



# TOGETHER IN THIS

## START HERE:

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This Eastertide we each have the opportunity to take part in our "Together in This" campaign. For 8 weeks we are going to share the stories of our community. We're going to celebrate the profound life change experienced here at Forefront, and we're going to highlight the ways that new stories can and will be created.

## WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

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Our church community has changed the lives of hundreds, maybe even thousands of people, because of the grace and generosity given through the committed people of our church. We want to continue to do this work for years to come, but we need resources to make it happen.

## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

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Give of your resources as a testament to God's grace in your life so others can experience that same grace within community. Give a generous one-time gift or set-up a recurring gift to help us reach our goal of \$250,000 by May 22.

## OPENING QUESTION:

How would you describe a mature person?

## DISCUSS:

Discuss this quote from Brian McLaren's book *A New Kind of Christianity*.

***New statements can inspire debate and bring us to a new state. But only new questions can inspire new conversations that can launch us on a new quest.***

## READ:

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-5 aloud.

The Old Testament often followed the formula of *imperative* and then *indicative*. For example, the commandment to obey one's parents is followed by the promise of blessing and long life. The imperative, or command, comes first, and then what is true about you comes second. You are not blessed without a command.

Paul flips this: he establishes an indicative first, and then insert the imperative. He outlines who the Christians are receiving his letters first: apostles, brothers, saints. Later in his letters, he uses the word *therefore* to ready readers for the shift to imperative. That is when he tells them to sin no more. But, with the word *therefore*, he puts the importance on *who they are* in Christ. The command is built on the blessing that is already there.

Discuss this idea.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

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For more info or to RSVP to any of these events, go to

[forefrontnyc.com/calendar](http://forefrontnyc.com/calendar)

**5/24 - Introverts Gathering**

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Free prayer: ask people to pray out loud for the following:

- for a just society and the flourishing of God's kingdom
- for our community and how we can support one another
- for an increase in our capacity to know and enjoy grace

Close the group with this prayer:

**Maker of heaven and earth, space and time, I put my hope in you, trusting that you will provide whatever I need for body and soul and turn to my good whatever adversity you send me. Thank you that you are able to do this because you are almighty God, and that you desire to do this because you love us.**