

FAMILY MEETING GUIDE

EXPLORE



**"I will give you every place where you set your foot,
as I promised Moses." Joshua 1:3**

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The word "EXPLORE" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a stylized compass rose with four white points and a blue circular center. The background features a large, faint, light blue compass rose graphic.

EXPLORE

We believe it is a blessing and great opportunity to be a part of what God is doing through First Christian. The purpose of the Family Meeting Guide is to help your family determine what

God is leading you to give as part of your commitment to Christ and the ministry of His Church. Your gift is a decision between you and God, and we believe He will give you wisdom and guidance to make that decision.

When to have the meetings and who leads it

Preferably, the leader of the meeting should be the head of the household. Our Commitment Sunday is May 19, so schedule your family meeting this week. Plan it for a time when all family members can be present, since the entire family will be impacted by your financial commitment. To be safe, block off one distraction-free hour for the meeting, although it may not take that long.

How to prepare

Talk regularly as a family about what is teaching you through the Explore generosity initiative.

- + Ask your family to be praying individually about the Explore initiative, and your family's involvement.
- + Challenge each family member to begin thinking of sacrifices that your family can make in order to give generously for 1 year.
- + Schedule a time for the meeting, and read through the following discussion guide a few times to get comfortable with its flow. Look up the verses and make sure that all questions and instructions are clear to you.

How to lead the meeting

As you guide your family through this discussion, your family will be able to sense your attitude, so be excited about what God may be doing in and through your household! Additionally, try to keep each family member involved in the conversation. If you sense that someone isn't engaged or getting a chance to share, ask him/her a question and wait for a response. This often helps draw children back into the conversation.

Open in prayer, invite God's Spirit and leadership

1. Ask someone to read aloud the passages below. After each passage, ask: What does God teach us about giving through these verses? Write down your family's answers.

+ 1 Timothy 6:17-19

+ Proverbs 11:24-26

+ 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

2. Ask family members to discuss sacrifices and lifestyle changes they could individually make and that your entire family could make, in order to give financially toward the Explore generosity initiative over the next year. If you have children, be sure to get their thoughts (you might be surprised by what they're willing to sacrifice). Record your ideas here:

3. Spend some time in prayer as a family. You might try forming a circle and joining hands—the prayer can start with you and move around the circle (you'll also close the prayer.) During the prayer, be sure to: spend time thanking God for His faithfulness, for the way He provides for your family, and for the chance to be a part of the an initiative that will make an eternal spiritual impact for the next 40 years. Praise God for His own abundant grace and generosity in sending Jesus to save us. Ask God to make your hearts more like His. Ask God to give clarity and guidance on the financial commitment He wants your family to make.

4. As a family, determine what God is leading you to give. Note, your gift has three attributes...

+ **Give Courageously**
A one-time cash or check donated on May 19, Commitment Sunday

+ **Give Consistently**
A one-year financial commitment

+ **Give Creatively**
Non-cash gifts donated to First Christian

Close in prayer

Close in a prayer of commitment and thanksgiving. Ask God to provide for your family as you step out in faith, and to give you cheerfulness in your giving over the next two years. Then seek His blessing on the Explore initiative; pray that we would explore all the ways God can influence our community and grow us spiritually in Him as we move into our next 40 years of ministry.

Finally, thank God for your family and ask Him to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine". (Ephesians 3:20)

commitment card

EXPLORE

With prayerful dependence upon God, I commit to the EXPLORE generosity initiative of First Christian the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

#1 Kick-off Gift (cash or check)

\$ To be given on Commitment Sunday, May 19, 2019

#2 One Year Commitment

\$ _____ a week for 52 weeks =

or

\$ _____ a month for 12 months =

#3 Gift in Kind (please describe gift)

Approximate cash value of gifts \$

TOTAL: one year commitment

\$ Please add total from boxes above

**Commitment Sunday
May 19, 2019**