

UNFINISHED
PEOPLE.

UNFINISHED

UNFINISHED
STORY.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| History of Valley Real Life | 6 |
| Where We Are Now | 8 |
| Goals of UNFINISHED | 14 |
| Commitment Card | 27 |
| Giving Chart | 28 |
| Key Dates | 29 |
| Life Group Guide | 30 |

REACHING THE WORLD FOR JESUS



ONE
PERSON AT
A TIME



LETTER FROM DAN



Throughout the 20-year history of Valley Real Life, God has consistently made a way where there seemed to be none. Now, with prayer and humility, we are embarking on a two-year generosity initiative rooted in Philippians 1:6, calling this vision UNFINISHED. We believe God is not finished with us as individuals or as a church, and we aim for 100% engagement from everyone at Valley Real Life to ensure no one misses out on this opportunity. Our goal is clear: we want to see all that God will do in and through each of us.

This guide serves as an outline for the two-year challenge ahead. It includes questions and scriptures to guide your journey. Our hope is that through prayer and reflection, you will experience personal growth and a deeper relationship with Jesus. No matter where you are in your faith journey, we believe there is more for you, and being UNFINISHED PEOPLE, we believe the best is yet to come. The UNFINISHED message is meant to be deeply personal for each of us and impactful for our church as a whole.

As we enter this unique season, we anticipate great things from God for Valley Real Life. We are excited to see how He will work in and through us as we strive to make a greater impact locally and globally. Our mission, vision, and outreach will be guided by the UNFINISHED theme as we continue to reach the world for Jesus, one person at a time. We are thrilled to be on this journey with you!

DAN SHIELDS

HISTORY OF VALLEY REAL LIFE



2003
VRL MOVES TO
THE HIGH SCHOOL



2008
VRL BARKER
CAMPUS OPENS



2015
THE ANNUAL JOY
TO THE WORLD
BEGINS



2006
VRL BUYS 48 ACRES
FROM THE HEPTONS



2016
EXPANDED
KIDS' WING
OPENS



2018
OTIS ORCHARD CAMPUS
LAUNCHES



2021
IDENTIFIED
THE 3RD OUTREACH
PARTNERSHIP



2023
RIVERSIDE CAMPUS
LAUNCHES



2020
ONLINE
SERVICES
STARTED



2023
LOBBY EXPANDS
TO ACCOMMODATE GROWTH



2023-2024
INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLAYGROUNDS
BUILT FOR THE COMMUNITY



WHERE WE ARE NOW

Over and over in the 20-year history of Valley Real Life, God has made a way where there was no way. We believe that He's not done with us yet. Far from it.

Coming out of a global pandemic, while seeing significant growth in our area and our church, there has never been a more urgent need for VRL to move boldly and to trust completely in how God is leading us. The times are challenging but, without a doubt, WE'LL SEE HIM DO IT AGAIN!

That's why we are embarking on a season in our church unlike any other – one that will require openness to God working deeply IN us and THROUGH us, in new levels of FAITH and GENEROSITY.

As God's UNFINISHED PEOPLE, we ask God to continue shaping us into His image as we grow deeper in our surrender to Him. As part of God's UNFINISHED STORY, we ask God to continue using VRL as a powerful conduit to advancing the gospel one person at a time.



And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6



3,109

Current average weekend
service attendance

130

New people from 2024
Easter Egg Hunt

1,167

Average of people
in Life Groups

400

Kids at
Kids Camp 2024

132

Average number
of Life Groups

293

Children Dedicated
since 2021

2,165

Total Baptisms

205

New people from 2023
Trunk or Treat

167

Middle School students
at MIX 2024

217

High School students
at MOVE 2024



JOY TO THE WORLD

Every Christmas, Valley Real Life receives our Joy to the World offering. With 100% of it going outside the doors of the church to love and care for people locally as well as around the world. In the last nine years, VRL has given over \$1.8 million because of the generosity of people just like you.



JOY TO THE WORLD HISTORY

2023
\$372,000

International Schools: We built 2 schools in Uganda, 3 in North Africa, and helped provide an outreach to nearly 20,000 students in the Philippines.

2022
\$269,000

Local Refugees: We covered housing costs for refugee families in Spokane and a playground for Ukrainian refugees.

