

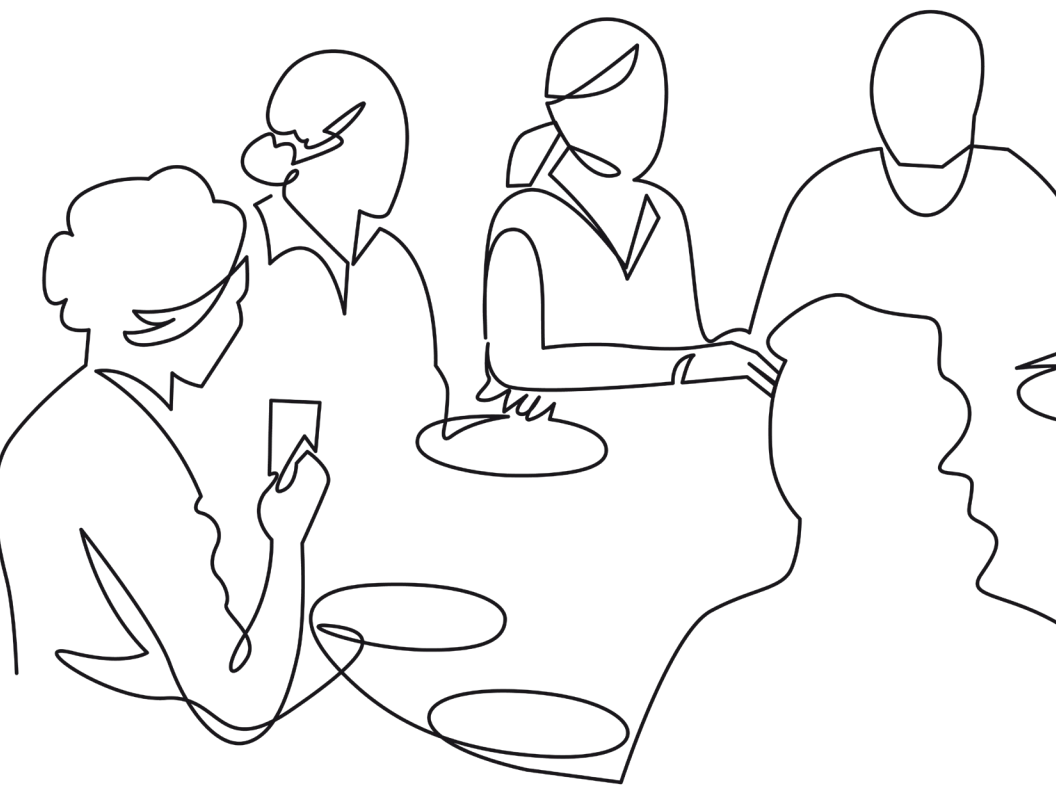


# Journey of Generosity

FACILITATOR BOOKLET



GENEROUSGIVING







This booklet belongs to:

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## 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.
-  This icon indicates a special note for those facilitating a One-Day Journey of Generosity.

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

Text with a gray background like this are 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) video stories can be found on our website at [generousgiving.org/jog-videos](https://generousgiving.org/jog-videos).
- For step-by-step instructions on how to stream and download JOG stories, visit [generousgiving.org/how-to-stream](https://generousgiving.org/how-to-stream).
- If you have any technical issues, reach out to our JOG Concierge at [concierge@generousgiving.org](mailto:concierge@generousgiving.org).
- Our team is here to pray for you! Send prayer requests for your JOG to [prayer@generousgiving.org](mailto:prayer@generousgiving.org).

# What's New

## Schedules

You will find sample schedules for both One-Day and Two-Day JOGs on pages 4-5. We recommend the standard Two-Day JOG schedule. You can develop your own schedule using the allotted session lengths.

### One-Day JOGs: Skip Session 3

If you are facilitating a One-Day JOG, skip Session 3 for a four-session experience. Note that during a One-Day JOG, you will assign the 30 Questions at the close of Session 2.

### *Celebration of Discipline* Moved to Session 4

The *Celebration of Discipline* excerpt has moved from Session 3 to Session 4 to allow greater flexibility for One-Day JOGs.

### New Story in Session 5

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.

### New Closing Video in Session 5

As an introduction to "I Like Car," our new closing video not only reveals Catherine's backstory, but it also gives participants time to provide feedback about their JOG experience. Note that this video includes the "I Like Car" story, so it will be the last video shown.

### Participant Feedback

The QR code that links to the digital evaluation is now on the inside back cover of the participant booklet.

### Facilitator Debrief

When you scan the QR code in your booklet (page 45), it will take you to your unique facilitator debrief. Thank you for sharing your insight with us by providing feedback from the JOG on this form!

