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FOREVER
AND EVER.





FAR MORE



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

Now to Him who is able to do Far More.

**PRAY.
LISTEN.
RESPOND.**



LOOKING FORWARD ▶▶▶

As we look towards the future together, we recognize the defining moment we find ourselves in as a church. We praise God for what he has done in our church in the last two years. In that time, our children's ministry has more than doubled, we've baptized 30 people, and seen 300 people make a decision to follow Jesus! As we praise God for what he has done, we look expectantly to the future because the reality is that so many people around us don't know the hope and joy of knowing Jesus.

Today, three out of every four children will grow up outside the church without knowing Jesus, while depression, anxiety, and suicide rates are at an all-time high. If God is not content with this, then neither are we. The need and the opportunity to reach our neighbors with the good news and hope of Jesus has never been greater. While God has blessed First Naz in these last few years, there is Far More work to be done. This is why we have named the Vision for the next two years Far More, inspired by Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:20-21: *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.*

We are praying and believing that God wants to do Far More in three categories in our church.

FAR MORE FAITH FAR MORE FOR OUR FAMILY FAR MORE FOR OUR FUTURE

I wonder if we could force ourselves out of our comfort zone fueled by a holy imagination of what only God could do, and if we do, I wonder if God could respond to our faith by actually doing FAR MORE than we could ever ask or imagine according to his power at work among us.

– Pastor Galen Ryman

This guidebook introduces what we believe God will do through our church in the next two years.

More information can also be found at firstnazfarmore.com

VISION

Faith, Family, Future

FAR MORE Faith

- We will equip the church to pray daily at 3:20PM (Eph. 3:20) for God to do FAR MORE.
- We will host 12 strategic invite Sundays.
- We will see 300 people begin a relationship with Jesus.
- We will see 75 people baptized.
- We will develop specific growth tracks to help people grow in their faith.

FAR MORE for our Family

- We will share the good news of Jesus with 600 different kids on Sundays.
- We will share the good news of Jesus with 500 different teenagers through Student Ministries.
- We will regularly host teenagers through senior adults in our second-floor ministry environments utilizing a new elevator so that they can hear about Jesus and be connected to His family.
- We will host 500 different people in Life Groups.
- We will have 125 people from First Naz serve in Naz Rec and Naz Preschool to meet our community, learn their names, and give them a positive impression of First Naz.
- We will develop and clarify a strategic mission partner strategy to serve others in Lemont, Chicagoland, and around the world and support them faithfully through a new monthly mission partner emphasis.
- We will develop experiences such as retreats or camps and family resources that will equip individuals and entire families to grow closer to God and to one another. Here we will see families experience God together and marriages strengthened and restored.





FAR MORE for our Future

- We will complete a renovation of unimproved sections of our 50-year-old facility, including an elevator addition, to prepare for the next 50 years of ministry on Bell Road.
- We will faithfully give away 15% of our operating budget to denomination and missional partners.
- We are committed to training leaders within our ministries to be equipped to multiply our ministries and continue to develop our internship and residency programs.
- We will grant four local minister's licenses to individuals who serve in our church that are saying YES to the call of God on their lives to become future pastors.
- To fund the entirety of this FAR MORE Vision, we believe God has called us to raise eight million dollars over the next two years to pursue ministry initiatives and building renovations.



Throughout all generations

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Psalm 100:5

FAR MORE



KEY DATES



FEB
09

VISION SUNDAY

We launch a 5-week series based on the Far More Vision and invite the entire congregation to participate in the vision for the next two years!

FEB/
MAR

LIFE GROUP VISION FOCUS

Our Life Groups will be focused on the Far More Vision.

- Current groups will include a time to review and discuss each Sunday's message.
- If you are not already in a Life Group, please join a new 5-week group designed to build conversation and community. Scan the QR code for options and to sign up.



FEB
23

ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT

An incredible night of worship, prayer, and celebration as those in leadership who have been praying and preparing will lead the way by turning in their Commitment Cards and celebrating what God will do through our church.

MAR
09

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

On this special, culminating Sunday, the entire church will be invited to bring their commitment to the Far More Vision. This will be a great day of faith and celebration as we worship God together. Don't miss this incredible, pivotal, and historic Sunday!

APR
06

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

On this day we will announce the results of the Commitment Sunday and share how we plan on moving forward with the Far More Vision!