2021
\$458,000

Water Wells: We built 34 wells in Uganda, 4 in Gambia, a water refilling station in the Philippines, and water projects in Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan.

2020
\$305,000

Medical Debt: In a tough COVID year, \$30 million of medical debt was paid off because, for every \$1 we paid, \$100 was paid off.

2019
\$124,000

Local and International Needs:

Grants for three local adoptions, furnishings for HRC, sent dozens of local kids to camp, food distribution in the Red Light district in the Philippines, Church building in Kanara, Uganda, and Bibles in local language.

2018
\$111,000

International Partners: Planted a house church in China, our first widow's house in Uganda, 2 motorcycles for village pastors, 3 dairy cows, our first water well in Uganda, and a transport van in the Philippines.

2017
\$83,000

Local Marginalized: We helped trafficked victims and people living in crisis find hope and healing.

2016
\$58,000

Local Crisis Pregnancy: We helped those with an unplanned pregnancy find the care and support they needed.

2015
\$64,000

Local Homelessness: We helped those in need with housing and care.

LOCAL AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

Our dream for Valley Real Life is to love and care for people around the Spokane Valley community and in various locations around the world. We do this by focusing on our four aims: Loving Kids, Redeeming Stories, Planting Churches, and Discipling Nations.

In order to make a lasting difference, we generously give our time, talent, and treasure to several partners around the globe, starting in the Spokane Valley. Through our efforts, we have seen thousands come to faith in Jesus, and families and communities find the healing and hope they needed.



LOCAL MINISTRY

We love and serve our community, always keeping our vision of reaching people for Jesus as our focus. We are committed to helping our partners further the vision God has given them by encouraging people to serve and being generous with our finances. Additionally, we strategically help them develop effective methods to grow their ministry.

Our Local Ministry Outreach Includes:

- World Relief
- The Thrive Center
- Greenacres Elementary
- Riverbend Elementary
- Liberty Lake Elementary
- Helping Captives
- SRT / AbAnon
- Union Gospel Mission
- Embrace Washington
- Strong Families
- Life Services



GLOBAL PARTNERS

Valley Real Life currently partners with indigenous leaders in Uganda, the Philippines, and the Middle East. We focus on community development projects that lead to church planting as we reach the world for Jesus one person at a time. Each of our partners strategically plant churches, disciple people, and care for those in their communities.

Living Spring Church, Uganda

By planting dozens of churches, building over 100 homes for widows, installing 40 water wells, and developing a local school, Living Spring Church is eternally impacting their community.

Covenant City Church, Philippines

Through their strategic outreach into Baguio City, thousands of young people have heard the gospel. In addition, by serving the local neighborhood and meeting their physical needs, the church has grown to have an even greater impact.

North Africa / Middle East

Our partnership there has trained and released dozens of pastors and church planters to use creative methods in reaching the toughest areas of the world. We focus on community development in order to see church-planting movements created.



GOALS OF UNFINISHED

UNFINISHED PEOPLE

The Primary Goal is 100% ENGAGEMENT

We believe that God's work in us is UNFINISHED and He is calling us to take our relationship with Him to a new level.



SECONDARY GOALS

The Secondary goal is \$17 million over two years.

UNFINISHED MISSION

\$8 Million

We will continue to chase after our mission to Be and Make Disciples. This number represents our ministry operating budget for the next two years through the life-change that happens here at VRL.



UNFINISHED VISION

\$8 Million

With the rapid growth at Valley Real Life and in the Spokane area, we are running out of space in our current facility. To continue “Reaching the World for Jesus, One Person at a Time,” we will be building a new auditorium, adding additional parking, expanding the kitchen and offices, and improving the student ministry area and classrooms. This goal of \$8 million will cover the 40% needed of the \$20 million total to complete the project.