# JOG Schedules

## TWO-DAY JOG

### NOTE

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

### Day 1

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2:00 pm	<b>Session 1</b>	<b>1 hr 45 min.</b>	pages 6-13
3:45 pm	<b>Break</b>		
4:00 pm	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>1 hr 30 min.</b>	pages 14-19
5:30 pm	<b>Dinner</b>		
7:00 pm	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>1 hr 15 min.</b>	pages 20-23
Overnight	<b>30 Questions</b>		pages 24-29

### Day 2

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8:00 am	<b>Breakfast</b>		
8:30 am	<b>Session 4</b>	<b>1 hr 30 min.</b>	pages 30-39
10:00 am	<b>Break</b>		
10:15 am	<b>Session 5</b>	<b>1 hr 30 min.</b>	pages 40-44
11:45 am	<b>Close</b>		

### STICK TO THE SCHEDULE

- Trust the process. The Holy Spirit will do what He does. We don't need to force it.
- Stick to break times to add stability to this abstract experience.

# ONE-DAY JOG

## NOTE

To allow flexibility, we offer a One-Day JOG that includes four sessions. You will be guided to skip Session 3 as you work through this booklet.

## Day 1

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8:30 am	<b>Session 1</b>	<b>1 hr 45 min.</b>	pages 6-13
10:15 am	<b>Break</b>		
10:30 am	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>1 hr 30 min.</b>	pages 14-19
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>		
	<b>30 Questions</b>		pages 24-29
1:15 pm	<b>Session 4</b>	<b>1 hr 30 min.</b>	pages 30-39
2:45 pm	<b>Break</b>		
3:00 pm	<b>Session 5</b>	<b>1 hr 30 min.</b>	pages 40-44
4:30 pm	<b>Close</b>		

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Story Discussion Questions	pages 56-63
Alternate Late-Start Agenda	page 65
Our Neutral Platform	pages 66-67
Principles of Facilitation	pages 68-70

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

# Session 1

## Session 1 Overview **1 hr 45 min.**

JOG Introduction

Story (Video)

Participant Introductions

Teaching (Video) & Discussion

## Welcome **5 min.**

- ✦ Welcome attendees and introduce yourself; share briefly why you're facilitating the JOG.

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- ✦ 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 each here to discover God's unique calling for our lives.

- ✦ Pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead the time.





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.

2 |

- 📖 Read aloud the entire page about Generous Giving (participant booklet, page 2). Once you're finished, repeat the blue box below for emphasis.

**Generous Giving is privately funded. We don't fundraise at our events, nor do we allow others to do so.**

## 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.

Would someone read the first objective for us? Second objective? Third objective?

## Objectives

### 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

## 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. 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 guidelines so that there will be a safe environment to encourage conversation (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.

## Show Rachel and Mike Erkmann Story (10:33)

### NOTE

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

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.

### Introductions **30 min.**

 Ask each participant to give a brief self-introduction.

1. Name
2. Why you came
3. Share 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. For a typical size group (12-16), we ask people to share in about 90 seconds.

## 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?

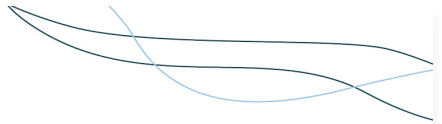
What do you think of Tim’s comment that if we believe the Gospel, we’ll live radically generous lives?

### Session Close **1 min.**

Cover any logistics.

Clearly state the time that Session 2 will begin.

Dismiss group to a 10-15 min. break.



**Acts 20:32-37 (NIV)** | <sup>32</sup> “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.

<sup>33</sup> I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing.

<sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.

<sup>35</sup> 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.’ ”

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

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# Session 2

## 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

Choose from the list of recommended stories below:

Renee Lockey (8:02)

Tom and Bree Hsieh (7:44)

Pete and Deb Ochs (8:46)

Gary and Cath Grant (9:48)

If you are at 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)

(You will have another opportunity to show a story of your choice from this list in Session 3.)


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

### Discuss Story **15 min.**

After showing, use the questions on pages 56-63 to lead the discussion.



**Read and discuss the Inductive Bible Study & Reflection**  
**20 min. for reading, 10 min. for discussion**

- Read the study tips for observation, reflection, and application on page 16 (page 8 in the participant booklet).
-  Allow the group 20 minutes for reading, studying, and interacting with the text (participant booklet, page 9). Share the start and end times for the exercise and jot them down on page 16.
- When you begin your 10-minute discussion, start with these questions:

What stood out to you?

