# Journey *of Generosity*

FACILITATOR BOOKLET

THIS BOOKLET BELONGS TO:

_____

## FACILITATOR BOOKLET KEY

This icon indicates something for you to do.

This icon indicates when you should play a story.

This icon indicates when you should be especially aware of time.

Text with a blue background like this is something you say out loud to the group.

Text with a gray background like this shows possible questions to ask after a story or reading. Remember, you don't need to ask every question.

### HELPFUL LINKS

- All Journey of Generosity (JOG) videos, survey links, and more can be found on our website at generousgiving.org/facilitator-resources.
- For step-by-step technical instructions on how to show the JOG videos, visit generousgiving.org/tech.
- If you have any technical issues, reach out to our JOG Concierge at concierge@generousgiving.org.
- Our team is here to pray for you! Send prayer requests for your JOG to prayer@generousgiving.org.



# What's *New* AS OF FALL 2025

### ONE-DAY JOG INSERT

If you are facilitating a One-Day JOG, you will find a new ***One-Day JOG*** insert in the front cover of your booklet. The insert will include a schedule for your One-Day JOG and a guide to modify the content in this five-session booklet for a four-session experience.

### NEW STORIES ADDED TO SESSIONS 2, 3, & 4

The story of ***Vinny and Soomin Hu*** is now an option for Sessions 2 & 4. In addition to the ***Dr. Bill and Vonette Bright*** story in Session 3, we have included ***Renee Lockey*** and ***John and Nia Davenport***. To learn more about these stories, turn to pages 54-64 for brief descriptions.

### *CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE* MOVED TO SESSION 3

The ***Celebration of Discipline*** excerpt has moved from Session 4 to Session 3 to improve the flow of the experience.

### NEW OPTIONS FOR CLOSING IN SESSION 5

After the time of listening, you will now find two options to introduce the survey. In the video-led option, you will play a new video of Generous Giving Co-Founder Todd Harper, who shares a part of his journey as an encouragement to future hosts. In the facilitator-led option, you will read the blue box. In both cases, the facilitator will guide participants through the survey.

After the surveys are completed, there will be two options for the closing video: ***I Like Car*** or a new story, ***Karen and Jorge Balza***. To learn more about these stories, turn to pages 54-64 for brief descriptions.

### STORY TAGS

As the Generous Giving story library grows, we want to make it easy for you to find stories that are most applicable to your JOG participants. Pages 54-64 now include tags as short descriptors to simplify the story selection process.

# *Two-Day JOG Schedule*

**NOTE**

Two-Day JOGs include five sessions, offering the maximum amount of stories and time to reflect and respond.

## DAY ONE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2:00 p.m. | Gather | ~15 min | |
| 2:15 p.m. | Session 1 | ~1 hr 30 min | *pages 6-13* |
| 3:45 p.m. | Break | ~15 min | |
| 4:00 p.m. | Session 2 | ~1 hr 30 min | *pages 14-19* |
| 5:30 p.m. | Break for Dinner | ~2 hrs | |
| 7:30 p.m. | Session 3 | ~1 hr 15 min | *pages 20-28* |
| Overnight | 30 Questions | | *pages 29-33* |

## DAY TWO

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast | ~30 min | |
| 8:30 a.m. | Session 4 | ~1 hr 30 min | *pages 36-37* |
| 10:00 a.m. | Break | ~15 min | |
| 10:15 a.m. | Session 5 | ~1 hr 30 min | *pages 38-43* |
| 11:45 a.m. | Close | | |

**NOTE**

Trust the process. Let the Holy Spirit work. We don't need to force it. Stick to the scheduled break times to help provide stability in what can feel like an abstract experience.



# *Additional Resources*


| | |
|---|---|
| Story Descriptions & Discussion Questions | *pages 54-64* |
| Alternate Late-Start Agenda | *page 65* |
| Our Neutral Platform | *pages 66-67* |
| Principles of Facilitation | *pages 68-70* |


**NOTE**

Consider writing estimated start and stop times near the Overview section at the beginning of each session.

ONE DAY *Journey of Generosity*

## **ONE-DAY JOG** SCHEDULE

If you are facilitating a One-Day JOG, you can find the schedule and additional instructions in the "For Your **One-Day JOG**" handout placed inside the front cover of this facilitator booklet.

# Session *One*

## SESSION 1 OVERVIEW ~1 hr 30 min

JOG Introduction

Story (Video)

Group Introductions

Teaching (Video) & Discussion

## WELCOME ATTENDEES ~5 min

Welcome attendees and introduce yourself. Share briefly why you're facilitating the JOG.

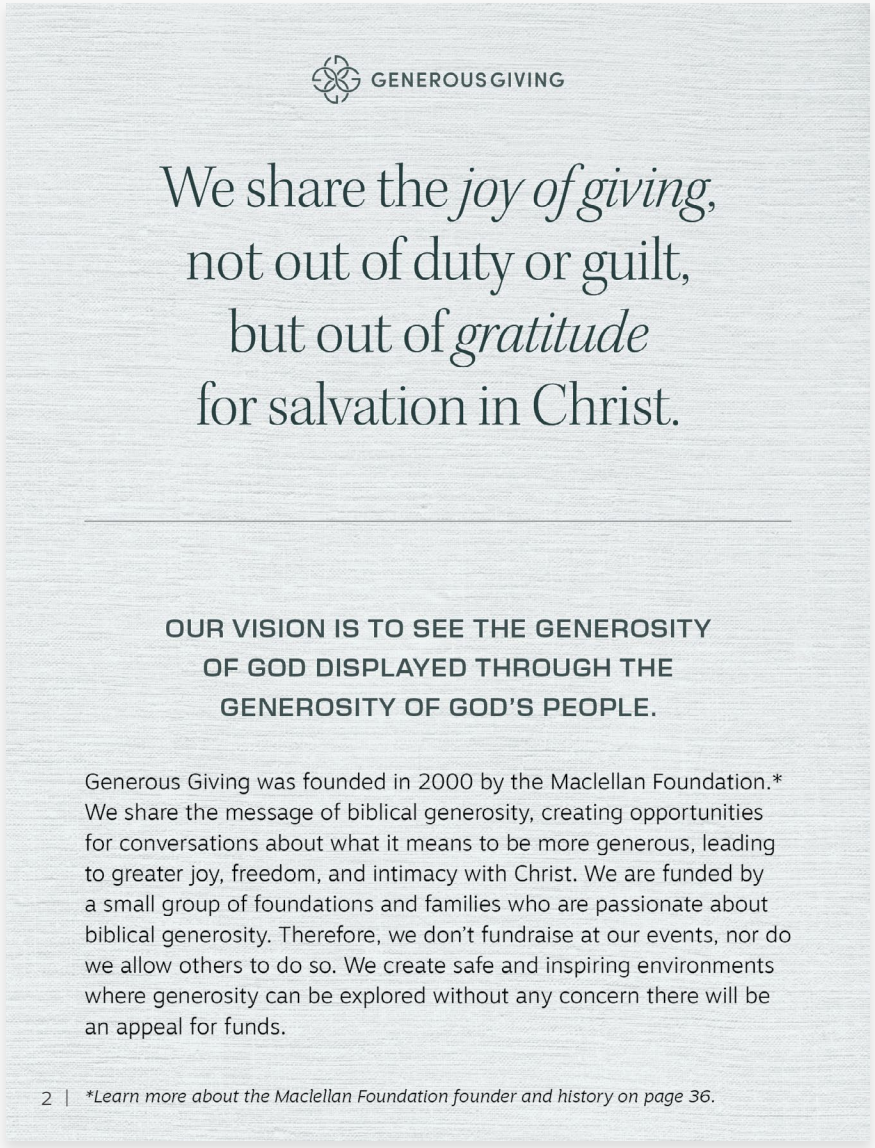
Introduce the Journey of Generosity.

> We call this experience a Journey of Generosity, or a JOG. I invite you to be fully present to how God might speak to your heart individually during this time. I'm not here to teach. We are here to discover God's unique calling for our lives.
>
> Before we dive in, I would like to open us in prayer.

Pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead the time.



Ask participants to turn to page 2 in their booklets. Read aloud the entire page about Generous Giving (participant booklet, page 2). Once you're finished, repeat the blue text box below for emphasis.



GENEROUSGIVING

We share the *joy of giving*, not out of duty or guilt, but out of *gratitude* for salvation in Christ.