UNFINISHED OUTREACH

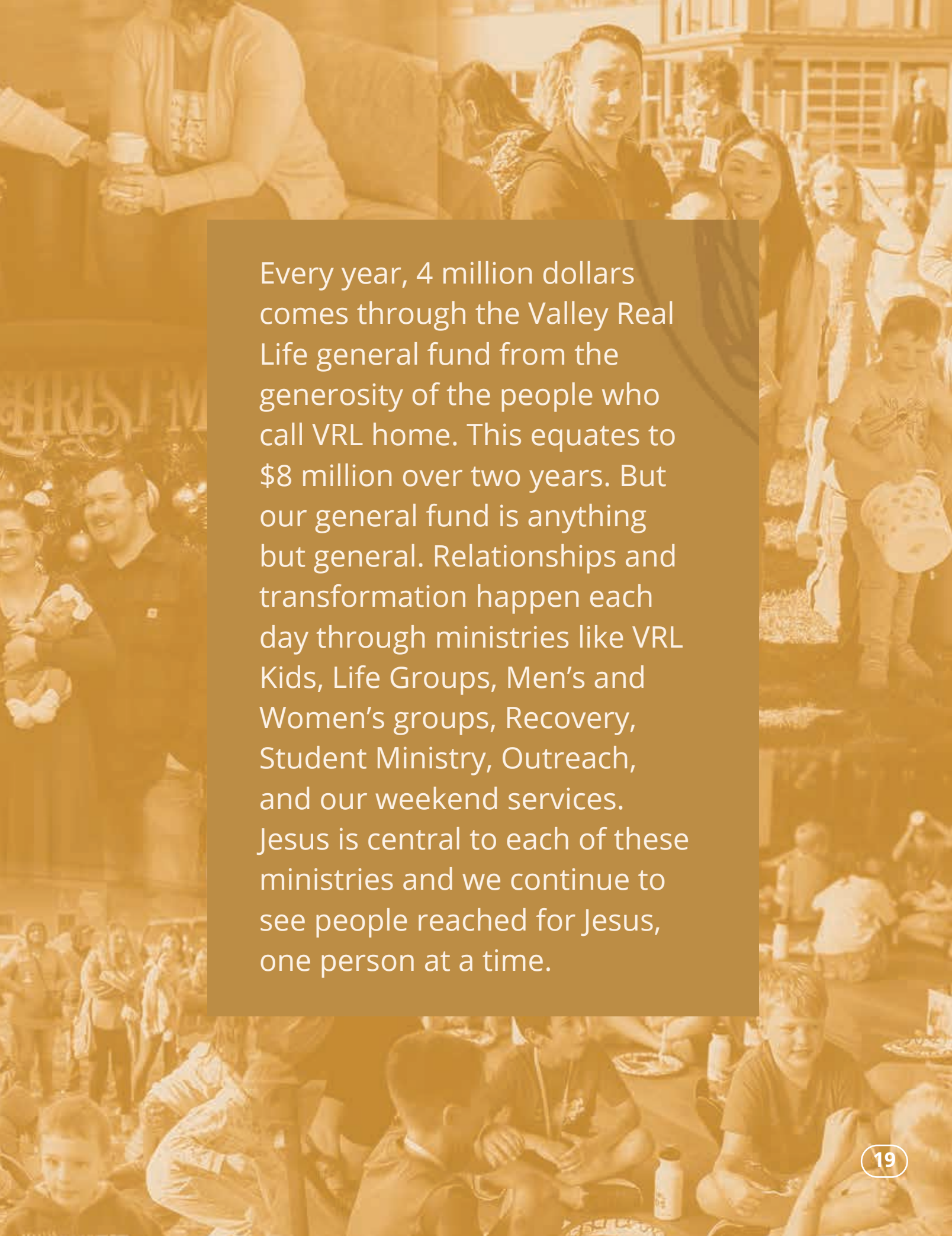
\$1 Million

We will accelerate our vision to care for people in our community and pursue international community development that leads to planting churches. Locally, we will develop an off-site counseling and care center to meet the growing needs, strengthen our partnerships with schools, and enhance our care for special needs, foster care, and adoption. Internationally, we will work with partners in Uganda, the Middle East, and the Philippines, developing projects to plant multiple churches.



UNFINISHED MISSION

BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES




Every year, 4 million dollars comes through the Valley Real Life general fund from the generosity of the people who call VRL home. This equates to \$8 million over two years. But our general fund is anything but general. Relationships and transformation happen each day through ministries like VRL Kids, Life Groups, Men's and Women's groups, Recovery, Student Ministry, Outreach, and our weekend services. Jesus is central to each of these ministries and we continue to see people reached for Jesus, one person at a time.



UNFINISHED VISION

REACHING THE WORLD FOR JESUS,
ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Valley Real Life is a great place to be a disciple through belonging to a group, serving, worshipping, and studying God's Word. Thousands of people have called VRL home over the years and had life-changing encounters with Jesus. But we are out of room in our physical building, limiting our opportunities to make more disciples of Jesus.