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

Some say that generosity is the apologetic of our day. How does this passage support (speak to) this idea?

**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 20 minutes for study.

START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

END TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Inductive Bible Study & Reflection

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NIV)** | <sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:

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

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- ▶ Show either **Handful of Rice (3:13)** or **Bishop Hannington (6:02)**

- 🚩 **Discuss Story 15 min.**

Use the questions on pages 56-63 to lead the discussion.

- ① **ONE-DAY JOG**

If you are hosting a One-Day JOG, turn to page 24 (page 14 in the participant booklet). Read the opening paragraph and **assign the 30 Questions** here. Then, close the session.

As you break for a meal, devote 20 minutes of that time to reading the 30 Questions. After the break, you will skip Session 3 and open Session 4 by discussing the 30 Questions.

- 🚩 **Session Close 1 min.**

Cover meal information.

Clearly state the time that Session 3 will begin.

# Notes

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## Session 3

### Session 3 Overview **1 hr 15 min.**

Story of Your Choice (Video) & Discussion

Story (Video) and Discussion

Assign 30 Questions for Reflection

### Show a Story of Your Choice

Choose from the list of recommended stories below:

Renee Lockey (8:02)

Tom and Bree Hsieh (7:44)

Pete and Deb Ochs (8:46)

Gary and Cath Grant (9:48)

If you are at 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)

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

### Discuss Story **20 min.**

After showing the story you chose, use the questions from pages 56-63 to lead the discussion.



## Show Dr. Bill and Vonette Bright Story (13:31)



### Discuss Dr. Bill and Vonette Bright Story **20 min.**

Remember, don't feel like you need to ask every question listed for a story.

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?

**Assign 30 Questions for Reflection 3 min.**

You can find the questions on pages 24-29 in this booklet (pages 14-19 in the participant booklet).

Turn to page 14 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 5 min.**

Wrap up.

Cover breakfast information.

Clearly state the time that Session 4 will begin.

Pray to close day 1, inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to each participant.



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## 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.

- 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 (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?

- 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?
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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)?

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### 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?

- 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?"

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

# Session 4

## Session 4 Overview **1 hr 30 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 **30 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.



#### NOTE

Watch the clock during this discussion time. We recommend dividing the 30 minutes allotted for discussion by the number of participants in your group. For example, in a group with 15 participants, each person shares for 2 minutes.



 **Read *Celebration of Discipline* Excerpt 10 min.**

Invite participants to read excerpt from Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* on pages 32-36 (pages 22-26 in the participant booklet).



**NOTE**

Allow 10 minutes for reading.

START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

END TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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

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.

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

**🚩 Discuss *Celebration of Discipline* Excerpt 15 min.**

Remember, don't feel like you need to ask every question that's 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 24-26. Which is the most difficult for you to live out in your own life?

# Notes

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 **Show Alan and Katherine Barnhart Story (17:07)**

 **Discuss Alan and Katherine Barnhart Story 20 min.**

Remember, don't 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 that Session 5 will begin.

# Notes

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# Session 5

## Session 5 Overview **1 hr 30 min.**

Story (Video) and Discussion

Time of Silence and Reflection

Digital Survey

Story (Video)

Close JOG



**Show 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 56-63 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.



**Discuss Jason and Leslie White, Tim Mohns, or Renee Lockey **15 min.****

**Practice the Discipline of Silence 30 min.**

Have participants turn to page 31 in their JOG booklet (page 43 in this booklet). Invite participants into a 30-minute time of silence using one of the blue boxes below.

**IF YOU SHOWED RENEE:**

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.

**IF YOU SHOWED TIM:**

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 JASON AND LESLIE:**

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.

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

Please be back here at \_\_\_\_\_ .



## NOTE

Allow 30 minutes for silence.

START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

END TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pray Before Dismissing the Group

# 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.

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## Obey

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

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## Discuss Time of Silence and Reflection

Allow several participants to share what God has shown them during the experience. **15 min.**

## Introduce the Closing Video

Ask participants to turn to the QR code in the back cover of their booklet and take out their phones.

Our final video includes a survey and a story. (*If applicable: If you are here as a couple, we ask you to complete the survey individually.*) We greatly value your feedback because it helps us get better. Please take out your phone as you will be asked to use it while this video plays.

