



## NAVIGATIONAL GUIDE

A GENEROSITY JOURNEY WITH FIRST PREZ HONOLULU  
Dec 2019 – Dec 2021 • [www.raisethesails.org](http://www.raisethesails.org)

## THIS NAVIGATIONAL GUIDE BELONGS TO:

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Name

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Email address

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Phone



*Be strong and  
courageous.  
Do not be afraid;  
do not be discouraged,  
for the Lord your God  
will be with you  
wherever you go.*

**JOSHUA 1:9**

I was “in the Spirit” and God showed me Hawaii. He kept saying “the wind is coming” to Hawaii. It is offshore at the moment but the wind is coming soon.

God told me that the church in Hawaii is beginning to see a change in the atmosphere, but more is coming and you’re to listen for it and look for it and be ready for it. This isn’t going to be business as usual.

What He is wanting to do is bigger than that, and the key to unlocking it will be unceasing prayer in Hawaii. I cannot underline how significant and important this is. God is calling you to unceasing prayer because the winds of the Spirit are coming.

*(A prophetic word shared by Pastor Pete Greig at the 2016 HIM conference. He received it from Bill Cahusac, an Anglican pastor with a prophetic gifting.)*

## CONTENTS

- 4** Message from Pastor Dan
- 6** History Timeline of First Prez
- 10** Raise the Sails Overview
- 12** How Will You Respond
- 14** One Fund
- 17** Your Commitment
- 18** Raise the Sails Sermon Series and Small Groups Discussion Guide
- 51** Frequently Asked Questions



# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DAN

## DEAR FIRST PREZ FAMILY,

Our church has come a long way. We've had a wonderful history with many loving families, like yours, who have been part of the journey.

It was 60 years ago in 1959 when faithful followers of Jesus planted our church, the very first Presbyterian church in Hawaii. Dedicated Christians risked time, talent, and resources to start the community we're blessed to have today. It's in our DNA to start churches, to be risk-takers, and to go on adventures where the Lord leads us.

Once again the good ship First Prez is about to launch and go on another exciting adventure with God at the helm as our captain. Ships are safest in the harbor, but that's not what they're made for. Ships are meant to sail for an adventure, for a mission.

Churches are built for a mission. We sense the Lord calling us out of the harbor to embark on a journey, a generosity journey that will result in self-discovery and a way of living that makes God our top priority.

For the next two years, we are calling this generosity journey, this adventure, RAISE THE SAILS. Our primary goal is for every person in our

church 'ohana to be part of it and to have a life-changing encounter with God as it relates to generosity and the worship of our Lord. Our secondary goal is to invest towards current ministry operations, campus repairs and renovations, and future ministries. This is a journey to develop a lifestyle of generosity in order to reach more people for Jesus Christ.

We want to grow our hearts in generosity by putting God and the gospel first. The kind of heart we are giving from is more important than what we are giving to. It is my prayer that as we go through this journey together, we will see God move in ways that would exceed our expectations and greatly boost our faith in Him.

The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as being like the wind (Acts 2:2), and wind of the Holy Spirit is blowing. It's time to catch the wind. Together. It's time to raise the sails!



Excited to launch this new adventure with you,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Dan".

Pastor Dan Chun

# TIMELINE

## DEFINING MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**1959**

Our church was founded at the YWCA on Richards Street in Honolulu with Pastors Bill Phifer and Philip Lee. Pastor Phifer served for 15 years.



**1961**

First Prez bought property on Keeaumoku Street, Honolulu. Total contributions raised was \$565,000, equivalent to \$5 million today. New sanctuary was completed in 1961.



**1977**

Pastor Bob Owens installed as senior pastor of the church and served for 16 years.



**1994**

Pastor Dan Chun installed as senior pastor of the church.



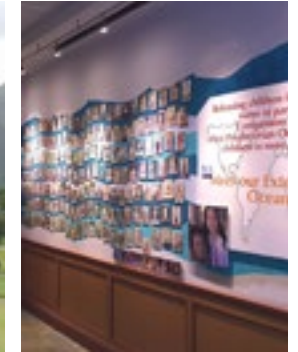
**2002**

First healing service held, marking a focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and healing prayer.