For this reason, \$8 million will be directed to an expansion of our campus. This will include:

- Building a new worship auditorium seating 1,500 people, more than doubling our current facility
- Remodeling our current auditorium to accommodate our growing student ministries, as well as our men's, women's, and recovery ministries
- Adding additional classroom space for life groups
- Expanding offices and meeting spaces
- Adding additional parking to create a welcoming environment for our guests

This facility will be a place our growing population can call home and a place that our schools and community will be able to utilize for events and gatherings.

UNFINISHED OUTREACH

We will invest \$1 million into local and international initiatives. We continue to be a church who loves and cares for people, encouraging them in their discipleship journey.

Our priorities for this \$1 million include:

- Launching an offsite Counseling and Care Center that offers professional counseling, pastoral care, coaching, mentoring, and prayer support
- International Church Planting with partners in the Philippines, Uganda, and North Africa/Middle East
- Local Church Planting in the Inland Northwest to reach more people for Jesus
- Supporting 16 Local Schools by caring for students, loving their families, and encouraging teachers
- Expanding our Special Needs Ministry and facility
- Supporting Adoption and Foster Families





WHERE TO START



PRAY PERSISTENTLY

Pray that God will work in the hearts of people at VRL to listen and respond to His leading.



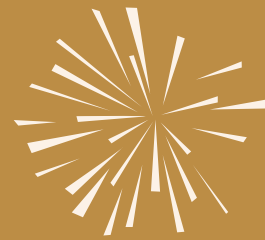
COMMIT FULLY

Be part of the 100% engagement by saying YES, and encouraging others to do the same.



GIVE GENEROUSLY

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



CELEBRATE LOUDLY

God is going to do amazing things in your life during this season. Enthusiastically share with those around you how you see God at work.



UNFINISHED

is a one-fund initiative, meaning that all of our regular giving and all of our special giving over the next two years are going to be combined into one unified fund. It's all one mission. It's all one budget. This is not just a "building campaign."

We've included a sample commitment card so you can see how a one-fund initiative works. Please take time to pray over this card and begin to work through it. But don't worry... you'll get a brand new one during Commitment Weekend!



COMMITMENT WEEKEND
NOVEMBER 14 + 17

COMMITMENT CARD

\$ What I/we normally give in a year
(regular giving, projects, Joy to the World, etc.)

+\$ My/Our expanded annual generosity
as part of the UNFINISHED initiative

=\$ x2 years 

\$

Gifts from my/our stored resources +\$

MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

\$

DECEMBER 2024 - DECEMBER 2026

AND I AM CERTAIN THAT GOD, WHO BEGAN THE GOOD WORK
WITHIN YOU, WILL CONTINUE HIS WORK UNTIL IT IS FINALLY
FINISHED ON THE DAY WHEN CHRIST JESUS RETURNS.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

First & Last Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

Phone

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool - let it be something that **INSPIRES** and **CHALLENGES** you towards greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom as we seek to give it all for Him.



| GIFTS NEEDED | TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL | ANNUAL GIFT | MONTHLY GIFT | GIFT LEVEL TOTAL |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 | \$1,000,000 | \$500,000 | \$41,667 | \$1,000,000 |
| 2 | \$500,000 | \$250,000 | \$20,834 | \$1,000,000 |
| 4 | \$250,000 | \$125,000 | \$10,417 | \$1,000,000 |
| 5 | \$200,000 | \$100,000 | \$8,334 | \$1,000,000 |
| 7 | \$150,000 | \$75,000 | \$6,250 | \$1,050,000 |
| 10 | \$100,000 | \$50,000 | \$4,167 | \$1,000,000 |
| 15 | \$75,000 | \$37,500 | \$3,125 | \$1,125,000 |
| 50 | \$50,000 | \$25,000 | \$2,084 | \$2,500,000 |
| 75 | \$25,000 | \$12,500 | \$1,042 | \$1,875,000 |
| 80 | \$15,000 | \$7,500 | \$625 | \$1,200,000 |
| 105 | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$417 | \$1,050,000 |
| 150 | \$7,500 | \$3,750 | \$313 | \$1,125,000 |
| 200 | \$5,000 | \$2,500 | \$208 | \$1,000,000 |
| MANY | \$2,500 | \$1,250 | \$104 | \$1,075,000 |
| GIFT TOTAL: | | | | \$17,000,000 |

