

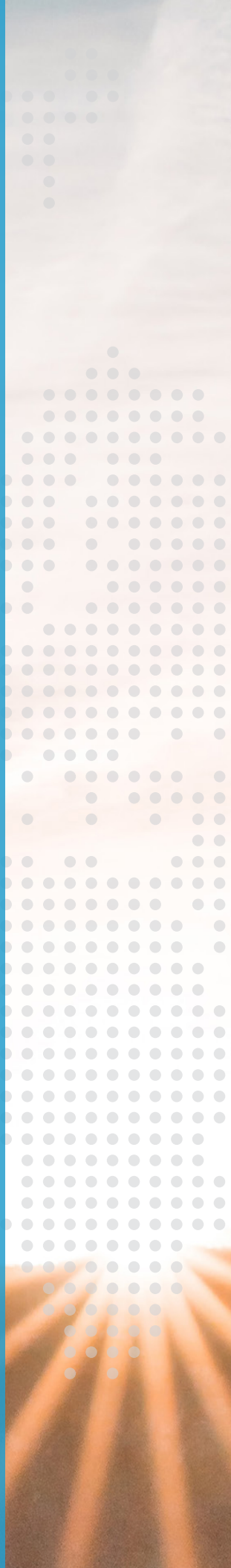


National Christian  
FOUNDATION®

# Giving Strategy

**GUIDEBOOK**

Pursuing God's story for  
your generosity



Strategy. Your business runs on it, your investments depend on it, and even your favorite football coach wouldn't dream of playing a game without it.

*“... I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”*

– JOHN 10:10

## But why does giving need a strategy?

A Giving Strategy could mean the difference between sponsoring a few children or building an entire orphanage ... between your family being challenged over money or growing closer together through a shared vision ... between moments filled with confusion and regret or a lifelong journey that brings you closer to purpose and joy.

At the National Christian Foundation (NCF), our heart is to help givers like you create a Giving Strategy that empowers you to be more faithful, generous, and fully alive.

**This guidebook is designed to help you explore God's story for your generosity.**

# How this guidebook works

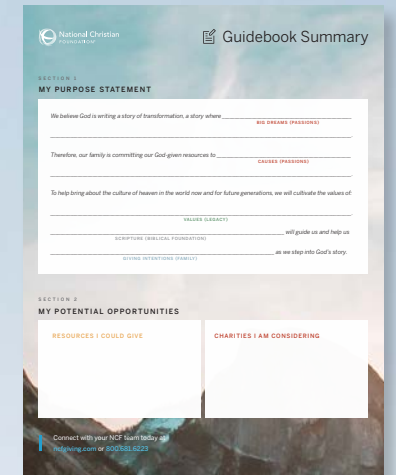
We believe the most life-changing Giving Strategy is one based on biblical principles. It can help you give with kingdom impact, leave a meaningful legacy, cultivate unity in your family, and maximize what you have to give.

In this guidebook, you'll explore biblical principles for your giving and apply them to four areas of generosity: Legacy, Family, Passions, and Wealth & Resources. The result is an actionable summary that clarifies your purpose for giving, identifies opportunities, and reveals where you'd like to grow.

You may wish to explore on your own, with your spouse or other family members, or with anyone else who shares the privilege and responsibility of stewarding your resources.



In the following pages, you will work through exercises that help you discover your unique Giving Strategy. You'll record your answers in the Guidebook Summary, which is on the last page and divided into three sections:



**1. My Purpose Statement** summarizes your biblical foundation for giving as a short story that is easy to remember and share with others.

**2. My Potential Opportunities** helps identify what resources you could give and which charities you may want to support.

**3. Questions to Clarify** helps define what areas or questions you'd like to explore more with your NCF team.



**When you're ready to get started**, remove the Guidebook Summary from the back of your guidebook. Whenever you see this symbol, transfer your answers to the appropriate space. They are color-coded to help you know where your answers should go.

*“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*

– PHILIPPIANS 2:13

## The journey ahead

You’re about to embark on an adventure that can help you see the beautiful story God is writing through your giving. We pray that you’ll discover things to celebrate and new opportunities in each area of generosity.

