Journey ^{of} Generosity

ONLINE FACILITATOR BOOKLET

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 outline like this is something you say out loud to the group.

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

Helpful Contacts

- 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.

Online JOG Schedule

Day 1 🛛 —			
9:00 am	Session 1	1 hr 30 min.	pages 2-11
10:30 am	Break		
10:40 am	Session 2	1 hr 15 min.	pages 12-17
11:55 pm	Lunch		
	30 Questions		pages 18-23
12:55 pm	Session 3	1 hr 10 min.	pages 24-33
2:05 pm	Break		
2:15 pm	Session 4	1 hr 15 min.	pages 34-40
3:30 pm	Close		

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

Facilitator Resources

Visit your Online JOG Facilitator Resources page at generousgiving.org/online-jog-facilitator and keep it open to use throughout the Online JOG.

Scroll to find the links you will need for video stories, the participant survey, and other helpful links and tips you will need while facilitating.

Session 1

Session 1 Overview 1 hr 30 min.

JOG Introduction

Story (Video)

Participant Introductions

Teaching (Video) & Discussion

Welcome 10 min.

- Welcome attendees and introduce yourself; share briefly why you're facilitating the JOG.
- Read Video Call Best Practices and Troubleshooting (Participant Booklet p. 1)

Turn to page 1 of your booklet. Let's review our Video Call Best Practices and Troubleshooting tips.

Session One

Video Call Best Practices

- Please be sure to mute yourself if you are not sharing. To mute, press the microphone icon in the bottom left corner of the Zoom window.
- Since we are gathering online rather than in person, try to join by video if possible. If you need to turn your camera off at any point, press the camera icon in the bottom left corner of the Zoom window.
- To see chat messages, click the word bubble icon in the bottom middle of the Zoom window.
- There are two ways to view all JOG participants -Gallery View and Speaker View. Gallery View tends to work best for Online JOGs. To change the view, press the icon in the top right corner of the Zoom window.

Troubleshooting

- Make sure your microphone and/or camera are not muted in Zoom
- Restart Zoom
- · Restart your device (computer, phone, tablet)
- · Check for a Zoom update
- · Check for an operating system update
- If none of these steps work, please try to join the Zoom meeting from a different device

Go to generousgiving.org/online-jog-videos for access to the video stories you will watch throughout this experience.

▶ 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.

Please open your booklets to page 2. Before we dive in, I would like to open us in prayer.

- Pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead the time.
- Read aloud the page about Generous Giving (participant booklet, page 2).

At Generous Giving, 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. Because we are privately funded, we don't fundraise at our events, nor do we allow others to do so. We create safe and inspiring environments for people to talk about money and possessions without any concern that there will be an appeal for funds.

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JOG Objectives 2 min.

Have three people 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?

Objectives

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

JOG Personal Objectives 3 min.

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

While those 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:

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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. Mute or turn off your computer notifications.
- 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

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- It's important to participate—but not dominate. Leave room for everyone to speak.

Video Story Link

Use your Online JOG Facilitator Resources page to copy and paste generousgiving.org/online-jog-videos into the Zoom chat.

I am pasting a link into the Zoom chat for you to copy and paste into your web browser. This is where we will watch video stories together throughout the experience, so please keep it open so it is easily accessible.

We will not watch every story in this playlist during our time together, but feel free to enjoy them on your own after we conclude the JOG.

Watch Rachel and Mike Erkmann Story (10:33)

Let's watch a story that sets the tone for our time together. Please mute your audio and turn your camera off, and then click "Rachel and Mike Erkmann" on the video page.

To let me know you are done watching the story, return to the Zoom window and turn your video back on.

NOTE

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

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. You are setting the stage for the ongoing experience and how people will choose to participate.
- Depending on your group size, this part may be tight on time. We recommend that participants take about 90 second to share.

Watch Tim Keller Teaching (16:00)

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

Click "Tim Keller - The Gospel, Grace, and Giving" on the video page. Please mute your audio and turn your camera off. To let me know you are done watching the story, return to the Zoom window and turn your video back on.

P Discuss Tim Keller Teaching 10 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?

Session Close

Cover any logistics.

Clearly state the time the next session will begin. Dismiss the group for a 10-minute break.

Tim Keller Teaching

Acts 20:32-37 (NIV) | ³² "Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

³⁶ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.

Session 2

Session 2 Overview 1 hr 15 min.

Story of Your Choice (Video) & Discussion Reading: Inductive Bible Study & Discussion Story of Your Choice (Video) & Discussion

Show a Story of Your Choice

Direct participants to click on this story on the video page. Remind everyone to mute their audio and turn off their camera until they are done watching.

Choose from the list of recommended stories below:	If you are at an EMERGING LEADER JOG, consider showing one of these stories.
Renee Lockey (8:02)	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)

(You will also have a choice to show Renee Lockey or Jason and Leslie White in Session 4 if you don't use it here.)

