



GIVING

CHALLENGE

1. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER (4 MINUTES)

Welcome everyone back for Week 2 of **Giving Challenge**. Celebrate those who are reading through the devotions. This week, we shift into a deeper truth: that generosity not only reflects Jesus—it also brings joy.

Pray for hearts that are open to discovering the happiness that comes from living generously.

2. ICEBREAKER (5 MINUTES)

Question: “What’s the happiest gift you’ve ever given—or received—and why did it mean so much to you?”

3. WATCH THE VIDEO: “GIVING HAPPILY – TRADING COMFORT FOR CONTENTMENT” (12 MINUTES)

Play the Week 2 video, filmed at Bike World. It tells the story of the Formsma family and how one act of generosity sparked a movement—and shows how true happiness is found not in comfort, but in contentment.

4. BIBLE READINGS (3 MINUTES)

Invite a few participants to read aloud:

- **Acts 20:35** — “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
- **Philippians 4:11–13** — “I have learned the secret of being content... I can do all this through Christ who gives me strength.”
- **1 Timothy 6:6–10** — “But godliness with contentment is great gain... Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

5. PERSONAL ASSESSMENT TIME (5 MINUTES)

Take a few minutes and complete this exercise to help you understand more about where your heart is in relation to today’s topic. This exercise is also the challenge for Day 6 of **Giving Challenge**.



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COMFORT OR CONTENTMENT CHECK DAY

Place a checkmark next to the statement that best describes you currently—not who you aspire to be, but how you're living right now.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> You live past or up to the edge of your means. | <input type="checkbox"/> You live with financial margin (not spending more than you earn) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You think having more will make you happy. | <input type="checkbox"/> You are happy with what you already have. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You check your financial accounts more than you read God's Word. | <input type="checkbox"/> You read God's Word more than you check your financial accounts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You focus on short-term relief. | <input type="checkbox"/> You focus on long-term fulfillment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You see work as a way to accumulate for yourself. | <input type="checkbox"/> You see work as a way to serve others and glorify God. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You want to outpace, or at least keep up, with your neighbors and friends. | <input type="checkbox"/> You celebrate the blessings of your neighbors and friends. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You constantly compare yourself to others. | <input type="checkbox"/> You are grateful for what you have. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You live with considerable financial debt. | <input type="checkbox"/> You live without considerable financial debt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You buy or get the things you want. | <input type="checkbox"/> You deny yourself some pleasures in this world. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You avoid taking risks for fear of failure. | <input type="checkbox"/> You trust in God's plan, even when taking risks. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You are consumed with what's next. | <input type="checkbox"/> You are content with where you are now. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You avoid doing hard things. | <input type="checkbox"/> You do hard things. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your inner peace is tied to your outer circumstances. | <input type="checkbox"/> You have inner peace no matter your outer circumstances. |

Count the number of checkmarks on the right side and circle the number below. If your number is low, you are likely prioritizing comfort. If your number is high, you are living with contentment.

Comfort 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 **Contentment**

Whatever your number might be, set a goal to improve by at least two or three points. What action or next steps can you take this week to get better? Write it down and act on it.



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6. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (40 MINUTES)

1. Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Celebrate a win and a struggle that you had in **Giving Challenge** over the past week.
2. What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or challenges this past week?
3. What stood out to you most from the video today?
4. Do you think that money can buy happiness? Explain.
5. What would you say is our culture's definition of happiness when it comes to money—and how does Jesus's teaching challenge that definition?
6. Have you ever spent money on something you thought would make you happy—but it didn't? What was it, and what did you learn?
7. Zach told the story of a single act of generosity—a bike gift—that sparked a movement. Why do you think generosity can be so contagious?
8. Have you ever experienced unexpected joy while giving to someone else? Share the story.
9. The Formsma family gave generously even when it was inconvenient. What holds us back from going "the extra mile" when helping others?
10. In the video, Zach mentioned studies that found happiness levels are similar when someone donates to charity versus doubling their household income. If this is true, then what does this mean for how you have been pursuing happiness?
11. Share where you ranked yourself on the comfort vs. contentment assessment. Reflect on why you settled on that number and identify something you can do to be more content?
12. Philippians 4 talks about contentment as something that must be learned. How is God teaching you that right now?
13. Why do you think people often delay generosity until they feel "more comfortable"?
14. What's one way you could trade comfort for contentment this week in order to give more joyfully?

7. WEEKLY CHALLENGE PROMPT (2 MINUTES)

Challenge: Give a Happy Gift

- Skip something that brings comfort (coffee run, streaming rental, new shirt) and use that money to bless someone else.
- Ask God to lead you to the who and how—and let joy be the result.
- Be ready to share stories next week!



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8. CLOSING PRAYER (3-5 MINUTES)

Invite the group to reflect:

- Is there an area of comfort they're sensing God inviting them to surrender?
- Are they struggling to believe that giving can lead to happiness?

Pray over these themes, asking God to reshape each participant's mindset from scarcity and comfort-seeking to joy-filled contentment and cheerful generosity.

9. READING CHALLENGE ENCOURAGEMENT (1 MINUTE)

For a deeper, daily experience, continue reading the devotional ***Giving Challenge:*** A 40-Day Life-Changing Journey to Give Like Jesus.

This week: Read Days 6-12, and complete the daily challenges.