

Generosity Packet

The goal of this worksheet is to give a practical framework to plan continuous generosity. For generosity to impact us, we must implement and practice it. Write a simple plan here and then practice it. (*Note: you can start on any page of this depending on where you currently are in the process. Page 1: reflecting on money // Page 2: learning and budgeting // page 3: making a generous commitment*)

Before you begin

1. **Pray.** Spend time in a simple prayer to God. Ask God to expose current realities, to give grace where we have put too much emphasis or not enough emphasis on money, and to give freedom where we are attached to things we should let go.
2. **Remember the goal.** Remember the “the point is making space for treasuring God's own self (Mt 6:19-21).” We must align our lives, time, money, and possessions with the life God has called us to more than the life the world has called us to.
3. **Release shame.** Before you begin, be prepared to notice things you might not have before. The revelation of our spending habits and possessions can bring shame. We must be ready to face reality without shame. Before stepping in, release any shame to the grace of Jesus.
4. **Remove Comparison.** Part of the problem is our cultural norm of comparing to those around us. Remember that this is not about what you have in comparison to those around you. It is mostly about the love of God and those whom God has put around you.
5. **Be open to what is revealed.** We all have habits that need to be exposed. Be ready for them to be revealed and permit yourself to accept your current reality as it is. Jesus' love is not found on the other side of any of these practices. It is found here and now.
6. **Give yourself grace and patience.** This practice will take much time to initiate. Give yourself plenty of time. But start somewhere. Starting small is better than not starting at all.
7. **There is nothing to prove and no one to impress.** Remember that this practice is not here for you to prove anything to God or others. Rather it is to open yourself up to Jesus' invitation to a life of contentment.

REFLECTING ON MONEY

Spend time in prayer and reflection to sense your current ties to money.

PRAY

Spend a moment asking God to encourage you, lovingly convict you, and patiently lead you as you reflect on money and how to align your heart with His.

Reflection 1:

If you had absolute assurance that God would provide enough for you, how would that change your relationship to money and generosity?

Reflection 2:

What false ideas do you believe and what bad habits are present that are preventing you from living with more generosity?

Reflection 3:

How could embracing generosity change your current life? Imagine what could be.

Pray and write your reflections:

LEARNING AND BUDGETING

Generosity takes intentionality and preparation. We need to take time to look at our financial reality to take steps to live more generous lives. Here are some simple steps and ideas that can help give guidance.

MONEY AUDIT:

1. Set a time to do a money audit.
2. Look back at the last month, three months, half year or year. Take note on how much income you made vs. how much you spent. Numbers don't lie. This is a good way of revealing what you really spend money on.
3. Make sure you account for everything and then write down the reflections. Where did I spend most money? How much money did I keep? How much money did I give? Does my money align with my heart for God?

LEARNING:

1. If you need education on finances and what steps to take a great resource to use is financial peace university. You can go through this alone or with a group.
2. This is good if you
 - a. Want to learn how to budget. // Want to learn how to get out of debt. // Want to learn how to give. // Want to learn how to save.
3. You can find out more here: [Financial Peace University](#)

BUDGET:

1. Reflect on a few ideas before you budget
 - a. God owns all my money. I am simply a servant // manager // steward.
 - b. How much should I keep? And how much is God inviting me to give?
 - c. Where I spend my money will lead my heart. How can I lead my heart towards God?
2. Pray and decide how much money you will designate for giving each paycheck.
3. Get out a calculator and your pay stubs and a place to organize your budget.
 - a. A great system is "[Every dollar](#)"
 - b. What will you give? What will you save? What will you spend?
4. Do everything you can to live under your means – and continue to find ways for your money to match your values.

BUILD ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. Commit to your budget for a set time. (*ex: 30 days, 2 months, etc.*)
2. Share your budget with a friend, roommate, spouse, or somebody you trust to hold you to your commitment. Accountability for how you intend to spend, save, and give your money, and how you actually spend your money is very wise and helpful.
3. Adjust as necessary along the way.

MAKING A GENEROUS COMMITMENT

We should make a giving goal as a sign of trust for God's provision. As we commit to give, we display the love of God to others and we display the unique lifestyle of those who follow Jesus. Use this sheet to make goals and dream of how to bless others.

Giving Targets:

Local Church | *We commit to give to our local body of believers. Through giving to the church we support those leading ministry, we support our local ministry partners, we support those in the community that are in need, and we support the financial obligations of the church.*

- Monthly Percent ____%
- Monthly Amount ____
- Giving Area:
 - o General Fund | *Giving for all the financial obligations of the ministry of the church.*
 - o Benevolence | *Giving to the fund that supports those in need in our church community.*
 - o Camp Scholarship | *Giving to the fund that supports Youth students for camp.*
 - o Building Fund | *Giving to the fund that supports future building opportunities.*

Other Causes | *On top of our giving to our local body of believers, we find ways to give to the poor, to the expansion of the gospel, to others in need, and to simply bless others. Pray about an amount God wants you to give above and beyond.*

- Monthly Percent ____%
- Monthly Amount ____
- Giving Area:
 - o Another Ministry | *Giving to a ministry you are passionate about and/or are connected to.*
 - o A Giving Fund | *Giving to a personal fund saved only for giving to others and then praying for God to open doors for you to bless others.*
 - o A Person in Need | *Giving to a particular person that you know is in need of financial support.*