**2006**

First Prez purchased and moved to the Ko'olau campus.



**2007**

Partnership with Compassion International started and Compassion Wall installed. First Prez has sponsored more than 1,600 children to date.

## TIMELINE CONTINUED



**2008**

The 11:11 contemporary worship service started to reach out to young adults.



**2010**

The Alpha Course introduced at First Prez. More than 1000 have taken the course to date and many have been led to Jesus Christ.



**2014**

First Prez changes denomination from PCUSA to ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians).



**2015**

Launch of Laundry Love, Do Justice Saturday, and Mustard Seed Miracle, outreach ministries benefiting the houseless and others in need.



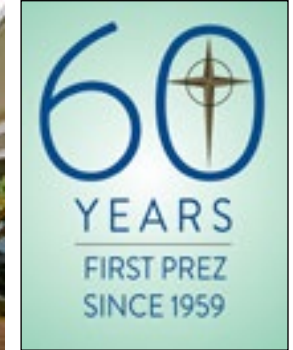
**2015**

Easter baptisms were introduced. More than 800 baptisms (first time and renewals of baptismal vows) to date.



**2017**

First Prez paid off the Ko'olau campus.



**2019**

60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Prez and Pastor Dan's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as senior pastor. First Prez entered into lease for The Vine campus in Kaka'ako.

# 2019

**GOD CALLS FIRST PREZ  
TO RAISE THE SAILS FOR  
THE SAKE OF OTHERS.**



OUR RAISE THE SAILS  
**VISION**  
DECEMBER 2019 - DECEMBER 2021

We want to grow our hearts toward generosity as we put God and the Gospel first. RAISE THE SAILS calls us to embark on a generosity journey and live in ways that please Him. We are called to have a generous lifestyle.

*Before God does something THROUGH us,  
He often seeks to do something IN us.*

THE **PRIMARY** GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

We invite every person in the First Prez 'ohana to join this journey, take the next step in discipleship, and grow in generosity. As we understand God's generosity, our love for others grows, and so do our compassion, generosity, sense of mission, and the desire to share the Gospel. We find it easier to bless others. We become the church that looks to the interests of others more than ourselves.

THE **SECONDARY** GOAL

\$15.5 MILLION TOTAL

(inclusive of annual ministry operations for two years, repairs, and ministry expansion)

We're trusting God to move through us in investing \$15.5 million over the next two years to accomplish the vision He has given our church to impact these three areas:

**MINISTRY OPERATIONS: \$9 MILLION**

For current ministries and day-to-day operations of First Prez for the next two years. Our annual church budget is \$4.5M, multiplied by two years, equals \$9M.

**REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS: \$5 MILLION**

For needed repairs and improvements on campus (sewer system, fellowship hall, elevators, roofing, road paving, etc).

**MINISTRY EXPANSION: \$1.5 MILLION**

For expanding the reach of God's Kingdom locally and globally through new ministries, including The Vine satellite campus, staffing and training of new leaders.

# HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

WE PRAY FOR YOUR 100% PARTICIPATION AND PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT IN DISCERNING HOW GOD WOULD HAVE YOU GROW IN THE SEASON AHEAD.

As we understand God's extraordinary generosity (Garden of Eden, the Promised Land, Jesus' sacrificial death, etc), we learn to have His generous nature too. God is so generous that He gives generously to all (James 1:5).

Let's go on a spiritual journey with God and respond in the following ways:

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## **PRAY PERSISTENTLY**

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Pray that God will work in each of our hearts to listen to Him and explore where He leads us in this generosity journey.

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## **COMMIT FULLY**

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Embark on a generosity journey with God, and encourage others to do the same.

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## **CELEBRATE ENTHUSIASTICALLY**

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Share God's generosity enthusiastically with those around us, and join a Raise the Sails small group.

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## **GIVE GENEROUSLY**

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





## WHAT IS ONE FUND?

One Fund simply means that from December 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, all gifts to First Prez will go to only one fund. RAISE THE SAILS will include funding two years of our annual church budget, renovations to our facility, and ministry expansion.

