



GENEROSITY

LEADER GUIDE

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FORWARD

Talking about money can feel awkward, especially if you're talking about giving to the local church. But it doesn't have to be. When we give to the local church, we jump into the bigger story that God is writing. We get to be free of idolizing money, and we get to trust God in powerful ways. We get to experience God's blessing and provision in ways that we otherwise would never get to experience.

This booklet is designed to be a training tool to help the staff and leaders of your organization to learn how to have conversations about generosity; it is NOT meant to be a generosity bomb that you drop and leave with someone. We believe that changed lives lead to more changed lives. We want you to be equipped with how to tell your story of generosity because your story is a powerful tool that can be used to inspire others.

Thank you for leading people well. It is a privilege to serve along side you!

David Dummitt
2|42 Community Church

FIRST STEPS AND NEXT STEPS IN GENEROSITY

Leadership Thought:

We all have next steps to take in our generosity.

How do you feel about talking to people about generosity? Do you feel comfortable, eager, ashamed, or hesitant? Odds are your feelings about leading people into a conversation about generosity is directly related to your own story of generosity.

Here at Gyve, we believe that your story of taking next steps in generosity is a powerful story that you should be sharing with people. The truth is that when we start taking next steps with God, and aligning ourselves with His mission, God is glorified each and every time.

This booklet is intended to help you encourage people in your circles to take next steps in generosity. From becoming Rookie Givers, to Relative Givers, to Relational Givers, and then to Radical Givers.

If you haven't started your own generosity story, start now!

Leadership Thought:

What is your next step in generosity? How will you take it?

Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron. Anyone who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the Lord in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

— 1 CHRONICLES 29|6–9

BECOME A ROOKIE GIVER

What a great next step with God when someone decides to give for the first time! As a rookie giver, your gift shows a growing trust in God and the leadership of the church.

We can't teach effectively on generosity in the two minutes before collecting the offering. Telling your story of generosity will help build trust and let folks understand how your church spends the money that people give to God through you. Every dollar of generosity goes towards the mission of Helping People Take Next Steps with God. Period. We believe that's a mission that people will feel good about.

Next Steps

How can you encourage someone to become a first-time giver?

- Share how you decided to give for the first time.
- Steer them toward the roundup feature on the Gyve generosity app.
- Challenge them to set aside a little money to give the next time they attend.
- Encourage them to pray about giving to the Church.
- Talk about generosity in small groups and from the stage.

Leadership Thought

Always be prepared to tell your personal story of becoming a Rookie Giver.

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

—2 Corinthians 8|5–7

BECOME A RELATIVE GIVER

A relative giver decides to give based on how they spend money in other areas of their life. They ask questions like, “Why am I giving more to my cell phone company than I am to God?” The relative giver will note their monthly spending (cable, new cloths, car payments, etc.) and start to reflect if their spending shows how important God is in their life? In this stage of development giving begins to occur on a consistent basis. Giving becomes enough of a priority for individuals to set up recurring giving online or commit to regularly giving through other means.

The two common barriers to becoming a relative giver are financial and/or spiritual matters. The church can and should help with both.

Next Steps

How can you encourage someone to become a recurring giver?

- Have them sign up for the Gyve generosity app and talk about the recurring gift feature.
- Encourage them to pick a percentage of their income to begin giving each week or each month.
- Have them incorporate giving into their monthly budget.
- Coach daily encounters with God and weekly attendance at services. Spiritual growth is part of generosity.

Leadership Thought

Relative giving is your first real next step to being generous to God’s mission.

Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. —2 Corinthians 9|6–7 MSG

—2 Corinthians 9|6-7 MSG

BECOME A RELATIONAL GIVER

When your relationship with God impacts your financial decisions you are a relational giver. A relational giver is beginning to learn about biblical stewardship or managing the money God provides in a way that honors Him. Biblical stewardship involves tithing (the practice of giving 10% to the local church you attend), saving money for the future, and avoiding debt.

