



*Open*

**DECLARING JESUS FIRST BEFORE ALL THINGS.**  
MIDPOINT OF THE FIRST INITIATIVE • SERIES DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

# FIRST

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## LETTER FROM PASTOR CJ

Welcome to the party! We have officially reached the midpoint of our FIRST Initiative. And I cannot wait to see how the second half plays out as we continue to declare Christ first in our lives.

This study guide is an opportunity for you to reflect on various aspects of your life as a follower of Christ and a member of our church family. I hope that you will find this resource helpful as you strive to grow closer to the Lord. We hope the questions in this guide frame meaningful conversations throughout the coming months at Northview.

Whether you're just beginning or have been walking with the Lord for years, we know there is more to your story. And we're excited to walk beside you on this journey of radical generosity.

**The best is yet to come!**

*CJ*

# WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

OUR PRIMARY GOAL:

## 100% ENGAGEMENT

We hope every person who calls Northview home would acknowledge and declare Jesus is before all things by engaging with **FIRST**.

OUR SECONDARY GOAL:

## \$77 MILLION IN TWO YEARS

WE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO  
DECLARE THAT JESUS IS ...

# BEFORE ALL THINGS

## BEFORE ALL THINGS IN OUR CHURCH (\$38.5 M)

Northview is a church. Jesus set up His church on Earth to be the primary vehicle for fulfilling His Great Commission. As we faithfully invest into our church's ongoing ministries and operations, we trust and believe God will continue to build us into a movement that reaches central Indiana with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## BEFORE ALL THINGS IN OUR COMMUNITIES (\$29.2 M)

Northview is for our community. We are called to be good neighbors to those within our reach. By strategically investing in new campuses and our retreat property, pioneering a community-wide marriage outreach, and freeing up additional resources through ministry partnerships and debt reduction, we believe our impact on the lives of others will grow exponentially.

## BEFORE ALL THINGS IN OUR WORLD (\$9.3 M)

Northview is on a mission. When Jesus gave his marching orders to His church, He said, "go and make disciples of all nations." We believe God has called us to reach beyond our neighborhoods and cities to the entire world. By increasing our local and global ministry investment into our missions partnerships, we believe our generosity will impact all of God's people.





# WHAT GOD HAS DONE

**397** BAPTISMS IN 2022

**36,277** PEOPLE ATTENDING EASTER  
AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN 2022

**4,321** PEOPLE IN LIFE GROUPS

**884** SALVATIONS IN 2022

IN  
OUR  
CHURCH:



## CELEBRATING KOKOMO DEBT PAY-OFF

When it comes to generosity, fear says wait but faith says now! As a result of your generosity efforts, we were able to pay the remaining debt for our Kokomo Campus! Yay God! This was a full circle moment that truly began long before Oakbrook and Northview merged in 2018 to become the Northview Kokomo Campus.

This was always a dream for some of the pioneering leaders for Kokomo. So, you can only imagine the resounding celebration and endless praise that took place when we were able to announce that the building debt was paid as a result of the Big Give Weekend!

# IN OUR COMMUNITIES:

## SPECIAL NEEDS PROM

Kaleb had never experienced a prom due to his terminally ill condition. The Northview team made special arrangements with Kaleb's family to ensure it was a night to remember! Twenty paparazzi cheered Kaleb on as he walked the red carpet. Patty, his close family-friend and buddy shared the night with him as they took photos, snacked and danced together. Kaleb joyously shared with all around him, "I feel like a king!"



## NOBLESVILLE CAMPUS LAUNCH

Northview Church launched its Noblesville campus on November 13, 2022 with **446** people in attendance. This is only the beginning as we impact lives for Christ from generation to generation in this community.