The One Fund approach invites everyone to give, whether they currently give something or currently give nothing, and encourages everyone to grow in their generosity to God through First Prez. Having One Fund for RAISE THE SAILS allows us to celebrate:

- those who start giving
- those who start giving regularly
- those who increase their regular giving, and
- those who give additional special gifts.

In a traditional capital campaign, donors are usually encouraged to give “over and above” their regular gifts towards a special project. The extra gifts go to a special fund while donors also continue to give to the general fund. For RAISE THE SAILS, instead of separating gifts into different funds for the general operating budget, a capital campaign and special projects, all gifts will go to one RAISE THE SAILS fund.

We never take your giving for granted and want to thank you for all your generosity. Having One Fund allows us to celebrate not just your additional gifts, but also your current gifts (tithes and offerings), which are sometimes overlooked in traditional campaigns.

Our RAISE THE SAILS sermon series ends on Commitment Sunday, November 10, 2019, the day we make our two-year commitments together as a church. Please fill out a RAISE THE SAILS Commitment Card and bring it with you on Commitment Sunday. Until then, prayerfully consider what steps of faith and generosity God may be calling you to take.

ONE FUND for our ONE MISSION at First Prez: Love God, love people, and reach the world for Jesus Christ.





## TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

As we pray and discern how God would ask us to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool towards generosity for Christ's Kingdom.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT OF	MONTHLY GIFT OF	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	1,500,000	750,000	62,500	1,500,000
1	1,000,000	500,000	41,667	1,000,000
1	750,000	375,000	31,250	750,000
2	500,000	250,000	20,833	1,000,000
2	250,000	125,000	10,417	500,000
3	150,000	75,000	6,250	450,000
4	125,000	62,500	5,208	500,000
7	100,000	50,000	4,167	700,000
10	75,000	37,500	3,125	750,000
15	65,000	32,500	2,708	975,000
25	50,000	25,000	2,083	1,250,000
35	35,000	17,500	1,458	1,225,000
50	25,000	12,500	1,042	1,250,000
55	15,000	7,500	625	825,000
85	10,000	5,000	417	850,000
105	7,500	3,750	313	787,500
125	5,000	2,500	208	625,000
Many	2,500	1,250	104	562,500

Total Gift Goal \$15,500,000

## YOUR COMMITMENT

The RAISE THE SAILS generosity journey will last for two years. Every gift given to First Prez from December 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021 will go to RAISE THE SAILS.

Below is a sample of the RAISE THE SAILS Commitment Card. Use it as a worksheet as you embark on your generosity journey. As with all gifts to First Prez, your gift is confidential between you, God, and our bookkeeper (unless you want us to know).

A commitment card can be requested from the church office. Please turn it in on Commitment Sunday, November 10, 2019.

\$	<input type="text"/>	What I/we would normally give to FPC in a year (tithes and offerings)
+\$	<input type="text"/>	My/our additional annual gift as part of RAISE THE SAILS
=\$	<input type="text"/>	SUBTOTAL
<b>x 2 years = \$</b>		<input type="text"/>
One-time gift from stored resources (real estate, stocks, assets, etc.)		+\$ <input type="text"/>
<b>MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR RAISE THE SAILS COMMITMENT</b>		
<b>=\$</b>		<input type="text"/>
December 2019–December 2021		

# RAISE THE SAILS SERIES GUIDE

This section is meant to help us go deeper in our faith journey with the Lord and become a blessing to others in how we invest our lives into God's Kingdom work.

How to benefit the most from our RAISE THE SAILS series:

- Commit your participation every week in the RAISE THE SAILS Series by attending a Sunday worship service.
- Host or join a RAISE THE SAILS small group by signing up in the fellowship hall on Sunday mornings.
- Bring your RAISE THE SAILS booklet each Sunday to worship.

*There are several ways to engage the Sunday message:*

## PREPARE

Pray as you prepare yourself for worship.

## RECEIVE

Read and meditate on the focus Scriptures for each week.

## TAKE NOTES

Take notes each week during the sermon.

## JOURNAL

After each sermon, personally respond to what you heard by completing the short journal response.

## TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Reflect on the message. Share with others one big idea from the Sunday's message.