## Show the Closing Video (~10:00 min)

*“I Like Car” will begin playing automatically during the closing video.*

### 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.

## Next steps on your journey.

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

### Join the Movement

#### 1 Host a JOG

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

Learn more: [generousgiving.org/jog](https://generousgiving.org/jog)

#### 2 Attend a JOG Facilitator Training

Be equipped to lead the conversation

Learn more: [generousgiving.org/facilitator-training](https://generousgiving.org/facilitator-training)



## 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.

## A Legacy of Generosity



“I consecrate all that I am and all that I have, the faculties of my mind, the members of my body, my worldly possessions, my time and my influence over others, all to be used entirely for thy glory and resolutely employed in obedience to thy commands as long as thou continuest me in life. “

- Thomas Maclellan, 1857

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 five 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 70 years, The Maclellan Foundation has carried the legacy of Thomas, who desired all he had to 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, 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. One hundred and fifty years after writing his covenant, the life of Thomas Maclellan continues to bring glory to the God he loved and served faithfully.

# What We Believe

## Six Core Messages

### 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 blessing 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 blessing 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% 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?



## 5. Wisdom

What does it mean to give wisely? How do I choose charities, and balance my giving portfolio? Who can I trust to come alongside and help me determine the wisest way to give?

## 6. Community

Have I been walking the journey of generosity in community in a way that fosters encouragement and accountability? Who could I connect with who would understand the goals I have and the challenges I face?

## 7. Legacy

What kind of legacy do I want to leave after I'm gone? What are some different ways I could pass on values, not just valuables? How will my legacy carry on into future generations?

## 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.

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 are continuing 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 min.

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 min.

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 "Work differently, live simply, 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?

## 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?

## The Big Give Part 1 - Branden and Ashley Stathes 10:00 min.

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?

What touches your heart about this story?

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 kinds of 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?

## The Big Give Part 2 - Branden and Ashley Stathes 3:18 min.

When we give we glorify God. But sometimes God shows off with a story twist so good you 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 min.

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 thinking that tithing is the pinnacle of giving?



## 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?

## Tom Monaghan 6:50 min.

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?



# Alternate Late-Start Agenda

## Day 1

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5:00 pm	Dinner		
6:00 pm	Session 1	1 hr 45 min.	pages 6-13
7:45 pm	Break		
8:00 pm	Session 2	1 hr 30 min.	pages 14-19
Overnight	30 Questions		pages 24-29

## Day 2

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8:00 am	Breakfast		
8:30 am	Session 4	1 hr 30 min.	pages 30-39
10:00 am	Break		
10:15 am	Session 5	1 hr 30 min.	pages 40-44
11:45 am	Close		

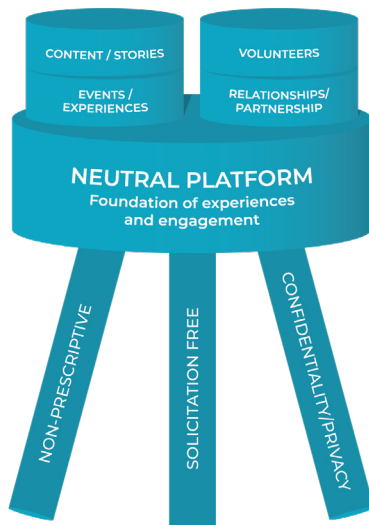
# Our Neutral Platform

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 you where, how, or how much to give at our events.
- **Solicitation Free** – We will not ask you for money at our events or allow others to do so. This includes charitable and business opportunities.
- **Confidentiality/Privacy** – We will not share your 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** - How we engage people's hearts and build sacred trust. When someone is in a pressure-free and safe environment, they often feel permission to share their struggles and their story.
- **Volunteers** – We train and equip volunteers on how to create safe environments where distractions, pitches, and prescriptive advice are removed.
- **Events/Experiences** – We use stories, scriptures, 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 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. Oftentimes the quiet ones say the most profound things. Give them a chance to do so.

## **Use provocative questions to open channels of communication**

Questions that go beyond requiring one-word answers and that inspire reflection and encourage deeper thought are valuable tools. When you ask a question, you allow yourself to be seen as another traveler on the journey, engaged in discovering more about the opportunities generosity creates.

## **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.

### **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.

### **Be fully genuine**

Nothing that happens in the event is focused on you; allow yourself to be a tool in the work of the Holy Spirit. You are not being rated or judged on your performance, and this awareness frees you to focus 100% of your energy on those in attendance. Show that you care about the participants by allowing yourself to really care. Learn people's names; learn their hearts. Be sensitive to what is going on in their lives. Express your gratitude to everyone, individually and personally. Thank them when they share and thank them when they respond.

### **Share your own story**

How is God continuing to change your perspective and actions around giving? Don't talk too much, but let your willingness to share prime the pump for others to share as well.

### **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.

### **Allow for meaningful breaks**

Allow for breaks. Understand that much meaningful conversation takes place during meals and break times.

### **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 another 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.











**GENEROUSGIVING**

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