



2018 FAMILY CONFERENCE GUIDE

*"Father, may we walk worthy of your calling and by
Your power may You fulfill every good purpose of ours
and every act prompted by our faith so that the name of
Jesus may be glorified and we glorified in Him according
to Your amazing grace."
(Based on 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF UNIVERSAL CITY

Dear Church Family,

I'm excited about what God is doing in His church at this time! The Family Conference Guide is a time to discover how God wants you and your family involved in this campaign. My prayer is this will be a great time of listening to God through prayer, reading of scriptures and discussion for you as a family or by yourself.

If you have young children, adjust this guide in helping them to understand the basic principles and purpose behind this campaign. What a great opportunity to teach our children about giving to God's Kingdom work!

Pastor David

12 CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

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| 1. Be a coupon clipper! Food is probably one of the largest expenses each month. Clipping coupons can save every time you shop. Commit the money you save to <i>All In for First and Impact.</i> | 7. Skip a meal each week as a family. Missing one meal a week at an average of \$20 per family to devote to prayer or fasting is \$3,000 over a three-year period. |
| 2. Commit your income tax refund check to the Lord for the three-year period. | 8. Put off a discretionary major purchase and redirect the money to the campaign. |
| 3. Continue a bill payment. If you will be paying off a car or school loan in the next year, commit to continue to "pay the bill" by redirecting the money to the <i>All In for First and Impact</i> campaign after the bill is paid off. A \$100 payment per month over three years is \$3,600. | 9. Wait for a movie to come out on video instead of seeing it at the theater. One trip to the movie theater can cost over \$30 with popcorn and candy for two people! If you cut out two movies per month, that's \$2,160 over three years. |
| 4. Give up a habit. Easier said than done, but not impossible. For example - a gourmet coffee, plus tax each day for three years, costs nearly \$4,000. | 10. Make a commitment to drink only water at a restaurant. One person could save five dollars a week or more. That's a minimum of \$780 just for drinking water! |
| 5. Increase your giving by one dollar each week. This is a great idea for those who have never given or do not see a way to increase current giving. Start by giving one dollar the first week, then two, then three, etc., praying all along that the Lord would show you a way to add that next dollar and increase each week. If you were to keep this up for three years, you would give \$12,000. | 11. Adjust your vacation. For one or more of the next three years, do something close and inexpensive like day hikes, picnics, or take a three-day vacation instead of a week and save on the airfare and hotel costs. This can save \$2,000 easily. |
| 6. Cut back from cable TV premium packages to basic cable. Commit the savings to <i>All In for First and Impact.</i> | 12. Commit an estimated raise in salary to the Lord for the next three years. |

Application:

All this is to emphasize the importance of local places to gather, worship, minister and learn about the Father. In Jewish life today, people are **required** to give to support the synagogue in their area. They have what are called “dues.” We don’t believe God wants **required** giving but rather “**grace-inspired giving.**” The Bible says, “*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 9:7 (NIV)

COMPLETE THE COMMITMENT CARD:

- Take time now to pray and discuss what you feel the Father would have you to give over the next three years.
- I encourage you to be creative in your giving. Think about what you can give on a monthly or weekly basis, but also about things of value that you could liquidate and give. All of us have things that we no longer need or could do without that could be sold and given to the campaign, much like Barnabas in the selling of his land in Acts 4:36.
- Place the Commitment Card in the enclosed envelope and bring it with you on Sunday, April 29, to turn in during the worship service.
- Consider making an initial ingathering offering on April 29 that will expedite our goal of being debt free within six years.

Closing Time of Prayer:

- Thank God for the new facilities we enjoy.
- Thank God for the incredible custodial and maintenance staff who maintain our facilities.
- Thank God for the faithful members who sacrificed through the years to pay for the facilities we now enjoy.
- Thank God in faith for the enablement He will give you to fulfill your commitments to “***All in for First and Impact.***”

All In For First and Impact

PURPOSE:

To pray, meditate, and communicate with your family in order to discover God’s will concerning your commitment to the *All In for First and Impact* campaign.

