

# MAKE ROOM



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Letter .....	5
Timeline .....	6
Vision and Goals .....	8
Planning for the Future .....	10
Weekly Series + Curriculum	
Week 1 .....	20
Week 2 .....	26
Week 3 .....	32
Week 4 .....	38
Week 5 .....	46
Next Steps .....	44
Ways to Give .....	50
FAQ .....	54
First Gift Sunday .....	56

THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO:

\_\_\_\_\_



**Now to Him who is able to do  
far more abundantly than all  
that we ask or think, according  
to the power at work within us,  
to Him be glory in the church  
and in Christ Jesus throughout  
all generations, forever and  
ever. Amen.**

**Ephesians 3:20-21**



It's been my privilege to serve as the Lead Pastor of Nittany Bible Church for the last 15 years (as of May 1st).

When I took over that role, the church had been in existence for 35 years. From its origin as a Bible Study in the living room of a local farmhouse to Sunday services and Hymn Sings at the Baileyville Community Center to where we are today, God has changed NBC in many ways; but the one thing that has stayed consistent is that Nittany Bible Church has always been a place that felt "like home."

Newcomer after newcomer, first-time visitor after first-time visitor, and guest after guest have repeatedly told me that they felt "at home" the moment they walked in. Many of YOU have said those very words to me about your first or second visit here. I felt that way one of the first times I came to Nittany Bible, long before I became the Pastor.

One of my most fervent prayers is that no matter how many people call NBC their home church and no matter how many people show up on a Sunday morning, that sense of belonging and "being home" never diminishes.

As we MAKE ROOM for all God wants us to do today and for all of those who will call Nittany Bible their home in the future, I look forward to what God is going to do in and through each one of us who currently call Nittany Bible "Home"!

for His Glory and for our good,  
Pastor Joe

# A SNAPSHOT OF OUR HISTORY AT NITTANY BIBLE CHURCH

**1976**

After a Bible Study in the home of Jim and Jeannie Slick grows too large, Nittany Bible Church officially begins

**1978**

Nittany Bible Church purchases 10 acres of land on Deibler road for \$1 and a building is built, giving Nittany Bible Church a place to gather

**1980**

Nittany Bible calls its first Pastor, Steve Burns, to shepherd the flock

**2011**

Nittany Bible Church calls Joe Rose to be its 13th pastor

**2006**

Doug Williams begins his tenure as the Pastor of Nittany Bible and begins to plant the vision of God doing "more than we could ever ask or imagine"

**1990s**

NBC sells 3 acres of land to pay off the original mortgage and become debt free

**2014**

Nittany Bible seeks to reconcile past wrongs with previous pastors, healing years of division in an effort to pursue biblical unity

**2020**

God begins to significantly grow Nittany Bible numerically during a worldwide pandemic

**2024**

2 Services, 1 Church becomes the motto of Nittany Bible Church as the church begins to have two Worship Services on Easter Sunday

**2026**

It's time to MAKE ROOM





**MAKE ROOM is a three-year generosity initiative that will lead us to pursue Jesus' dream for our church. For 50 years, God has worked through Nittany Bible both here in our region and around the world. Through MAKE ROOM, God is calling us to partner with him by investing our time and our resources to greater levels of commitment that will impact the worlds that we all live in today and for years to come!**

## **PRIMARY GOAL**

### **100% ENGAGEMENT**

We want every single person who calls Nittany Bible home to engage in MAKE ROOM and be willing to take a next step of growth in this area of generosity.

Whether you have never given before, are an infrequent contributor, or are a consistent giver, there is a next step God is asking you to take in this journey.

If 100% of the people at Nittany Bible become fully engaged, we can meet and even exceed our Secondary Goal listed below.

## **SECONDARY GOAL**

### **\$700,000**

Our Secondary Goal is monetary. We want to share with you our vision for how God can use this generosity initiative to MAKE ROOM for what He wants to do in and through Nittany Bible Church.

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

## NEW AUDITORIUM

A large enough space to COME together to worship, once again, in one service; GROW together in biblical community; and be equipped to GO into all of our worlds proclaiming the gospel.

## EXPANDED FOYER

A larger foyer for connecting before and after services along with new and increased capacity restrooms for both men and women.

## NITTANY KIDS

A new, streamlined Check-In process and a brand new and secure area for the youngest members of our NBC Family to be cared for during our Worship Services.

## PROJECTS WITHIN OUR VISION

- A more welcoming and less crowded entrance and foyer
- A new Welcome Center, Resource Center, and Missions Area that are easily accessible and more functional
- A bigger Breakfast @ Timothy's with new Café seating
- Two new Child Check-in stations for returning parents with children
- A staffed Child Check-in station for parents attending for the first time
- A secured area for toddlers and infants on the main floor, including a bathroom
- New offices and conference room in the renovated first floor
- Two brand new Men's and Women's restrooms
- New auditorium with seating for 300+ attendees
- Additional storage and backstage area
- New ADA entrance and improved ADA entrance along with paved, ADA approved parking stalls

