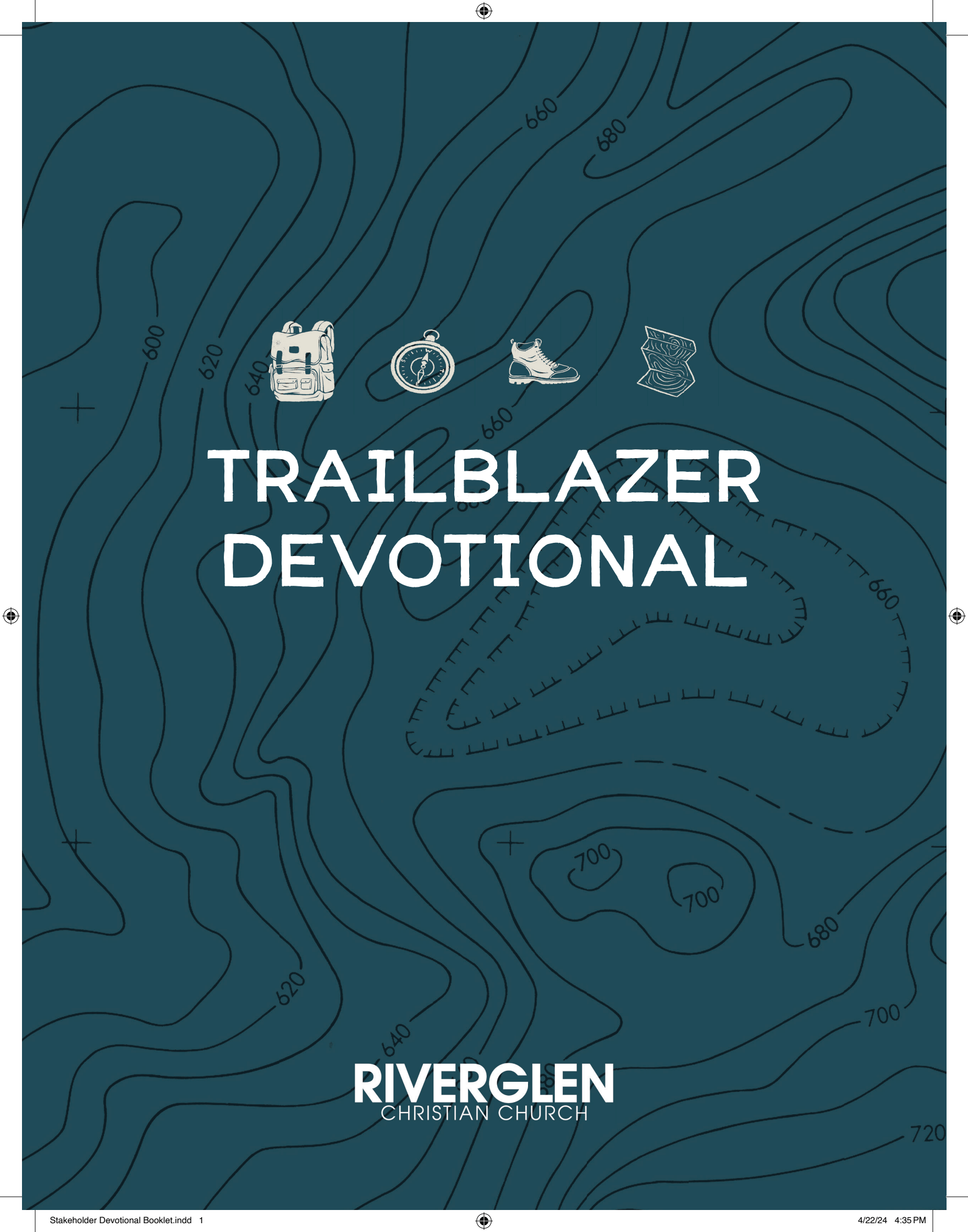




TRAILBLAZER DEVOTIONAL

RIVERGLEN
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO THE TRAILBLAZER SUMMIT!

