



# Five Steps to Launch Your Giving Collaboration

Five steps that will take you from early brainstorming to a fully launched giving collaboration.

# five steps to launch your giving collaboration

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## INTRODUCTION

If you're a giver who has decided to seriously consider collaborative giving, this launch guide is made just for you. Here you'll find five steps that will take you from early brainstorming to a fully launched giving collaboration.

We hope these steps help you fulfill God's calling on you and your community as you give together. We're always delighted to help groups in their journey, so please feel free to reach out at any time if we can serve you.

**John Cortines & Cameron Doolittle**  
[info@generoustogether.com](mailto:info@generoustogether.com)

# step one prayer & discernment

Let's dive in! Welcome to the journey toward becoming generous together. This first step focuses heavily on spiritual discernment. We invite you to consider God's direction and specific calling upon your giving as you begin.

- 1A. (optional) Read for context.** If you haven't yet, take 5-10 minutes to read "generous together 101" to gain a bit more perspective on giving collaborations. Also consider Appendix A, Three Biblical Giving Collaborations, for some examples of collaborative giving in Scripture.
- 1B. Engage in focused prayer.** You can use Appendix B: 21 Days of Prayer, which anchors a short daily prayer in relevant Scripture, or you can pursue your own method of directly seeking God's input through prayer. Either way, don't miss this critical step. Submit this venture to the Lord and listen for His guiding voice.
- 1C. Set the initial direction.** God may have given you a vision for a specific task, and/or a specific set of peers who you want to launch this venture with. Fill in the worksheet below with your current thinking.

What strategic Kingdom challenge could this group be called to help solve? Imagine filling in this sentence: "We are called to fund (type of work) in (geographical area) ." It's OK if this is not fully settled at this time; brainstorm some initial ideas.

**We are called to fund**

**in**

**Examples:** "We are called to fund..."

- Church planting in Europe
- Anti-human trafficking in Seattle
- Great Commission work in Tasmania

**A Core Group:** Who are 2-4 people or couples you'd love to give with?

In the next step, you'll initiate conversation with these peers.

## step two

# share your vision

**2A. Invite peers to join you.** Now that you've learned about collaborative giving, listened for God's voice and calling, and discerned who to share this vision with, it's time to initiate conversations.

Your task is to map out a plan for sharing your vision with the core group you identified in Step 1. You might start by sharing some reading materials, having lunch to run through your vision, or hosting an intimate group dinner at your home. No one knows your peers better than you. Choose the best approach for each of them.

As you connect with others, remember to prioritize relationship at least as much as you prioritize strategy and impact. You're forming a community of transformation, not just a hub for transactions. Durable collaborations thrive on relationships. Share your story. Invite your friends to share their Kingdom passions and their stories of generosity. If the group has never experienced a Journey of Generosity (JOG), consider doing one together.

### When and how will I pursue conversations with the core group?



Since prayer is the foundation, encourage a group discernment process. "Unless the LORD builds the house...." (Psalm 127:1). Set a mutual time of prayer, fasting, and waiting on the Lord for clarity. Finally, don't worry if someone decides that this is not for them now. God has a big Kingdom; some will have other parts to play!

Once a core group commits to a broad vision together, the next step is to write a group charter together. This is where the vision begins to really take shape!

## step three create a charter

- 3A. **(optional) Let's talk.** As you engage this step, know that we'd be glad to talk through group structure and strategy any time. We are delighted to speak to pre-launch giving collaborations to share what we've learned working in this space. When appropriate, we can also connect you to peer collaborations who may have valuable insights.
- 3B. **Write your group's charter.** A charter brings clarity to this collaborative project for all involved—especially the leaders! Follow the guide in Appendix C: Creating Your Charter to build your own. The guide walks through the “Five F’s” of collaboration: Focus, Friends, Funds, Frequency, and Financial Model. When collaborations fail, it's often because of misaligned expectations. Drive to clarity and unity now. Please customize and modify as much as you'd like – it's your collaboration!

## step four host a launch event

With the core group committed and the charter clarified, your group is ready to get started! The core group will now work together to share the vision with peers and invite them to a special launch event. The launch event creates space to lay the relational and strategic groundwork for the collaboration.

- 4A. **Select a venue and date.** As a core group, pick a date that maximizes group availability and ensure your selected venue is available.
- 4B. **Invite peers.** Working together as a core team, think of 10-12 givers or couples you want to invite into this collaboration. Plan for some to decline – you may want to invite 15 or 20 or more to get to 10-12 to say “yes.” Divide the invites among the core group and work to begin sharing the vision and receiving RSVPs.
- 4C. **Execute the event.** Who will speak? How will you cast vision? How will you tee up relational conversations, sharing of personal stories, and group testimonies? You'll need an administratively gifted person to handle the logistics. We are happy to connect with you to talk through this step. Appendix E: Event Programs contains a program creation guide and two sample agendas that you may want an administratively-gifted person to help you plan toward.