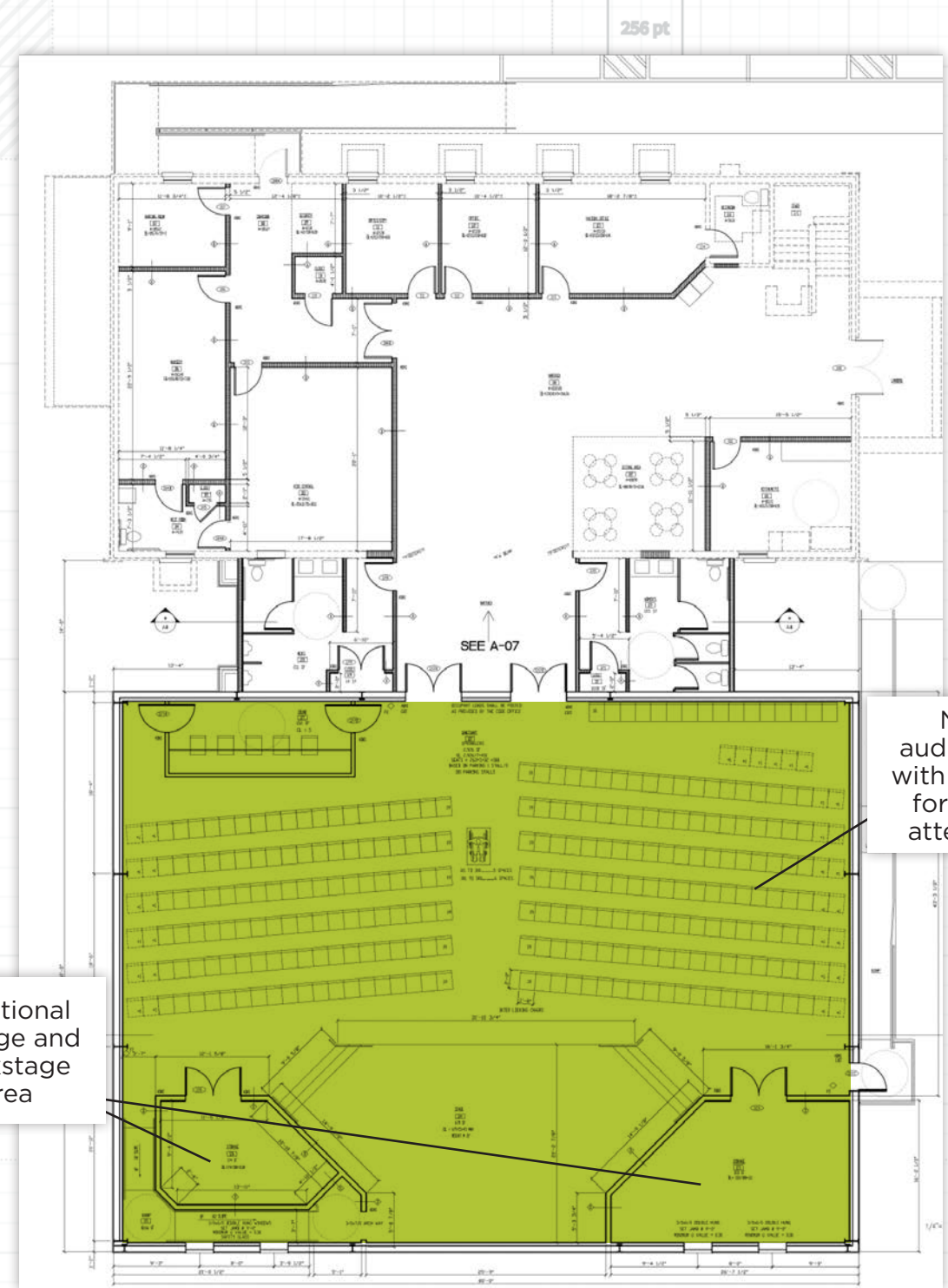




# NEW AUDITORIUM

Since moving to two services in March of 2024, it has been our goal to return to one Sunday Morning Worship Service. To do that, we must MAKE ROOM for our current NBC Family and those who will call Nittany Bible their home in the future.

We are planning to build a brand-new 300+ seat auditorium that will improve the quality of our worship gatherings and provide the needed space together as one church. The space will include a permanent baptismal pool, quality audio and visual equipment, and two new storage rooms. We want to create an excellent environment where the gospel will be preached and God will be worshiped for the foreseeable future.