**15** GO TRIPS WITH **119** TEAM MEMBERS IN 2022

**1,000** PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO FRESH WATER

IN OUR  
WORLD:



### **PARTNERING TO PROVIDE CLEAN WATER**

Northview Church continues its partnership with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization helping children, families and their communities overcome poverty and injustice. Through the Chosen campaign in the Fall of 2021, our church became World Vision's most significant church partnership with 2,648 children sponsored. Now through your generous FIRST commitments, we can go deeper into the communities where our sponsored children live. One of the most significant ways we've done this is through helping provide clean water. When clean water becomes a reality, family life is improved for the whole community, and education is more possible for the children.

WE CELEBRATE

2,384

**FAMILIES MADE A COMMITMENT TO FIRST**

4,804

**HOUSEHOLDS REPRESENTING 13,201 PEOPLE AT  
NORTHVIEW HAVE ENGAGED IN FIRST GIVING**

434

**FAMILIES WHO WERE FIRST-TIME GIVERS MADE  
A COMMITMENT TO FIRST**

# WHERE WE ARE GOING

Through FIRST, we have been challenged by the truth of the pre-eminence of Christ and the implications it has on our stewardship as we declare Jesus first above all else. Specifically, during this Open series at the midpoint of FIRST, we will be challenged by the life and lifestyle of our spiritual ancestors in the early church. Paul describes the early believers in the churches in Macedonia as being in severe trials and extreme poverty. Yet, they overflowed with joy and generosity, even giving beyond their ability and on their own accord. They did this because they gave themselves FIRST of all to the Lord. What if that same spirit and faith welled up and swept through our church family even more than it already has? Imagine all the good that could be done.



We remain committed to fulfilling all we initially set out to do through FIRST. It is truly remarkable what God is doing in and through this initiative already. As we step forward, God is showing us that He might have more in store for us. We are asking Him to pour out His favor in a unique way and that He might significantly increase our FIRST resources so we can do more ministry even sooner. We are praying that God would "Open Heaven" on us at Northview to be able to further His mission and ministry on this earth. With any dollars we realize above our original FIRST results of \$78 M, those funds will go toward reaching people for Christ in the following three ways:

## VIDEO EXPERIENCES:

In today's technology-driven world, we believe updating the video feed at each of our campus experiences will help us reach people more effectively with the bold teaching of the Bible and faithful proclamation of the Gospel.

## ADDITIONAL DEBT REDUCTION:

We believe God has called us to be debt free by 2025 so that more resources can be available for current ministry.

## SPORTS OUTREACH:

We believe developing indoor and outside sports environments and opportunities at our campuses will enable us to reach more families for Christ.





# WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

Throughout the last year, God has done amazing things in us and through us as a church. He has given us every reason to put him in his rightful place as FIRST before all things. We have the privilege and opportunity to honor Him with our first and best.

## NEW COMMITMENT:

Are you new to Northview and wondering, “What is the FIRST initiative, and how do I become a part of it?” FIRST is for anyone who would call Northview their church home, and we welcome you to the family. We hope you will join us on this journey to ask if He is FIRST before all other things in your life and consider making a 12-month generosity commitment to FIRST. Join us on this second leg of the journey.

## FINISH STRONG:

Others of you committed one year ago, and perhaps this journey has been difficult, possibly more complicated than you had ever envisioned. Maybe you went to an entirely new level in your generosity and are still adjusting your life to it. Perhaps you have experienced job loss, job change or unexpected financial expenses. Persevere to finish strong in the journey you began. We all stand together, encouraging one another. We know the Lord is faithful. He will provide, and we want to finish firm in our commitment to FIRST.

## INCREASE:

Some of us made our FIRST commitment a year ago, and it is possible we had an increase in faith or finances. It is not just that keeping our commitment has been easy because it has likely required much sacrifice. But you may be sensing the Lord stretching you to take an additional step of faith in your generosity. We challenge those of you to respond to His generosity by increasing your commitment. Generosity is not a one-time event; it is a journey. Consider asking yourself these questions: Am I still giving in a way that challenges me? Am I still making Him FIRST before all things so that it drives everything else? Pray and ask yourself if He is inviting you into another step of faith with an increased commitment.



