

## Opening

Good morning and welcome to the Journey. My name is [name] - I'm the Pastor of [area] here at The Journey, and I'm so glad you've joined us today as we continue our [series] teaching series.

[Good news – sometimes]

In just a few moments, Pastor Nelson is going to be out here to share a message all about [message topic here]. It's going to be a great day!

But first, I'd like to draw your attention to the program you should have received when you came in today. Inside that program is a Connection Card that looks just like this [hold mine up].

If you haven't done so already, will you take the pen we gave you and begin filling out this card?

If you're a regular attender or a member here at The Journey, you can just give us your name and email address and any information that may have changed [pause]

But if this is your first time with us, I'd like to ask you to complete as much information as you feel comfortable sharing... and be sure to mark the box on the left-hand side that says "First" or "Second Time Guest" [pause]

And as you work your way down the card, you'll see a question at the bottom that says "How did you hear about The Journey?" As a growing church, you can probably imagine that we're interested in how you found out about us - so I'd really appreciate that valuable information. [bigger pause]

Now, one of the main reasons we ask everyone – and I mean everyone – to fill out the front of this card is because we believe that God has an important next step for you to take on the back of this card. And when you fill out the front of this card, you're putting yourself in a position to take one of these important next steps. So, go ahead and turn over to the back of your connection card now. [turn your card over]

You'll find a number of next steps. There's a lot of great stuff going on here at The Journey.

[Key next steps here, such as Kidz Tour, Baptism, GGs, etc.]

You'll notice a few other flyers for other opportunities here at The Journey, so be sure to take a look at those.

Pastor Nelson will share more next steps with you during today's message so hang onto your Connection Card and we'll collect them during the offering at the end of the service.

And speaking of the offering, inside your program you'll find an offering envelope - if you came prepared to give today, you'll want to fill that out and we'll worship through giving at the end of today's service.

We're going to continue singing together, but first I'd like for us to pray. In particular, let's take a moment right now to pray for [key prayer area here, such as Kidz, GG leaders, WAT, Journey members, etc. – sometimes]. Let's pray.

[Pray]

Okay, go ahead and take your program and connection card, set those aside. Let's all stand and continue singing together. Let's all stand.

## Closing

In just a moment we are going to receive the offering so please take this time to finish completing any information or next steps on your connection card, and you can finish preparing your offering envelope if you came prepared to give financially today.

But first, I'd like to speak to those of you who are here for the very first time today. We are so glad that you joined us and in exchange for your completed connection card, we have a special gift for you. It's a book called *Unshakable*, that Pastor Nelson wrote, and it's all about how you can stand strong when things go wrong. All you need to do is drop your completed connection card in the offering bucket with your offering when it's passed in a moment, then – after you've dropped your completed connection card in the bucket – swing by the “first time guest” table just outside the exit doors on your way out. That's our way of saying thanks for joining us today.

As our offering ushers get in place, I want to remind you that at The Journey we like to Give Big. We're a member-supported church and all the great things going on around here are made possible through your faithful giving.

We're going to worship through giving, but first let's pray.

[Pray]

Let's go ahead and pass the buckets - if you will, please drop in your connection card and your offering envelope if you came prepared to give financially, then pass the bucket on down to the end of your row.

If you are not prepared to give today, there are several other ways for you to support our ministry. You can take home your offering envelope, fill it out and drop it in the mail - we've already paid the postage for you. Or, you can give online anytime at [JourneyNYC.com](http://JourneyNYC.com) - just click the Online Giving link. And perhaps the best way to give is by automating your giving - you can do that on your offering envelope or online - and you'll never have to worry about forgetting to give.

[Upcoming events here – such as baptism, GG table, Kidz tour, etc. – talk until all buckets are received by ushers]

I also want to remind you to come back next Sunday, as we continue our [teaching series] with [message title].

By the way – if you found today helpful, be sure to invite a friend to come with you next week.

Well it's been a great day here at The Journey. On your way out, say hello to three people you haven't met. Let's all stand, and we'll see you next week!