# NITTANY KIDS

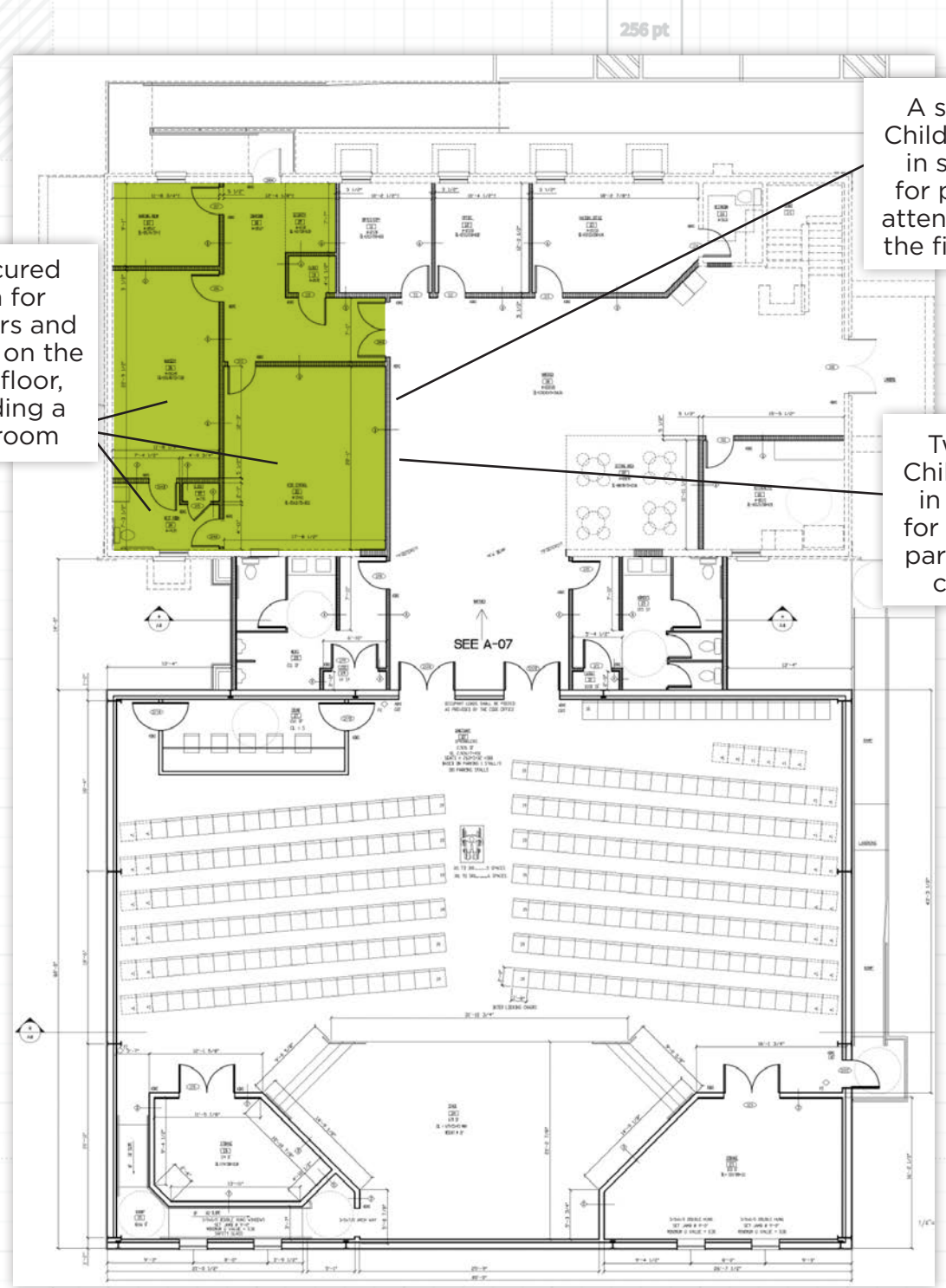
By renovating the upstairs of our existing building, we envision a secure and exciting space in which our youngest Nittany Kids can be loved and cared for during our Morning Worship Services. By freeing up classroom space downstairs, we will MAKE ROOM to, once again, be able to minister to our 4th & 5th grade children on Sunday mornings. This will also give additional ministry space to our Trail Life and American Heritage Girls ministries. We will also create a streamlined Self Check-in station for parents whose children are already a part of our church family and a staffed Check-in station for parents who are visiting for the first time.

These improvements will provide our Nittany Kids more opportunities to know Jesus and grow closer to Him and will give our kids the very best experience on Sunday mornings and throughout the week.

A secured area for toddlers and infants on the main floor, including a bathroom

A staffed Child Check-in station for parents attending for the first time

Two new Child Check-in stations for returning parents with children





# EXPANDED FOYER

As we continue to welcome guests each Sunday, we are aware that their first impression matters. Studies confirm that before a service even begins, many guests decide whether they will return or not based upon the visibility and accessibility of the church facility.

For that reason, we are committed to providing a space that is inviting to our guests as well as to those who call Nittany Bible their home. We will expand our foyer to allow for many more conversations and community moments to happen before and after our services. We are planning to renovate the Breakfast @ Timothy's area and provide new café seating. We also plan to expand the Christian Life Resource area and Missions area, in addition to having a staffed Welcome Center for those who have questions upon entry or exit. This will allow us to better care for our guests who are visiting with us for the first time AND to minister to those who are currently a part of our NBC Family.