OUR VISION IS TO SEE THE GENEROSITY OF GOD DISPLAYED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

Generous Giving was founded in 2000 by the Maclellan Foundation.* We share the message of biblical generosity, creating opportunities for conversations about what it means to be more generous, leading to greater joy, freedom, and intimacy with Christ. We are funded by a small group of foundations and families who are passionate about biblical generosity. Therefore, we don't fundraise at our events, nor do we allow others to do so. We create safe and inspiring environments where generosity can be explored without any concern there will be an appeal for funds.

2 | **Learn more about the Maclellan Foundation founder and history on page 36.*

> This experience is designed to be a gift to you. We want something for you, not from you.

## COVER JOG OBJECTIVES ~2 min

Invite three volunteers to read the JOG objectives and the corresponding Scripture (participant booklet, page 3).

Let's take a minute and review the objectives for our JOG on page 3.

Would someone read the first objective and corresponding Scripture for us? Second? Third?

1 **EXCEL IN THE GRACE OF GIVING.**

But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.
**2 Corinthians 8:7**

2 **LISTEN TO AND OBEY THE LORD'S PROMPTING FOR OUR LIVES.**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.
**Proverbs 3:5-6**

3 **DEVELOP A VISION FOR SHARING THE JOY OF LIVING GENEROUSLY.**

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
**Hebrews 10:24-25**

| 3

## WRITE PERSONAL OBJECTIVES ~3 min

Ask everyone to write down their personal objectives (participant booklet, page 4).

While these are the JOG objectives, please take a moment to write down your own personal objectives on page 4.

What is your hope for this experience? Why do you think God might have you here? You will not be sharing these.

*My hope for this experience:*

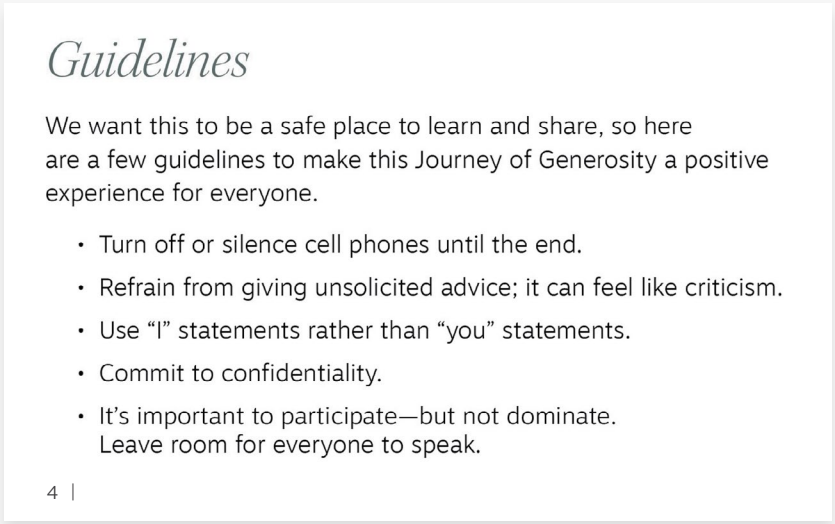
4 |

## COVER JOG GUIDELINES ~2 min

Cover the JOG guidelines (participant booklet, page 4).
Pay special attention that individuals in your group agree to number 4, either verbally or with a head nod or thumbs-up.

We want this to be a safe place to learn and share, so here are a few guidelines to make this Journey of Generosity a positive experience for everyone.

1. Please silence your cell phones and put them aside. We will use them briefly in our final session to complete a feedback survey.
2. Refrain from giving unsolicited advice; it can feel like criticism.
3. Use "I" statements rather than "you" statements.
4. Sometimes someone might say something that is personal and we want to make sure it stays within this group. Can we commit to confidentiality?
5. It's important to participate – but not dominate. Let's leave room for everyone to speak.



*Guidelines*

We want this to be a safe place to learn and share, so here are a few guidelines to make this Journey of Generosity a positive experience for everyone.

- Turn off or silence cell phones until the end.
- Refrain from giving unsolicited advice; it can feel like criticism.
- Use "I" statements rather than "you" statements.
- Commit to confidentiality.
- It's important to participate—but not dominate. Leave room for everyone to speak.

4 |

Before we introduce ourselves, I want to show you a story of generosity that sets the tone for our experience together.

## SHOW RACHEL AND MIKE ERKMANN STORY 10:33

**NOTE**

No discussion after Rachel and Mike Erkmann Story. Move straight to Introductions.

## SHARE GROUP INTRODUCTIONS ~30 min

At Generous Giving, we love stories. We will be watching more and discussing them during our time together. But for now, let's introduce ourselves.

Please share a brief introduction of yourself, including:

1. Your name
2. Why you came
3. A significant memory from before the age of 12 that influenced your view of money or giving

**NOTE**

- Affirm each person's response, especially those who share from the heart. This sets the stage for the rest of the experience and influences how others will choose to engage.
- Depending on your group size, this part may be tight on time. For a typical size group (12-16), we ask people to share in about 90 seconds.

Now we are going to watch a teaching from Tim Keller. The passage on page 5 corresponds with his teaching.

### SHOW TIM KELLER TEACHING 16:00

### DISCUSS TIM KELLER TEACHING ~15 min

Start with "What stood out to you?" Let conversation around this question linger, creating space for participants to process what the Spirit may be doing in their hearts.

If necessary, ask another question. You will rarely ask all of the questions.

What stood out to you?

What do you spend your money on effortlessly? How does this indicate what you truly treasure?

Do you think you struggle with greed at some level? If so, how does it show up in your life?

What do you think of Tim's comment that if we believe the Gospel, we'll live radically generous lives?

### CLOSE THE SESSION ~1 min

Cover any logistics.

Clearly state the time that Session 2 will begin.

Dismiss group to a 15-minute break.



## *My hope for this experience:*

## *Guidelines*

We want this to be a safe place to learn and share, so here are a few guidelines to make this Journey of Generosity a positive experience for everyone.

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- Refrain from giving unsolicited advice; it can feel like criticism.
- Use "I" statements rather than "you" statements.
- Commit to confidentiality.
- It's important to participate—but not dominate. Leave room for everyone to speak.

# Session *Two*

## SESSION 2 OVERVIEW ~1 hr 30 min

Story of Your Choice (Video) & Discussion

Reading: Inductive Bible Study & Discussion

Story of Your Choice (Video) & Discussion

## SHOW A STORY OF YOUR CHOICE

*To learn more about these stories, turn to pages 54-64 for brief descriptions.*

**Choose from the list of recommended stories below:**

Vinny and Soomin Hu 10:12

Tom and Bree Hsieh 7:44

Pete and Deb Ochs 8:46

Gary and Cath Grant 9:48

**If this is an EMERGING LEADER JOG, consider showing one of these stories:**

Graham and April Smith 8:21

Greg and Alison Baumer 11:44

Katherine and Eugene Tsay 8:49

Jason and Leslie White 9:58

## DISCUSS STORY ~15 min

Use the questions on pages 54-64 to lead the discussion.

## DO THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY & REFLECTION ~20 min

Have participants do the Inductive Bible Study & Reflection on pages 8-9 in their booklets (pages 16-17 in your booklet).

Now we are going to do an Inductive Bible Study. Turn to page 8 in your booklets and read the study tips to guide you through the time. You will have 20 minutes to observe, reflect, and respond to the passage.

The time is _____.

We will reconvene to discuss at _____.

### NOTE

- This is the most flexible session. If discussion on a particular topic is productive, let it linger. If there is extra time, show another story.
- Sometimes discussion can feel forced in this session, or you might encounter some resistance in the room. That's okay—trust the process.

*One man gives freely,*
*yet grows all the richer;*
*another withholds*
*what he should give,*
*and only suffers want.*

**PROVERBS 11:24**

**NOTE**

Allow 20 minutes for study.

START TIME: _____

END TIME: _____



# *Inductive Study Tips*

## 1. OBSERVATION

*What does this passage say?*

- ☐ Circle repeated words and phrases.
- ☐ Underline the promises.
- ☐ Draw a box around any commands.
- ☐ Mark every reference to God with a triangle.
- ☐ Mark cause-and-effect words (e.g., "therefore," "because," "so that") by drawing an arrow from the cause to the effect.

## 2. REFLECTION

*What is God telling me?*

- ☐ What area in my life needs repentance?
- ☐ What words in this passage encourage and strengthen me?

## 3. APPLICATION

*What is my response?*

- ☐ Journal any thoughts you may have and conclude with prayer.

## DISCUSS INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY ~15 min

What stood out to you?