Our team is excited for you to take this next step, and we’re here to prayerfully support you throughout this process. These exercises are just the beginning. Your Giving Strategy is a lifelong journey, and we believe that the Lord will guide you with wisdom and grace along the way.

Start now 

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# 10 principles of biblical generosity

Like any spiritual practice, your giving can help you flourish in the life that God intends for you. The first step is to start with a biblical foundation. Here are 10 principles to help lead the way:

## 1 God is absolutely good

The care that God took in creation – to give us exactly what we needed and the ability to enjoy it – communicates unimaginable love and generosity. And after we mishandled that first gift, he gave his Son, the greatest gift history has ever witnessed. Beyond love and generosity, that gift also demonstrated God's justice, mercy, and enduring trustworthiness to provide everything we need for life and godliness. When we trust this to be true, it is counted to us as righteousness. *Genesis 1 & 2 / John 3:16 / 2 Peter 1:3*

## 2 God owns everything

As Founder and Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, God holds the rights to all of it. That includes even us – our bodies, our minds, and our lives. Even when we had become slaves to sin, he redeemed us, paying with his Son's life. We are doubly owned. *Psalms 24:1-2 / Romans 12:1 / 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

## 3 God created us to bear his image

We are God's children, made in his image and called to increasingly bear his likeness, to reflect his nature for the world to see. When we give to what matters most to God, we bring him glory and become more fully alive to the purposes he has for us. *Genesis 1:26-27 / Romans 8:29 / 2 Corinthians 3:18*

## 4 Giving brings transformation

We are called to be transformed, to allow God to shape our minds to the mind of Christ, to accept his view of the world, and to make our own thoughts obedient to his purposes. Giving is a supernatural, transformative, step-by-step process of learning and agreeing to trust God's ways over our own and to take hold of the life that is truly life. *Romans 12:2 / 2 Corinthians 10:5 / 1 Timothy 6:19*

## 5 Jesus is enough

In Christ, we have salvation and all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the fullness of God, and a family – the church. Material possessions can never bring us the security and contentment that can only be found in Jesus, and having too many other things can distract us from finding our contentment in him. *Psalms 23:1 / Matthew 19:16-30 / 1 Timothy 6:6-10*

## 6 God is our never-ending supply

Deuteronomy 8 reminds us that we must not forget why we have life, why we experience success and the ability to produce wealth. God has a never-ending supply of resources, and he is our provider. When we give generously, we're reminded that the one who enabled us to give is perfectly capable of doing it again. *Deuteronomy 8:11-20 / Malachi 3:10 / 2 Corinthians 9:6-11*

## 7 Giving is a form of worship

When we give generously and sacrificially, it's not because God needs anything, but because we want to show our love for him. Giving is an expression of obedience, yes, but also of gratitude, trust, and increasing joy. God seeks out and recognizes those who worship him. *1 Chronicles 29:1-20 / Matthew 26:6-13 / Acts 17:25*

## 8 Motives matter more than money

Our giving is a measure of our hearts, which God sees clearly. Jesus said there is more blessing in giving than getting, but we will only know this as truth when we experience the joy of it for ourselves. *1 Samuel 16:7 / Micah 6:6-8 / Acts 20:35*

## 9 What we do now is of eternal importance

Giving is preparation for our role in eternity, shaping us into who he wants us to be. For now, we are stewards of his possessions, and how we manage them either stores treasure in heaven or will be lost or destroyed. When we invest what we have in God's kingdom and God's people, we send something ahead that will last forever. *Matthew 6:19-21 / Matthew 25:14-30 / Philippians 3:20*

## 10 Time is of the essence

Though we're promised eternity, we're not promised a single day more on this earth – or even that what we have today we will still have tomorrow. There is a time for everything, and it's never too late to start. But the Bible communicates a clear sense of urgency, and we're called to wisely number our days. *Psalms 90:12 / 1 Timothy 6:17 / James 4:13-15*

# Your biblical foundation for giving

There are more than 2,350 verses in the Bible that reference the concept of giving, money, and possessions – twice as many as any other subject. These topics are at the heart of our Christian faith because they're more than just financial topics. They are spiritual transactions that can transform our lives.