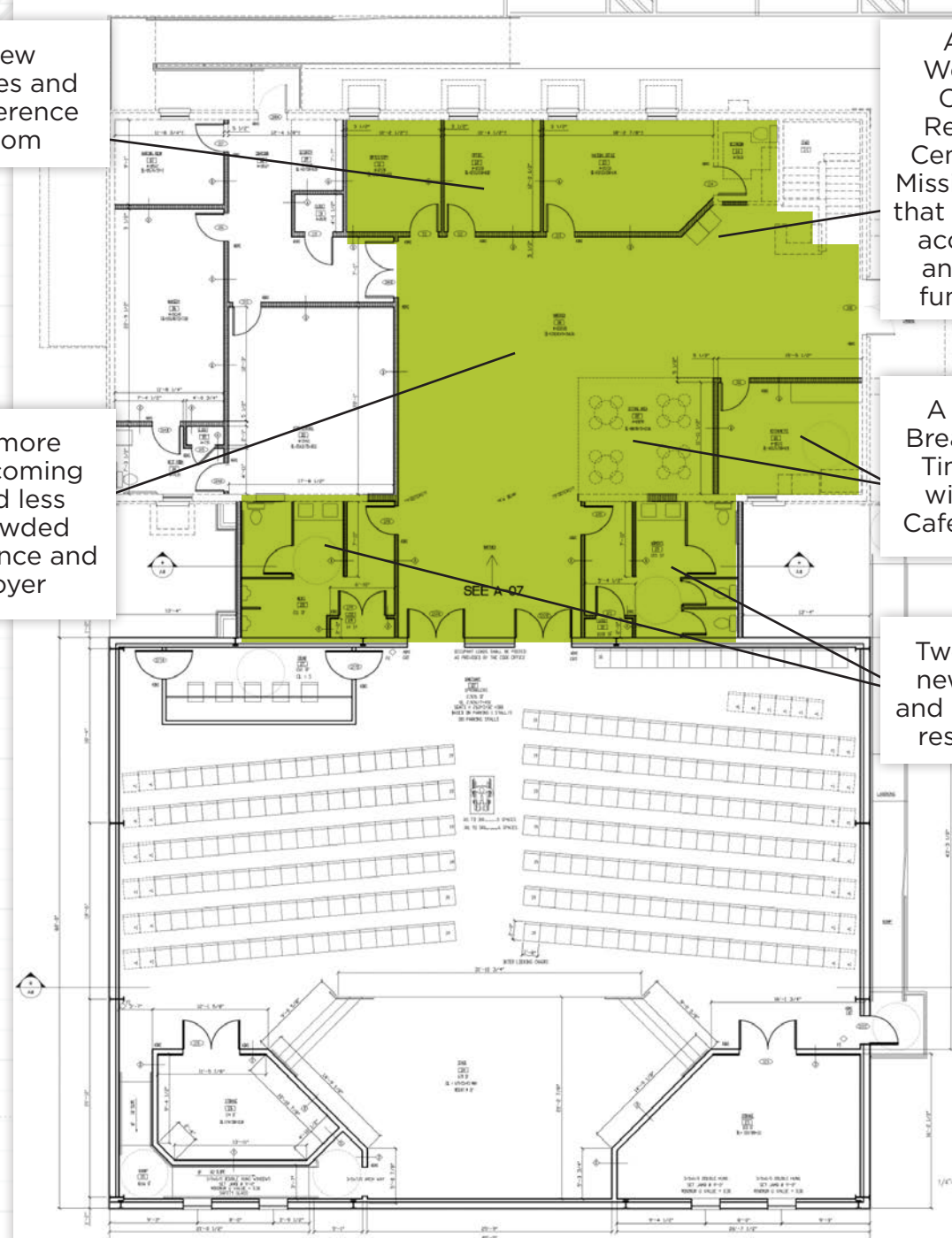
New offices and conference room

A more welcoming and less crowded entrance and foyer

A new Welcome Center, Resource Center, and Missions Area that are easily accessible and more functional

A bigger Breakfast @ Timothy's with new Café seating

Two brand new Men's and Women's restrooms



# HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Our primary goal through MAKE ROOM is that 100% of people who call NBC home would engage in this initiative to experience a life-changing encounter with God. We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God and your family—to take the biggest steps of generosity you’ve ever taken as we move together to accomplish God’s dream for us.

## 1. PRAY FERVENTLY.

Pray that God would multiply our efforts to help people find their way back to Him. Pray that He would do abundantly more than we ask or imagine for His Great Name. My prayer for MAKE ROOM is:

---

---

## 2. GROW INTENTIONALLY.

Help us reach our goal of 100% engagement in MAKE ROOM. Stand side by side with our church family to pursue a vision that is bigger than ourselves. Attend each Sunday from April 19th through May 17th. Engage in the MAKE ROOM study with your Life Group. Learn all you can about God’s desire for you and your resources. A growth area for me through MAKE ROOM is:

---

---

## 3. GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Ask God to show you what it looks like to give in a way that changes you. Take whatever steps are required to see it through. I can grow in generosity through MAKE ROOM by:

---

---

**LET US THINK OF WAYS TO  
MOTIVATE ONE ANOTHER  
TO ACTS OF LOVE AND GOOD  
WORKS. AND LET US NOT  
NEGLECT OUR MEETING  
TOGETHER, AS SOME PEOPLE  
DO, BUT ENCOURAGE ONE  
ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY NOW  
THAT THE DAY OF HIS RETURN  
IS DRAWING NEAR.**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**



# LIFE GROUP STUDY

## Why It's Genius to be Generous

### Introduction: The amazing John Saville!

#### Our "Secret Pact"

- John had a \_\_\_\_\_!
- I had an \_\_\_\_\_!
- We made a \_\_\_\_\_!

#### Three things happened in my life:

1. Rarely a day went by that I didn't think of John. Every need raised the question - "What would John want me to do?"

2. I strangely became far more meticulous about balancing "his checkbook" than my own.

3. John and I became best friends as he bought extravagant lunches and I told extraordinary stories at our quarterly celebrations.

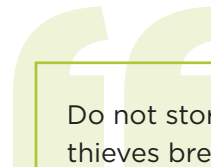


**BRIGHT IDEA:** To be smart, spend carefully. To be wise, save regularly. To be genius, give extravagantly.

#### Four reasons it's genius to be generous:

1. Generosity \_\_\_\_\_ our lives.
2. Generosity \_\_\_\_\_ us with others.
3. Generosity helps us \_\_\_\_\_ in what matters.

Acts 20:35, Proverbs 11:25



Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

MATTHEW 6:19-24

4. Generosity \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts.

**Question: If generosity is so smart, why isn't everyone doing it?**

Because \_\_\_\_\_ is powerful and deceptive.

Matthew 13:22

Because of the lure of \_\_\_\_\_ worship.

Matthew 6:24

Because it demands \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 6:19

Because of temporal myopia.

Matthew 6:23

**BREAKTHROUGH CONCEPT #1**

Generosity is the gateway to intimacy  
with God.

**Application: Three questions brilliant people ask**

1. Am I using the money entrusted to me in accordance with the \_\_\_\_\_ wishes?
2. Am I carefully keeping account of where all the \_\_\_\_\_ funds are going?
3. Am I becoming "best friends" with the " \_\_\_\_\_ " by the privilege and opportunity of managing His resources?

**Epilogue: The amazing John Saville story continues.... Forever!**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. When you were growing up, how would you describe your family's view toward money? Toward generosity?
2. Who is the most generous person you know? Who has blessed you by their generosity?
3. How would you describe where you are today on the journey toward generosity? How big of a priority is it for you and what are some barriers to being more generous?
4. Chip said, "Generosity works." Brainstorm a list of ways that generosity makes for a richer, better life. How has this principle of "generosity works" played itself out in your life?
5. If we were to look at your life in the past, where have you been tempted to follow the world's thinking about money? Are you tempted to believe and behave as though money will bring security, significance, purpose, or happiness?



