

CORNERSTONE

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

PRACTICAL GUIDE SHEET FOR

CULTIVATING GENEROSITY AND CONTENTMENT



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PRAYER OF ABUNDANCE¹

Pray this prayer on your own, with your family or with your small group.

We know that we are cared for by an abundant Provider.

Let us choose to be grateful and trusting.

We know that we have enough and that what we need will always be provided.

Let us choose to be content and generous.

We know that our choices matter for ourselves, for others and for future generations.

Help us to live consciously and creatively, celebrating the signs of your New Creation that is present and coming.

Creator, who made us to seek the greater good of your kingdom,

Guide us to spend our time, talents and resources on what matters most.

Teach us to be free,

to live without worry, fear or greed in the freedom of your abundance.

Give us our daily bread, as we share ours with the hungry.

We give you thanks for the precious gift of life!

Amen

TITHING WORKSHEET

A tithe, by definition is 10 percent of one's income, given back to God "off the top" as an act of grateful worship for his faithful provision, and of faith in his ability to continue to meet all your needs. Do you hear God calling you to test him in this (Malachi 3:10)? Use the formula below to calculate your monthly tithe.

My/our income: _____ **X 10%*** = _____ **/ 12** = _____

If Cornerstone is your home church, you can direct your giving at www.cornerstonechurch.ca/give

*If 10% feels like too big of a step to take right now, start with 2% or 5% and increase the amount over time. If you're already tithing, is God inviting you to go beyond 10%?

¹ Mark Scandrette, *Free: Spending Your Time and Money on What Matters Most* (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2013)

EXPERIMENTS: CONTENT IN ALL THINGS

The world tells us that having more will make us happy. But God invites us to embrace radical contentment. Try these experiments so that you can declare along with Paul,

I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

(Philippians 4:12, NLT)

Does having more make me happy?

Spend 30 minutes watching television or surfing the Internet. Pay attention to the words and images in the advertisements. Ask yourself, What is this ad promising me? Would buying this product actually make me happy?²

Choose voluntary simplicity

Learn contentment by setting a goal to reduce your consumption in any of these areas that apply: food, clothing, housing, transportation, consumer goods, entertainment. Try this experiment for a month.

Create a spending plan

Learn how to create a budget and get money-saving tips on grocery shopping, gift ideas and more at www.daveramsey.com/budgeting

EXPERIMENTS: SEEING GOD THROUGH THE EYES OF THE POOR

Did you know...

- 10% of the world lives on less than \$2 a day
- If you make more than \$1,800/year, you're in the top 20 percent of the wealthiest people
- Despite the fact that Americans are among the wealthiest people in the world, only 2% surveyed by a Gallup poll said they felt rich

It's hard for us to relate to the struggles many people in the world face. Try these experiments³ to identify with them and ask God to change your heart and fill you with his compassion.

- Go grocery shopping, then donate everything to a local food pantry.
- Sleep on the floor for a week. Consider how different your life would be if this were your routine.
- Go through your house and find items you feel invited to give away or sell. Give the proceeds to a charity.
- Go to kiva.com and give a loan to someone in a developing country.
- For one week, plan to spend \$2/day on your food.

² Ibid.

³ Adapted from Bruce Nuffer, *The Kingdom Experiment* (Kansas City, Missouri: The House Studio, 2009)