Are there more promises or commands in this passage? What do you notice about that?

What encourages you most in this passage? What challenges you in this passage?

## SHOW EITHER HANDFUL OF RICE 2:58 OR BISHOP HANNINGTON 6:02

## DISCUSS STORY ~10 min

Use the questions on pages 54-64 to lead the discussion.

## CLOSE THE SESSION ~1 min

Cover meal information.

Clearly state the time that Session 3 will begin.

NOTES

# Session *Three*

## SESSION 3 OVERVIEW ~1 hr 15 min

*Celebration of Discipline* Reading & Discussion

Story of Your Choice (Video) & Discussion

Assign 30 Questions for Reflection

## READ *CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE* EXCERPT ~10 min

Invite participants to read the excerpt from Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* on pages 14-18 in their booklets to themselves (pages 21-25 in your booklet).

Turn to page 14 in your booklets. Let's take about 10 minutes to ourselves to read this excerpt from Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*.

### NOTE

As a reminder, we make every effort to avoid being prescriptive. We do not define what one's generosity should look like. We invite participants to seek first God's Kingdom and remain open to His call.



*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

# Excerpt from *Celebration of Discipline*

We have such a focal point in the words of Jesus: "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" (Matt. 6:25-33).

The central point for the Discipline of Simplicity is to seek the Kingdom of God and the righteousness of His Kingdom first and then everything necessary will come in its proper order. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of Jesus' insight at this point. Everything hinges upon maintaining the "first" thing as first. Nothing must come before the Kingdom of God,



including the desire for a simple life-style. Simplicity itself becomes idolatry when it takes precedence over seeking the Kingdom. In a particularly penetrating comment on this passage of Scripture, Soren Kierkegaard considers what sort of effort could be made to pursue the Kingdom of God. Should a person get a suitable job in order to exert a virtuous influence? His answer: no, we must first seek God's Kingdom. Then should we give away all our money to feed the poor? Again the answer: no, we must first seek God's Kingdom.

Well, then perhaps we are to go out and preach this truth to the world that people are to seek first God's Kingdom? Once again the answer is a resounding: no, we are first to seek the Kingdom of God. Kierkegaard concludes, "Then in a certain sense it is nothing I shall do. Yes, certainly, in a certain sense it is nothing, become nothing before God, learn to keep silent; in this silence is the beginning, which is, first to seek God's Kingdom."

Focus upon the Kingdom produces the inward reality, and without the inward reality we will degenerate into legalistic trivia. Nothing else can be central. The desire to get out of the rat race cannot be central, the redistribution of the world's wealth cannot be central, the concern for ecology cannot be central. Seeking first God's Kingdom and the righteousness, both personal and social, of that Kingdom is the only thing that can be central in the Spiritual Discipline of simplicity.

The person who does not seek the Kingdom first does not seek it at all. Worthy as all other concerns may be, the moment they become the focus of our efforts they become idolatry. To center on them will inevitably draw us into declaring that our particular activity is Christian simplicity. And, in fact, when the Kingdom of

God is genuinely placed first, ecological concerns, the poor, the equitable distribution of wealth, and many other things will be given their proper attention.

As Jesus made clear in our central passage, freedom from anxiety is one of the inward evidences of seeking first the Kingdom of God. The inward reality of simplicity involves a life of joyful unconcern for possessions. Neither the greedy nor the miserly know this liberty. It has nothing to do with abundance of possessions or their lack. It is an inward spirit of trust. The sheer fact that a person is living without things is no guarantee that he or she is living in simplicity. Paul taught us that the love of money is the root of all evil, and I have discovered that often those who have it the least love it the most. It is possible for a person to be developing an outward life-style of simplicity and to be filled with anxiety. Conversely, wealth does not bring freedom from anxiety. Kierkegaard writes, "... riches and abundance come hypocritically clad in sheep's clothing pretending to be security against anxieties and they become then the object of anxiety... they secure a man against anxieties just about as well as the wolf which is put to tending the sheep secures them... against the wolf."

Freedom from anxiety is characterized by three inner attitudes. If what we have we receive as a gift, and if what we have is to be cared for by God, and if what we have is available to others, then we will possess freedom from anxiety. This is the inward reality of simplicity. However, if what we have we believe we have gotten, and if what we have we believe we must hold onto, and if what we have is not available to others, then we will live in anxiety. Such persons will never know simplicity regardless of the outward contortions they may put themselves through in order to live "the simple life."



To receive what we have as a gift from God is the first inner attitude of simplicity. We work but we know that it is not our work that gives us what we have. We live by grace even when it comes to "daily bread." We are dependent upon God for the simplest elements of life: air, water, sun. What we have is not the result of our labor, but of the gracious care of God. When we are tempted to think that what we own is the result of our personal efforts, it takes only a little drought or a small accident to show us once again how utterly dependent we are for everything.

To know that it is God's business, and not ours, to care for what we have is the second inner attitude of simplicity. God is able to protect what we possess. We can trust Him. Does that mean that we should never take the keys out of the car or lock the door? Of course not. But we know that the lock on the door is not what protects the house. It is only common sense to take normal precautions, but if we believe that precaution itself protects us and our goods, we will be riddled with anxiety. There simply is no such thing as "burglar proof" precaution. Obviously, these matters are not restricted to possessions but include such things as our reputation and our employment. Simplicity means the freedom to trust God for these (and all) things.

To have our goods available to others marks the third inner attitude of simplicity. If our goods are not available to the community when it is clearly right and good, then they are stolen goods. The reason we find such an idea so difficult is our fear of the future. We cling to our possessions rather than sharing them because we are anxious about tomorrow. But if we truly believe that God is who Jesus says He is, then we do not need to be afraid. When we come to see God as the almighty Creator and our loving Father, we can share because

## DISCUSS *CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE* EXCERPT ~15 min

Remember, do not feel like you need to ask every question that is listed.

What stood out to you?

What does Foster suggest is above all other issues? Do you agree?

Dallas Willard defines the Kingdom of God as the "The range of God's effective will, where what God wants done is done." How do your finances affect your ability to seek God's will above your own?

Has having more than you need created or alleviated anxiety in your life?

Foster mentions three inner attitudes in the last several paragraphs on pages 16-18. Which is the most difficult for you to live out in your own life?

## SHOW A STORY OF YOUR CHOICE

**Choose from the list of recommended stories below:**

*These stories are included here to set up the overnight listening exercise. To learn more about these stories, turn to pages 54-64 for brief descriptions.*

Dr. Bill and Vonette Bright **13:31**

Renee Lockey **8:02**

John and Nia Davenport **13:00**

### NOTE

You will also have a choice to show Renee Lockey in Session 5 if you don't use it here.

## DISCUSS STORY ~20 min

Use the questions from pages 54-64 to lead the discussion.

NOTES

## ASSIGN 30 QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION ~3 min

Participants can find the questions on pages 22-26 in their booklets (pages 29-33 in your booklet).

> Turn to page 22 in your booklets. Please take some time before our next session to read through these 30 questions. Come back prepared to share two questions that stood out to you and why. You do not have to answer the questions; just share why they are causing you to wrestle.
>
> Though some of these questions might feel like there is only one right answer, they are meant to be provocative, not prescriptive. Please use these questions as conversation starters to explore how God may be working in your heart.

## CLOSE THE SESSION ~5 min

Wrap up.

Cover breakfast information.

Clearly state the time that Session 4 will begin.

Pray to close the first day of the JOG, inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to each participant.



# 30 Questions for *Reflection*

Please take some time before our next session to read through these 30 questions. Come back prepared to share two questions that stood out to you and why. You do not have to answer the questions; just share why they are causing you to wrestle. Though some of these questions might feel like there is only one right answer, they are meant to be provocative, not prescriptive. Please use these questions as conversation starters to explore how God may be working in your heart.

1. Am I viewing myself as a manager or trustee of what God's given me, or seeing myself as owner and controller of my own stuff? Are there things that God would have me manage differently if I acknowledged them as really being His?

2. Am I striving to use my income, influence, and privileges as God directs? Or am I assuming I know what He's asking me for (i.e. tithing 10 percent) and can use the rest as I choose?

3. As I continue to realize that Jesus gave everything by His death on the cross to purchase me, is there a new level of sacrifice I want to give and surrender to Him?

4. At what points in my journey with God have I realized His generous mercy toward my brokenness and sin? Do I hold others to a higher standard than God holds me? Can I give radically to others even though they have brokenness and sin in their lives?