# LIFE GROUP STUDY

## The Principle with Secret Power

### Introduction: The Little “Green Bug”

#### What I learned...

- You can give but not be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Giving is an \_\_\_\_\_; generosity is a matter of the heart.
  - o I was self-righteous.
  - o I was proud.
  - o I was “works” oriented.
  - o I felt superior.
  - o I was rigorously religious, but relationally challenged.
- Stewardship is not an \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill, but an \_\_\_\_\_ to seize.



**BRIGHT IDEA:** Stewardship is the path. Generosity is the adventure.

The genius behind the in-depth relationship I enjoyed with John Saville is ....

## BREAKTHROUGH CONCEPT #2

God owns everything. I am His money manager.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

“The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,” declares the Lord Almighty. (Haggai 2:8)

Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth. (Deuteronomy 8:18)

You are not your own; you are bought with a price. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

### Summary: The “Oikonomia” Principle

All that we are, and all that we have belongs to God and has been temporarily entrusted to us to manage according to His wishes.

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

**The real issue is not “stuff” but \_\_\_\_\_ . Can God trust you?**

**The Setting:**

Correction of the Pharisees and instruction of His disciples concerning wealth.

**The Story:**

Luke 16:1-11

- Mismanagement occurs and dismissal soon follows.
- Two options are considered and a third is taken.
- A commendation by the owner – a good lesson from a bad example – “he was shrewd.”

The dishonest manager used his present temporal opportunities (stewardship) with a view of receiving future rewards. This made good business sense and according to Jesus, makes good spiritual sense as well.

**The Teaching:**

Faithfulness with material wealth is a prerequisite to being entrusted with spiritual wealth and rewards.

**The Test:**

Two basic financial practices that demonstrate God is our #1 priority.

1. Generous stewards give the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

Proverbs 3:9-10

2. Generous stewards give \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 16:2

**Application: Three questions wise stewards regularly ask**

1. Am I using the money entrusted to me in accordance with the Owner’s wishes?

2. Am I carefully keeping account of where all the Owner’s funds are going?

3. Am I becoming “best friends” with the “Owner” by the privilege and opportunity of managing His resources?

**A Snapshot:**

I \_\_\_\_\_, want to develop a deep, personal relationship with you, dear God. Today, I recognize that all I have and all I am belongs to You. I commit, today, to discover by Your grace, where and how to invest the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to me. Amen!



# LIFE GROUP STUDY

## Why God Prospers Generous People

### Fact #1 – God blesses generous people!

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.’**” (Acts 20:35 – Jesus)

**Give, and it will be given to you.** A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you”. (Luke 6:38 - Jesus)

A **generous man** will himself **be blessed**, for he shares his food with the poor. (Proverbs 22:9 - Solomon)

He who is **kind to the poor** lends to the LORD, and He will **reward him** for what he has done. (Proverbs 19:17 – Solomon)

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, **so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.** (Deuteronomy 24:19 - Moses)

**Honor the LORD** with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be **filled to overflowing**, and your vats will **brim over with new wine.** (Proverbs 3:9-10 - Solomon)

One man **gives freely**, yet **gains even more**; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will **prosper**; he who refreshes others **will himself be refreshed.** (Proverbs 11:24-25 – Solomon)



**BRIGHT IDEA:** Generous living produces emotional \_\_\_\_\_, spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, and material \_\_\_\_\_.

### Fact #2 – God provides clear criteria for becoming a generous person!

1. Genuine generosity gives the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

Proverbs 3:9-10

2. Genuine generosity is regular and \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 16:2

3. Genuine generosity is \_\_\_\_\_ to our income.

1 Corinthians 16:2

4. Genuine generosity is \_\_\_\_\_.

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most 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 saints.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-4

5. Genuine generosity is \_\_\_\_\_, voluntary, and \_\_\_\_\_.

So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:5-7

**Fact #3 - is Breakthrough Concept #3...**

### BREAKTHROUGH CONCEPT #3

God prospers me not to raise my standard of living,  
but to raise my standard of giving.\*

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his 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 made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8-11

\* Randy Alcorn in *The Treasure Principle*

**Fact #4 - The key to becoming habitually generous and experience habitual happiness is \_\_\_\_\_!**

• Faith says - Refuse to chase the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:11

• Faith says - Enjoy God's provision.

1 Timothy 6:19

• Faith says - God rewards those who step out and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Hebrews 11:6

**Action:** "The Parable of the Pump"

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Do you feel happy when you have been kind and generous with your time, talent, and treasure?
2. What specific steps would you need to take to fulfill God's criteria and be generous in God's eyes?
3. Discuss Breakthrough Concept #3. Do you agree or disagree with it?
4. Where do faith and generosity intersect? What step of faith is God asking you to take?

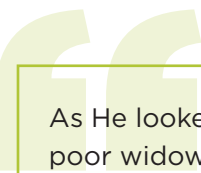


# LIFE GROUP STUDY

## How Does God Measure Generosity?

### Introduction:

A familiar story that is often misunderstood and misapplied.



