



National Christian
FOUNDATION®



Giving Strategy™

GUIDEBOOK

Pursuing God's story for
your generosity



Welcome

You're about to embark on a journey to see the beautiful story that God is writing through your giving.

As you complete a series of thoughtful exercises, you'll develop your own unique Giving Strategy based on biblical principles.

The goal is to help you walk away with a well-planned strategy so you can leave a meaningful legacy, cultivate unity in your family, clarify the causes you're called to support, and maximize your impact.

Let's get started →

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How to use this guidebook

1 Reflect on biblical principles

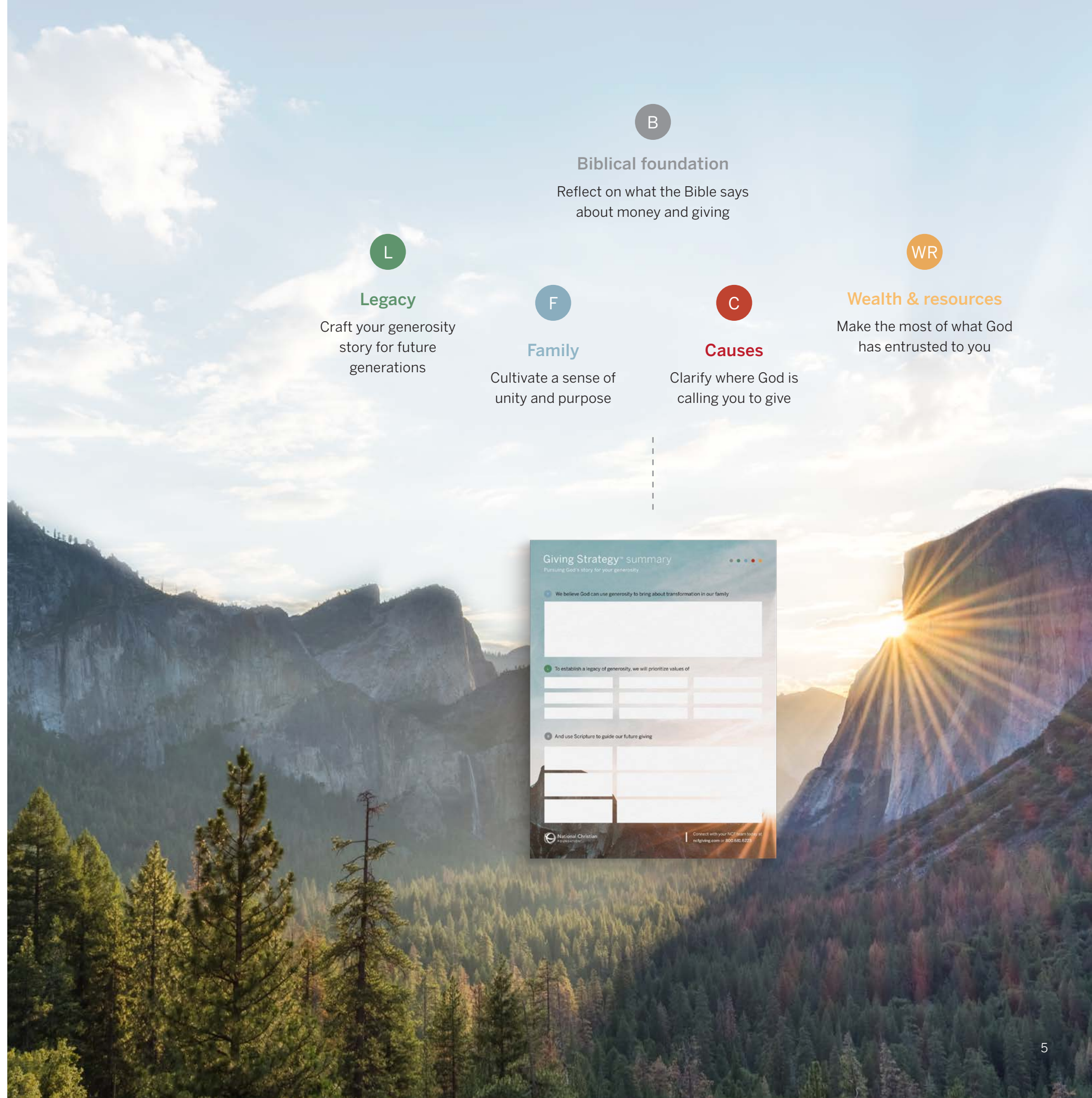
You'll start by exploring your spiritual foundation for giving through 10 biblical principles about generosity.

2 Complete generosity exercises

Then, you'll apply those biblical principles to a series of exercises that relate to key areas of generosity in your life: legacy, family, causes, and wealth & resources.

3 Record your answers in the guidebook summary

At the end of each series of exercises, you'll record your answers in the guidebook summary, which is on the last page of this booklet. You can also download it at ncfgiving.com/guidebooksummary. When you're done, your summary will serve as a practical plan you can use to guide your giving for years to come.