KEY DATES

NOVEMBER 4

ADVANCE
COMMITMENT
NIGHT

NOVEMBER 14/17

COMMITMENT
WEEKEND

DECEMBER 5/8

CELEBRATION
SUNDAY

For any questions visit

unfinished.vrl.church



UNFINISHED

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

unfinished.vrl.church/resources



Philippians 1:3-6

³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵ for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

We are not finished until Jesus returns.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

- 1 What is an area of your life that you feel God is not finished in His work? In what ways do you think God wants to continue challenging you to grow in that area?

- 2 What is the world's view of when our work is done? How does that compare to God's view of when our work is done?

God is doing a work in us.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

1 What would others say about how you have grown in your relationship with God?

2 How is God growing you personally over this current season of life?

God is doing a work through us.

PHILIPPIANS 1:5

- 1 Who is someone that has modeled spreading the Good News about Christ in your life and/or the lives of others? What have they done specifically that you would like to duplicate?

- 2 How have you used your time, talent or treasures to partner with God in building His kingdom? In what ways did you see the impact of this?

- 3 How has God used you to deepen another's relationship to Christ?

NEXT STEPS | God wants to use you to build His Kingdom. Who is someone or what is something that God seems to be challenging you with to partner with Him in building His kingdom? In what way can you grow this week in your understanding of how God wants to use you for His kingdom?

Follow (Abraham)

Genesis 12:1-4

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you." ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." ⁴ So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed.

Abraham's obedience to leave his homeland and follow God's call to an unknown destination illustrates a profound act of following.

- 1 God called Abraham (Abram at the time) to a path he could not yet see. Have you given God a "blank check" with your life, or do you retain control for your path ahead? What does it look like to give God a blank check in this season of your life?

- 2 Which areas of your life give you the feeling of security? (job, friends, family, money, etc) What would it look like for God to be your source of security?

Follow (Jesus)

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'

- 1 What does it mean to deny yourself? What do you think it means to take up your cross once you've denied yourself?

- 2 Who in your life have you seen model this idea of denying themselves to pick up their cross? Does their life scare you or inspire you?

- 3 If you practiced this in your own life, how could it influence the world around you? (coworkers, family members, friends, neighbors, etc.)

Follow (Financial Giving)

Matthew 19:21

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Jesus' conversation with the rich young ruler emphasizes the act of selling possessions and giving to the poor as part of following Him.

- 1 Jesus laid out the steps in a specific order. Why do you think Jesus says "sell your possessions and give to the poor" before saying "follow me"?

- 2 How could the concept of treasures in Heaven impact your decision or actions today?

- 3 How do we allow how much we have/don't have or how much we make/don't make to affect how closely we follow Jesus?

NEXT STEPS | Establish as an individual, couple, or family what it would mean to deny yourselves and pick up the mission of Jesus instead.

Trust (Abraham)

Genesis 15:3-8

³ "You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir." ⁴ Then the Lord said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir." ⁵ Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" ⁶ And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. ⁷ Then the Lord told him, "I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession." ⁸ But Abram replied, "O Sovereign Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?"

- 1 God just made a pretty bold promise to Abraham. How did Abraham respond? How do you think you would have responded if you were Abraham?

- 2 God showed the stars in the sky to Abraham to illustrate that everything is created by and belongs to the Lord. Since everything belongs to the Lord, what does that say about the way we trust him with our possessions?

- ③ How does seeking God's Kingdom above all else influence our willingness and reasoning to be generous with our possessions and finances?

Trust (Jesus)

Luke 12:27-30

²⁷ "Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ²⁸ And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? ²⁹ "And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. ³⁰ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs.

- ① Jesus directly addresses putting our trust in Him. Why is Jesus worthy of your trust?

- ② Do you have an example of a time where you trusted in Jesus to provide for you? If yes, what happened? If no, what hinders you from trusting Him?

Trust (Financial Giving)

Luke 12:31-34

³¹ "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. ³² "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. ³³ "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. ³⁴ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

1 Like the lilies in the field, God's glory is being shown through our church. We are expecting God to continue to build His Kingdom in this area and He wants to use all of us to do that! VRL is trusting that God wants to do more as we step forward in the Unfinished journey. What examples at VRL have you seen or experienced that have led you to trust God more?