▶ Discuss Story 10 min.

After showing, use the questions on pages 42-46 to lead the discussion.

Do the Inductive Bible Study & Reflection 10 min. Have participants do the Inductive Bible Study & Reflection on pages 6-7 in their booklet (pages 14-15 in your booklet).

Now we are going to do an Inductive Bible Study. Turn to page 6 in your booklet and read the study tips to guide you through the time. You will have 10 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.

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.
 - Is there cause and effect (e.g., words like therefore, because, so that, etc.)?

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.

NOTE

Allow 10 minutes for study. START TIME: _____ END TIME: _____

Inductive Bible Study & Reflection

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NIV) | ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Discuss Inductive Bible Study 10 min.

What stood out to you?

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

Some say that generous acts are the apologetics of our day. How does this passage support this idea?

Watch either Handful of Rice (3:13) or Bishop Hannington (6:02)

Direct participants to click on this story on the video page. Remind everyone to mute their audio and turn off their camera until they are done watching.

▶ Discuss Story 15 min.

Use the questions on pages 42-46 to lead the discussion.

Assign 30 Questions for Reflection 3 min.

You can find the questions on pages 18-23 in this booklet (pages 10-15 in the participant booklet).

Turn to page 10 in your booklet. 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.

Session Close 1 min.

Pray to close the session, inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to each participant.

Clearly state the time the next session will begin. Dismiss the group for lunch.

Notes

30 Questions for Reflection

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. PSALM 16:7

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.

- 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 (10% giving) 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 on 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 life?

- 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?

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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?

Is Christ's undying love **my true treasure**, or do I actually treasure other things more?

- 12 Has having 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 it is the nearness of God that 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 that prayer?

- 16 Has God raised me up, with the financial assets and opportunities He has entrusted to me, for just 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 out to 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 that 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% or greater)?

Should I put the **burden of proof** on keeping rather than giving?

20 Once they've 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?

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- 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? "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? Am I a control freak? 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 not 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 with 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 3

Session 3 Overview 1 hr 10 min.

Discuss 30 Questions for Reflection Celebration of Discipline Reading and Discussion Barnhart Story (Video) and Discussion

Pray and Invite the Holy Spirit to Lead

▶ Discuss 30 Questions for Reflection 20 min.

Have each participant read their two questions and explain why they chose them.

To manage time, it is helpful to have participants respond by going around the circle.

Turn to the 30 Questions starting on page 10. Let's go around the room and read the two questions we chose and share why we chose them.

NOTE

Watch the clock during this discussion time. We recommend dividing the 20 minutes allotted for discussion by the number of participants in your group. For example, in a group with 10 participants, each person shares for 2 minutes.

Read Celebration of Discipline Excerpt 10 min.

Invite participants to read the excerpt from Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* on pages 16-20 in the participant booklet (pages 26-30 of this booklet).

Turn to page 16 in your booklet. We are going to take about 10 minutes to read this excerpt from Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*.

The time is _____.

We will reconvene to discuss at _____

NOTE

As a reminder, we make every effort to not be prescriptive nor to define what one's generosity should look like. We are inviting participants to seek first God's kingdom and be open to God's call.

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

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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 we know that He will care for us. If someone is in need, we are free to help them. Again, ordinary common sense will define the parameters of our sharing and save us from foolishness.

When we are seeking first the kingdom of God, these three attitudes will characterize our lives. Taken together they define what Jesus means by "do not be anxious." They comprise the inner reality of Christian simplicity. And we can be certain that when we live this way "all these things" that are necessary to carry on human life adequately will be ours as well.

▶ Discuss Celebration of Discipline Excerpt 10 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?

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 18-20. Which is the most difficult for you to live out in your own life?

Notes

RICHARD J. FOSTER. "THE DISCIPLINE OF SIMPLICITY." IN CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE: THE PATH TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH, 86-89. HARPERCOLLINS, 1998.

Watch Alan and Katherine Barnhart Story (17:07)

Direct participants to click on "Alan and Katherine Barnhart" on the video page. Remind everyone to mute their audio and turn off their camera until they are done watching.

Discuss Alan and Katherine Barnhart Story 10 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 thinking about the stewardship decisions they have 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?

▶ Session Close 1 min.

Wrap up.

Clearly state the time the next session will begin.

Notes

Session 4

Session 4 Overview 1 hr 15 min.

Story (Video) and Discussion Time of Silence and Reflection Digital Survey Story (Video) Close JOG

Watch Jason and Leslie White (9:58), Tim Mohns (15:55), or Renee Lockey (8:02)

Choose either Jason and Leslie White, Tim Mohns, or Renee Lockey and use the discussion questions from pages 42-46 of this booklet. These stories have unique elements but are here because of the way they set up the time of silence, since Jason and Leslie, Tim, and Renee talk about listening to God's voice and responding.

