

## GROWTH GROUP GUIDE

# WEEK 1 | THE FEAR OF JUMPING

### MAIN IDEA FOR THOUGHT

Doing a Cannonball requires a full immersion of yourself into the experience—a full jump up into the air and then landing down powerfully into the water causing a splash so great it creates a ripple effect of waves. This Cannonball spiritual journey is no different. God seeks to take us on a journey showing us how we can overcome our fears of jumping and fully immerse ourselves in the adventure of generosity.

**How is your heart when it comes to giving and generosity? What fears are present as you begin to walk up to the platform and jump high over the water?**

Before we can begin on this Cannonball journey, we must first understand the place at which we are currently and how God is seeking to grow us.

### Watch Week 1 Video

### OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) When it comes to getting into a pool are you a “slowly step in and get used to the water” person, or are you a “jump all in right away” person?
- 2) What excites you (or maybe even scares you a little bit) about this 6-week Cannonball spiritual journey we are jumping into as a church community?
- 3) What are some of the pre-conceived assumptions in culture, and maybe even in your past or present, regarding money and the church?
- 4) What are some positive experiences you’ve had within the church regarding generosity, giving, and your personal discipleship (growth in Jesus)?

### FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read each Scripture passage below and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the lines provided below before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

### Remember and don't forget where it all comes from

#### DEUTERONOMY 6:4-12

*Listen, Israel! The Eternal is our True God—He alone. You should love Him, your True God, with all your heart and soul, with every ounce of your strength. Make the things I'm commanding you today part of who you are. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you're sitting together in your home and when you're walking together down the road. Make them the last thing you talk about before you go to bed and the first thing you talk about the next morning. Do whatever it takes to remember them: tie a reminder on your hand and bind a reminder on your forehead where you'll see it all the time, such as on the doorpost where you cross the threshold or on the city gate.*

*The Eternal your God promised your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that He would give you this land. When He brings you into it, you'll live in beautiful and spacious cities you didn't build. You'll have houses filled with good things waiting for you—cisterns to hold water already dug out of the rock for you, and vineyards and olive orchards that you didn't plant. You'll have all you want to eat and more. When this happens, be very, very careful! Don't forget it was the Eternal who brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves.*

**Moses' instructions to God's people include "remember & don't forget". Why do you think it is so easy for us to "forget the Lord and all that he has provided for us"? Perhaps share a specific struggle or season this happened to you.**

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**According to verses 6-9 how can we remember "God's commands?" What could this look like in our culture, homes & lifestyles today? Be specific.**

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**Moses' call to the people was to remember "everything we have comes from God". Do you believe this? How does (or doesn't) this truth play out in your life currently?**

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### **Following Jesus will cost something, but we really gain everything**

**LUKE 9:23-25**

*If any of you want to walk My path, you're going to have to deny yourself. You'll have to take up your cross every day and follow Me. If you try to avoid danger and risk, then you'll lose everything. If you let go of your life and risk all for My sake, then your life will be rescued, healed, made whole and full. Listen, what good does it do you if you gain everything—if the whole world is in your pocket—but then your own life slips through your fingers and is lost to you?*

**What fears have you had in the past or still have now when it comes to jumping all in with Jesus?**

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Our goal is to have this Cannonball type faith Jesus talks about. What might you need to let go of or be willing to sacrifice during this next season to grow in your faith?

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### God wants giving to flow from an encounter with Him

#### 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

*Now, brothers and sisters, let me tell you about the amazing gift of God's grace that's happening throughout the churches in Macedonia. Even in the face of severe anguish and hard times, their elation and poverty have overflowed into a wealth of generosity. I watched as they willingly gave what they could afford and then went beyond to give even more. They came to us on their own, begging to take part in this work of grace to support the poor saints in Judea. We were so overwhelmed—none of us expected their reaction—that they truly turned their lives over to the Lord and then gave themselves to support us in our work as we answer the call of God.*

The churches in Macedonia model our goals through this Cannonball Initiative. Goal #1 is that 100% of us in the EastLake Church Network would engage deeply with God to jump in and make waves for him. What can we each do to "truly turn our lives over to the Lord", as it says in verse 5, over the next 6 weeks?

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The result of the Macedonians truly turning their lives over to the Lord was sacrificial giving and generosity to God's work. Begin praying now about your outcome of total surrender to God and the steps you will make in our Cannonball Generosity. List your thoughts or write a prayer here:

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### CLOSING PRAYER

*God, more than anything we want to encounter you during this Cannonball Journey. We want your love and grace to overwhelm our hearts and lives. And as a result of deeply encountering you we want generosity to flow from our lives. We want to jump in on your mission of sharing the love of Jesus and make some Kingdom of God waves together. Amen. ■*