

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the *Giving Challenge* Small Group Guide. This 40-day journey is designed to accompany the *Giving Challenge* video and book series—a transformational experience that will help you align your heart with the generosity of Jesus.

Each week explores a different expression of generosity modeled by Christ, guiding you through five core generosity themes (Giving Happily, Eternally, Abundantly, Regularly, and Today), plus a foundational first session to set the stage. Together, we'll reflect, discuss, and grow in how we give—so that our lives bear fruit now and for eternity.

Group sessions are designed to last 70–75 minutes, but feel free to adjust based on your group's rhythm and needs.

This guide includes:

A weekly video reflection with practical and spiritual insights
Relevant Bible readings to root your discussion in Scripture
A location- or theme-based icebreaker to spark a greater connection
8-10 rich discussion questions for reflection and application
Weekly giving challenges to put generosity into action
Prayer prompts to end each session with spiritual unity

We encourage you to begin your first session by reading and agreeing to the Group Promise together.

GROUP PROMISE

Read the following promise aloud and get verbal agreement among the group members:

I commit to these Giving Challenge Small Group promises:

- I will be on time and show up with my whole heart.
- I understand that this group is 100% confidential.
- I will respect other group members by speaking honestly and listening actively.
- I won't try to fix, preach at, or offer advice unless it's requested.
- I will share personally, not gossip or talk about others.
- I will trust God to work through generosity and through our group as we grow together.



WEEK 1 | INTRODUCTION: THE HEART OF THE MATTER



1. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER (4 MINUTES)

Welcome the group to *Giving Challenge*. This is the first of six weekly sessions exploring how generosity shapes our lives and hearts to reflect Jesus.

Open with a short prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to begin a new season of intentional generosity in each participant's life.

2. ICEBREAKER (5 MINUTES)

Question: "Have you ever bought stock, joined a membership, or made a purchase—and suddenly you cared way more about it than you did before? What was it?" This question connects to the theme verse for the series of Matthew 6:21.

3. WATCH THE VIDEO: "INTRODUCTION: THE HEART OF THE MATTER" (12 MINUTES)

Play the Week 1 video filmed at Lauritzen Gardens. This session introduces the heart behind the 40-day challenge and explores the importance of intentional giving as a reflection of following Jesus.

4. BIBLE READINGS (5 MINUTES)

Invite a few participants to read these Scriptures aloud:

- Matthew 6:21 The theme verse for our series.
- Galatians 6:7-9 This passage beautifully reinforces the idea of sowing generosity intentionally and trusting God with the long-term growth
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 This passage connects generosity, trust, harvest, and God's provision all in one.

5. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 MINUTES)

Use as many of the following as time allows. Encourage honesty, reflection, and spiritual growth:

- 1 What stood out to you most from the first video?
- 2. How do you personally feel about talking about money with others? Explain your feelings.
- 3. Why do you think even Christians often don't look much different from the world in how we give?
- 4. Jesus says to give first, and your heart will follow. Why do we tend to wait until we "feel generous"?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

- 5. If you had to rate yourself right now on a scale of 1 (not generous) to 10 (extremely generous) with how generous you are, where would you place yourself? If comfortable, share your number and why you chose that number with the group.
- 6. If your heart follows your treasure, what do your current spending habits reveal about what you value most, and where might God be inviting a shift?
- 7. Galatians 6:7-9 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 say we will reap what we sow. What are some things you've sown intentionally in your life—spiritually, financially, or relationally—and how have you seen that harvest show up over time?
- 8. What's one worldly mindset you may need to let go of in order to pursue a more generous heart?
- 9. What is the biggest challenge you face in truly being a more generous person?
- 10. Zach said generosity is not just about giving money—it's about becoming more like Jesus. What's the difference?
- 11. Zach asked, "What if the life you were chasing isn't the one you actually want?" How does that question land with you right now?

6. WEEKLY CHALLENGE PROMPT (2 MINUTES)

Challenge: Set a goal to show up for your small group each week and to participate in the daily readings in the book *Giving Challenge*, which will accompany this video series. Encourage everyone to share (next week) how they are doing in the daily readings that accompany this series.

7. CLOSING PRAYER (3-5 MINUTES)

Invite group members to share one hope, challenge, or emotion they're feeling as *Giving Challenge* begins. Then pray:

- For the courage to begin giving with intention
- For hearts to be realigned with God's priorities
- For this group to grow in unity and encouragement over the next 6 weeks

8 READING CHALLENGE ENCOURAGEMENT (1 MINUTE)

For a deeper, daily experience to go alongside of the video series, purchase *Giving Challenge:* A 40-Day Life-Changing Journey to Give Like Jesus at www.redlettergiving.com.

This week: Read Days 1-5.