

# UNCIRCLE THE WAGONS



MIDPOINT OF THE **BURN THE SHIPS** INITIATIVE  
• SERIES DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE •



**When God  
seeks  
to do  
something  
THROUGH US,  
he almost  
always seeks  
to do  
something  
IN US first.**

## **Contents**

- 04. A note from Matt
- 06. What we set out to do
- 10. What God has done
- 12. Where are we going?
- 16. What is your role?
- 20. Giving journey
- 22. Message notes
- 30. Small group content
- 32. Save these dates

— This book belongs to: —



# Can you believe we're already at the midpoint of *Burn the Ships?*

*It all kicked off in April 2024,  
and what an incredible  
journey it's been so far!*

## From the start, we had two big goals:

### 100% Engagement

We want every single person in our church to experience a life-changing encounter with God when it comes to generosity.

### \$16 Million in Generosity

\$8M to fuel our church's mission through our general budget and \$8M to renovate our campus so we can better serve our church and our community.

It's clear that God is moving in our church, in individuals' lives, and calling people to take steps of faith. I can't wait to see what He does through us next! And you have shown up in a huge way!

Over the past year, 250+ households gave for the first time. That's incredible!

But we're not done! As we look to the second half of the generosity initiative, there is a place for everyone to be involved.

Whether you are joining the vision of winning NOCO for Christ with a first-time commitment, staying strong in your current commitment, or increasing your commitment, the impact on our community is significant!

**Let's keep going! God's not finished yet.**



matt





# What we set out to do

GOD OF GLORY MAJESTY

## Goal #1 of *Burn the Ships* 100% engagement



Firstly, *Burn the Ships* is all about discipleship—helping us grow as followers of Jesus and helping others do the same.



Our primary goal is for as close to 100% of our people at LifeBridge to have a life-changing experience with God when it comes to generosity. That means we're all taking steps to grow in how we give.



God is unbelievably generous, and since we follow Him, we want to live that out too. Generosity isn't just a nice idea—it's a key part of our journey as disciples!





# Goal #2 of *Burn the Ships*

**\$16 Million in** *generosity*

## **General Budget \$8M**

Over the course of these two years, the investment in our general budget is all about supporting and strengthening our core functions as a church. It fuels everything we do, from disciple-making and NextGen ministries to care ministries, outreach partnerships, weekend experiences, and the day-to-day operations that keep it all running strong.

## **Campus Renovation \$8M**

To effectively reach NOCO, we have to update one of our biggest tools—our campus. Our plan is to renovate the entire space, address overdue maintenance, redesign the interior to make the most of our space for growth and ministry, and give the whole place a fresh, updated look, with significantly improved functionality.

If we want to win NOCO, then we need to fix and update one of our primary tools: our campus. Our goal is to renovate the entire campus to take care of deferred maintenance, reconfigure the interior of the building to maximize our space to accommodate growth and facilitate ministry, and update the aesthetic appeal of the campus.





# What *God* has done

**APRIL 2024 – MARCH 2025**

## **BAPTISMS**

Number of people who publicly  
stated that they will follow  
Jesus through baptism:

**207**

## **ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS**

The number of people who have  
actively served others through our  
various ministries:

**501**

## **YOUTH NIGHTS**

Total number of check-ins  
at our Youth Nights:

**2,746**

## **WELCOME!**

New families who have  
checked their kids in during  
Sunday services:

**130**

## **BIBLES**

Bibles given away on Sundays:

**363**





*Where* **are we going?**





We're one year into the *Burn the Ships* initiative, and while much of the progress isn't visible yet, big things are happening! We've completed a full roof replacement across the entire building—so no more worrying about leaks every time it rains or the snow melts. At the end of 2024, we submitted our renovation permits to Boulder County, and we're asking everyone to pray for God's favor in the approval process. Once renovations are complete, we'll have significantly improved spaces for kids and students, with a strong focus on safety, plus upgraded seating in the auditorium, amongst other things. All of this is about more than just a building—it's about creating a space where people can meet Jesus, build community, and reach NOCO for Christ.



kids classrooms



student lobby



flexible-use lounge



kid check-in



# What is your role?

Over the past year, God has done incredible things through LifeBridge right here in NOCO. He's shown us time and time again that He is faithful, and our response is to trust Him and honor Him by giving our first and best through the *Burn the Ships* generosity initiative.



## New Commitment

You recently became part of our church family and are wondering, "What is the *Burn the Ships* initiative, and how do I participate in this?" *Burn the Ships* is for anyone who calls LifeBridge their home church, and we're so glad to welcome you here! We hope you'll join us on this journey—asking if He is calling you to step out in faith as we obediently set out to win NOCO for Him—and consider making a 12-month generosity commitment to *Burn the Ships*.



## Finish Strong

Many made a commitment one year ago, and for some of us, this journey has been just as challenging—or even more challenging—than we expected. Maybe you took a huge step in generosity and are still adjusting your life around it. Maybe you've faced job loss, career changes, or unexpected financial burdens. No matter where you are, keep pushing forward towards the goal. We stand together, encouraging one another, knowing that God is faithful. He will provide, and we want to finish strong in our commitment to *Burn the Ships*.