PREPARATION:

Throughout the month of April, we are being challenged to prepare our hearts to make a financial commitment to pay for the facilities we currently enjoy, and the land where we will one day locate Impact Church.

WHEN:

Your family conference should take about 30 minutes of distraction-free time during the week of April 22 - 28.

LEADER:

The leader should preferably be the head of the house.

SUGGESTED APPROACH:

Invite God to be present and to prompt each of you in your discussion. Read and discuss pages 4 - 5.

Read Opening thoughts from Pastor David:

Thank you for your willingness to sit down, think through and pray as you consider your support of “***All in for First and Impact***”. I know that giving to pay for church facilities can feel like going to the dentist for a root canal. However, when you look beyond the initial discomfort, you find that paying for the facilities where God’s people gather to worship, are saved, disciplined and loved, becomes one of the greatest joys in life.

The current indebtedness on our facilities is approximately 2.9 million and 1.2 million on the land for Impact Church. At our current rate of giving, assuming a strong campaign, we are on track to be debt-free in less than six years. Those of you who have been giving for the past thirty years straight, you heard right. Lord willing we will be debt-free in less than six years. That will open up opportunities for expanded ministry and a time of preparation for what God has next for First Baptist.

Our current facilities are such a blessing and instrumental in all that we do. Seldom does a day go by when hundreds of people do not gather for worship, discipleship or ministry. These are the most utilized church facilities I have ever seen. Past generations are being blessed.

It brings me great joy knowing that during my lifetime I am a part of building the physical structures where people will be brought to Christ and maturity of faith even after I am gone.

I want to share some thoughts and guide you through some questions to help you in determining your three-year financial commitment.

Read Exodus 25:1-9

We all know God does not dwell in buildings made by hands as Acts 17:24 clearly states, “*The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.*” However, God chose to use physical structures to communicate His presence and facilitate our spiritual growth.

Take a moment to talk about the Tabernacle that was built by Moses and the Israelites. (You may find a picture in the back of your Bible or online.)

Ask and answer the following questions...

1. What do you know about the tabernacle?
2. How did it function?
3. How was it symbolic to the Israelites?
4. Who paid for it? (Exodus 25:2)
5. What was the precondition for contribution? (Exodus 25:2)

The Tabernacle was first erected in the wilderness one year after Israel left Egypt around 1450 B.C. It remained in use until the days of King David. After David built his palace he looked down upon the old, worn Tabernacle that had been used for approximately 400 years. (2 Samuel 7) Can you imagine what a four hundred-year-old tent that had been put up and taken down hundreds of times would look like? David’s heart was moved to build God a beautiful palace. However, because he was a man of war, God would not permit him to do so. Instead, David’s son, Solomon, would have the honor. But David made massive preparations for all the raw materials needed.

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-9

Ask and answer the following questions...

1. What did David give according to verse 3?
2. What was David’s challenge to the people in verse 5?
3. How did the people respond in verse 6?
4. How did the people respond in verse 9?

The Temple was built and used by Israel for many years until God allowed the Babylonians to destroy it because of the idolatry of Israel. It was rebuilt under the leadership of Ezra, refurbished around 30 B.C. by Herod the Great then destroyed again in 70 A.D. by the Romans. Israel, to this day, does not have a temple in which to worship. However, there are buildings called synagogues all over the world.

Synagogues were built in every town where enough Jews lived to merit one. These began being built following Israel’s time of captivity by the Babylonians. These buildings provided locations where Jews could be educated in the ways of God weekly and sometimes daily. No longer did they have to wait until they could travel to the Temple in Jerusalem to learn the commands of God. The synagogues would be located close to where the people were. Do you see the similarity to the church today? With the establishment of the synagogues Israel never fell into the worship of other gods again.