



## LIVE GENEROUSLY

*GOD IS THE BLESSER. HE BLESSES US TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS*

### What does it mean to LIVE GENEROUSLY?

Time & Money – we don't want them to control us. We want to use them as a tool to make a difference. Living just to make money might get you full pockets, but it will leave you with an empty heart.

When we live generously, our wallets & schedules no longer control us. Generosity doesn't come from wealth or excess; it's a heart issue.

We believe that God is the blessing and He blesses us to be a blessing. Giving brings joy, purpose, and meaning so we want to continue to live on less so we can give more.

When we live generously, we can experience our best life.

### Read the following Bible passages and reflect on how it speaks about Living Generously and how you can take steps in this area:

*Malachi 3, Matthew 19:16-26, Proverbs 3:5-10, Luke 12:13-34, Proverbs 28:27, Matthew 6, Proverbs 22:7-9, 1 Timothy 6:6-20, Proverbs 13:11*

"The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." **Proverbs 11:25**

## STEPS & RESOURCES

*LIVE GENEROUSLY WITH YOUR Finances*

### DAVE RAMSEY & FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

We can't live generously if we are buried in debt. We occasionally offer this 9 week course that can transform your finances and your life. More than one million families have attended Financial Peace University with amazing results. On average, these families paid off \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 in just the first 90 days! Stop worrying about money and start your journey to Financial Peace.

### GIVE

If we build up debt, our money controls us. When we give, money no longer controls us and it keeps our finances in proper perspective. We believe that God is the blessing and He blesses us to be a blessing. Giving brings joy, purpose and meaning. It also helps us take next steps to trust God & look beyond ourselves. You can give to The Journey or somewhere else if you want, but take your next step and bless others.

#### 4 WAYS TO GIVE AT THE JOURNEY



The Journey is 100% funded by your giving, donations and offerings. Our lead team's goal is for our church to have fiscal integrity and responsibility to maximize our impact for God's mission. Your giving makes a real impact at & through everything we do at The Journey. Whether you give consistently or if you've never given to the church, we encourage you to keep taking steps in the giving process to move towards generosity.

**FIRST TIME** → **INTENTIONAL & AUTOMATIC** → **TITHE** → **GENEROUS**

### TITHING CHALLENGE

The Bible talks about a standard for giving called the tithe — tithe means 10%. We don't force anyone to do this or try to guilt people into giving. We don't even pass an offering plate at church, but we do want people to experience God's blessing & money plays a part in it. It's really about trusting God, not money. In fact, in Malachi 3, God issues a Bless Test. He issues a challenge to put His promise to the test by challenging our perspective on money, tithing & generosity. If we live with open hands, God will open the doors of His blessings on our life.

So at The Journey, we offer a money-back guarantee tithing challenge.

We've seen this challenge become a turning point for many people to experience the blessings of following Jesus and to find freedom for financial debt & worry. You can find a form for the Tithing Challenge on the donate page online.



# STEPS & RESOURCES

LIVE GENEROUSLY WITH YOUR TIME

## LEAN INTO WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT

There is never enough time in one day. Look at your calendar or reflect on the past month. Are the most important things part of your time? Do your relationships feel more like interruptions or opportunities? With all the demands for our time, we need to work hard to set schedules that lean into the important things. Maybe for you it means cutting some things out of your schedule. Maybe it's scheduling a monthly date night or a weekly family game night. Maybe it's setting limits on what your kids are involved in. Maybe you need to add a meeting with Jesus to make sure you spend time connecting in that relationship. Maybe you need to make your involvement at church or in your network a priority to keep your focus on Jesus and following His ways. We can't just have good intentions, we need to set our schedules in the right direction to lean into what's most important. If we want to experience our best life, we need to create schedules where we are generous with our time for the important things in our life.

## CREATE MARGINS

We can't do it all. If you try to be all things to all people then you'll end up being nothing to everyone. Why? You've got nothing left to give. By trying to do more we become less. Guard the margins of your life by managing your schedule in a way that you have time to read, time to pray, time to dream, time for God, time for others – it's really guarding your heart. Your heart needs room to grow! If you lose your margin, you'll lose your edge – spiritually, relationally, emotionally, physically. We need space in our life to really live. A quantity of time leads to quality time in all of our relationships. If we are busy, we end up responding out of stress rather than from our hearts. No margins usually means there is no time to live healthy lives. If we want God to guide us, we need to stop and listen. We can't live generous lives when we are strapped. Creating some margins might mean doing less things but doing them better.

## BE F.A.T.

If we want to live generously, we need to be **FAITHFUL, AVAILABLE & TEACHABLE** with our resources, roles & relationships. It's about being open to God to direct you & how you use your resources. It's about looking for and taking hold of opportunities through your every day life.

# QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS

LIVE GENEROUSLY

What's going to matter most 100 years from now? Are you leaning into what's most important now?

Are your intentions to live generously lining up with your direction?

What margins do you need to create in your life?

What things do you need to cut out of your schedule or your budget in order to give more?

As you look through the steps & resources, what ways seem helpful for you to live generously?

There might be many things or a few things you need to do, but what's your next step?

## HERE ARE SOME BOOKS THAT CAN HELP YOU LIVE GENEROUSLY:

- Fields of Gold* by Andy Stanley
- Debt Free Living* by Larry Burkett
- I Was Broke Now I'm Not* by Joe Sangl
- Total Money Makeover* by Dave Ramsey
- Financial Peace Revisited* by Dave Ramsey