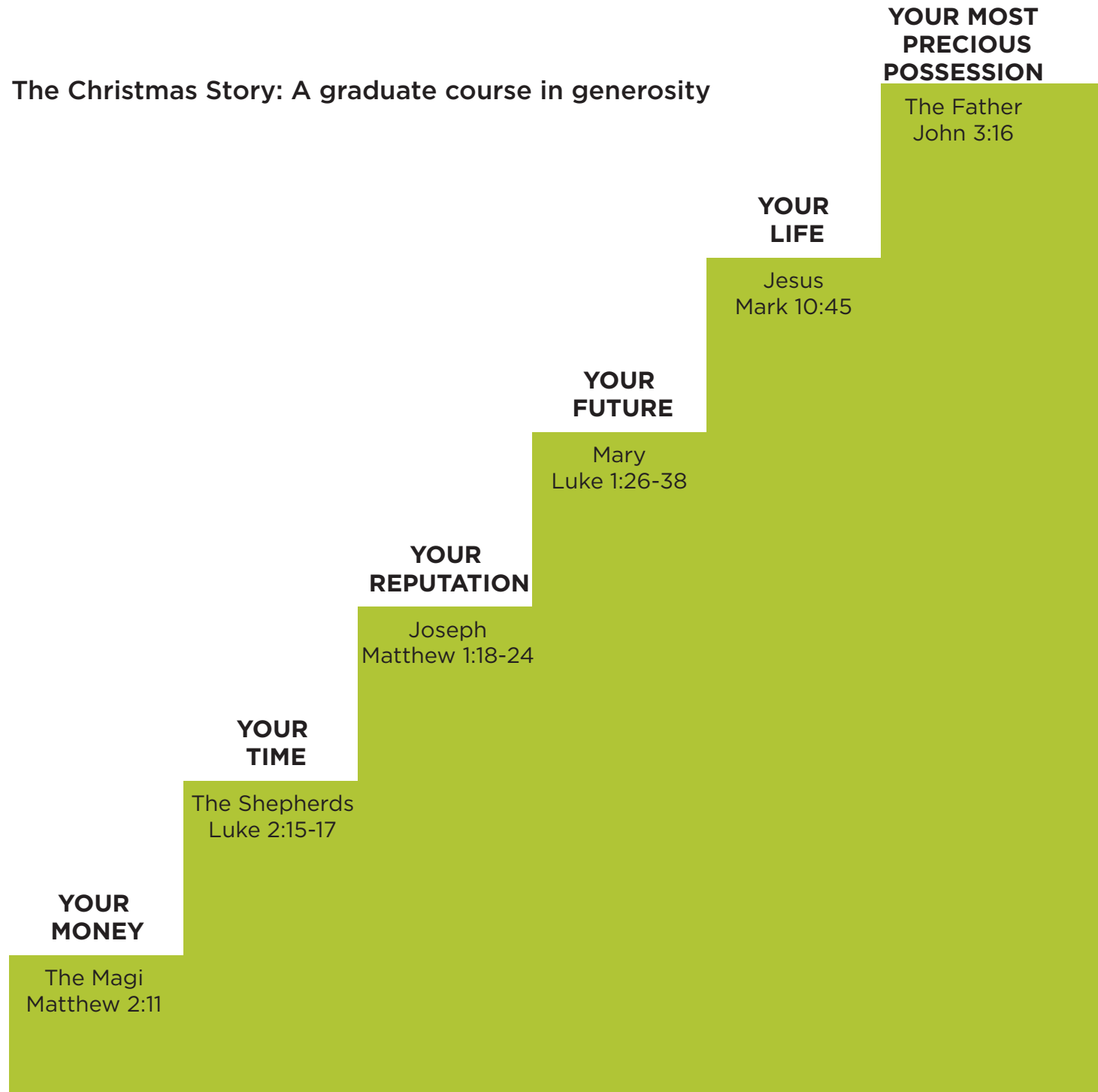
As He looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," He said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

LUKE 21:1-4

### BREAKTHROUGH CONCEPT #4

God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our sacrifice.

## The Christmas Story: A graduate course in generosity



### Three observations:

1. Generosity is not so much a virtuous act, as it is a virtuous \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Increasing levels of generosity bring increasing levels of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Generosity is to love as thunder is to lightning:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

LUKE 6:38

### A special guest with a special story:

1. Generosity always begins with God; it is the visible expression of His infinite, incomprehensible love for us.

James 1:17

**Question:** Are you living with the constant awareness that you are the object of God's infinite and unconditional love?

**Application:** List 25 specific blessings from God before the end of the week and share them with a friend.

2. Our generosity is the visible expression of our love (response to God's love) for God.

John 14:21

**Question:** Where are you on your generosity journey with God? What "next step" do you sense God's Spirit prompting you to take?

**Application:** Ask God to show you a specific way to stretch your generosity muscle and where and what He directs you to give.

3. Generous living begins with the "training wheels" of money and possessions and graduates to making our "very lives" a gift to God as a perpetual act of worship.

Romans 12:1-2

**Question:** Why is it so critical to remember that God wants the very best for us as we grow in our generosity?

**Application:** Memorize Romans 12:1-2 this week.

# ARE YOU READY TO TAKE A STEP?

Our primary goal through MAKE ROOM is that 100% of people who call Nittany Bible home would engage in this initiative to experience a life-changing encounter with God. We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God and your church family—to take the biggest steps of generosity you’ve ever taken as we move together to accomplish God’s dream for us.

## SACRIFICE

Would you prayerfully consider what God might be calling you to give up during the next three years in order to allow you to give more to his mission through the work of Nittany Bible Church?

## TRUST

Will you join us by trusting God for the future He has in store for our church? We need every person at Nittany Bible to take this step together to MAKE ROOM for what God will do when we surrender to His plan.

## EVERYONE

We can’t do this alone. We can’t do this with half of our community. We need 100% of our church to join together in unity as we stand up, take a step, and help us to MAKE ROOM for all that God is going to do.

## PRAY

This journey is much more about our faith than it is about finances. Please pray for God’s wisdom, courage, and direction every step of the way.