2 Jesus calls us to practical change in our life to demonstrate our trust in Him. How does being generous with our possessions and finances help to counteract the worldly worries and concerns we often have?

NEXT STEPS | Take time this week to make an inventory of all the things God has blessed you with materially. Then take time to reflect on if/how you are using each of those things to build and seek the Kingdom of God. Luke 12 calls us to make practical change as a way to demonstrate our trust in Him. Consider the practical changes you can make to your resources and the ways you can use them to show your trust in God.

You're halfway through the UNFINISHED series! What do you feel like God has revealed to you?

Priority (Abraham)

Genesis 13:5-17

⁵ Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. ⁶ But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. ⁷ So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.)

⁸ Finally Abram said to Lot, "Let's not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives! ⁹ The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I'll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I'll go to the left."

¹⁰ Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the Lord or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. ¹² So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. ¹³ But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the Lord.

¹⁴ After Lot had gone, the Lord said to Abram, "Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. ¹⁵ I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. ¹⁶ And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! ¹⁷ Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you."

- ① What were Abraham's priorities in this passage? What were Lot's priorities?

- ② This passage gives a glimpse into Abraham's heart. How does Abraham's priorities demonstrate an attitude of generosity?

Priority (Jesus)

Matthew 22:37-38

Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment."

① How are the things you prioritize reflected in these verses?

Matthew 6:33

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

Priority (Financial Giving)

Genesis 4:2b-5

^{2b} When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. ⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift.

1 Do you tend to give God your first and best?

2 What steps do you need to take to rearrange your priorities to better reflect your first and best?

Surrender (Abraham)

Genesis 22:2-3

"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you." ³ The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about.

1 Why do you think God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac?

2 Why do you think Abraham was prepared to surrender Isaac to God so quickly? Do you think you would do similar? Why or why not?

Surrender (Jesus)

Mark 14:32-42

³² They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." ³³ He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. ³⁴ He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ³⁵ He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." ³⁷ Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? ³⁸ Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak." ³⁹ Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. ⁴⁰ When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. And they didn't know what to say. ⁴¹ When he returned to them the third time, he said, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!"

1 What do you think Jesus is wrestling with giving up? Why do you think this is such a difficult sacrifice for him to make?

Surrender (Financial Giving)

Mark 10:29-30

"Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life."

1 What does Jesus tell us in the passage about being materially sacrificial?

2 More than the practical sacrifice, what does God desire with your sacrifice? What does he desire of your heart?

Genesis 14:18-20

And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. ¹⁹ Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

1 How did Abram's gift to Melchizedek demonstrate his commitment to God?

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 (AMP)

Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]. ² For by this [kind of] faith the men of old gained [divine] approval.

⁸ *By faith Abraham, when he was called [by God], obeyed by going to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he lived as a foreigner in the promised land, as in a strange land, living in tents [as nomads] with Isaac and Jacob, who were fellow heirs of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was [waiting expectantly and confidently] looking forward to the city which has foundations, [an eternal, heavenly city] whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith even Sarah herself received the ability to conceive [a child], even [when she was long] past the normal age for it, because she considered Him who had given her the promise to be reliable and true [to His word]. ¹² So from one man, though he was [physically] as good as dead, were born as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND ON THE SEASHORE. ¹³ All these died in faith [guided and sustained by it], without receiving the [tangible fulfillment of God's] promises, only having seen (anticipated) them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*

¹⁴ Now those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ And if they had been thinking of that country from which they departed [as their true home], they would have had [a continuing] opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But the truth is that they were longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. For that reason God is not ashamed [of them or] to be called their God [even to be surnamed their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob]; for He has prepared a city for them.

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested [that is, as the testing of his faith was still in progress], offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises [of God] was ready to sacrifice his only son [of promise]; ¹⁸ to whom it was said, "Through Isaac your descendants shall be called." ¹⁹ For he considered [it reasonable to believe] that God was able to raise Isaac even from among the dead. [Indeed, in the sense that he was prepared to sacrifice Isaac in obedience to God] Abraham did receive him back [from the dead] figuratively speaking.

Abraham left a legacy of faithfulness, but it did not come quickly or easily. Faith never does.

1 How is faith demonstrated in each of the three examples from Abraham's life?



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