5. Does the thought of sacrificial generosity make me anxious because I feel I don't have enough to make ends meet? Do I live trusting God to provide all that I need in the same way He provided His Son for me to be redeemed? Or have I compartmentalized my trust for my salvation, putting my daily needs in a different category?

6 Is Christ's undying love my true treasure, or do I actually treasure other things more? Is my money an indicator of my true treasure? Is it my reputation, comfort for my family, recognition? Or do I live my life knowing that His love and grace is all I need?

7 Does the thought of sacrificial generosity make me anxious because I might have to carefully look at my spending and give some things up? Are there things I've decided are non-negotiable? The place I live? The car I drive? Do I live believing that my ultimate treasure is in heaven and not in the comforts I desire on earth?

8 How much money do I need? Will my answer always be "more"? Or can I set a finish line for myself, and give away everything beyond that?

9 What does it mean to give responsibly and wisely? How can I honor getting out of debt while giving generously? How can I honor saving for the future or estate planning while giving generously? Since Jesus praised the poor widow for giving away everything, is it possible that He is asking me to worry less about saving for the future and to give more now?

10 Am I trustworthy to make financial decisions entirely on my own, or am I potentially biased by greed, comfort, or culture in such a way that it would benefit me to share my financial and giving goals with some other mature Christians in my community? Who might some of those people be?

11 If the Bible commands us to bear one another's burdens in Christian community, are there opportunities within my community that God might be calling me to bear? Do I assume that this isn't my role because of my culture, or am I looking for such opportunities?



12 Has possessing more money caused me to feel more in control of my life and circumstances, and has that control become an idol for me? Is Christ inviting me into a new level of surrender where I trust Him with control of my life and future instead of trusting my money for that control? How can I step into this practically?

13 If an outsider were to look at how I use my time, my energy, and my resources, what would they learn about my priorities? Would that outsider see my time, energy, and resources being put primarily toward a hope and vision of renewal for our city and world?

14 Do I live as if I'm focusing on heaven, where I plan to live forever, or on earth, where I'll live one-billionth of my existence? In light of eternity, am I happy about where I'm placing my focus?

15 If the nearness of God is what I ultimately seek, what if I dared to pray, "Bring anything into my life; take anything away from my life, as long as I get to be closer to You"? What scares me about that prayer? What excites me about it?

16 Has God entrusted me with these financial assets and opportunities for such a time as this (Esther 4:14)? Has He called me to join a great team of His children in freeing up money and possessions to reach the needy and fulfill the Great Commission?

17 What am I holding onto that's robbing me of present joy and future reward? What am I keeping that's preventing me from having to depend on God? What am I clinging to that makes me feel like I don't have to depend on Him to provide, like I used to before I had so much? What does He want me to release that could restore me to a walk of faith?

18 In light of 2 Corinthians 8:14 and 9:11, does God want me to assume each financial blessing He entrusts to me is not intended to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving?

19 Am I treating God as owner and CEO/CFO of “my” assets, or am I treating Him merely as my financial consultant, whom I pay a fee (10 percent or greater)?

20 Once they have finished college or are working on their own, would inheriting wealth (beyond items of special sentimental and heritage value) help my children’s eternal perspective and walk with God? Or would it have a corrupting influence on their character, lifestyle, work ethic, or marriage?

21 Would God ever say to me, when I stand before His judgment seat, "You blew it—you sold those shares and gave them to feed the hungry and evangelize the lost, and then two years later the market peaked"? Or would He say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant"?

22 Is it ever wrong to give to God now rather than wait until later? What’s the eternal downside to giving now? What’s the eternal downside of delaying giving until later? Am I really in danger of giving too much too soon? Or is the only real danger giving too little too late? You might be thinking: “But if I give away most of my assets now, what will I give from later?” Is the answer “from whatever God chooses to provide”? If Christ commended the poor widow (Mark 12) for giving to God everything she had—considering her faithful, not irresponsible—how much would I have to give away before He would consider me irresponsible?

23 Why do I want to hold on to my wealth? Am I trying to prove something? What, and to whom? Is it pride? Power? Prestige? Selfishness? Insecurity? Fear? Do I need control? Or is it just because it’s normal, and I’m going with the flow of my culture? Does God want me to go with that flow? Or to do something different, maybe radically different?

24 Am I living to hear others say of me, “He/she’s a great success” or to have God say to me, “Well done, my good and faithful servant”?



25 Instead of asking, “Why should I give this away?” does God want me to ask, “Why shouldn’t I give this away?” Should I put the burden of proof on keeping rather than on giving? When money comes in, should giving rather than keeping be my default—the rule rather than the exception? Unless there’s a compelling reason to keep, should I normally give?

26 Am I hanging onto excess money as a backup plan in case God fails me? Is my fear of health catastrophes and old age creating an inertia in my giving, because I imagine I must provide everything for myself in case something goes wrong? Considering that the vast majority of people in history and most in the world today have nothing stored up for retirement, am I too preoccupied with putting treasures in retirement funds? Is God calling me to work without a net—or with less of a net—trusting He will catch me in case of a fall?

27 How can I better communicate and pray with my spouse so we can walk together down this exhilarating road of giving, leading each other but not leaving each other behind?

28 What am I doing to train my children to be generous givers—and not just donors, but disciples?

29 How is God calling me to steward my influence to share this message with my friends? Who could benefit from experiencing a Journey of Generosity? Could I host a group from my church or a board I serve on?

30 Five minutes after I die, what will I wish I would have given away while I still had the chance? Pray the following: "God, help me spend the rest of my life closing the gap between what I’ll wish I’d given then and what I’m actually giving now. Empower me to help others do the same. Would You, for Your eternal glory?"

These are a combination of questions written by Randy Alcorn (from “The Treasure Principle”) and Tim Keller. All questions are used with permission.

# Session *Four*

## SESSION 4 OVERVIEW ~1 hr 30 min

Story of Your Choice (Video) & Discussion

Discuss 30 Questions for Reflection

Barnhart Story (Video) & Discussion

## PRAY AND INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LEAD

## SHOW A STORY OF YOUR CHOICE

*If you are running short on time, you may choose to skip this story and discussion. To learn more about these stories, turn to pages 54-64 for brief descriptions.*

| Recommended stories: | EMERGING LEADER stories: |
|---|---|
| Vinny and Soomin Hu 10:12 | Graham and April Smith 8:21 |
| Tom and Bree Hsieh 7:44 | Greg and Alison Baumer 11:44 |
| Pete and Deb Ochs 8:46 | Katherine and Eugene Tsay 8:49 |
| Gary and Cath Grant 9:48 | Jason and Leslie White 9:58 |

(If you have not already shown it, you will also have the option to show the Jason and Leslie White story in Session 5.)

## DISCUSS STORY ~15 min

Use the questions on pages 54-64 to lead the discussion.

## DISCUSS 30 QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION ~30 min

Have each participant share their two questions and explain why they chose them. To manage time, we recommend going around the circle and dividing the 30 minutes allotted for this session by the number of participants in your group.

Turn to the 30 Questions starting on page 22. Let's go around the room and read the two questions we chose and share why we chose them.



## SHOW ALAN AND KATHERINE BARNHART STORY 17:07

## DISCUSS STORY ~20 min

Remember, do not feel like you need to ask every question listed for a story.

What stood out to you?

Accountability with others has been important for Alan and Katherine. What could financial accountability look like in your life?

Katherine authentically shared, "We've missed a little of the good stuff." How do you react to their sacrificial decisions?

Nathan said, "Generosity is a heart thing, not a financial thing. It's how we respond to the Gospel and what God has given us."

How does hearing from their son influence your thoughts about the stewardship decisions they made?

As Katherine reflected on what her children would tell their children, she hoped they would say, "She loved God with her whole heart and she was courageous." What do you hope is said about you?

EMERGING LEADERS:

Alan's opening line describes how he sees business success as a danger. He and Katherine made many of their financial decisions early in their career when they were young. How do you react to that idea?

## CLOSE THE SESSION ~1 min

Wrap up.

Clearly state the time that Session 5 will begin.

# Session *Five*

## SESSION 5 OVERVIEW ~1 hr 30 min

Story (Video) & Discussion

Time of Silence & Reflection

Digital Survey

Story (Video)

Close JOG

## SHOW A STORY OF YOUR CHOICE

**Choose from the list of recommended stories below:**
*These stories are included here because Jason and Leslie, Tim, and Renee each talk about listening to God's voice and responding. To learn more about these stories, turn to pages 54-64 for brief descriptions.*

Jason and Leslie White **9:58**

Tim Mohns **15:55**

Renee Lockey **8:02**

## DISCUSS STORY ~15 min

Use the questions from pages 54-64 to lead the discussion.