# WEEK 1

OCTOBER 6, 2019

## SERMON: FOLLOW HIM

**PREPARE:** Pray before the worship service.

**RECEIVE:** Focus on the Scripture passage for the week.

## SERMON NOTES

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## JOURNAL: WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME? AND WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?

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## TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence with this question: "God, how can I follow You more closely?"

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## SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION WEEK 1

- Joshua 1:1-9
- Key verse: Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9
- Key Theme: Following Jesus into uncharted territory requires taking risks and requires some level of trust in the faithfulness of God.

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Josh. 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: 2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

Josh. 1:7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

## REFLECT

- 1) What is one thought or idea from this week’s Scripture passage that especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, helped, or surprised you?

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- 2) Has there ever been a time when God told you to cross a “Jordan River” and take a risk, trusting Him? In that “Jordan River” crossing, what did it look like for you to be strong and courageous? How did that experience impact you and your faith in Jesus Christ?

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- 3) Place yourself on the trust continuum below. Capture a few thoughts as to why you placed yourself where you did. What usually helps you to trust God more? What tends to keep you from trusting?

0% Trust ————— 100% Trust

- 4) In what area in your life are you seeking to trust God more?

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5) RAISE THE SAILS is one of the largest things we have ever done as a church. It is a generosity journey for the next two years, which will require a whole new level of faith and surrender from all of us. How might God be calling you to grow and to trust Him in this upcoming season?

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## REFOCUS

Close by praying together:

“We pray that when we raise the sails of our lives and venture out, may we have the winds of the Holy Spirit to guide us and God’s people to make us strong and courageous. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than what we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!”

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence, with this question:

“God, show me how I can follow You more closely.”

Then journal what you heard.

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For next week, read Joshua 2.

# WEEK 2

OCTOBER 13, 2019

## SERMON: PRIORITIZE HIM

**PREPARE:** Pray before the worship service.

**RECEIVE:** Focus on the Scripture passage for the week.

### SERMON NOTES

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### JOURNAL: WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME? AND WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?

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### TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence with this question:

“Lord, how can I give You more priority in my life?”

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## SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION WEEK 2

- Joshua 2:1-24
- Key verse: (Rahab the prostitute said), “When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” (Joshua 2:11)
- Key Theme: Making Jesus your top priority will lead to your greatest adventure.

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Josh. 2:1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

Josh. 2:2 The king of Jericho was told, “Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” 3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

Josh. 2:4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” 6 (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) 7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

Josh. 2:8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. 10 We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. 11 When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

Josh. 2:12 “Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

Josh. 2:14 “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land.”

Josh. 2:15 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. 16 She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

Josh. 2:17 Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us 18 unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. 19 If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. 20 But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

Josh. 2:21 “Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.” So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

Josh. 2:22 When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. 23 Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. 24 They said to Joshua, “The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

## REFLECT

- 1) What is one thought or idea from this week's Scripture passage that especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, helped, or surprised you?

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- 2) Rahab the prostitute (who is one of Jesus' great-great-great grandmothers, by the way) had to prioritize things in her life quickly. She might've asked herself, "Who or what will give me the best future? Is the God of Israel the one I should follow? Are these men really representatives of the true and living God?" What do you think led Rahab to make the God of Israel her top priority?

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- 3) Who is someone that you know personally or have admired from a distance has made Jesus their top priority? How did you see them do that?

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- 4) What would you say is the main priority in your life right now? In what do you find your security and satisfaction? (Family? Job? Bank account? Success? Other?)

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- 5) In this Raise the Sails season, we are being challenged specifically on the topic of our generosity. Are there questions, concerns, past experiences that hold you back from making your relationship with God your number one priority as it relates to your generosity? If so, what are some of those concerns? How might God be challenging you to overcome them?

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- 6) What could it mean practically for you to raise your sails in generosity, prioritizing God and His call on your life for the sake of others?

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## REFOCUS

Close by praying together:

“We pray that when we raise the sails of our lives and venture out, may we have the winds of the Holy Spirit to guide us and God’s people to make us strong and courageous. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!”

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence, with this question:

“God, show me things in my life that are taking the priority spot ahead of you, and show me how I can follow You more closely by putting You first.”