HISTORY



First Naz has an incredible, deep, and rich history dating back to the prayer meetings in January 1900 that resulted in the founding of Chicago First Church of the Nazarene in 1904. Literally thousands of people have come to know God through the years in three locations and multiple church plants and campuses. Tens of thousands more have also attended and been served by all the different ministries of the church.

In 1974 the leadership of the church made a bold and strategic decision to move the church to our current location. At that defining moment

in our history, we began Nazarene Recreation and Nazarene Preschool to serve our local community, building relationships with the many families moving into the area as cornfields were turned into housing developments. It's safe to say this decision, alongside the loving service of those who call First Nazarene home, helped set up the next fifty years of ministry. In these years we have had over 6,000 children enrolled in Naz Preschool and a conservative estimate of over 75,000 registrations through Naz Rec.

In 2013, our church went through

a refocus to ensure our ministries were reaching the lost and seeing new people come to faith in Jesus. Since that time many of our ministries have shifted and we have seen 160 people baptized and over 1,100 people come to faith in Jesus!

As we look to the future, embracing our vision for the next two years, we are reminded of God's faithfulness throughout our entire history and look expectantly at what he will do through First Nazarene!





• **1904**

Chicago First Church
of the Nazarene
organized



• **1912**

New
building on
64th & Eggleston



• **1953**

Move to 83rd
& Damen

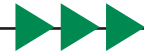


• **1974**

Move to
Bell Road



REMODEL *Information*



PROJECT *priorities*

- 1** Children's areas and elevator addition
 - Most of children's areas have not been updated since built in 1970s
- 2** Multi-use gathering space/classrooms close to Lobby for groups and connecting
- 3** Exterior update addressing appearance from Bell Road that has not changed since 1974

PROJECT *timeline*

PHASE 1

Preschool rooms,
family lobby,
new restrooms
[3.5 months]

PHASE 2

Elevator, 2nd floor
elevator lobby & family
restroom, 1st floor
hallway, office relocation,
beginning exterior work
north elevation
[3.5 months]

PHASE 3

Gathering rooms off
Lobby, back of Cerrato
adjustments, Bell Road
exterior updates
[3-4 months]



FINANCES *Far More Vision Giving Goal - \$8M*

Our two-year operations budget fully funds weekly ministry, missions, operations, staffing and facilities, totaling **\$4M**.

2025-26 OPERATIONS BUDGET



TAKE A LOOK



Follow QR code for more detailed information on each part of our operations funding.

Goal for giving beyond our operations budget
to fund a remodeling project is **\$4M.**

[See previous page for remodel priorities and plans.]

The cost estimates below include design, construction, furniture and audio/visual expenses.



- \$5.5M total project estimate
 - Preschool Classrooms (9)/Nursery & Toddler Areas/Family Lobby/Restrooms - \$1.7M
 - Elevator and addition of new hallway leading to Lobby - \$1.7M
 - Includes office relocation required by remodel where current offices are located
 - Includes family accessible restroom on second floor
 - Multi-use space development for adults near Lobby - \$600K
 - Exterior update - \$800K
 - Design and Construction Contingency - \$700K
- Funding
 - Leadership has been saving for such a project, committing \$1.5M from reserves
 - Additional giving need of \$4M





FAR MORE

A NOTE TO PARENTS

We want our kids to participate in the 2025-26 Far More Vision and I am asking for your help.

One of the most important things we can teach our kids is how to trust God in all areas. With that in mind, we will teach our kids about giving God our first and best of anything we have, specifically in terms of money. We will teach the biblical instructions to give a tithe (10%) of their income to God.

What I am asking you to do is to give your child a way to earn money at home, either through an allowance, doing chores, helping out, etc., and then help them set aside 10% of that (their tithe) to God. Each Sunday we will give kids an opportunity to give that money.

This is not about reaching a financial goal for Naz Kids giving but a way to help our kids learn what it means to set aside their first and best for God and to experience God blessing their obedience. I would ask that you don't simply give them money on Sundays, but that they have a chance to 'earn' it and give a part of that to God. Together we can teach our kids to trust God with everything. - **Pastor Hunter**

GOALS ▶▶▶

- To teach kids how to tithe on the money they earn and offer their first and best to God.
- To help kids see where God is on the move in our Church and provide opportunities to participate in different missional elements of the Far More Vision.



STUDENT MINISTRIES

Our students (grades 6-12) are engaged in the Far More Vision.