## PRACTICE THE DISCIPLINE OF SILENCE ~30 min

Invite participants into a 30-minute time of silence using one of the blue boxes below.

*If you showed Jason and Leslie White:*

Leslie shares that she thinks listening to the Holy Spirit is taking time to ask God, "What do you want to talk about?"

We want to provide some time right now for you to listen and let God speak into your life.

*If you showed Tim Mohns:*

Tim talked about his time on the treadmill each morning, saying, "I spent 15 minutes in a listening posture before God, asking Him, 'What do you want me to do with this stuff that's piling up over here?' And that's where the adventure really began."

We want to create some space right now for you to enter that listening posture and experience the adventure that Tim talks about.

*If you showed Renee Lockey:*

Renee describes her interaction with God while running in four ways: "It's there I hear really radical things from God," "That's where I go to meet Him," "That's the time when He puts thoughts in my head," and "That's where I get ideas."

We want to create some space right now for you to let God speak into your life.

Please turn to page 31 in your booklets. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you about this experience.

Listen to what He wants you to take away from this time. Use the Final Reflections page in your booklets as a guide.

We'll take a total of 30 minutes for silence. If you are here as a couple, take the last 10 minutes to share together.

Please be back here by _____.

Let me open this time in prayer.

## PRAY BEFORE DISMISSING THE GROUP

### NOTE

Allow 30 minutes for silence.

START TIME: _____

END TIME: _____

## DISCUSS TIME OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION ~15 min

Allow several participants to share what God has shown them during the experience.



*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.*

PSALM 24:1

# *Closing* the JOG ~20 min

Choose how you would like to introduce the closing survey: either **show the video** featuring our Co-Founder Todd Harper, who casts vision for joining the movement, or **read the facilitator-led option** below.

## VIDEO OPTION

### SHOW THE SURVEY INTRODUCTION VIDEO ~4 min

## FACILITATOR-LED OPTION

I hope this was an inspiring experience for you. This gathering was created to allow us space to hear from God and to encourage us to take meaningful next steps toward His purposes for our lives. During this JOG, you may have thought of friends and family members who you would like to invite into this conversation. These gatherings are happening all over the country in homes, boardrooms, and churches with groups of friends and family members.

As we wrap up our time together, we'll finish with a brief survey and one final video. In the survey, you have an opportunity to indicate an interest in hosting a JOG and/or becoming a trained facilitator. By checking the box, you are not committing to anything. You are simply raising your hand to learn more. A Generous Giving team member will reach out to connect with you in the next week. We ask for 100 percent participation in the survey because we truly value hearing what you have learned during this time together and how we can improve this experience.

### NOTE

Whether you have just completed the **video option** or the **facilitator-led option,** continue on page 43.

### ASK PARTICIPANTS TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY ~5 min

Let's take out our phones. Try to refrain from checking e-mail and texts for a few more minutes!

In the back of your booklet, you will find a QR code. Scan the code to take a short survey. If you are a couple, we ask that you fill out the survey separately. When you are finished, just look up from your phone. Once everyone is done, we will watch one final story. Take a few minutes to complete the survey now.

Give participants time to complete the survey and offer help if they have any questions.

Now let's watch and enjoy a final story to end our time together. We won't be discussing this one. Just enjoy!

### SHOW A STORY OF YOUR CHOICE

Don't discuss the story, it's meant to close the JOG.

I Like Car **6:08** or Karen and Jorge Balza **9:46**

### PRAY TO CLOSE THE JOG

# Facilitator *Debrief*

### SCAN THE QR CODE

Fill out your brief facilitator survey in the next 24 hours to help us improve the overall facilitation experience.

generousgiving.org/debrief

# *Next steps* on your journey

Our hope for every JOG participant is that they continue to seek first the Kingdom through listening and responding to the Holy Spirit's prompting. We also believe transformation is a process. The following steps are helpful for continuing the journey.

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT

### BECOME A JOG HOST

- ☐ Gather your friends.
- ☐ Provide a space.
- ☐ The GG Team will provide a facilitator if you need one.

Learn more: **generousgiving.org/journey-of-generosity**

### ATTEND A JOG FACILITATOR TRAINING

- ☐ Be equipped to lead the conversation for your JOG groups.

Learn more: **generousgiving.org/facilitator-training**

### GROW DEEPER

- ☐ Explore more ways to continue your journey.

Learn more: **generousgiving.org/next-steps**

## OUR VISION

*To see the generosity of God displayed through the generosity of God's people.*

We envision a movement of Christians who give extravagantly of all that they are in response to God's radical grace. Our primary motivation is to see people liberated to live and give in God's image in order to see God's Kingdom come on earth.

This growing movement will create a dramatic shift in culture:

- Christians will be known for extravagant generosity rather than consumption or accumulation.
- Young people will be organizing their lives around giving before they get caught up in the constant pursuit of more.
- People will be coming to know Jesus because the generosity of Christians is so compelling that they want to know the God who inspires it.

In addition to culture being shaped, individuals will be transformed and find greater joy, freedom, and purpose as they trade away saving and consuming on earth for eternal treasure in heaven. As a result, billions of dollars will be released for God's Kingdom — sharing the gospel, serving the needy, and healing the world.



In 1857, in the small Scottish town of Blairgowrie, Thomas Maclellan wrote out a personal covenant and committed it to the Lord. It was the young Maclellan's 20th birthday, but his youth apparently was no hindrance to his phenomenal spiritual maturity. Having come to terms with his own sinful nature and the grace of God through Christ, he covenanted control of his life and all the proceeds to God Almighty.

Amidst both trials and successes, Maclellan would renew and confirm his covenant twice in the next half-century.

At 56, when his peers were enjoying the fruits of their career, Maclellan was starting over after a bank he ran failed. In a step of faith, Maclellan moved to Tennessee to run a struggling insurance company that insured the uninsurable. At great cost to his own family, Maclellan kept his word and not only paid back investors from the failed bank but also made good on his promise to pay all valid insurance claims within one week to those his company insured.

God blessed Maclellan, and seven generations later the company he built is the largest disability insurer in the world. In 1945, the family started The Maclellan Foundation. For more than 80 years, The Maclellan Foundation has carried the legacy of Thomas, who desired that all he had be used for the glory of God.

In 2000, The Maclellan Foundation founded Generous Giving to continue to foster the generous and faithful spirit that Thomas Maclellan embodied throughout his life. Because of their financial investment, along with that of other foundations and families, Generous Giving has been able to exponentially spread the message of biblical generosity from a safe and neutral platform without soliciting those we serve for financial gifts. More than 150 years after writing his covenant, the life of Thomas Maclellan continues to bring glory to the God he loved and served faithfully.

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SIX CORE MESSAGES

# What We *Believe*

## 1. GIVING IS A HEART ISSUE

*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* **MATTHEW 6:21**

Clearly, giving releases resources. And while the resources liberated through acts of generosity are a blessing, they are literally a 'by-product' of the transformational power of generosity within the giver's heart. The true message of giving is the liberation of hearts.

As we move closer to God, it becomes easier to see that the things in which we invest our time, money, and energy are the things that matter to us most. They are often things that ensnare us and stand in the way of liberation from materialism. Remarkably, in much the same way your treasure reveals your heart, the purposeful reallocation of your 'treasure' can be an effective way to guide your heart away from earthly values and toward more meaningful treasure.

As Randy Alcorn explains in *The Treasure Principle*, "My heart always goes where I put God's money." According to Alcorn, giving is not only an indication of where your heart is, but it is also a means of moving your heart toward God's generosity in a never-ending journey, expanding your heart to hold all the blessings of a closer walk with God.

## 2. GOD GAVE FIRST

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son...* **JOHN 3:16**

God is the ultimate model for giving; the most generous of all givers. God's grace has blessed us with goods, skills, and opportunities to

generate what we need in our lives and a rich and wonderful world in which to live out His calling. But at a level of giving beyond anything we can fully comprehend, God gave His Son, whose life bought our salvation.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Paul presents a model that explains the origin and result of our generosity. "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and … your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (v.11). God's grace and blessing is given so that we can be generous. As we are generous, we both supply the needs of others and show thanks to God (v.12), and others praise God because of our generosity (v.13).