Our team created this devotional for your personal adventure of discipleship and renewal in this next season at RiverGlen. Through the Scripture passages found in this book and the reflection questions that follow, we hope you are challenged to grow in aspects of your influence, lifestyle, generosity, and legacy as a disciple of Jesus. As you begin at basecamp, climb the mountain, embrace the ridge opportunities of life, and summit at the top, we pray that you experience God's glory and grace along the way as He continues to move in you in powerful ways. Please write your reflections to these questions in this booklet so you can refer back to them throughout the coming months.

As you work through this devotional, spend some time thinking about the questions and reflecting on what God's Word says and who we should strive to be, in response to these truths. Our hope is that this simple set of questions and Scripture, along with your prayer time, will become a catalyst to help you deepen your relationship with God.

Regardless of where you are in your relationship with Jesus, we know He has more for you; and it is possible that the most life-changing, influential, and personally engaging days of your life could still be ahead. It is our privilege to walk beside you as we all continue to make more and better followers of Jesus together.



BEN DAVIS

THEFORE, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SUCH A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES. AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH.
- HEBREWS 12:1-2A



BASECAMP

WHERE WE STOCK UP ON
SUPPLIES AND NOURISHMENT
FOR THE JOURNEY

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.



1) In light of the truth that Christ's love compels us not to live for ourselves but for Him, in what ways am I currently experiencing Christ's love in my life right now?

2) When I think about the "basecamp" of a mountain trek, it is the point at which we stock up on supplies and nourishment and often a new journey begins. What new journey do I feel God beginning in my life right now?

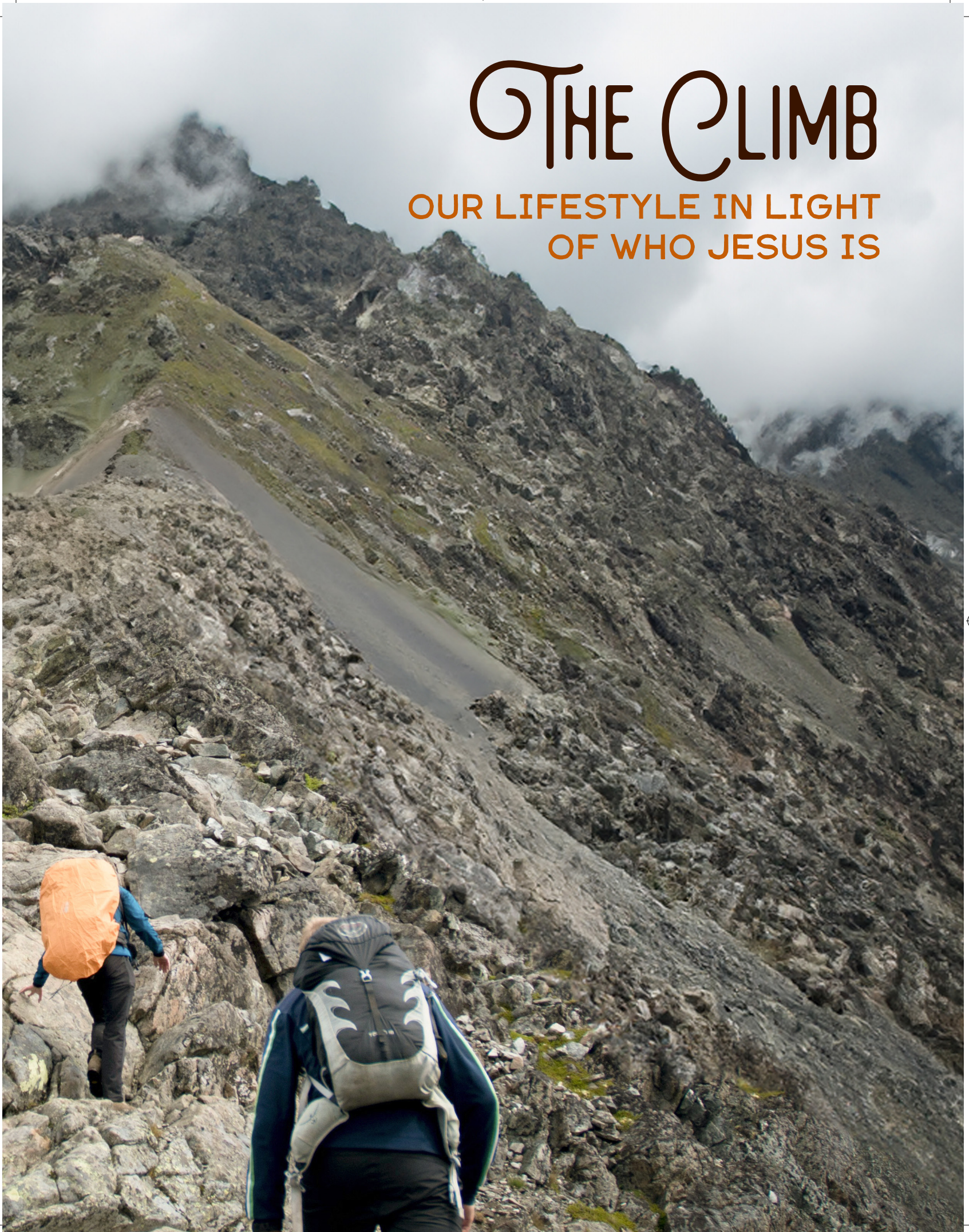
3) When I think about the stewardship of my life and the call to be an ambassador for Christ, do I feel I am in a place of influence, either in terms of my workplace, my family, my neighborhood, or other arena of my life so that others can be impacted by my actions and demonstrations of faith?