Then journal what you heard.

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For next week, read Joshua 3.

# WEEK 3

OCTOBER 20, 2019

## SERMON: TRUST HIM

**PREPARE:** Pray before the worship service.

**RECEIVE:** Focus on the Scripture passage for the week.

### SERMON NOTES

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### JOURNAL: WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME? AND WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?

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### TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence with this question:

“Lord, how can I trust You more?”

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## SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION WEEK 3

- Joshua 3:1-17
- Key Verse: As soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD – the Lord of all the earth – set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.” Joshua 3:13
- Key Theme: Faith is about action and not just about what we mentally assent to.

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Josh. 3:1 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. 2 After three days the officers went throughout the camp, 3 giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. 4 Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.”

Josh. 3:5 Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”

Josh. 3:6 Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them.

Josh. 3:7 And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. 8 Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

Josh. 3:9 Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. 10 This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. 11 See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. 12 Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. 13 And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

Josh. 3:14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 15 Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, 16 the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. 17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

## REFLECT

- 1) What is one thought or idea from this week’s Scripture passage that especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, helped, or surprised you?

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- 2) The Israelites had been wandering around in the desert for about 40 years. They were now on the verge of entering the land God had promised to give them but the Jordan River, running at flood stage, stood in their way. If you had been an Israelite under the age 45, you probably had no personal memory of what God had done to rescue the people of Israel from their Egyptian taskmasters. You’d only heard stories. One of the things God did was part the Red Sea so that the people could cross to the other side on dry land. You’d probably heard that story about the Red Sea a billion times. You might have even intellectually believed that story. Now you have a large body of water blocking your path. How will you demonstrate that you actually believe

that God can make a way, once again, when there seems to be no way? How might that feel? Intimidating? Exciting? Motivating?

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3) It wasn't UNTIL the priests actually step into the river Jordan that God would stop the water. Not until the hem of their garments got wet did God do the miracle. Was there a time you had to "get the hem of your garments wet" before you saw God act in a wonderful way? How do you see this applying to your challenge in this Raise the Sails generosity journey?

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4) Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you" (Joshua 3:5). Consecrate is a powerful word, and it is a humble posture God asks us to take before He does amazing things in us and through us. Have you consecrated yourself to the Lord lately? Have you consecrated yourself to the Lord as it relates to this Raise the Sails generosity journey? How have you done that?

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5) What do you think might happen if tomorrow you consecrated or dedicated the day to the Lord, and then watched expectantly for God to do some amazing things?

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6) What prevents us from actually raising our sails and launching out into uncharted waters in terms of our generosity of our time, talent, and resources?

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7) As a group, talk through the difference of what it means for our church or ourselves to be courageous or to play it safe with our resources. What does it mean to use the resources we've been blessed with to generously bless others?

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8) What would you need to change in order for you to trust God more?

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## REFOCUS

Close by praying together:

“We pray that as we continue to be rooted and established in love, we may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!”

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence, with this prayer: “God, show me how I need to trust You more. Give me the courage and boldness to do big things for You in this next season without fear.” Then journal what you heard.

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For next week, read Joshua 3.

# WEEK 4

OCTOBER 27, 2019

## SERMON: BELIEVE HIM

**PREPARE:** Pray before the worship service.

**RECEIVE:** Focus on the Scripture passage for the week.

### SERMON NOTES

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### JOURNAL: WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME? AND WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?

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### TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence with this question: “Lord, how can I believe and have more faith in You?”

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## SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION WEEK 4

- Joshua 4:1-24
- Key Verses: And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.” (Joshua 4:20-24)
- Key Theme: When we worship God we are transformed, and the world will begin to get to know Jesus.

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Josh. 4:1 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, 2 “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, 3 and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

Josh. 4:4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, 5 and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, 6 to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 7 tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

Josh. 4:8 So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. 9 Joshua

set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

Josh. 4:10 Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the LORD had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, 11 and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. 12 The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. 13 About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for war.

Josh. 4:14 That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.

Josh. 4:15 Then the LORD said to Joshua, 16 “Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan.”

Josh. 4:17 So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.”

