**October 18, 2026 – UPLIFTED Kickoff - Lead Pastor Marc Riegel**

# Sermon Discussion Guide

## UPLIFTED — Remembering God's Faithfulness, Trusting Him for the Future

Big Idea: God has been faithful to Emmanuel Church through generations of people, and He is inviting us to trust Him, grow in generosity, and invest in the next generation.

Key Scripture: Exodus 25:1–9

Other Scriptures: Psalm 78:4–7; 1 Chronicles 29:14; 2 Corinthians 9:7–8; Psalm 24:1-6

# 1. Getting Started

Icebreaker: Think about a time when someone invested in you, encouraged your faith, or helped you grow spiritually. Who was that person, and how did their investment make a difference in your life?

# 2. Discussion Questions

A. Remembering God's Faithfulness

Emmanuel Church has a history spanning generations, with different buildings, pastors, and seasons of change. Yet God has continued to work through His people.

- Why is it important to remember what God has done in the past?
- Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your own life or family?
- How can remembering God's faithfulness help us face an uncertain future?

B. Investing in the Next Generation

The sermon highlighted how children, youth, and families have always been an important part of Emmanuel's story. Our faithfulness today can impact people who will come after us.

- Who helped shape your faith when you were younger?
- What are some practical ways we can invest in the spiritual growth of children, youth, and families?
- What kind of spiritual legacy do you hope to leave for the next generation?

C. Growing in Generosity and Trust

The UPLIFTED initiative is about more than expanding a building. It is also an opportunity to grow spiritually, especially in our generosity and trust in God.

- Why can it be difficult to trust God with our finances and resources?

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- What is the difference between asking, "What can I give?" and "What is God asking of me?"
- How might God use generosity to change our hearts, not just meet a financial goal?

D. Taking a Step of Faith

The sermon challenged everyone to pray, engage, and take a step in their spiritual journey. We are not all at the same place, but everyone can grow.

- What does taking a step of faith look like for you in this season of life?
- Is there an area where God may be inviting you to trust Him more?
- How can our group or family encourage one another to take that next step?

# 3. Putting It into Practice

This week, take time to pray about the UPLIFTED initiative and your own spiritual growth.

Consider these three steps:

- Remember: Thank God for His faithfulness in your life, family, and church.
- Pray: Ask God to show you how He wants you to grow in generosity, trust, and faith.
- Invest: Identify one practical way you can encourage or invest in the next generation.

Remember, the goal is not simply to build something for the future. It is to become people who are growing in faith and faithfully investing in what God has entrusted to us.

# 4. Closing Prayer

"Faithful God, thank You for the generations who have gone before us and for the ways You have worked through Emmanuel Church. Help us remember Your faithfulness, trust You with what we have, and grow in generosity. Show each of us the next step You are asking us to take. Give us unity, wisdom, and courage as we invest in the next generation. May the work we do today help others know and follow Jesus for years to come. In Jesus' name, Amen."

# Family Discussion Version

For families with children or teens, use these simpler questions around the dinner table or at bedtime.

- Remember: Who is someone God has used to help our family grow in faith?
- Trust: What is something that can be hard for us to trust God with?
- Give: How can our family be generous with our time, talents or treasure?
- Future: What is one way we can help someone else know Jesus?

Family challenge: Choose one person to encourage this week and do something together to show them God's love.