



Welcome to the first week of our new series: “All In.” We’re raising the stakes at Journey Church, and I hope everyone is ready to come along for the ride! This series has the potential to change our church and community as we all are challenged to lay it all on the line to reach the 50,000 disconnected people in the Auburn area.

- **Can you remember a time in your life when you gave 110% of your effort to accomplish something?**
  - ◆ **What did it cost you?**
  - ◆ **What was the reward?**
  
- **What do you think sets Journey Church apart from all the other churches in Auburn?**
  
- **Read *Matthew 10:37-42*. What does this passage tell us about the *risk* of going ALL IN?**
  
- **What does this passage tell us about the *reward* for going ALL IN?**
  
- **What risks do you personally face if you go ALL IN for Journey Church?**
  
- **What rewards do you think you’d receive if you went ALL IN for Journey Church?**
  
- **What is keeping you from going ALL IN for Journey Church?**



Growth Group Leaders:

I want to be 100% honest with you folks. I am incredibly grateful that each of you is making the effort to lead a Growth Group each week. The fact that Journey Church has such a healthy small groups ministry at this point in the life of the church is a testament to the work each of you is doing. I know each one of you makes a significant effort each week to make each of the groups a success.

Now is the time to encourage each of the people in your Growth Group to step up to the same kind of commitment. If Journey Church is going to grow and make a difference in Auburn, we need everyone to step up and get involved. Each week of this series, I encourage you to share a little testimony of how your investment in Journey Church is growing your relationship with God. Challenge your people with the idea that investing time, money, and effort into Journey Church will make an eternal impact on their own lives, and the lives of others.

Thanks again for all you do!

Andrew

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As we finished up the last series, we had a couple of intense discussions on some complicated topics. This sets us up well for the coming series. This series is a whole lot more simple, but could be an even greater challenge for the folks in your group. Use the opportunity of less "information" to really challenge your folks to step up and take the next simple step they need to take to "raise the stakes" on their walk with God and commitment to Journey Church.

The goal of the first question is to help folks realize that every investment costs us something or has its risks, but the potential rewards outweigh the risks. When we allow the "what-ifs" of the risks to scare us or to keep us from making the investment, we miss out on the potential rewards.

Encourage your folks to give a little insight into their past that others might not know about . . . a sport or other extra-curricular activity, a hobby, a career choice . . . This is also a get-to-know-you opportunity.

- **Can you remember a time in your life when you gave 110% of your effort to accomplish something?**
  - ◆ **What did it cost you?**
  - ◆ **What was the reward?**
- **What do you think sets Journey Church apart from all the other churches in Auburn?**

This is a great diagnostic question to see if your folks understand the vision of Journey Church. I'm sure some of the answers will include cool music, friendly atmosphere, free coffee and donuts, and a host of other little things that we "do" to accomplish our mission. This is good and lets us know that what we are doing is noticed and is

working. However, I encourage you to follow up with, “Why do you think we do these things?” We do what we do because we want to build trust with disconnected people so that they will become passionate Christ Followers.

What ultimately sets us apart is a desire to do whatever it takes to reach disconnected people. No matter what other churches are doing, we are going to try to “speak the language” of our culture and make a bridge from where people are to having a relationship with Jesus.

- Read *Matthew 10:37-42*. **What does this passage tell us about the *risk* of going ALL IN?**

We choose the word “risk” instead of “cost” for a reason. Jesus is telling us that we *may* lose our relationships with friends and family. Maybe we won’t. Jesus *is* saying that we need to consider that going ALL IN to follow Jesus might cost us our very lives. But, the potential cost is also associated with a potential reward.

*Verse 38* challenges us to consider the “risk” of not going ALL IN. If we’re not willing to pick it all up and follow Jesus, we risk everything in our relationship to him. We’re not going to lose our relationship with him, but refusing to go ALL IN is grounds to question that relationship at its very beginning.

- **What does this passage tell us about the *reward* for going ALL IN?**

*Verse 39* tells us that giving up everything for a relationship with Jesus will result in true life, as opposed to a temporary life apart from Jesus.

*Verses 40-42* teaches us that the investment we make in accomplishing the work of the Church will result in a reward worthy of that investment. Some people have a hard time believing that there are different levels of reward. Some argue that becoming a Christ-follower gets you eternal life and that’s it. Everyone is equal in heaven. But this passage and others show us that Jesus says there is more. The investment we make as Christ-followers will result in some level of reward in heaven.

- **What risks do you personally face if you go ALL IN for Journey Church?**

These final 3 questions are a set-up for personal application. Some of your folks are going to be risking relationships, family, finances, careers, and other serious issues. Some of them are not to be taken lightly. You may need to ask them, “Is the risk worth it?” Some of your folks might not know if they are worth it or not. That’s OK right now. This is a challenge opportunity for you. Encourage them to consider the risks and rewards carefully and prayerfully through the course of this series. Our goal for them month of November is to show our folks that the potential rewards for going ALL IN will outweigh whatever risk they face. We just need to get them thinking in that direction now, so they can make wise decisions before the series is over.

- **What rewards do you think you’d receive if you went ALL IN for Journey Church?**

The greatest potential reward each of us faces by going ALL IN for Journey Church is to personally be involved in helping someone connect to Christ and become a passionate Christ-follower. There is a very real possibility that the relationships we will be risking by going ALL IN will flip into an opportunity to bring those people into a relationship with God. How awesome would that be?

Other rewards will include: fulfillment in knowing that you are doing exactly what God created you to do, overcoming barriers and struggles in our past, some will receive material blessings, others will experience forgiveness in broken relationships, still others will sense a call to something bigger than they ever imagined . . .

- **What is keeping you from going ALL IN for Journey Church?**

This is our challenge question. If you get answers, ask “Why?” or “Is that hurdle bigger than the potential reward?” Challenge your folks to step out in faith beyond the hurdles they are facing right now.