4) In what specific ways in my life right now might God be challenging me to live more for Him and less for me?



THE CLIMB

OUR LIFESTYLE IN LIGHT
OF WHO JESUS IS



READ: COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.



1) Do I live in such a way that places Christ as first in all things? Practically speaking, is how I spend my time driven by things that honor God or serve myself? In the realm of giving, does my giving affect my saving and spending decisions, or do my saving and spending decisions affect my giving?

2) Would others look at my life and see that God is the page on which all of my priorities are written? Or is God merely a number on my list of priorities, even if a high one, on my own page? Whose page is it, honestly? (Be as honest as you can.)

3) In light of the gospel's transformative power in my life and who Christ is, am I giving in a way that changes me, or has it become comfortable and routine?

4) What things currently hold the top spot in my life that sometimes cause changes in giving of my time and resources for God? Is it my kids? My spouse? My job? My house? How can I better let my priority of Christ drive those things rather than the other way around?



THE RIDGE

WHERE OUR GENEROSITY
CASCADES FORWARD

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:10-15

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

1) Paul shares about the evangelistic power that exists when we give accompanied by our confession of the gospel of Christ that other people will see why we give and will praise God because of it. Do I feel I give in a way that is driven by my confession of the gospel of Christ? Or is my giving driven by other things, potentially even things that are not from God? If so, what are those things?

2) This passage was written within the context of an offering that was being received for some of the poorer churches in Jerusalem. However, Paul is emphasizing that this giving is not just meeting the needs of those communities but that it is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Do I see my giving in that way? How might God be calling me to refocus the impact of my giving as I think about why and how I give?

3) Paul shares that we will be enriched in every way so that we can be generous on every occasion. So this begs the question: If you were God, would you give you more money?

4) When I think of my "giving story," is it a story of the past or a story of the present? Do I see my relationship with Christ as one that continually changes and challenges me in this area, or has it been a while since I have humbled myself to let Him grow me in this discipline of giving?