B

Biblical foundation

Reflect on what the Bible says about money and giving

L

Legacy

Craft your generosity story for future generations

F

Family

Cultivate a sense of unity and purpose

C

Causes

Clarify where God is calling you to give

WR

Wealth & resources

Make the most of what God has entrusted to you





Your biblical foundation for giving

These 10 biblical principles are truths about how God uses giving to transform us. Before you begin the other Giving Strategy exercises, a reflective journey through these verses can help illuminate the way generosity can draw you closer to God and his purposes for you and your family.

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*

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. *Psalm 24:1-2 / Romans 12:1 / 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

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*

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 6:18-19*

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. *Psalm 23:1 / Matthew 19:16-30 / 1 Timothy 6:6-10*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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. *Psalm 90:12 / 1 Timothy 6:17 / James 4:13-15*

Your biblical foundation for giving

QUIET REFLECTIONS

Read NCF's "10 days of biblical generosity" devotional before diving into the questions below.

(Download available at ncfgiving.com/devotional)

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 when 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 up to three Scriptures that will guide your future giving.

B On your guidebook summary, transfer guiding Scripture(s) to section B



Legacy

Craft a story of generosity for future generations

The story you write today will establish the foundation for the legacy you leave tomorrow. These exercises will 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.

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

– 1 TIMOTHY 6:18

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.

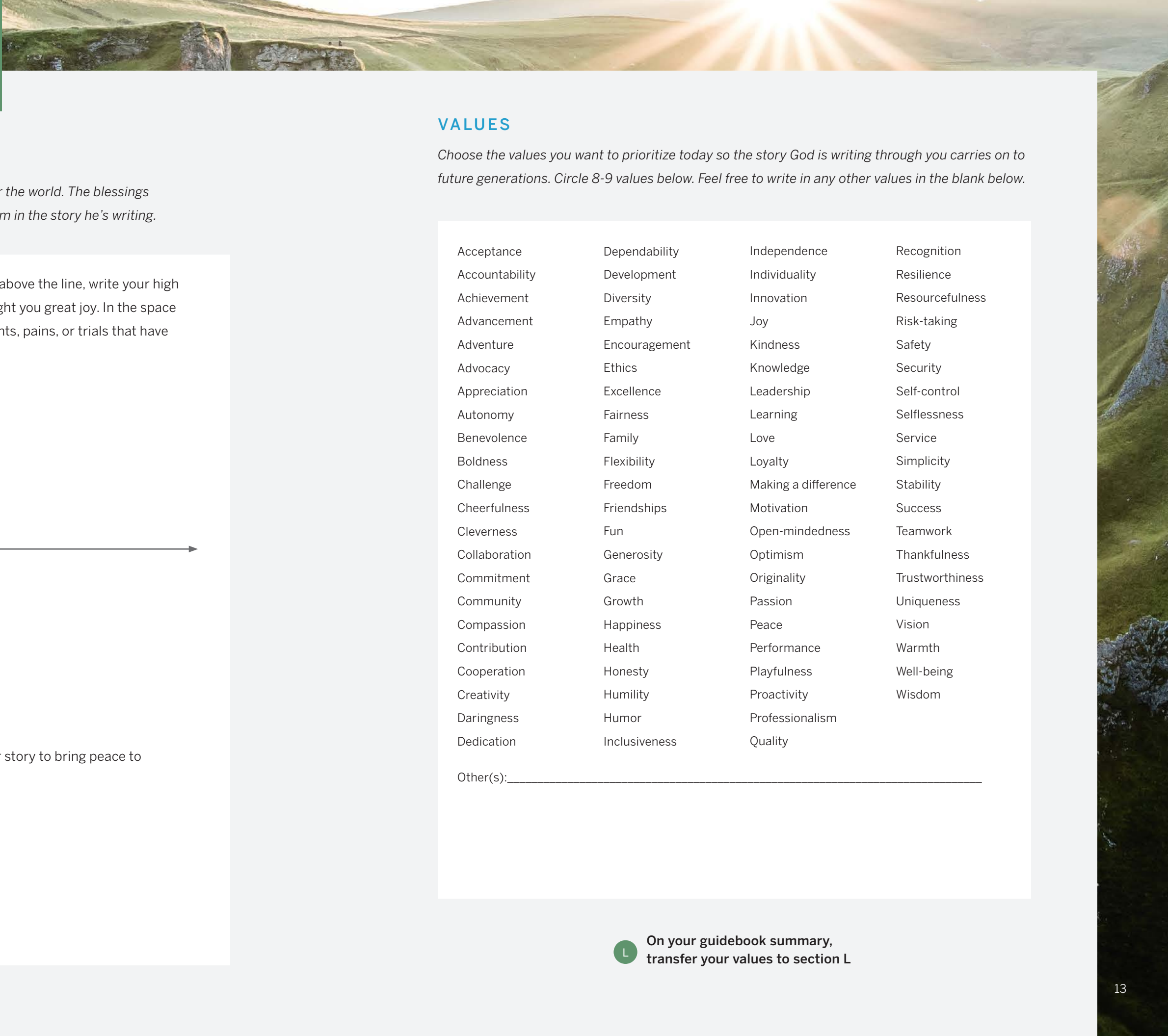
We have regular discussions about what God desires for our wealth.