Direct participants to click on this story on the video page. Remind everyone to mute their audio and turn off their camera until they are done watching.

Discuss Jason and Leslie White, Tim Mohns, or Renee Lockey 10 min.

Practice the Discipline of Silence 20 min.

Have participants turn to page 22 in their JOG booklet (page 37 in this booklet). Invite participants into a 20-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 22 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 booklet as a guide.

We'll take a total of 20 minutes for silence. If you are here as a couple, take the last 10 minutes to share together.

Please be back here at _____ .

Let me open this time in prayer.

Pray Before Dismissing the Group

Allow 20 minutes for silence.	
START TIME:	
END TIME:	

Final Reflections

Ask

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you as we conclude this experience.

Listen

Spend some time sitting in silence and consider taking notes as you listen.

Obey

How do you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to respond?

Discuss Time of Silence and Reflection 10 min.

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

Next Steps 3 min.

Guide participants to their potential next steps after their Journey of Generosity.

I hope you have had a meaningful Journey of Generosity and that you will continue to seek first the kingdom of God through listening and responding to the Holy Spirit's prompting.

We believe that transformation is an ongoing process. We have seen many people grow in their journey by sharing this message with their friends and family. Many of you have likely thought about people you wish were here with you. We want to invite you to share this experience with those people by hosting your own Journey of Generosity.

HOSTING

To host a JOG, your role is to gather your friends in a comfortable setting. Generous Giving's role is to provide a trained facilitator and materials at no cost to you. We will walk alongside you as you plan your JOG.

In a moment, you will have an opportunity to give feedback about your experience and indicate your interest in hosting a JOG.

FACILITATING

Another opportunity to be involved in the generosity movement is to get trained to facilitate a JOG. As you observed today, facilitators serve as a guide for the JOG experience. Being trained as a facilitator takes you deeper in your own journey, helps you learn the ethos of Generous Giving, and equips you to share this message in a winsome way with others.

▶ Survey 5 min.

Use the Online Facilitator Resources page to copy and paste the participant survey link into the Zoom chat.

I am dropping a link in our chat to a quick, simple survey. We welcome your honest feedback. It really does help us get better. It's encouraging to our team as we hear about your experience, and it enables us to follow-up with you if you want more information about next steps.

Let's take a few minutes to fill out the survey now.

NOTE

The participant survey allows the Generous Giving team to know who attended the JOG and who is interested in sharing this message with others. Thank you for encouraging the group to complete the survey.

Watch "I Like Car" (6:07)

Thank you so much for being a part of this experience. Our vision at Generous Giving is to see the generosity of God displayed through the generosity of his people. We think this closing story captures that really well. Let me introduce you to Catherine's story.

Catherine grew up as a child of an Egyptian Ambassador and earned two Master's degrees before devoting much of her life to prayer. She has invested hundreds of hours praying for the generosity movement. May we all live into the unique calling God has placed on our lives!

Direct participants to click on "I Like Car" on the video page. Remind everyone to mute their audio and turn off their camera until they are done watching.

NOTE

Do not discuss "I Like Car" story. It is meant to close the experience in a fun and inspiring way.

Pray to Close the JOG

Facilitator Debrief

We want to hear about your experience facilitating this Journey of Generosity!



Scan the QR Code

Please scan this QR code with your phone camera and fill out your brief facilitator survey in the next 24 hours to help us improve the overall facilitation experience. You can also find the link to this survey on your Online JOG Facilitator Resources page.

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 min.

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?

Gary and Cath Grant 9:48 min.

Gary and Cath Grant started their London based toy store chain to make money and be successful. After meeting Christ in their 30's they felt led to approach the business in a whole new way. Today, facilitating wider generosity is one of their driving passions and giving is at the core of this 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 min.

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 min.

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 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 3:13 min.

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?

Jason and Leslie White 9:58 min.

After praying and listening to the Holy Spirit, Jason and Leslie White felt called to give the funds they set aside for their children's college fund to help build a church. We recommend showing this story before the time of silence, as participants listen to God and reflect on His purpose for them.

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?

Katherine and Eugene Tsay 8:49 min.

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 min.

Pete and Deb Ochs share about their desire to use their whole LIFE (labor, influence, finance, and expertise) for kingdom purposes and model how they are doing this with the business they operate within a prison.

What stood out to you?

For financial accountability, Pete allows like-entrepreneurs to set his salary. How do you react to that idea?

L.I.F.E. 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 idea? If so, how?

Renee Lockey 8:02 min.

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?

Tom and Bree Hsieh 7:44 min.

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 to ask Jesus and listen to Him. Does that feel scary? Intriguing? Inviting? How might you move further in that direction?

God surprised the Hsieh's 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?

Notes