## Increase

Some of us made our *Burn the Ships* commitment a year ago, and since then, our faith or finances may have grown. That doesn't mean keeping our commitment has been easy—it's likely required real sacrifice. But perhaps you feel God nudging you to take an even bigger step of faith in generosity. If that's you, we challenge you to respond to His generosity by increasing your commitment. Generosity isn't a one-time event—it's a journey. Ask yourself: Am I still giving in a way that stretches me? Am I still making Him the one thing that drives everything? Take time to pray and see if God is inviting you to take another step of faith with an increased commitment.



# Commitment Card

*example*



.....

We've included an example so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God as we approach the midpoint of the *Burn the Ships* initiative. Please take time to think and pray through this, and we will provide you with a new hard copy on **Commitment Sunday**, May 18, 2025.

.....

## I am new to *Burn the Ships*

☐ I / We would like to make a 12-month commitment to the *Burn the Ships* generosity initiative in the amount of: (includes regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)

\$

May 2025 - May 2026

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## I am already committed to *Burn the Ships*

My / Our current two-year commitment is: \$

May 2024 - May 2026

Halfway through the *Burn the Ships* initiative, I would like to:

☐ Confirm my commitment to finish strong

☐ Increase my commitment to: \$

May 2024 - May 2026

Name

Email

Phone

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 (ESV)**



# The Giving Journey

This tool helps shift our view of money—from a priority to a tool for God's Kingdom. The *Giving Journey* focuses on heart attitudes over dollar amounts, guiding us to grow in Christ-like generosity. It's not about earning God's favor, but about reflecting His grace—even in our giving (2 Cor. 8:7).

## INITIAL GIVER

**2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time in response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trusts both God and church leaders with their gift.

## INTENTIONAL GIVER

**Luke 14:28-35**

An Intentional Giver recognizes the preeminence of Christ—that all things are by Him, for Him, and through Him. Their giving takes priority, shaping how they spend and save, rather than the other way around. They experience the freedom of serving one master and declaring, "Jesus is first."

## CONSISTENT GIVER

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

A Consistent Giver chooses to give regularly, building the habit of generosity through discipline—whether online at [lbcc.org/give](http://lbcc.org/give) or in person. In doing so, they experience the joy of growing in the grace of giving.

## SURRENDERED GIVER

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

A Surrendered Giver responds to Christ's sacrifice with a heart of surrender. Their giving isn't just changing their finances—it's changing them. They ask, "Is what I'm keeping surrendered too?" and seek to honor God with all they've been entrusted with, whether through money or through a God-honoring use of an existing resource (i.e. honoring God with the use of your home, etc.).

## ETERNAL GIVER

**1 Timothy 6:6-19**

An Eternal Giver gives with eternity in mind—not just for present impact, but for lasting change. Captivated by the call to "do good, be generous, and take hold of true life" (1 Tim. 6:19), they let eternal impact guide their decisions in giving, spending, and serving.



Message Notes: April 27, 2025

## Week 1 | The Time is Now

## Nehemiah 2:17-20

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a clean, solid white color.[illegible]



Message Notes: May 4, 2025

## Week 2 | Circles

## Nehemiah 3

[illegible]This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Message Notes: May 11, 2025

## Week 3 | Keystone Species

## Nehemiah 8:1-12

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue or grey lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines, text, or other markings on the page.This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Message Notes: May 18, 2025

## Week 4 | Generosity that Transforms

Nehemiah 5:14-19, 7:66-73

[illegible]This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# Small Group Content

Each Sunday afternoon during the *Uncircle the Wagons* series, groups will receive a short video from Matt with a few questions about that day's message—designed to spark deeper, more meaningful conversations at your next group gathering. Videos are posted on [burnthships.lbcc.org/resources](http://burnthships.lbcc.org/resources). If you are not a part of a group or have been hesitant to join one, we want to answer a few questions you may have:

## **What if I'm unsure about Jesus?**

Groups are a great place to ask the hard questions! They're where you can share your doubts and be authentic and vulnerable in a safe environment.

## **What if I don't have enough time?**

Life is busy, but groups are where you can find support, accountability, and encouragement from others. Our groups have different meeting schedules, including weekly, bi-monthly, and more, so you can pick which group best fits your schedule.

## **Can I try another one if my group isn't the right fit?**

Absolutely! If a group doesn't seem like the right fit, we encourage you to try another one. We are also available to help you find a better fit.



No matter where you are in your relationship with Jesus, whether you know Him well or you don't know anything about Him, groups are a place where you can ask questions, learn, and grow. If you are not a part of a group, we encourage you to check them out.





# Save these dates

**Worship Night**  
*Wednesday* May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Midpoint Commitment**  
*Sunday* May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Celebration & Big Give**  
*Sunday* June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

 **LifeBridge**

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