THE SUMMIT

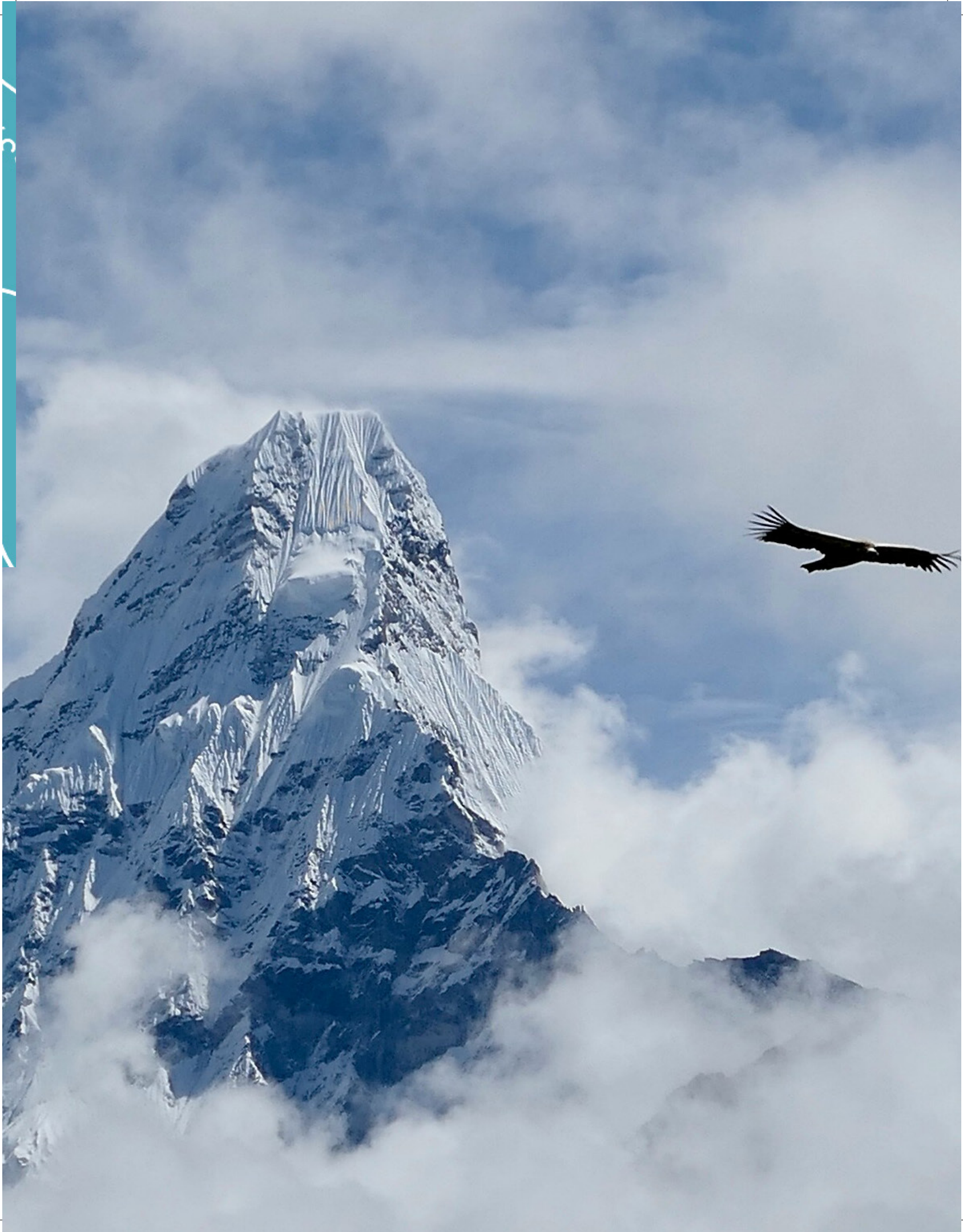
OUR LEGACY



READ: ACTS 4:32-37

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions were their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.





1) This passage at the end of Acts chapter 4 comes right after Peter and John had just stood before the Jewish council to declare that they had healed a man who could not walk and had performed this healing in the name of Jesus. This angered the Jewish council and so Peter and John faced a possible death for performing this healing in Jesus' name. They were ultimately released, and their boldness in the face of persecution is what caused the early believers who heard about this to pray boldly for the Lord to provide miracles and faith in the midst of this persecution they were facing. After these bold prayers, the Holy Spirit shook the ground on which they were standing and then generosity happened – which we read about above! As you think about the moves of God which precipitate great generosity, how have you seen this in your own life?

2) This story of these early believers giving so generously is quite compelling and is inspiration for us today as we continue to build up the local church as these early believers were doing as well. Who in my life has left a legacy of generosity that has impacted how I give?

3) When I think about the legacy I want to leave with my life, how would people characterize how I give? What am I intentionally doing right now to ensure that my children or others whom I influence around me are learning values of generosity?

4) Is there a choice I have made in my past with regard to my resources that is impacting my ability to leave a legacy of generosity both in the present and in the future? What might God be asking me to do about it?