**Pray** over your commitment as you prepare to bring your card on Commitment Sunday, May 17th. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process, and prayer is what gives us the bold heart of Christ within us.

**Let’s do this!** Let’s boldly surrender to God in every area of our lives.



**MAKE ROOM**

**THREE-YEAR GOAL**  
\$700,000 | 36-MONTH COMMITMENT

As you pray about what God is asking you to give additionally during this time, allow this gift chart to be a discipleship tool that inspires you toward greater generosity for God’s kingdom.

You may think your gift doesn’t matter when compared to the total goal of **MAKE ROOM**, but that’s just not true! Every gift matters to God. It’s not about the amount, but what that amount means to you.

GIFTS NEEDED	3-YEAR GIFT OF	ANNUAL GIFT OF	MONTHLY GIFT OF	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$75,000
1	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$1,389	\$50,000
2	\$35,000	\$11,667	\$972	\$70,000
4	\$25,000	\$8,333	\$694	\$100,000
8	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$120,000
10	\$10,000	\$3,333	\$278	\$100,000
12	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$208	\$90,000
15	\$3,600	\$1,200	\$100	\$54,000
20	\$1,800	\$600	\$50	\$36,000
MANY	\$1,800	>\$600	>\$50	\$5,000
				<b>TOTAL GIFT GOAL: \$700,000</b>

Nittany Bible Church | nittanybible.com | (814) 692-4269

**You may think your gift doesn’t matter when compared to our total goal for MAKE ROOM.** That isn’t true! Every gift matters to God. It’s not about the amount, but what that amount means to God. Use this table to see how your monthly gift adds up over three years.



# A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

These stages focus on behaviors, attitudes of our hearts, and how we are following Jesus rather than on amounts or percentages. Each step represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice that transforms us into the likeness of Christ who gave up everything to give us a hope today and forever.

## INITIAL GIVER

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 and trust God with their gift.

## CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver is someone who commits to give something on a regular basis. Consistent Givers start to think of their giving in the same way they think about other budget expenses that are always paid, regardless of seasons of plenty or want. They often set up an online recurring gift to help.

## INTENTIONAL GIVER

Intentional Givers think about giving in relation to other things they spend their money on: "Why do I give the cable company or my cell provider more money than I give to God?" They consider a percentage or amount they want to commit to in order to consciously grow in their generosity. Intentional Givers look at their budget and consider how their giving reflects their view of God and commitment to his Kingdom.

## SURRENDERED GIVER

A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes the cost Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. Their giving governs their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver isn't concerned with what they ARE giving but more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why. They seek to honor God with what he has given them, whether direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource like a home or a vehicle.

## LIFETIME GIVER

A Lifetime Giver is someone who 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, and how much they choose to keep all in relation to their generosity capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal or a long-term commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases, such as homes, investments, and the like.

**WHAT NEXT STEP WILL YOU TAKE?**

# WAYS TO GIVE AN OVER AND ABOVE GIFT

Generosity Initiatives rely on church members making gifts that will **expand and accelerate** their current level of giving. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where you set your heart on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from the spiritual priorities.

One way of defining this is **“Lifestyle Giving,”** a term used to describe a level of generosity that affects the day-to-day rhythms of your life. The challenge of Lifestyle Giving is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to let your giving touch your living!

In the Bible, King David said, **“I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.”** (2 Samuel 24:24 NLT) David understood the gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the heart of the giver. This is the spirit of Lifestyle Giving: If it is for my God, my gift must have value and meaning to me.

Often, Lifestyle Giving means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another. The three keys to Lifestyle Giving are:

- Reassess lifestyle
- Rearrange priorities
- Reallocate resources

Many believers have been amazed at their ability to give more generously to their church. The following seven steps are offered to help you in this regard.

## 1. PRACTICE PRIORITY BUDGETING

Many families will choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their current budget in order to give more to a generosity initiative. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, home remodeling or other major purchase. Many Christians giving to capital stewardship campaigns find a way to give through sacrificial commitments made in faith and coupled with priority budgeting.



## 2. REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENDITURES

Often, families have significant short-term expenditures for special needs. One example is the large expenditure a family incurs for a child to attend college. A family might realize that their daughter would be graduating from college during the three years of the generosity initiative and, as a result, they would be able to increase their commitment in the second or third year of a campaign by thousands of dollars by giving what they would have been spending on their daughter's tuition. Another example would be the cash flow that is freed up when a loan is paid off.

## 3. INCREASED GIVING WITH INCREASED INCOME

Some people receive periodic increases in salary from their employers. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. Some might decide that they will commit the full amount of salary increases to the vision of MAKE ROOM.

## 4. GIVE FROM YOUR EXCESS

Someone might decide that donating the proceeds from a valuable collector's item would be the most appropriate means of sacrifice for their family. Some families might donate money that had been saved up over a period of years for a house project. Funds that have been saved for a vacation home or an extra car would be great examples of how to give out of the excess that God has given us.

## 5. COMMIT UNEXPECTED CASH

Often, people pray for God to show them a way they can give beyond what they can presently see or afford. Sometimes, the answers come unexpectedly. It might be a surprise inheritance that a family can give on top of their regular giving, or a bonus at the end of a year.

## 6. SACRIFICE YOUR EXTRA TIME

Some family members have extra time they would be willing to use in a part-time job to be able to give more to the church. This is particularly true for families whose children are grown and away from home or for semi-retired and retired couples. Someone might donate the first few years of their retirement income to God's plan through his church.

## 7. DONATE APPRECIATED ASSETS (STORED RESOURCES)

Many people own stocks that are worth significantly more than the original purchase price. That is good news. The bad news is that if these stocks are sold, a significant portion of the gain would be lost to taxation.