The following exercises are designed to help you reflect and connect with what God wants for you in your generosity journey.

## QUIET REFLECTIONS

*Read the 10 biblical principles on pages 8-9, and study the Scripture references for each one.*

Which principles do you feel eager and comfortable to pursue?

Which principles feel more challenging or unfamiliar?

## PERSPECTIVES ON GIVING

As you reflect on your responses in the previous exercise, record some times where you have experienced these biblical principles at work in your life.

What are some of the barriers in your life that might be hindering you from believing or practicing the principles that are more challenging?

## GUIDING SCRIPTURE

What are some of your favorite Bible verses and passages that inspire you to give? If you need inspiration, start with the Scripture references for each principle.

Choose the Scripture that will guide your future giving:



On your Guidebook Summary, transfer your **Guiding Scripture** to **Section 1**.

# Legacy

*Purpose: Uncover the legacy God wants me to leave for future generations*

The story you write today will establish the foundation for the legacy you leave tomorrow. These exercises empower you to pass on values, not only valuables, and set expectations for your heirs. You'll focus on preparing the next generation to make kingdom impact an enduring trait of your legacy.

## QUIET REFLECTIONS

*Reflect on each aspirational statement below.*

I know the values I want to pass on to the next generation.	The future generation(s) in my family are generous and engaged in giving.	I want the next generation(s) to carry on our family's passions and charitable causes.
My estate plan reflects my faith.	I am clear about how much to give my heirs and charities now and in the future.	My heirs are prepared to handle the wealth my estate plan will leave them.
We have regular discussions about what God desires for our wealth.	We have established traditions that celebrate our giving.	I have a mentor or friend who helps me reflect generosity in my life.

As you think about your legacy of generosity, what do you feel most confident about?

What feels challenging or unfamiliar?

## DISCOVER YOUR STORY

God is writing his story of transformation through you and for the world. The blessings and challenges you have experienced can equip you to join him in the story he's writing.

*Imagine the line below represents your life. In the space above the line, write your high points – events, experiences, or seasons that have brought you great joy. In the space below the line, write your low points – the disappointments, pains, or trials that have impacted you.*



*Reflect on the story of your life.*

How might God use your story to bring peace into a broken world?

## VALUES

Choose the values you want to prioritize today so the story God is writing through you carries on to future generations.

Circle 8-10 values below. Feel free to write in any other values in the blank below.

- |                |               |                     |                 |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Acceptance     | Development   | Innovation          | Risk-taking     |
| Accountability | Diversity     | Joy                 | Safety          |
| Achievement    | Empathy       | Kindness            | Security        |
| Advancement    | Encouragement | Knowledge           | Self-control    |
| Adventure      | Ethics        | Leadership          | Selflessness    |
| Advocacy       | Excellence    | Learning            | Service         |
| Appreciation   | Fairness      | Love                | Simplicity      |
| Autonomy       | Family        | Loyalty             | Stability       |
| Benevolence    | Flexibility   | Making a Difference | Success         |
| Boldness       | Freedom       | Motivation          | Teamwork        |
| Challenge      | Friendships   | Open-mindedness     | Thankfulness    |
| Cheerfulness   | Fun           | Optimism            | Trustworthiness |
| Cleverness     | Generosity    | Originality         | Uniqueness      |
| Collaboration  | Grace         | Passion             | Vision          |
| Commitment     | Growth        | Peace               | Warmth          |
| Community      | Happiness     | Performance         | Well-being      |
| Compassion     | Health        | Playfulness         | Wisdom          |
| Contribution   | Honesty       | Proactivity         |                 |
| Cooperation    | Humility      | Professionalism     |                 |
| Creativity     | Humor         | Quality             |                 |
| Daringness     | Inclusiveness | Recognition         |                 |
| Dedication     | Independence  | Resilience          |                 |
| Dependability  | Individuality | Resourcefulness     |                 |

Other(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share ...”*

— 1 TIMOTHY 6:18



On your Guidebook Summary, transfer your **Values** to **Section 1**.