For a relational giver, their relationship with God grows to the point of making life changes that costs them something. God knows the act of giving financially to the mission is a discipline that trains us to rely on Him and give up our own “rights” in order to follow Him. In baptism, we give up our “rights” to follow our own desires and commit to following God. In tithing, we give up our “rights” to our finances because of our faith and devotion to God, and we commit those resources to Him.

Do we trust in our relationship with Him enough to believe that 90% with God’s blessing is better than 100% without it?

Next Steps

How can you encourage someone to become a relational giver?

- Change their ACH transfer through their bank or the church online generosity app to a recurring giving amount to more than they regularly pay to one of their recurring monthly expenses.
- Challenge people not to give from their excess, but rather be generous with God has given them.
- Take the 3|10 challenge at the back of this booklet.

Leadership Thought

As Christ-followers, we are faced every day with aligning our priorities to fit God’s desires. Our designs for our finances are often the very last thing we are willing to surrender to God. Yet obedience in this area has powerful benefits in all parts of our lives.

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, anyone of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

—Luke 14|28–33 ESV

BECOME A RADICAL GIVER

Many Christ-followers give more than 10% (tithe) to God's mission. They are experiencing what Jesus said when He told his disciples, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and when the apostle Paul said, "Those who sow generously will also reap generously." As a radical giver, you begin to ask questions like, "Am I giving in a way that changes me? Does my giving affect my lifestyle? Does it stretch my faith?" The emphasis is not so much on what God is asking me to give, but on what God is asking me to keep. A radical giver's commitment to giving is such that they have to adjust the rest of their expenditures to meet their giving commitment.

A radical giver is someone who makes a lifetime or long-term giving commitment that governs their larger decisions like homes, cars, investments, etc.

Next Steps

How can you challenge someone to become a radical giver?

Spend time helping someone think through these questions:

- Do your long-term spending decisions reflect more focus on how God is calling you to serve Him or do they focus more on your own comfort?
- How is God challenging you to change your plans or expectations to commit more fully to Him?
- How could living a "simplified" lifestyle allow you to be more generous?
- Are you adjusting your lifestyle to follow biblical principles (devotion to God, family, community, and mission), or are you adjusting biblical principles to fit your lifestyle?
- After reaching 10% (tithe), can you add one percent to your generosity percentage each year?
- Think about adding the round up feature as an immediate first step to become a radical giver.

Leadership Thought

God never intended the "tithe" (returning 10% to God) to be the finish line. In fact, tithing is the starting line. We realize that starting at 10% is incredibly hard for many people who are just taking their first generosity steps. As we live in a growing relationship with Jesus, other areas of our life will grow and mature too, including our generosity.

But the king (David) replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer on behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

— 2 Samuel 24|24–25

HOW TO TELL YOUR GENEROSITY STORY

You have a unique and powerful story to tell! Answering these questions will help you tell your story as you lead others to take their next steps in generosity.

Based on your understanding of generosity, where are you?
Are you a Rookie, Relative, Relational, or Radical giver?

What are your next steps in generosity?

What motivated you to give money to the church for the first time?

Why did you decide to start tithing (10%) to the church?

What did your generosity progression look like?
(i.e. How did you grow from being a "rookie" giver to a "radical" giver?)

How has your attitude about being generous to God's mission changed you?

THE 3|10 CHALLENGE

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” —Malachi 3|10

This is the only area that God gives us permission to test Him. The 3|10 challenge is your way to test God. Take your next step with God by choosing to intentionally trust Him with your finances. Commit to becoming a “relational giver” for 90 days. Watch to see how God takes care of you and blesses you over the course of those 90 days. Keep in mind that God’s blessings come in many ways: relational, situational, emotional, spiritual, and yes, sometimes financial. His promise is that we can trust Him with every area of our lives, and that He will take care of us.

