

Generosity Challenge



A 27-Day Guide to Accompany

Ignite Your Generosity

A 21-Day Experience in Stewardship

Chris McDaniel

Welcome to the 27-day *Generosity Challenge*. In this booklet you will find the following elements for each day of the challenge.

1. **Challenge**—An activity for you to commit to doing on each particular day.
2. **Scripture Reading**—A Bible passage for you to think more deeply about the day's challenge.
3. **Reflection**—An area for you to write down actions that you are going to take, results from the challenge or thoughts that God has laid on your heart in regards to the challenge.
4. **Prayer**—A place for you to write a prayer to God in regards to the challenge.

It is recommended that you go through this booklet sequentially as some challenges will build off of a previous day's challenge.

I would love to hear from you as you go through the *Generosity Challenge*. Please share on the Ignite Your Generosity blog at www.igniteyourgenerosity.com.

Thank you in advance for participating in this 27-day program to increase your God-inspired generosity. My prayer is that this won't be just an exercise that you do to "check the box," but rather an opportunity for God to reflect His generosity through you to those in your sphere of influence. I'd also like to thank the pastoral staff at Northern Hills Church for their contributions both to the small group materials in *Ignite Your Generosity* and to this *Generosity Challenge*.

Chris McDaniel, author, *Ignite Your Generosity*

DAY 1

Challenge: Give up a regular “me-time” activity this week. For example, a TV show, football game or workout. Instead, spend this time with someone special.

Scripture Reference: Philippians 2:1-30

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 2

Challenge: Set aside time to pray for someone new. A great idea would be to pray for the missionaries you know and support or those that your church supports. Start praying today and continue through this journey.

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:10

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 3

Challenge: Read 2 Corinthians 8 and spend time praying that God would open your heart to experience Him and to experience the joy of generous giving.

Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 15:10

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 4

Challenge: God has gifted you with unique talents designed for Kingdom impact. Write down your top three natural abilities somewhere in your Bible or journal. Find a way to use one of those abilities to bless someone else today.

Scripture Reference: Proverbs 16:3

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 5

Challenge: Identify something you or your family really enjoys doing (such as dinner out or going to movies). Sacrifice what you identified by purchasing gift certificates for the same event and giving those to an acquaintance, friend or someone God puts on your heart.

Scripture Reference: Philippians 2:3-4

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 6

Challenge: Take the free online spiritual gifts assessment offered by the Church Growth Institute at <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>

Even if you have already taken an assessment, please do so again. Complete the assessment, print or email the results to yourself and a friend or mentor, and review the results together.

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 7

Challenge: Write down your top three spiritual gifts identified yesterday. Make a list reflecting on how you used your gifts and talents in the past week. How many times did you use your “top three” in serving others?

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 4:10

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 8

Challenge: Today reflect on the past two days of investigating your spiritual gifts and ask the Lord how He would have you use your gifts in serving Him. Write down your answers.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 20:27-28

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 9

Challenge: Take time today to think of someone that is in need of prayer. Call them today (or even better, visit them) and pray together with them.

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 6:18

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 10

Challenge: Let people who are spiritual leaders and mentors in your life know the gifts that you have identified, even if that will mean you may be asked to serve in that capacity. Share the information and ask them to encourage you to see how God would have you use those talents. A great place to start is your pastoral leadership or a ministry leader in the area where you are being led to serve.

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:14-21

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 11

Challenge: Identify a personal possession and decide to give it away, or do so as a family. If you are a family, get everyone together and decide what the item(s) will be. Pray and ask God to show you someone who could use that item or a place for you to give it away.

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 8:7; 9:8-9

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 12

Challenge: Read John 13:35. Offer to take a friend out for a coffee or out to dinner or to a movie this weekend. Your treat!

Scripture Reference: John 13:35

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 13

Challenge: Take a plate of cookies to a neighbor who you haven't met. Use this as an opportunity to get to know them.

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 13:1-2

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 14

Challenge: Think of a sport, life skill or any specialized skill you have. Call a local shelter, community organization or school volunteer coordinator and offer to teach that skill. Trust God to open and close doors.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:14-16

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 15

Challenge: Give up something you regularly purchase this week (such as coffee or lunch out) for three days and instead give that amount to someone that you think could use it.

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 13:16

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 16

Challenge: Start and end your day praying for others instead of yourself. Pray in the morning for the needs of your family and before you go to bed spend time praying for the spiritual leaders in your life.

Scripture Reference: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 17

Challenge: Spend a few minutes today reflecting on ways you have served. What blessings have come from that? Write it down and share it with someone.

Scripture Reference: Proverbs 17:22

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 18

Challenge: Ask God to reveal a family that is in need. If you cannot find one, ask your church or a local ministry to help you identify a family. When you find them, commit to buy some groceries or gifts for them. When you deliver them, do it anonymously with a note pointing them to the love of God.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:1-4

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 19

Challenge: Treat a stranger this weekend. For example, pay for the person behind you in the drive-thru of a local coffee shop or restaurant.

Scripture Reference: Galatians 6:10

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 20

Challenge: Commit to make a sacrificial special or year-end gift to your local church. Pray and ask God for direction in bringing your sacrificial gift to further the work that God is doing through your local church.

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 9:11

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 21

Challenge: Give quietly to Jesus and His work today. Choose a cause or organization that supports those in material need and give the gift anonymously.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:2

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 22

Challenge: As an individual or as a family, identify five neighbors and pray for them. Pray for their health (physical and spiritual) and pray that their needs will be met. Pray for opportunities to have conversations with them and reflect on how you can meet those needs.

Scripture Reference: Mark 12:31

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 23

Challenge: Identify someone in your life that you dislike or that has treated you badly. Today, challenge yourself to be like Jesus and pray for them.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:43-45

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 24

Challenge: Create a standing appointment on your calendar to do something God has been prompting you to do more regularly.

Scripture Reference: John 14:15

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 25

Challenge: Refer back to the exercises that you did around discovering your spiritual gifts and having a conversation about them with others and with God. Commit today to serve regularly in the areas you wrote down on day eight or in a new area that God has laid on your heart.

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:5-8

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 26

Challenge: Think about the spiritual leaders in your life. Those who preach, teach, encourage, and walk alongside and help you grow to be the person God wants you to be. Once you have identified those people, determine if their church or ministry relies on financial support to exist. If so, commit to support their church or ministry (for any amount) on a monthly basis for one year.

Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 5:18

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

DAY 27

Challenge: Have a conversation with someone about your desire to grow in your generosity and encourage them if their desire is to also grow in generosity. Commit to pray and support each other in this area.

Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 6:18

Reflection:

Prayer for Today:

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