During the series (February 9 – March 9) we will be teaching on the discipline of giving as a part of true discipleship – **it's a heart issue.**



Week 1: Vision Sunday*

Week 2: One in Heart

Week 3: One in Mind

Week 4: One in Deed

Week 5: Commitment Sunday*

**worship in the sanctuary*

Our challenge for students is for them to give:

- Those who have jobs
 - Begin the discipline of giving 10% of their income
- Those who don't have jobs
 - Give 10% from other opportunities [garage sale, odd jobs, allowance, etc.] or have a goal to give a total amount over the 2-year vision

COMMITMENT CARD FOR STUDENTS



I will give 10% of what I earn from my job.

I don't have a job, but will give 10% of other income opportunities.

I will find a creative way to give _____ this year.



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AND IN CHRIST JESUS
THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS,
FOREVER AND EVER.
AMEN.**

Ephesians 3:20-21

LIFE GROUPS

Study Guide

Vision. Faith. Family. Future. Commitment.



THE FAR MORE VISION

WEEK ONE - STUDY GUIDE

WEEK ONE

1. Do you feel like this is a defining moment for our church?

Why or why not?

2. Was there any specific part of the vision that was shared that excited you?

What was it and why?

3. When Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowds of people, they responded by sharing what they didn't have by saying, "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" (Mt 14:17) **Do you think it's normal for us to notice what we don't have?**

Do you think it is easier for us to highlight how things can't be done? Why or why not?

4. Jesus' response to the disciples in Mt 14:18 was, "Bring them here." Jesus asked the disciples to simply bring what they had, and in his hands, it became more than enough to feed Far More people than they thought possible. As we consider how we might participate in the Far More Vision in the next two years, Pastor Galen challenged us in the next few weeks to Pray, Listen, and Respond. He challenged each one of us to pray about what God would want us to bring to him to contribute to the vision of reaching Far More people.

At this point, what questions do you have about the Far More Vision?



FAR MORE FAITH

WEEK TWO - STUDY GUIDE


WEEK TWO

- 1. Who is the one person you trust the most? Who is it and why do you trust them so much?**
- 2. How do you think we grow in our faith and in our trust in God?**
- 3. Do you have a story of how you trusted God in your finances and saw him come through in a way that helped you grow in your faith?**
- 4. Read the following scripture where God challenges us and reflect on it. "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food enough in my Temple; if you do, I will open up the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!" (Malachi 3:10) Again, When you read this scripture, what do you notice? What sticks out to you? Why?**
- 5. What do you think of the idea of tithing? Do you think it is realistic? If not, what percentage of giving do you think you could start at?**



FAR MORE FOR OUR FAMILY

WEEK THREE - STUDY GUIDE

WEEK THREE

- 1. In your life, who is one person that is a great example of what it looks like to live sacrificially? Who is that person and why did they come to mind for you?**
- 2. In what ways have you experienced the sacrifice of how parents sacrifice for their children? Did you see your parents sacrifice for you? If you have children, what do you sacrifice for them?**
- 3. In what ways has God sacrificed for you?**
- 4. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you think you freely sacrifice your life for the good of others? What number would you choose and why?**
- 5. Do you think Christians should be growing higher on this scale? Why or why not?**

In the next two years in the Far More Vision, we will be addressing parts of our building including our Naz Kids ministry area, Naz Preschool rooms, and providing elevator access to the Loft for every ministry from Students to Senior Adult ministries. A lot of this work will be done to invest in our future, the next generation who will use those spaces over the next 50 years. If we are considering how we might follow Jesus, maybe sacrificing for the good of our church family and the families that God will bring to us would be one way that we could grow in our generosity.



FAR MORE FOR OUR FUTURE

WEEK FOUR - STUDY GUIDE

WEEK FOUR

1. Can you think of a time when someone did something for you or gave something to you that was unexpected and it meant a lot to you?

What did they do, and why did it mean so much to you?

2. Have you ever blessed someone whether they knew it was you or you blessed them anonymously? What did you do for someone else, and what were you feeling as you blessed them?

3. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 reads: "You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.' And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." **How do you think someone gets to the point where they aren't giving reluctantly or because it's pressured, but they are giving cheerfully and because they want to? How do you think someone gets to that point?**

Pastor Galen shared that next Sunday (March 9) is Commitment Sunday and built some anticipation for what a unique and special Sunday this will be for our church.

He read, "You must each decide in your heart how much to give" from 2 Corinthians 9.

Please commit to pray about what you will decide to give and bring your commitment card to be prepared for our special service next weekend.