God's giving to us is like the filling of a cup, and our giving to others reveals the cup running over. In the context of our own blessings and gratefulness, we learn to be generous givers. We didn't earn it; we never will. God's gift was the highest demonstration of unconditional generosity:

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

### 3. GOD OWNS IT ALL

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.* **PSALM 24:1**

Money managers administer assets for the benefit of the owner but are always aware that the funds they handle are not their own. With all the attention you place on managing your money, how does your perspective change when you come to understand that it is not your money, your wealth, your possessions, or your assets, but instead that it all belongs to God?

We are God's money managers. The wealth of the earth and all its resources are entrusted to us, with the privilege to be stewards of its wise use. Our money is never ours to spend as we choose; our money is God's to spend as He directs.



### 4. SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

*But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* **MATTHEW 6:33**

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus reminds us, "… you cannot serve both God and money." He adds in verse 25, "Therefore, do not worry about your life." Jesus is assuring you that you do not have to worry about your earthly life because God has promised always to take care of you. And with earthly matters in God's control, you are free to pursue more spiritual matters, seeking first and above all else God's Kingdom and His righteousness through spiritual intimacy.

Intimacy with Christ offers the highest levels of satisfaction both right now and for eternity, but achieving it confronts us with the challenge to surrender our lives to Christ's Lordship. For many of us, the primary competitor for Lordship in our lives is money. We can even reframe it as security rather than materialism as we hold on to our fears and try to rationalize ways we may have managed money in the past.

But the space that we let money, wealth, materialism, and all its pursuits occupy in our lives is valuable spiritual real estate we could be surrendering to God. How is life different when Jesus is Lord than when money is lord?

### 5. HEAVEN, NOT EARTH, IS MY HOME

*But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.* **PHILIPPIANS 3:20**

Life is short. Eternity is long. And my home is in heaven, where I will spend eternity. This simple yet radical thinking begs an important question: Why should I invest so much time, energy, and resources in what is short? Why should I focus on my (or even my children's) very temporary life here on earth when heaven is real and coming and calling?

Spending money on earth is not wrong, but it may not be the best option, and it is clearly not the only option. It isn't wrong for us to spend money on things that are temporary. However, if we have an eternal perspective and understand that heaven, not earth, is our real home, then we know that we can store up treasures in heaven where we (and those reached with the gospel) can experience them for eternity.

A life of generosity—for all who know Christ—means the opportunity to draw closer to God, now and in eternity. It means joy, a fulfilled heart, and the potential to store up treasures in heaven.

### 6. GIVING BRINGS JOY

*...remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* **ACTS 20:35**

"In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." (1 Timothy 6:19)

Your life becomes joyful, fulfilling, and purposeful as you live in God's calling. Joy is experienced in the act of giving, but even more so in the alignment of your heart with God's will.

As generosity comes into your heart, it blesses you in ways you know in the moment, in ways you recognize over a lifetime, and in ways that are revealed to you only in eternity. Generosity enables you to live in the joy of a "life that is truly life."



# Seven Topics for *Deeper Reflection*

### 1. APPROACH

How am I approaching my giving today? Are there things I should consider doing to make it simpler, more organized, and more strategic? Does my giving really reflect my heart and my calling?

### 2. FAMILY

How much have I engaged my family in our giving? What are some practical ways we could do more as a family in this current season of life?

### 3. PARADIGM

Have I considered pressing into the question, "How much do I need?" instead of asking, "How much should I give?" Is 10 percent my goal, or am I giving proportionately to what God has entrusted me with?

### 4. ASSETS

If God owns it all, what does that mean for my assets? Have I considered giving from my portfolio, business, real estate, and other assets, instead of just from income?

# Story Overview & Discussion Guides

Start with "What stood out to you?" Let conversation around this question linger, creating space for participants to process what the Spirit may be doing in their hearts. If necessary, ask another question. You will rarely ask all of the questions.

## BISHOP HANNINGTON 6:02

Giving In Poverty | International | Be Generous with What You Have

*Shot on location in Bundibugyo, Uganda, this is a look into the story of Hannington Bahemuka, a man who was inspired by generosity to help rebuild his war-torn town.*

- What stood out to you?
- What kind of emotions do you feel when you see people with so little be generous?
- Can you imagine giving your only chicken, whatever that is in your life, for the building of your church or God's Kingdom?
- Does fear of having too little hold you back from giving away more? Do these people with no savings or back-up plan inspire you? Why or why not?

## DR. BILL AND VONETTE BRIGHT 13:31

Contract with God | Ministry Founders | Listening to God

*Founders of Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru), Dr. Bill and Vonette Bright share their story of signing a contract with God to show their commitment to Him and the incredible adventure that followed.*

- What stood out to you?
- Dr. Bright says, "Our view of God is such that we know we can trust Him implicitly." In what areas of your life do you find it easy to trust God? What areas are more difficult?
- Dr. Bright begins one sentence by saying, "Well, we were listening, and the Holy Spirit told me…" Do you ever start sentences this way? How might your life be different if you did?
- Dr. Bright suggests that the vision for Cru would not have come, apart from their unconditional surrender. What might you be missing by not surrendering fully to Christ?



## GARY AND CATH GRANT 9:48

Business Owners | Generosity in Business | Salvation Testimony

*Gary and Cath Grant started their London-based toy store chain to make money and achieve success. After meeting Christ in their 30s, they felt led to approach the business in an entirely new way. Today, facilitating wider generosity is one of their driving passions, and giving is at the core of their growing, thriving business.*

- What stood out to you?
- Can you identify with Gary's initial response to the idea of giving when he says, "It's my money. I've earned it"? If so, how?
- Cath mentions that money can do so much more when it's active. What might we do now to invest in our own legacies?
- Why do you think Gary's personal heart transformation affects his company culture?

## GRAHAM AND APRIL SMITH 8:21

Wall Street Careers | Young Couple | Business with a Purpose | Impact Investing

*It's safe to say Graham and April Smith found each other through generosity. They both love to give and some would say they live to give. Navigating cultural and practical differences, this young couple has a big vision and even bigger hearts to see generosity change the world.*

- What stood out to you?
- Graham mentions that it has been liberating to avoid "golden handcuffs." How do your lifestyle or future lifestyle choices impact your sense of freedom to fully follow God's calling?
- How do you respond to April's comment that an increase in income could raise our standard of giving rather than standard of living?
- April contrasts the wisdom of "saving, saving, saving" against investing in Kingdom work. How do you respond to the tension between saving and giving?

## GREG AND ALISON BAUMER 11:44

MBA Program | Accountability Group | Income Cap | Young Couple

*As a young family just getting started, Greg and Alison Baumer made a decision to live in a way that to some may seem foolish. They want to be generous now and order their lives so they can be actively involved in funding Kingdom projects today. Influenced by a community of other young professional friends who have decided to live a transparent, generous life shaped by friendship, community, and shared life experience, Greg and Alison are on an adventure with God and their friends.*

- What stood out to you?
- Greg mentions he and Alison are more inclined to spend, whereas John is more inclined to save. Who do you most identify with? What drives you toward spending or saving?
- Greg mentions that his car is a daily reminder that his value is not in his stuff or in how he looks in the eyes of others. Is there anything like that in your life?
- How do you respond to the financial transparency of the Board of Directors for Life? What about that kind of transparency sounds exciting? What feels scary?

## HANDFUL OF RICE 2:58

Giving In Poverty | International | Generosity is for Everyone | Generosity in Community

*A story of generosity of the poorest of the poor in India, focused on how their giving has made the church in Mizoram self-sufficient and able to support the work of the Gospel around the world.*

- What stood out to you?
- How do you react to seeing the poorest of the poor giving from their rice to support missions around the world?
- Does fear of having too little hold you back from giving away more? Do these people with no savings or back-up plan inspire you? Why or why not?
- What do you think about the quote, “As long as we have something to eat every day, we have something to give God every day”? Do you live with that kind of abundance mentality, or do you find yourself thinking you would give more if you had more?



## I LIKE CAR 6:08

Closing Video | Community Giving | Fun Surprise

*Catherine, daughter of an Egyptian ambassador, earned two master’s degrees before dedicating her life to prayer. When her community learns of the kindness she showed someone in need, they secretly come together to bless her in return.*

This story may be used to conclude the JOG experience.
Do not ask any questions afterward.