Gifts of appreciated assets – typically investment securities or real estate – can be very advantageous to both the donor and to the church. By transferring ownership of the asset to the church, the donor avoids capital gains taxes on the sale of the asset. In addition, the donor receives an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset. That, in effect, makes these gifts less costly to make.

Though it is important to invest your giving to further the mission of the ministry God has laid on your heart, it is also important to consider the tax implications of making a gift to the church. Before making a commitment of this type, please consult your CPA, tax attorney or other financial advisor.

## A FINAL WORD

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the three-year period of the campaign. You might be able to give more in the second or third years than in the first. As you think about your financial commitment to the campaign, think not just of your potential to give right now, but also of your potential to give in the future. It might be that you can make a three-year commitment in which 75% will be given in the second half of the commitment.

Finally, as you consider your financial commitment to the Lord's work, you might want to consider estate planning. Many sincere, committed Christian people have not made plans for generosity in their wills and estate planning. Now might be a good time to do that. It might be as simple as including a provision in your will that 10 percent of the value of your estate will be donated to the church holding your letter of membership at the time of your passing. Or, it could involve a planned gift such as a charitable remainder trust. While such gifts do not provide immediate financial benefit to a generosity initiative, they are marvelous gifts of faith commitment to carry on the work of the church for future generations.

**“I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.”**

**2 Samuel 24:24**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Will the new auditorium be big enough?**

Yes, while we will initially have seating for 300 in the new auditorium, the new space will be big enough to comfortably accommodate 370+ seats. This will also provide a much larger space for dinners, VBS, and other non-worship service related uses. There will also be new Men's and Women's restroom facilities to adequately meet the needs of our current and future NBC Family.

## **Will we lose the small-church feel of Nittany Bible?**

That depends on all of us! Nittany Bible Church has grown and changed a lot in the last 10 years. During that time, we have grown from average Sunday attendances hovering around 50 to an average attendance nearing 200 people per Sunday. What has not changed are the friendly faces that greet one another on Sunday mornings . . . there's just more friendly faces! If we all continue to greet one another with a genuine smile and sincere affection for one another, we believe we will never lose that "small-church feel." Regular involvement in a LifeGroup is another great way to remain connected in a growing church.

## **Will new attenders to Nittany Bible be able to join the campaign?**

Yes, we will do our best to onboard newcomers to Nittany Bible Church into the MAKE ROOM initiative when they have made the decision to call NBC their home!

## **What if I don't have a lot to give?**

Our primary goal of the MAKE ROOM initiative is 100% engagement. In other words, we want everyone who calls Nittany Bible their home to be invested in some way. Some will be able to give a lot, some will be able to give a little. We believe everyone can take a step of faith and give something. What we are asking is not a specific amount from every person but that each person would seek God in respect to how much they should give and then be obedient to His leading.

## **What will happen to the basement of our current church building?**

Our current basement layout will remain the same, although the usage of the rooms will change. On Sunday mornings, there will no longer be toddlers and infants downstairs, as they will be in the newly renovated area upstairs. This means that there will, once again, be enough classroom space for all

children K-5th Grade downstairs. The additional classroom space will also be better utilized by Trail Life and American Heritage Girls.

## **Is the leadership open to suggestions on design of the new building and renovations?**

We believe that after 3 years of discussion, planning, designing, and consulting with multiple contractors and architects, we have developed the best path forward in relation to the plans that are currently designed. With that being said, as with everything we do, the leadership of Nittany Bible is always open to hearing from the congregation. Upon hearing your advice, we will pray for God's direction and then do what we believe He is leading us to do. This may be in line with your advice or go against your suggestion, but you can be confident that we are willing to listen to you.

## **Is the general contractor open to members of Nittany Bible helping with completion?**

Seeing that we are serving as our own General Contractor, the answer is yes. That is one reason that we decided to serve as our own GC. We have many talented individuals in our congregation, and we will be seeking to utilize their skills if they are willing. If there is an area that you believe God is leading you to help with and you are skilled in that area, please speak to your elder.

## **Will the church be updated on the progress of the campaign and construction?**

Yes, our goal is to keep the congregation updated on a regular basis concerning both the funds raised for the MAKE ROOM initiative and with the progress of the construction project.

## **When will we begin construction? Will there be a disruption to our weekly services?**

Our hope is to break ground in Fall 2026 and have the new addition under roof before winter so that work can continue during the colder temperatures. This should not disrupt our weekly services. When the addition is finished, there may be a one week service disruption to connect the buildings. We will then use a portion of the existing building and the new addition while renovations occur in the rest of the existing building.

## **Will we take on debt for this project?**

The estimated total cost for the project is roughly \$1.4 million. Our goal for the MAKE ROOM initiative is to raise at least \$700,000. Ideally, we will see God provide for the entire cost of the project and we would not need to borrow any money long term. We are prepared, though, to borrow what the MAKE ROOM initiative doesn't provide.

## **Why do we believe that now is the time to do this?**

We have simply run out of room in our current building. Our existing building is limiting us from truly accomplishing God's vision for our church. We need to MAKE ROOM so that we can COME together to worship, again, as one church; GROW together in biblical community; and be equipped to GO into all of our worlds proclaiming the gospel.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



On June 7th, we will announce our total MAKE ROOM commitments and celebrate what God has done in each of our lives to that point. This is also when each of us will be challenged to take a big step to start our commitment.

Many who are committing resources that are already available to them are encouraged to give on that day in order to accelerate the vision God has for Nittany Bible Church. Others may choose to increase current giving by offering more than usual on this date to help us kick-start our initiative in a big way.

We encourage everyone to participate in our First Gift Offering so together we can begin to make a tremendous impact through our generosity.





NITTANY  
BIBLE CHURCH