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 to 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 8-9 values below. Feel free to write in any other values in the blank below.

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

Other(s): _____



On your guidebook summary, transfer your values to section L



Family

Cultivate a sense of unity and purpose

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.

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

– PHILIPPIANS 2:13

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.

F On your guidebook summary, transfer your giving intentions to section F



Causes

Clarify where God is calling you to give

With generosity as a 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.

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

– MATTHEW 6:21

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

CAUSES

Look through the list of causes below, and follow each of these four prompts.

1. Draw a \$ next to any cause(s) you have supported financially.
2. Draw a ★ next to any cause(s) you have supported with time, skills, or influence.
3. Draw a ✓ next to any cause(s) God may be calling or equipping you to begin supporting.
4. Draw a ♥ next to 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	Disaster relief	Leadership development	Prison ministry
Adoption & foster care	Domestic violence	Legal services	Public policy
Animal protection & welfare	Education	Marketplace ministry	Retreat centers & camps
Apologetics	Environment	Marriage	Refugee support
Arts & humanities	Evangelism & missions	Media & publishing	Right to life
Bible translation	Family	Medical care	Single parents & widows
Children's & youth ministry	Food supply	Medical research	Slavery
Christian persecution	Giving & generosity	Men's ministry	Social justice
Church	History	Mental health	Spiritual development
Church planting	Homelessness	Microfinance	Sports & recreation
Civil rights	Housing	Military support	Student ministry
Colleges & universities	Human rights	Museums	Water quality & supply
Community development	Human trafficking	Orphan care	Women's ministry
Developmental disabilities	Humanitarian aid & development	Pastoral care	
	Jobs & workplace	Police & fire department	
		Prayer	

For a definition of each cause above, visit ncfgiving.com/causes.

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

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 up to four 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.

C On your guidebook summary, transfer this page to section C



Wealth & resources

Make the most of what you 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 consider God's desires for your resources and unveil practical opportunities to maximize what you have to give.

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

– MATTHEW 25:23

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.

Prayerfully consider which resources God wants you to use as part of your Giving Strategy to fund the needs of your favorite causes, and write them below. Then, circle the resources you would consider giving.


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

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

Giving non-cash assets, instead of writing checks, often comes with greater tax advantages.

Look at the list below and circle any non-cash assets you may be interested in giving.

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		

 On your guidebook summary, transfer any resources circled on these two pages to section WR



Congratulations on completing your guidebook

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 can help you explore the possibilities.

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

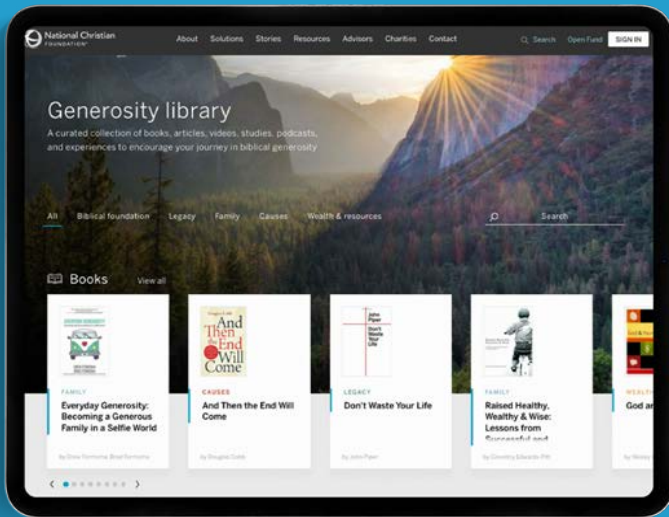
– JOHN 10:10

Ready to take the next step?

Connect with your NCF team today

Visit ncfgiving.com/locations

or call us at [800.681.6223](tel:800.681.6223)



Want to dive deeper?

A well-planned Giving Strategy takes time, prayer, and thoughtful study. If you're searching for resources to help you explore all types of topics related to your legacy, family, causes, and wealth & resources, you'll find a wide range of options in NCF's generosity library.

You'll have easy access to a curated collection of biblical generosity content in a variety of formats, including books, videos, podcasts, websites, studies, and much more.



Visit NCF's generosity library at:
ncfgiving.com/library



More than 30,000 families look to NCF's 30 local teams to help them wisely steward their resources and maximize their impact for the causes they love. Since 1982, givers have mobilized more than \$17 billion for 90,000 charities.