## JAMI AND CLINT KAEB 10:30

Business Owner | Adoption | Income Cap | Family Giving | Mental Health

*As parents of eight children, business owners, and ministry leaders, Jami and Clint Kaeb admit their lives can be hard. As the Kaeb family embarks on their journey of listening and obedience, they discover joy through giving generously and receiving deeply.*

- What stood out to you?
- Clint and Jami shared that their decisions have involved sacrifice at times. What could sacrificial generosity look like for you?
- Clint and Jami mentioned an income cap which allowed them to give three times more that they had given in the past. Have you ever heard of this idea? What are the benefits of a decision like this?
- If you have children, what do you think about involving them in your giving decisions?

*Story questions continue on the following page.* →

## JASON AND LESLIE WHITE 9:58

Tech Careers | Church Giving | Giving College Fund | Listening to God | Young Family

*Jason and Leslie White were part of a small, thriving church where God was transforming lives. When it was time to fund a building for the church, they knew they wanted to invest, so they spent time listening to God for His direction. In the end, they felt Him leading them to give the money from their children's college fund. Today, the church has five campuses and people continue to come to know the Lord there. They share what it meant to listen to God's call and take a step of faith.*

- What stood out to you?
- Have you ever been a part of a ministry or church where you were inspired by what God was doing? Describe the experience.
- What is your reaction to Leslie's realization that God has her kids in His hands?
- The stock they sold in 2008 would be worth millions today. However, they have watched their church grow from a few hundred to over 10,000 regular attendees. What is your reaction to their decision to sell?

## JESS AND ANGELA CORRELL 9:28

Bank Owner | Wrestling with Greed | Money and Marriage

*Jess Correll, chairman and president of First Southern Bancorp in Stanford, Kentucky, and his wife, Angela, discuss how God has redirected their lives and finances over the years. They share how they have integrated the joy of giving into both their family and corporate lives.*

- What stood out to you?
- Has your pursuit of success cost you anything? If so, what?
- How did you react to the Corrells' decision to give ten times what they spend on themselves?
- One of Jess's partners mentions how the company gives stock through NCF to increase their giving potential. Have you ever considered giving a gift that wasn't just cash? If so, how and why?
- What might giving money away recklessly look like for you?
- If you're married, what could it look like to be intentional about planning and giving together?



## JIMMY AND LAURA SEIBERT 5:39

Pastor | Family Giving | Dependence on God | Giving Instead of Saving

*Jimmy and Laura didn't set out to raise a generous family, but to be people who followed Jesus. The results and the impact on their family have been compelling as they purposed to live simply, work diligently, and give generously.*

- What stood out to you?
- Jimmy says, "We kind of became dependent on God's providing above and beyond." Can you think of a time you positioned yourself to be dependent on God? What happened?
- Jimmy says that he and Laura taught their kids to "Live simply, work diligently, give generously." What do you think about casting this kind of vision?
- Jimmy and Laura don't save money. What is your reaction to that?

## JOHN AND NIA DAVENPORT 13:00

Listening to God | Business Owner | Money and Marriage

*Business owners, John and Nia Davenport, spent the early years of their marriage getting on the same page with their finances. While listening to God, they felt called to live out the "River Principle" with the resources God provided. Over the years, they have continued to listen for God's direction and have seen Him provide and direct them to giving opportunities they never imagined.*

- What stood out to you?
- How do you respond to the idea of living out the "River Principle"—giving abundantly from what God provides today and trusting Him for provision tomorrow?
- The Davenports repeatedly referred to spending time listening to God in regard to their finances. What excites you about doing that? What scares you about doing that?
- Nia observed that couples who were on the same page regarding their finances had better relationships. If you're married, how could you be more aligned and unified in your finances and generosity with your spouse?
- John shared how their first gift of $4,000 grew over time—far beyond what they expected—eventually totaling over $1 million given to Kingdom causes. How might God surprise you on your own journey of generosity as you step out in faith to give?

## KAREN AND JORGE BALZA 9:46

Closing Video | First Generation Americans | Young Couple | Adventure

*What does it mean to surrender everything to God? For Karen and Jorge Balza, a young married couple with a deep passion for travel and exploration, it meant answering a call that stretched their faith and changed their lives. Their decision to give a radically generous gift opened the door to a far greater adventure.*

This story may be used to conclude the JOG experience.
Do not ask any questions afterward.

## KATHERINE AND EUGENE TSAY 8:49

Tech Careers | Newlyweds | City Living | Hospitality | Hosting a JOG

*As newlyweds who both work in the technology industry, these emerging leaders are living counter culturally and establishing ways to give generously of their time, home, and resources.*

- What stood out to you?
- Katherine talks about how shifting from spending to giving is like building a muscle. What muscles seem most tight or underdeveloped in your life?
- How do you react to Katherine and Eugene's decision to give 50 percent of their equity away?
- Both Eugene and Katherine's giving journeys and faith journeys were influenced by close family and friends around them. Where do you see that influence in your own life?



## PETE AND DEB OCHS 8:46

Business Owners | Peer Accountability | Impact Investing | Business with a Purpose

*Pete and Deb Ochs share about their desire to use their whole L.I.F.E. (labor, influence, finance, and expertise) for Kingdom purposes and model how they are doing this with their business, which is operated within a prison.*

- What stood out to you?
- For financial accountability, Pete allows other trusted entrepreneurs to set his salary. How do you react to that idea?
- The acronym L.I.F.E. stands for Labor, Influence, Finances, and Expertise. Which of these aspects of your life is easiest to give freely and which is most difficult?
- Pete describes himself early in life as a 90/10 guy, living on 90 percent and giving 10 percent to God. Can you relate to this? If so, how?

## RENEE LOCKEY 8:02

Doctor | Income Gap | Single | Listening to God

*Renee Lockey, a Texas physician, discusses what it means to live on a fraction of her salary while making a concerted effort to give the majority of it away.*

- What stood out to you?
- What is your reaction to what Renee heard God say to her: "I want you to work like a doctor and live like a nurse"?
- If you put yourself in Renee's shoes and think about living below your means in order to give more generously, what goes through your mind?
- What are the benefits and risks of saving less aggressively?
- Has anyone had an international experience that impacted your view of what God has entrusted to you?
- What do you think contributed to Renee's greater sense of freedom?

## THE BIG GIVE PART 1
## BRANDEN AND ASHLEY STATHES 10:00

Community Giving | Young Couple

*What happens when a friend listens to the still small voice of God to take action on behalf of her friends? With a step of faith, a small Austin community pulls off a great act of generosity that shows the joy of giving is for both the giver and the receiver.*

- What stood out to you?
- One of Branden and Ashley's friends said, "They received the gift of money, but we received the gift of joy and love because we gave." Have you ever experienced those emotions in giving? What has been your experience?
- Lucy shared how she was hurting for Ashley and felt the Holy Spirit say to her, "Well, do something about it." Have you ever felt the Spirit nudging you to meet the needs of your community?
- What did you think about how this community was able to multiply their giving by doing so together? How does it make you feel?

## THE BIG GIVE PART 2
## BRANDEN AND ASHLEY STATHES 3:18

Fun Surprise | Joy of Giving

*When we give, we glorify God. But sometimes God shows off with a plot twist so good, we have to share. In part 2 of the Stathes story, we hear what was going on behind the scenes while God powerfully worked in one family and blessed a whole community.*

- What stood out to you?
- What has your experience been in relation to the belief that God meets our needs and actively takes care of us? How does that belief influence your actions?
- Have you ever been part of giving or receiving a gift that felt like God's miraculous timing? How can we be available to be used in that way?



## TIM MOHNS 15:55

Listening to God | Income Gap | Giving Experiment

*Tim Mohns, a financial advisor, shares how a successful but self-proclaimed boring life is turned around when he embarks on a six-month experiment to clear the noise of money from his life and give more aggressively.*

- What stood out to you?
- What do you think about Tim's six-month lifestyle experiment?
- How do you relate with Tim in feeling bored or feeling like something is missing, even though everything seems to be in place?
- What do you think about Tim's idea that tithing is the pinnacle of giving?

## TOM AND BREE HSIEH 7:44

Inner City Living | Median Household Income | Income Gap

*Tom and Bree Hsieh may seem like the average American couple, but their lives are anything but typical. Having accumulated significant wealth in the technology era, they chose a different path that has led to more joy and freedom for their family.*

- What stood out to you?
- Bree suggests that there is no formula for giving other than asking Jesus and listening to Him. Does that feel scary? Intriguing? Inviting? How might you move further in that direction?
- God surprised the Hsiehs with an amazing honeymoon after they made a lifestyle decision that changed their honeymoon plans. Do you tend to trust God to generously take care of you, or do you tend to feel like you need to take care of yourself?
- What do you think about the decision the Hsiehs made to live on the median household income, despite great business success?