FAR MORE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

WEEK FIVE - STUDY GUIDE


WEEK FIVE

Main Scripture that was used Sunday:
1 Chronicles 29:1-18

- 1. What did you think about Sunday's service? What surprised you about the service?**
- 2. In what ways do you feel like this series has challenged you to grow in your faith? Have you found it helpful? How and why?**
- 3. What is one thing that you learned during this series that you want to remember moving forward?**
- 4. What is your personal prayer for our church in the next two years? If we fast forward to December of 2026, what would you pray to be true of our church at that time?**

As we close our Far More series, let's pray our vision prayer one more time in faith for God to do Far More in and through First Naz in the next two years:

And 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. (Eph. 3:20-21)



The Far More Vision encompasses all giving from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027. Every gift given to First Nazarene in these two years will go to fund the ministries outlined in this guidebook, covering both our expanded general ministry operations and the remodel projects.

When we look at scripture, we see that giving back to God is part of our worship, regularly giving a tithe, or a tenth, of all that we have back to God. At First Nazarene, we encourage our people to practice this Biblical principle of tithing. Jesus spoke about generosity more than any other topic. More than talking about how much, Jesus spoke to our core beliefs when he said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." [Matthew 6:21] Generosity is about more than just money. It is about our heart posture and living a life clearly committed to Christ.

We recognize for those new in their faith journey, this could be a big step. Ultimately, we would hope that everyone who calls First Nazarene their church home would **PRAY, LISTEN and RESPOND**. The goal is 100% participation. The chart below provides a helpful framework to begin and grow in our generosity journey.

AS YOU CONSIDER WHAT YOU MAY GIVE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO **PRAY, LISTEN AND RESPOND.**

GIVING CHART

GIFTS NEEDED	2 YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT OF	WEEKLY GIFT OF	TOTAL 2-YEAR GIFT
1	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$9,615	\$1,000,000
2	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$4,808	\$1,000,000
4	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$8,333	\$1,923	\$800,000
8	\$125,000	\$62,500	\$5,208	\$1,202	\$1,000,000
15	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$721	\$1,125,000
20	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$481	\$1,000,000
25	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$240	\$625,000
44	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$500	\$115	\$528,000
40	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$333	\$77	\$320,000
55	\$4,800	\$2,400	\$200	\$46	\$264,000
80	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$125	\$29	\$240,000
98	\$1,000	\$500	\$42	\$10	\$98,000

TOTAL GOAL \$8,000,000

SAMPLE COMMITMENT CARD

Wherever you are on your generosity journey, consider additional resources God has blessed you with (savings, stocks, etc.) that He might be asking you to give to His work through First Nazarene.

FIRST NAZARENE CHURCH

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

HOME ADDRESS

FAR MORE

MY PROJECTED GIVING

\$8M GOAL OVER 2 YEARS

\$		WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE PER YEAR
+	\$	MY/OUR EXPANDED GENEROSITY FOR FAR MORE
=	\$	X 2 YEARS \$
+	\$	GIFTS FROM STORED RESOURCES
=	\$	MY/OUR 2-YEAR FAR MORE COMMITMENT





I would love for you to end this journey by asking a final question.

WHAT MIGHT THIS BE WORTH?

As we consider the level of our participation in the Far More Vision, many of us might be tempted to focus on what things might cost us instead of what they might be worth. If we look at the next two years of our ministry and our own personal faith, I wonder if God wants to challenge us with this question, **what might this be worth?**

What might it be worth to see a physically handicapped teenager use the elevator to attend Student Ministries in the LOFT, find a loving community of friends, and eventually accept and follow Jesus?

How much is the next generation worth?

What might it be worth for a new family to check out our preschool because they gather that we must value our children because we have renovated our children's ministry space? What if they begin to attend our church and make connections with Jesus and a community that will transform their family for generations?

How much is a transformed family worth?

What might it be worth to have a remarkable impression on the eleven-thousand people that drive by every day to see a newly remodeled exterior that is signaling the life, vitality and vibrancy of the community that is on the inside?

Is the eternity of our unbelieving family, friends, and co-workers worth our sacrifice?

Considering these things, how can we not do everything in our power, leaning into God's faithfulness in our lives, to boldly attempt to reach those far from God? How can we not imagine trying everything we can to reach new people with the good news of Jesus?

The need has never been greater. The opportunity to make a difference is before us. Someone cared for us before we cared for God. In this defining moment, how will we respond? As we hold all these dreams, visions, and hopes in our mind, we commit to the Far More Vision together, and we pray:

*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 (through this FAR MORE Vision.) Amen.*



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