# THE JOURNEY OF

# GENEROSITY DISCIPLESHIP

An **Initial Giver** is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

A **Priority Giver** is someone who understands the pre-eminence of Christ and that He is before all things – that all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and their saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving.

A **Consistent Giver** is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well of course; it just requires more discipline.

A **Surrendered Giver** is someone who recognizes the power of the gospel and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Surrendered Giver is someone who gives in a way that changes them, in a way that reflects that the totality of their resources belong to God. A Surrendered Giver isn't just concerned with what they ARE giving but is more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why, and they seek to honor God with 100% of what He has given them, whether that means direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource.

An **Eternal Giver** is someone who is thinking about the longer tale of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. An Eternal Giver makes decisions in the short term that have longer term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all in relation to their generosity capacity. An Eternal Giver is driven by the things of eternity, putting their hope in God and not in the things of this earth.

## MAKING A COMMITMENT

We've included an example commitment card so you can pray about your commitment at the midpoint of the FIRST initiative.

## I'M NEW TO FIRST

I would like to make a 12-month commitment to the FIRST generosity initiative in the amount of:

\$

*\*This includes your regular giving over the next 12 months as well as your expanded giving and stored resources.*

## I'M ALREADY COMMITTED TO FIRST

My current two-year commitment is:

\$

At the midpoint of FIRST, I would like to:

- Confirm my commitment to finish strong.
- Increase my two-year commitment to:

\$

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CAMPUS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 toward greater generosity for Christ's kingdom as we seek to declare He is **FIRST**, before all things.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$208,333	\$5,000,000
2	\$2,500,000	\$1,250,000	\$104,167	\$5,000,000
4	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$6,000,000
7	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$7,000,000
10	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$5,000,000
15	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$3,750,000
25	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$3,750,000
40	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$4,000,000
55	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$4,125,000
80	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$5,200,000
95	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$4,750,000
105	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$3,675,000
150	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$3,750,000
250	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$3,750,000
400	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$4,000,000
450	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$3,375,000
550	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$2,750,000
Many	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$2,125,000
<b>TOTAL FIRST GIFT GOAL</b>				<b>\$77,000,000</b>



[NORTHVIEWCHURCH.US/FIRST](https://northviewchurch.us/first)

# Open

SERMON SERIES  
NOTES

WEEK 1:  
**OPEN MIND**

WEEK 2:  
**OPEN HEART**

WEEK 3:  
**OPEN HAND**

WEEK 4:  
**OPEN 24/7**

WEEK 5:  
**OPEN HEAVEN**

# WEEK 1: OPEN MIND

## THE TRIPOD OF GODLY CHARACTER:

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### JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

- \_\_\_\_\_ is a genius way to live.
- \_\_\_\_\_ tends to be the \_\_\_\_\_ in the areas \_\_\_\_\_ find to be the \_\_\_\_\_.
- People who don't give \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ end up giving \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Those who are not \_\_\_\_\_ in their faith become \_\_\_\_\_ in their faith.

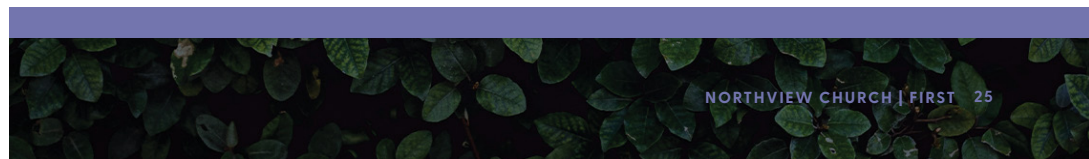
# WEEK 1: OPEN MIND

## THREE CATEGORIES OF GIVING:

\_\_\_\_\_ GIVING  
\_\_\_\_\_ GIVING  
\_\_\_\_\_ GIVING

- You can't separate your \_\_\_\_\_ from your \_\_\_\_\_.
- Every \_\_\_\_\_ decision is a \_\_\_\_\_ decision.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# WEEK 2: OPEN HEART

## ACTS 20:32-35

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

- Giving is not a \_\_\_\_\_ issue.  
Giving is a \_\_\_\_\_ issue.
- Giving isn't just a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Giving \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart.