## TOM MONAGHAN 6:50

Business Owner | Wrestling with Pride | Simplicity

*Tom Monaghan, founder of the Domino's Pizza franchise, shares his realization that what had driven him to succeed in life was really the desire to have more than everyone else. After seeing how prideful his heart had become, Tom took what he calls "a millionaire's vow of poverty"—dedicating his life to give away everything he has in order to help as many people as possible come to know Christ.*

- What stood out to you?
- Can you relate with Tom's confession of being focused on impressing people?
- Tom is making steps toward his commitment to die broke. What are the advantages and disadvantages of dying broke?
- Tom says, "I believe I'm doing exactly what God wants me to do." How do you personally relate or not relate with this statement?

## VINNY AND SOOMIN HU 10:12

Wall Street Careers | Church Giving | Retirement Cap | Immigrants

*Although God gave them very different upbringings, when Vinny and Soomin Hu met at Goldman Sachs, they found connection through their radical trust in God. As they started their family and life grew more complex, they continued to learn over and over again how to trust God and remain faithful.*

- What stood out to you?
- Vinny and Soomin mention that early in their careers they gave 50% of their bonuses as a guardrail in their lives. Have you ever considered any kind of predetermined financial guardrail in your own life?
- Vinny and Soomin have established a clear "finish line" on their wealth accumulation. What might the benefits of such a decision be for you or your family?
- Vinny says that "God has used money to show me that He is God, and I am not." Are there areas in your life when you're tempted to believe you are in control?
- Soomin says that what she is most thankful for from Jesus is Jesus Himself. How could having this kind of relationship with Jesus change the way you steward His resources and blessings?



## ALTERNATE **LATE-START** AGENDA

The JOG facilitator will need to make a few key adjustments to accommodate the late-start agenda, including skipping Session 3. To ensure the best possible experience for you and your guests, please scan the QR code for detailed instructions.

generousgiving.org/late-start

### *Day One*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5:00 pm | Dinner | ~1 hr | |
| 6:00 pm | Session 1 | ~1 hr 30 min | *pages 6-13* |
| 7:30 pm | Break | ~15 min | |
| 7:45 pm | Session 2 | ~1 hr 30 min | *pages 14-19* |
| Overnight | 30 Questions | | *pages 29-33* |

### *Day Two*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast | ~30 min | |
| 8:30 am | Session 4 | ~1 hr 30 min | *pages 36-37* |
| 10:00 am | Break | ~15 min | |
| 10:15 am | Session 5 | ~1 hr 30 min | *pages 38-43* |
| 11:45 am | Close | | |

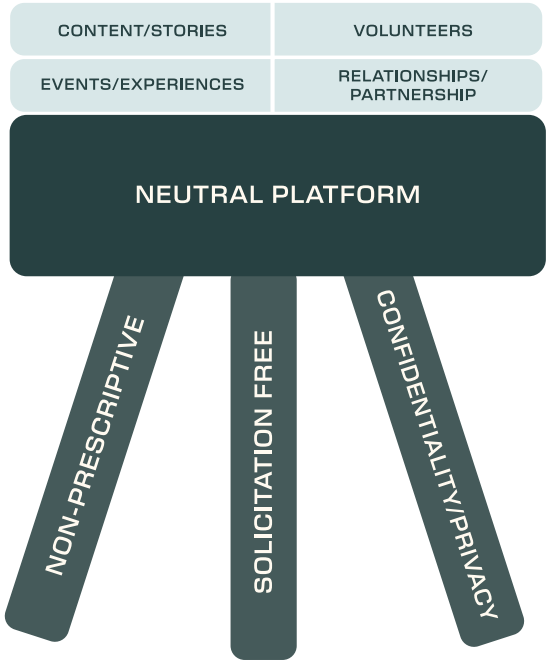
If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at concierge@generousgiving.org.

# *Our Neutral Platform*

At Generous Giving (GG), all that we do is built upon our neutral platform. This three-legged stool represents the foundational elements upon which GG operates and serves our audience. **Our purpose in upholding our neutrality is based on our ultimate desire for people to listen to and obey the Holy Spirit.**

These "legs" are defined as:

- **Non-Prescriptive** – We will not tell participants where, how, or how much to give at our events.
- **Solicitation Free** – We will not ask participants for money at our events or allow others to do so. This includes charitable and business opportunities.
- **Confidentiality/Privacy** – We will not share personal information with organizations or persons without your permission.




These pillars uphold our neutral platform, which is the foundation upon which every GG experience is designed and carried out. Compromising on even one of these support structures creates a crack in our foundation of trust with our audience.

This neutral platform attracts new participants and gives volunteers the freedom to share this message with their friends with no expectation. Atop the neutral platform are our primary means and modes of operating and sharing the message of biblical generosity:

- **Relationships/Partnership** – Our hope is to engage people's hearts and build sacred trust. When participants are in a pressure-free and safe environment, they often feel permission to share their struggles and their stories.
- **Volunteers** – We train and equip volunteers to create safe environments without distractions, pitches, or prescriptive advice.
- **Events/Experiences** – We use stories, Scripture, and conversation to give people permission to talk about the often-avoided topic of generosity.
- **Content/Stories** – We tell provocative stories to inspire and challenge people's current paradigms, not to tell them what to do or set them up for an ask.

# *Principles of Facilitation*

### PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

Invite and implore the Holy Spirit to orchestrate the details of the gathering and to give you wisdom in leading discussions. Pray for the wisdom to let God lead. If the Holy Spirit doesn't speak to people, the experience will be minimally effective.

### LIVE IN THE AMBIGUITY OF THE QUESTIONS

Trust the Holy Spirit's work in people. As the facilitator, you will not have all the answers. This experience is only part of an ongoing journey for all of us.

### INVITE PARTICIPATION FROM THE ENTIRE GROUP

If someone has not shared, don't be afraid to call on them to share as you get deeper into the experience, specifically in the second half. Oftentimes, the quiet ones say the most profound things. Give them a chance to do so, once this trust has been established.

### PRIMARILY USE STORIES

Stories are nonjudgmental and nonthreatening. They enable both the listener and the storyteller to step outside their personality and daily role and become a character in a greater message. Stories allow people to try on new ideas, looking for choices that are a comfortable fit for where they are now in their personal journey, while envisioning the possibilities that lie ahead.

### LEAD WITH WEAKNESS WHEN APPROPRIATE

When a facilitator shares his or her own struggles, it creates a safer place for others to do the same. None of us have arrived. Be willing to share the places where you have not arrived or are continuing to struggle with integrating the biblical message of generosity into your own life. Affirm the vulnerability of others by showing your own, beginning with your personal introduction.

### THERE IS AN AGENDA

We are not asking for people to give us anything, so in that sense, a Journey of Generosity is a safe place. However, we are intentionally attempting to get participants to think differently about and loosen their grip on what God has entrusted to them.

### GENUINELY CARE FOR THE PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP

This event is not about you—it's about the people in front of you. Learn their names. Learn their hearts. Be sensitive to what is going on in their lives. Express gratitude, individually and personally. Thank them when they share and respond. Pray for them in quiet times throughout the experience. Let the Holy Spirit work through you as you focus fully on those in attendance.

### ALLOW THE FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE TO WORK FOR YOU

Allow the Holy Spirit to guide the time. You don't want the participants to feel as if you are behind schedule. The amount of discussion can be expanded or contracted based on time available and quality of discussions.

### MAKE SPACE FOR MEANINGFUL BREAKS

Understand that much meaningful conversation takes place during meals and break times. These are an important part of the JOG schedule. Always stick to quoted break and end times. This establishes trust with your group.

### NO TWO EXPERIENCES ARE THE SAME

This is part of the uniqueness of facilitating these experiences. Each experience is singular and shaped by the participants in the room. Enjoy the differences and do not attempt to force one event to be like one you may have facilitated in the past.

## RELAX

Enjoy the process. This is God's work, not the facilitator's work.

## TRUST THE PROCESS

You don't need to force a certain conversation, and you can't force someone's life to change. Don't try to make something happen; just trust the process and let God work.

# Survey and Next Steps

## SCAN THE QR CODE

generousgiving.org/survey

## MODEL TAKING THE SURVEY

Use this example to show participants the location of the QR code in the back of their booklet. As the facilitator, we ask that you submit the debrief survey on page 43.

*Generosity changes the world... & us.*

GENEROUS GIVING®
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