Josh. 4:18 And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

Josh. 4:19 On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. 20 And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. 21 He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22 tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ 23 For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. 24 He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”

## REFLECT

- 1) What is one thought or idea from this week's Scripture passage that especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, helped, or surprised you?

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- 2) In the previous chapter, as the Israelites prepared to cross the Jordan, God gives them these instructions through Joshua: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it" (Joshua 3:3-4). The people were to stay a little more than half a mile away from the Ark and yet, what does God tell the twelve representatives from the tribes of Israel to do? From where are they to collect the rocks for the memorial? Describe how those 12 men might have felt as they approached the Ark. What descriptive words would you use and why?

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- 3) According to verses 6-7 and verses 21-24, what were the purposes of setting up this memorial?

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- 4) Can you think of a "stone of remembrance" in your life that points you back to a big step of generosity that you made? What was so significant about that moment, and how has it shaped you in the days, possibly months and years, that followed?

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- 5) What are you celebrating or what might you celebrate in your current season of life? How is your generosity a response to God's generosity in your life?

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- 6) How can our demonstration of generosity build the faith of our friends and family and be a witness to the world around us?

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- 7) What would you need to change for you to believe God's promises to you in this area of your life?

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## REFOCUS

Close by praying together:

“We pray that as we continue to be rooted and established in love, we may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!”

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence, with this question: How can I have more faith in You, Lord? Then journal what you heard.

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For next week, read Joshua 5.

# WEEK 5

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

## SERMON: SURRENDER TO HIM

**PREPARE:** Pray before the worship service.

**RECEIVE:** Focus on the Scripture passage for the week.

### SERMON NOTES

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### JOURNAL: WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME? AND WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?

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### TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence with this question: “Lord, how can I surrender more of my life to You?”

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## SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION WEEK 5

- Joshua 5:1-15
- Key Verses: Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. (Joshua 5:13-15)
- Key Theme: Surrendering to Christ opens us to God’s miraculous powers and leads us to a life of greater generosity.

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Josh. 5:1 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

Josh. 5:2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” 3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

Josh. 5:4 Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. 5 All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. 6 The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land that he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. 8 And

after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

Josh. 5:9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

Josh. 5:10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. 11 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

Josh. 5:13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

Josh. 5:14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

Josh. 5:15 The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

## REFLECT

- 1) What is one thought or idea from this week’s Scripture passage that especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, helped, or surprised you?

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2) A new chapter in the story of the people of Israel is opening here in Joshua chapter 5. The days of wandering in the desert are over. The land God had promised to give them is before them. The miraculous provision of food from heaven suddenly stops as they taste the produce of this land flowing with milk and honey. What might have been some of your thoughts, feelings, questions if you had been there and were a part of the people of Israel?

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3) As the people waited for what's next, Joshua goes on a walk that takes him near Jericho. He asks a question of a man with a drawn sword. What does Joshua's response to the man reveal about Joshua's faith?

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4) As you raise your sails on this journey of First Prez, how are you hearing Jesus calling you to join Him in what He wants to do in our city, on our island, and in our world for Christ?

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5) As you think about the upcoming RAISE THE SAILS Commitment Sunday, how is God stretching or challenging you? Where are you finding joy and excitement? What do you see the Holy Spirit doing in the life of the church?

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## REFOCUS

Close by praying together:

"We pray that as we continue to be rooted and established in love, may we have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!"

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence, with this question: What in my life have I not surrendered yet to the Lord? Then journal what you heard.

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For next week, read Joshua 6:1-20.

## SERMON: SAY YES TO HIM

**PREPARE:** Pray before the worship service.

**RECEIVE:** Focus on the Scripture passage for the week.

### SERMON NOTES

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### JOURNAL: WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME? AND WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?

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### TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God in silence with this question:  
“God, what are you asking me to do to follow You courageously?”

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## SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION WEEK 6

- Key Verses: Josh. 6:20, When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.
- Key Theme: Will I trust God even when I may not fully understand why God is asking me to do what He is directing me to do?

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Josh. 6:1 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

Josh. 6:2 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.

Josh. 6:3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.

Josh. 6:4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets.