## MARK 10:17-27

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

# WEEK 2: OPEN HEART

• \_\_\_\_\_ is a much bigger challenge for the church than \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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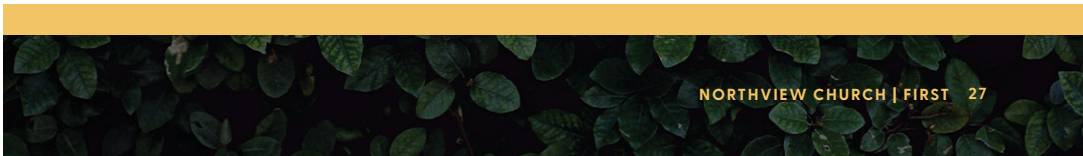
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# WEEK 3: OPEN HAND

- Your faith has to \_\_\_\_\_ before your faith can \_\_\_\_\_.

## THREE MENTALITIES:

- \_\_\_\_\_:  
What's yours is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_:  
What's mine is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_:  
What's mine is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_.
- God doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ something \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_ something \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ bridges the gap between our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_.

# WEEK 3: OPEN HAND

## 1 KINGS 17:7-16

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the Lord came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

"As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, so that we may eat it—and die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land'"

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

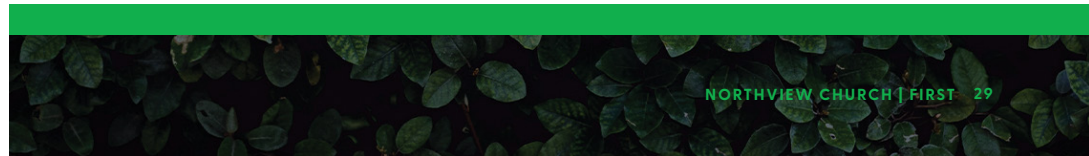
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# WEEK 4: OPEN 24/7

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9

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. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

- Our goal is to become a \_\_\_\_\_  
not a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The better you get at \_\_\_\_\_ the better you  
get at \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our goal is not to \_\_\_\_\_ great things.  
Our goal is to \_\_\_\_\_ great things.
- God accomplishes the \_\_\_\_\_,  
when we attempt the \_\_\_\_\_.
- If \_\_\_\_\_ could do it, \_\_\_\_\_ can do it.

# WEEK 4: OPEN 24/7

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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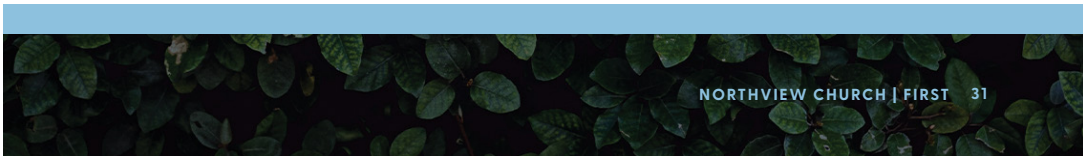
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# WEEK 5: OPEN HEAVEN

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

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!

- Giving is a \_\_\_\_\_!
- Giving blesses \_\_\_\_\_.
- Giving blesses \_\_\_\_\_.
- Giving blesses \_\_\_\_\_.

# WEEK 5: OPEN HEAVEN

## MALACHI 3:10-12

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

- Open \_\_\_\_\_, open \_\_\_\_\_.
- God desires to \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ more than we \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- When we give God our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_, we can \_\_\_\_\_ him to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

UPCOMING  
KEY DATES:

**OPEN SERIES**  
BEGINS FEBRUARY 4/5

**COMMITMENT WEEKEND**  
MARCH 4/5

**BIG GIVE WEEKEND**  
MARCH 25/26

