 Message Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Week 4: Unstoppable Sacrifice

Group Discussion

BIG IDEA: Generosity should cost us something.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is something you would say you have sacrificed in your life? What did that mean for you?
2. What is something that would be very difficult to give up- something that if you were asked to give it up, you're not sure that you could?
3. What is something that you have committed to that you have not yet done? What is the obstacle?
4. Have you ever been changed by a commitment that you've made? (It can be any type of commitment; it does not have to be financial.)

KEY POINTS FOR WEEK 4:

- Do not give to the Lord that which costs you nothing (2 Samuel 24:18-25).
- Sacrifice begins in the heart (1 Samuel 13:1-14).
- Give from what you have (Exodus 35:20-29; 36:1-7).
- Sacrifice is dying to self and not for the faint of heart (2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 16-18).

2 SAMUEL 24:18-25

On that day Gad went to David and said to him, “Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad. When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” “To buy your threshing floor,” David answered, “so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped.” Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood.

Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king.” Araunah also said to him, “May the Lord your God accept you.”

But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- What would it take in order for you to truly give in this way? What is holding you back?

1 SAMUEL 13:1-14

Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty- two years. Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Mikdash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes. Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, “Let the Hebrews hear!” So all Israel heard the news: “Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become obnoxious to the Philistines.” And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand[chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikdash, east of Beth Aven. When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter. So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

“What have you done?” asked Samuel.

Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

“You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- What is an area of your life in which you aren't obeying God with a sacrifice He is asking you to make?

EXODUS 35:20-29

Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord. Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or the other durable leather brought them. Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the Lord, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun—blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do...

EXODUS 36:1-7

...So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded." Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done." Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: "No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- Take money off the table for a second. Think about the other resources that you have purchased or that you have in your possession- your home, your clothes, your electronics, your season tickets to the Steelers or Pens or Pirates or some other team that you love. Do you honor God with those resources by giving them over to Him? Do you use your home as a resource for the Lord? How could you better do that? Do you lend your car anytime someone is without? When you have extra tickets, do you try and sell them, or do you see how you might be able to give them away to someone who might be blessed by them? How are you honoring the Lord with what you have?

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you...

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

...Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Sacrifice is one of the key markers of how much we value God above ourselves- our ability or inability to be selfless and give ourselves and our lives over to Him. But it isn't easy. If it was easy, then Jesus wouldn't have talked about it so much in the Scriptures. He knew it would be hard. But it's *that* important.

- How evident is sacrifice in your life?

PRAYER FOCUS: *USE THE FINAL QUESTION AS A GUIDE FOR TODAY'S PRAYER. PRAY FOR YOUR COMMITMENT. PRAY FOR THE ABILITY TO SACRIFICE FOR THE KINGDOM.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If we are committing to Unstoppable, how does this change my giving to the general fund, the Good Samaritan Fund, and other special offerings?

During this two-year period, every contribution to God through Impact is a contribution to our Unstoppable initiative. Every aspect of the ministry-vision God is calling us towards for the next two years will be funded through Unstoppable. Every gift made will go into the same fund and will be our Unstoppable Giving. Therefore, every weekend becomes a day to celebrate and contribute towards what God is doing in us and through us to help call people to an impact with Jesus Christ. Funds like “Power of \$1” and the “Good Samaritan Fund” will now be part of our General Fund budget and part of the Unstoppable work God is doing through Impact!

What are you asking me to do?

First and foremost, we are asking you to pray and seek God’s leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says. Engage in a Growth Group during this season, if you haven’t already. Spend time in personal reflection with God in the Unstoppable booklet you receive. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life. We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to gospel-centered generosity—whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading. Finally, we ask that you prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome God. He is moving in huge ways, and we anticipate an unprecedented

impact from our collective Unstoppable commitments – something only God can do! Please mark your calendar for Commitment Weekend, April 1 & 2, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and for our own faith.

Are there additional ways besides cash that I can use to give more towards Unstoppable?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards Unstoppable. You might have some stocks, property, vehicles, or other items of that nature. Or you may have some stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He just might be calling you to give out of during this time. Please contact finance@impactpittsburgh.com if you have questions about non-cash generosity, and we would be happy to help you give in this way.

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

If you are someone currently seeking to make payments to pay off debt right now, we commend you for making progress on that. And you should continue to do so. We would be happy to help you in this journey. Being in debt does not, however, make someone “excused” from giving. Giving isn’t about what God wants from you; rather, it’s about what God wants for you. So, it should be our joy and privilege to give at all times. Please contact us if you need assistance. If you would like to speak with a budgeting counselor, we would be honored to help.

How long is my commitment?

We are asking everyone to make a two-year commitment: 24 months. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our First Big Give.

What if I don’t have a job right now?

What does that mean for my Unstoppable commitment? Unstoppable is about your total, radical, sacrificial generosity to God’s mission at Impact. We believe that God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance, and that looks different for every person. But Unstoppable is about a heart change - one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God in this area of giving. So, that may mean that you are being challenged to sell things, to pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you don’t quite know how to fulfill right now. You are committing but that you believe God will provide for as you seek for ways to sacrifice and work towards that commitment. We would like for 100% of us to be a part of Unstoppable so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually-stretching season at Impact.

What if I have never even given to Impact before?

Unstoppable was crafted specifically with you in mind. Unstoppable is a “one fund” generosity initiative, meaning that it is different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving - thus creating two steps for people who aren’t yet giving. Unstoppable is a call to sacrificial, gospel-centered generosity for absolutely everyone at Impact. If you have never given before, this is your chance to get in the game with a committed sacrifice.

What if I am new around here?

Unstoppable is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give towards, and we would really love for you to make Impact your home and join us in Unstoppable. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your church. We need you on the team! We also invite you to become a member of Impact. Why not attend the next Starting Point class on your campus?

What if I haven’t made a decision to follow Jesus yet?

Great question. People take different spiritual steps at different times. Some people begin praying before they begin attending church. Others begin going to a Growth Group before they begin talking to God in prayer. Giving is another spiritual step, and it comes at different times for different people. One thing is for sure, however, just like other spiritual disciplines, giving draws us closer to God. God is calling ALL of us to give. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be - Matthew 6:21. Whether you have taken the spiritual step of following Jesus or not, we would encourage you to still join us in this Unstoppable initiative. We firmly believe it will draw you closer to God and hopefully to a place where you are ready to make the decision to surrender your life and become a devoted follower of Jesus.

Any more questions?

Please don’t hesitate to ask. Contact us at 412-264-9392 or email judy@impactpittsburgh.com

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One Church in Multiple Locations

www.impactpittsburgh.com

MOON CAMPUS

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Moon Township, PA 15108
412-264-9392

BEAVER VALLEY CAMPUS

Meeting in the Monaca Cinemark
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412-329-7128