



Engagement
Journal

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me
will do the works I have been doing,
and they will do even **greater**  things than these,
because I am going to the Father.

- John 14:12 -

Greater Things Engagement Journal Intro

Grace Baptist family,

What amazing promises we have from our Savior Jesus Christ in John 14! We have been often inspired and comforted by the promise of an eternal home with Christ someday, but there is also a promise of God's powerful work in the present. Jesus calls His church to a present invitation of participating in Him doing Greater Things in us and through us. The work that Jesus did on earth before the Cross was astounding; but it was only the beginning of His work expanding and making a greater impact in lives which continues today. Jesus' invitation and work continues for Grace Baptist within our own body with an impact far beyond Canton. We desire that our Greater Things Initiative will join us together in prayer to actively grow in knowing and serving our Savior. Greater Things is about Grace Baptist intentionally seeking Greater expansion of God's glory and a Greater Involvement of our body to seek after God's glory together.

This is a high goal to pursue and to accomplish, but is a goal God has invited us to pursue. Our team has developed this Engagement Journal to lead us to explore 3 foundational Scriptures and key truths that will impact our prayers and our personal obedience response. As we hear God's Word, God's Spirit will move us toward living out God's Word which will draw us to genuine joy and transformation. This is a joy and transformation I desire for our entire church body and those we haven't reached yet. What Greater Work could God do in our homes, our trials, our fears and our ministries if we entrusted more to His power and plans for us?

I would invite each of you to work through and complete this Journal. As you work on the Journal, allow God to teach you and speak to you about your involvement in His Greater Things plan. I look forward to what God has yet in store for us personally and as a body as we pursue together God's greater glory.

Because of our Great Savior,

Pastor Dave Ryan

Your INFLUENCE:

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.”

Questions for Reflection

Spiritually speaking, who has had the most impact on influencing me to live a life filled with love and following the example of Christ?

How aware am I of the influence I have on others? In what ways have I seen evidence of this influence either positively and/or negatively?

In terms of giving and generosity, who taught me about generosity and/or had the biggest impact on me by their example of generosity?

Who has set the best example to me about the time I should spend using my talents to serve in the church?

In reflecting on these questions, what things do I feel I need to do/change in terms of my generosity and the way(s) in which I serve in the church? How might those changes positively affect the influence I have on others?

Your LIFESTYLE:

Read Colossians 3:1-4

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.”

Questions for Reflection

In the way that I live my life and set my priorities in life, are my sights set on the realities of heaven or the realities of earth?

More specifically would I say that the giving of my time, talent and treasure is reflective of my sights being set on the realities of heaven or the realities of earth?

What changes do I think God might be challenging me to make in terms of the giving of my time, talent and treasure?

What is/are the barrier(s) that would try and keep me from making these changes?
What is God asking me to do about these barrier(s)?

Your LEGACY:

Read Acts 20:33-38

“I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” When he (Paul) had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye. They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again.”

Questions for Reflection

In the passage, Paul is saying goodbye to the Ephesians elders. They both know they will never see each other again. In his final words, Paul is essentially imploring them to live lives of radical generosity. Why do I think this would be his final message to them?

What am I intentionally doing right now to ensure that my children and/or others whom I influence around me are learning about the values of generosity? And about the giving of their time and talent?

Thus, far in my life, on what have I spent the most financial resources? How do I feel about that?

Am I giving financially and with my time and talent in a way that still changes me, or has it become comfortable and routine? What can I do about this?

greater  **things**