# Family

*Purpose: Gain insight about how generosity can bring unity and purpose to my family*

Generosity is a beautiful force that can bind loved ones together with greater joy and a sense of purpose. When a family has a unified purpose for giving that also celebrates the uniqueness of each family member, spiritual capital is naturally transferred to the next generation. The following exercises are designed to help you reflect and connect with how God wants to unify your family through giving.

As you work through this section, think about it in the context of those you consider to be family – the people closest to you who currently, or will one day, share the privilege and responsibility of managing the resources that God has entrusted to you.

## QUIET REFLECTIONS

*Reflect on each aspirational statement below.*

My family is unified and engaged in giving decisions.	Our giving has strengthened the relationships within our family.	Generosity strengthens my children's and grandchildren's relationship with God.
I have conversations with my spouse about giving.	I have conversations with my children and grandchildren about giving.	My children and grandchildren are independently generous.
Our family is unified on how God wants us to share our wealth.	Our family has a defined mission and purpose that guides our giving.	My family knows where we give and why.

As you think about your family's generosity, what do you feel most confident about?

What feels challenging or unfamiliar?

## FAMILY GENEROSITY

*Reflect on your family's story of generosity.*

What are some good things to celebrate?

What is contributing to any challenges your family is experiencing?

## GIVING INTENTIONS

Pray about how God could use your generosity to bring about transformation in you and your family. Write a few statements that capture your aspirations.



On your Guidebook Summary, transfer your **Giving Intentions** to **Section 1**.

# Passions

*Purpose: Discover where God is calling me to give*

With generosity as the guiding principle of your faith, there are many ways that passion can be expressed through giving. The following exercises will help you identify the causes and issues that bring you joy, challenge your heart, or compel you to invest. Let's clarify your reasons for giving and define the specific charities and ministries that God is calling you to support.

## QUIET REFLECTIONS

*Reflect on each aspirational statement below.*

My giving is aligned with my passions.	I have found the right charities and ministries to support.	When I am asked to give, I know when to say "yes" and when to say "no."
I am actively joining God in his plans for the world.	My giving is aligned with what God is passionate about.	I give my time and talent to causes I care about.
My heart is very connected to the causes I support.	I can see how my personal journey has equipped me to respond to needs in the world.	My giving pushes me outside my comfort zone.

As you think about where you give, what do you feel most confident about?

What feels challenging or unfamiliar?

## CAUSES

*Look through the list of causes below. Using different colored pens, follow each prompt below:*

1. Circle any cause(s) you have supported financially.
2. Circle any cause(s) you have supported with time, skills, or influence.
3. Circle any cause(s) that God might be calling or equipping you to begin supporting.
4. Underline the causes you feel most passionate about. These could be causes that bring you great joy, break your heart, or draw you nearer to God.

Addiction	Developmental Disabilities	Leadership Development	Public Policy
Adoption & Foster Care	Disaster Relief	Legal Services	Right to Life
Animal Protection & Welfare	Domestic Violence	Marriage	Refugee Support
Anti-Human Trafficking	Education	Media & Publishing	Shelter
Anti-Slavery	Ending Homelessness	Medical Research	Single Parents & Widows
Apologetics	Environment	Men's Ministry	Social Justice
Arts & Humanities	Family	Mental Health	Spiritual Development
Bible Translation	Food Supply	Microfinance	Sports & Recreation
Children's & Youth Ministry	Giving & Generosity	Military Support	Student Ministry
Christian Persecution	Healthcare	Missions	Water Quality & Supply
Church	History	Museums	Women's Ministry
Church Planting	Housing	Orphan Care	Youth Camps
Civil Rights	Human Rights	Pastoral Care	Other Causes:
Colleges & Universities	Humanitarian Aid & Development	Police & Fire Department	
Community Development	Jobs & Workplace	Prayer	
		Prison Ministry	

What does this tell you about where you want to allocate your resources in the future?

*For a definition of each cause above, visit [ncfgiving.com/causes](https://ncfgiving.com/causes)*



On your Guidebook Summary, transfer the **Causes** you want to support to **Section 1**.

## BIG DREAMS

Giving is an opportunity to join God in his big dreams for the world. In the left column below, make a list of the causes you want to support with your giving. What dreams has God placed on your heart for each of these causes? Write a statement that describes your dream for each cause in the middle column. What charities or ministries have a mission that aligns with your dream statement for each cause? Record those in the column on the right.