Josh. 6:5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

Josh. 6:6 So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.”

Josh. 6:7 And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.”

Josh. 6:8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD’s covenant followed them.

Josh. 6:9 The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding.



Josh. 6:10 But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!”

Josh. 6:11 So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

Josh. 6:12 Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

Josh. 6:13 The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding.

Josh. 6:14 So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

Josh. 6:15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times.

Josh. 6:16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!”

Josh. 6:17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.

Josh. 6:18 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.

Josh. 6:19 All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.”

Josh. 6:20 When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

## REFLECT

- 1) What is one thought or idea from this week’s scripture passage that especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, helped or surprised you?

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- 2) What did God ask the Israelites to do in preparation for taking Jericho and why do you think He asked them to do that?

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- 3) What would you have said if Joshua told you the strategy to defeat Jericho is to blow trumpets and walk around the city and then shout?

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- 4) Rahab is a prostitute who played a key role in this story. She also ends up to be in Jesus’ blood line. What do we learn about trusting God from her faithfulness and God’s faithfulness?

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5) Has God ever asked you to do something unusual and it turned out later it was clearly God's will? Explain.

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6) What are some of the things you've discovered during this generosity journey that you might not have discovered on your own?

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## REFOCUS

Close by sharing prayer requests and pray for one another.

Take 5 minutes this week and sit with God, listening to His voice and journal what you heard.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

First and foremost, we are asking that you pray and seek God's leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says. Commit to attending all six weeks of the RAISE THE SAILS sermon series. Participate in a special six-week small group study. Engage in personal reflection with God in this RAISE THE SAILS Navigation Guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life.

We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to Gospel-centered generosity whatever it is that God leads you to do.

Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, November 10, 2019, when we will turn in our commitment cards in response to God's generosity in our lives.

### HOW MUCH ARE WE AIMING TO RAISE? AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?

We are trusting God to move through us in investing a total of \$15.5 million from **December 2019 to December 2021**. The money we raise will impact three areas:

**MINISTRY OPERATIONS:** \$9 million will be for current First Prez ministries and day-to-day operations. Our annual budget is \$4.5 million, multiplied by 2 years, equals \$9 million: This includes Worship, Programs, Outreach, Campus, and Administration.

**REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS:** \$5 million for repairs and improvements at our Ko'olau campus. Our Ko'olau campus was constructed in 1992.

Recently, a member of our Buildings and Grounds Team stated, “We’re approaching the end of life of every major system on campus.”

The three biggest items for repair are:

- Roof: approximately \$1 million to repair our roof. We currently have leaks in the sanctuary, office and children’s ministry.
- Sewer System: approximately \$1 million. The City and County is requiring us to decommission our existing multiceptor system and install and retrofit a different sewer system.
- Parking Lot Paving: Approximately \$1 million to repave our driveway and parking lot.

Additional projects to be addressed with the funds include elevator repair, renovation of the sound and lighting systems in the Fellowship Hall, and capital improvements over the next few years.

MINISTRY EXPANSION: \$1.5 million will go to expanding the reach of God’s Kingdom locally and globally through new ministries, including The Vine downtown campus, marketplace ministries, staffing, and training of new leaders and interns.

### **ANOTHER FUNDRAISING APPEAL? HAVEN’T WE DONE A BUNCH OF THESE RECENTLY?**

Yes, we have. Thank you for your incredible generosity. In recent years, we’ve made a number of requests: \$316,000 for the fee to change denominations in 2014; \$1.8 million to retire the remaining balance of our loan on the 10th anniversary of our move to Ko’olau in 2016; \$547,000 to launch The Vine campus in 2018; and the annual request to address the operating deficit. We made the decision during each of those appeals to ask for just the specific amount needed to accomplish the specific goal. For each of those appeals, we considered rolling those requests into a larger multi-million dollar campaign, but decided against it. The result was more frequent, smaller appeals instead of one larger campaign spread out over

a longer period. We had previously conducted longer, larger, multiyear campaigns in 2000, 2005, and 2011. We are now embarking on a larger, multi-year journey, that includes all funding needs for the next few years: special projects, repairs and renovation, and our regular annual operating budget.