Cause(s)	Big Dreams	Charities

Review your full list and circle the charities you would like to give to in the next 6-12 months.



On your Guidebook Summary, transfer your **Big Dreams** to **Section 1** and **Charities** to **Section 2**.

*“For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.”*

– MATTHEW 6:21

# Wealth & Resources

*Purpose: Help me make the most of what I have to give*

God has given each of us a unique combination of wealth, skills, experience, and spiritual gifts to be used for generosity. The following exercises are designed to help you reflect on God's desires for your resources and unveil practical opportunities to maximize what you have to give.

## QUIET REFLECTIONS

*Reflect on each aspirational statement below.*

I have a wise and intentional plan to honor God with my resources.	I know all the resources I have to give.	I am clear about how much it costs to fund my desired lifestyle and how much to give away.
My giving is strategic and proactive.	I use charitable strategies to minimize taxes and maximize giving.	I give from all categories of my net worth such as cash, stock, private equity, and real estate.
I use my business to fund my generosity.	I prioritize my giving in budget planning.	I give my time and influence to causes I care about.

As you think about the wealth and resources you have to give, what do you feel most confident about?

What feels challenging or unfamiliar?

## INVENTORY OF ABUNDANCE

God has created you with a unique set of resources to share with the world. Use the space below to record your personal inventory of abundance.

MY RESOURCES		
<b>Everything I am</b> My testimony, talents, and physical, mental, and spiritual gifts	<b>Everything I do</b> My work, volunteering, and hobbies	<b>Everything I have</b> My wealth, time, influence, and knowledge

Prayerfully consider which resources God wants you to use as part of your Giving Strategy to fund the needs of your favorite causes. *Circle the resources you would consider giving.*



On your Guidebook Summary, transfer these **Resources** to **Section 2**.

## UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

For almost 40 years, our team at NCF has helped individuals and families increase their giving capacity through gifts of non-cash assets, which have greater potential tax advantages. We come alongside your existing team of financial professionals, attorneys, accountants, and other advisors to help you create a strategic plan for your giving.

Look at the list below and circle any non-cash assets you may be interested in giving. Which would you like to explore with your NCF team?

Publicly traded securities	Restricted securities	Business interests in your closely held company
Private equity and hedge fund investments	Real estate such as commercial investments, vacation homes, rental property, and farmland	Oil, gas, and mineral rights
Intellectual property	Retirement assets including your 401(k), IRA, and qualified charitable distributions	Life insurance
Promissory notes		

*“Well done, good and faithful servant .... Enter into the joy of your master.”*

– MATTHEW 25:23



On your Guidebook Summary, transfer the **Resources** you want to discuss to **Section 2**.

# Ready to take the next step?

God has designed a unique story of generosity for each one of us. That's why your NCF team is here to personally serve you and pray with you as you seek God's will for your Giving Strategy. When you're ready, we are here to talk and help you explore the possibilities.

Connect with your NCF team today

Visit [ncfgiving.com/locations](https://ncfgiving.com/locations) or call us at [800.681.6223](tel:800.681.6223)

## Want to dive deeper?

Visit our Generosity Library at [ncfgiving.com/givingstrategy](https://ncfgiving.com/givingstrategy) for a collection of content about biblical generosity, including books, videos, podcasts, websites, studies, and much more.



*Scan this QR code with your phone for a link to the Generosity Library*

We know that when it comes to everything you are and everything you have, you want to be faithful, generous, and fully alive.

A well-planned, intentional strategy for your giving can help make all the difference. Since 1982, our team of charitable giving experts at the National Christian Foundation (NCF) has helped thousands of givers like you mobilize more than \$12 billion to more than 63,000 charities. We come alongside you to develop a Giving Strategy with a biblical foundation that involves your family, maximizes your resources, and leaves a lasting legacy.

### NCF can support you with a variety of charitable giving solutions

Giving Funds  
(donor-advised funds)

Non-cash giving  
(stock, real estate,  
business interests)

Impact investing

Supporting organizations

Creative strategies for  
business owners

Charitable gift annuities

International granting

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