### **WHO MADE THE DECISION TO EMBARK ON THIS GENEROSITY JOURNEY AT THIS TIME?**

As Presbyterians, all decisions are made and approved by our Session (our volunteer Board of Directors), in consultation with the Holy Spirit, other volunteer teams and the staff. Our Session, Finance Team, Buildings and Grounds Team, and staff all prayerfully considered and agreed with the necessity to launch RAISE THE SAILS at this time.

### **IF I AM COMMITTING TO RAISE THE SAILS, HOW DOES THIS CHANGE MY GIVING TO THE OPERATING FUND, OR MISSIONS, OR OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS?**

During this two-year period, every contribution to God through First Prez is a contribution to our RAISE THE SAILS generosity journey. Every aspect of the ministry vision that God is calling us towards for the next two years will be funded through RAISE THE SAILS. There will not be separate funds. Therefore, every weekend becomes a day to celebrate and contribute towards what God is doing in us and through us as we move God’s mission forward here at First Prez and beyond.

### **ARE THERE ADDITIONAL WAYS BESIDES CASH THAT I CAN GIVE TOWARDS RAISE THE SAILS?**

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards RAISE THE SAILS. You might have stocks, property, or other items of that nature. Or you may have other stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He might be calling you to donate. In a past campaign, a generous donor sold his motorcycle and gave the proceeds to the church. Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you with that. You can

contact Executive Director Chris Pan ([chris@fpchawaii.org](mailto:chris@fpchawaii.org)) to make a gift of this type.

### **HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?**

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment.

We'll accept commitment cards at all three worship services on Sunday, November 10, 2019. We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment. The fulfillment period, or the time that we will actually be collecting your donations, will begin on Sunday, December 1, 2019 and will continue through December 31, 2021. You will have that entire two-year period to give to Raise the Sails. All donations given between December 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021 will go towards Raise the Sails.

### **WHAT IF I HAVE NEVER GIVEN TO FIRST PREZ BEFORE?**

RAISE THE SAILS was developed specifically with you in mind. RAISE THE SAILS is a "one fund" generosity initiative, meaning that it is different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving thus creating two steps for people who are not yet giving. RAISE THE SAILS is a call to sacrificial, Gospel-centered generosity for absolutely everyone at First Prez, members and attendees. If you have never given before, this is your chance to get in the game with a committed sacrifice. We really hope you will.

### **WHAT IF I AM NEW AROUND HERE?**

RAISE THE SAILS is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give towards, and we would really love for you to make First Prez your home church and join us in RAISE THE SAILS. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this your church. We need you on the team!

### **WHY IS THERE ONE FUND? WE HAVE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY BEFORE.**

We're collecting for one fund over two years to honor and appreciate all the gifts from the congregation, including people's regular tithes and offerings.

ONE FUND means we celebrate both your regular giving, and celebrate additional generosity through increased tithes or additional one-time gifts.

As a leadership, we've decided that for the next two years, our total generosity at First Prez will be going to one fund. Raise the Sails will extend from December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021. In those two years, every gift made to First Prez will go to Raise the Sails to help us raise our sails and be filled with the Holy Spirit's power and purpose.

### **WHY DOESN'T KO'OLAUI BALLROOM OR KO'OLAUI GOLF PAY FOR THE BUILDING REPAIRS?**

First Prez owns our 246-acre campus, and shares it with Ko'olau Ballrooms, our wholly-owned subsidiary, and Ko'olau Golf, our tenant. As the landowner and landlord, we are ultimately responsible for the capital repairs and improvements. Ko'olau Ballrooms and Ko'olau Golf contribute significantly to the cost of maintaining the facility and the grounds, by offsetting hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of expenses, like property tax, landscaping, utilities, room set-up and custodial and maintenance.

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### **ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

For more information, please visit [www.raisethesails.org](http://www.raisethesails.org)

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to speak personally with any of our staff. You can start with our Executive Director Chris Pan, at [chris@fpchawaii.org](mailto:chris@fpchawaii.org).





[www.raisethesails.org](http://www.raisethesails.org)

**A GENEROSITY JOURNEY WITH FIRST PREZ HONOLULU**