By the end of this event, we pray you have a group of givers committed to a shared vision, who are excited to begin giving together.

## step five

# give together!

**5A. Assign key roles to ensure the collaboration's durability.** Durable collaborations usually employ an administrator who handles issues of execution and logistics. We often find that groups hire a part-time Collaboration Manager (CM) who performs a wide variety of functions to help the group fulfil their vision. The CM will serve as the glue that holds the collaboration together; they ensure tasks stay on-track as you step into steps 5B and 5C below. A role description is available in Appendix D.

At generous together, we help givers launch and run high-impact, joyful giving communities that change the world for Jesus. To do this, we have staff available to serve collaborations like yours. If you want some help thinking through how to find the right CM or whether we can assist in any way, we're glad to connect.

**5B. Source and vet projects.** As you anticipate your first giving event, you'll need to source, vet, and potentially help re-shape grant proposals from great ministries. The CM can drive this process, potentially with the help of a Project Advisor (as described in Appendix D). The givers in your collaboration do not need to be logistically burdened with this step - this is where your administrative leader can really shine!

**5C. Invite your community and build momentum for your first giving event.** Time to work toward your first giving event. This will be an exciting moment - the fruition of your work, planning, and prayer over the past months. As the CM helps you drive forward and you design a program, and as the givers invite peers and prepare, don't forget to cover the event in prayer.

The big day will arrive soon... congratulations on launching a giving collaboration!

## closing note

We hope this short guide has been a blessing to your collaborative giving efforts. If we haven't spoken with you, would you reach out and let us know how your collaboration is doing? We're available at [info@generoustogether.com](mailto:info@generoustogether.com).

As the group launches, the Collaboration Manager will likely feel the need to initiate professional processes to manage deal flow, giver communications, post-grant reporting, etc. We are building a more detailed operating manual entitled, 'Operating Your Giving Collaboration: generous together 301'. This tool is available upon request. (Givers may not want to come within a mile of this detailed document... but it will be the Collaboration Manager's best friend!)

We are always here for you!

# appendix a

## explore three biblical giving collaborations

There are many instances of collaborative giving throughout scripture. This brief study highlights three examples. We invite you to consider how God used collaborative giving to accomplish more than what one giver could have ever done alone.

### THE FIRST JERUSALEM TEMPLE

**Read Scripture:** 1 Chronicles 29: 1-22

**Reflect:** What elements of collaboration do you see in the story?

#### Legacy & Lessons

- While David catalyzed this giving effort, the gifts of the national leaders were larger in size than David's personal gifts.
- David brought the group together, but Jehiel the Gershonite oversaw the administration of the funds. He was the Collaboration Manager.
- The group ate, drank, worshipped, and celebrated with glad hearts!
- The original temple stood for over 400 years. Its legacy lives on today, providing a spiritual and metaphorical basis for our New Testament role, in which the Church is the temple of the Lord, built with "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5).
- This giving collaboration is the last recorded act of King David. He mobilized his wealth and influence toward a national project that would honor the name of God and start out Solomon's reign in a God-honoring direction.

### THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

**Read Scripture:** Luke 8: 1-3 and John 12: 1-8; 17-18.

**Reflect:** What elements of collaboration do you see in the story?

#### Legacy & Lessons

- The givers - Mary, Martha, Joanna, Susanna, and their wealthy peers - were not just financial donors. They play a key role in proclaiming Jesus' Lordship during the Passion week. Their testimony drew many to Jesus.
- For further context and study: John 11, Luke 10: 38-42.
- This collaboration is perhaps the most meaningful giving collaboration in history. By God's grace, they played a role in the foundations of the entire Christian Church. Yet, it was imperfect. Some of the funds were stolen and misappropriated by Judas! Our collaborations will also be imperfect, but we trust God to still do great work. This story is also a reminder that the true "heroes" of a giving collaboration are the ministers who accomplish good works. (In this case, Jesus Christ and his disciples.) The funders stand faithfully beside Gospel workers as partners and friends, but are not the focus of attention.



## THE EARLY CHURCH COMMUNITY

**Read Scripture:** Acts 4:32 - 5:11 and Acts 6: 1-7

**Reflect:** What elements of collaboration do you see in the story?

### Legacy & Lessons

- There was an ongoing “daily distribution” to care for the widows and other needy in the community, initially overseen by the Apostles, who recognized the need for professional administration (a Collaboration Manager).
- This collaboration also faced challenges via the lies of Ananias and Sapphira, and by divisions arising when the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews.
- For further context and study: 1 Tim 5: 3-16 (same model; different church).
- The early church grew as the Gospel was proclaimed and believers lived out Jesus’ command to love one another as He had loved them and to care for the poor.
- Barnabas’ participation in this giving collaboration played a role in his discipleship journey; he later was a missionary partner with Paul.

## appendix b

# pray through the 21-day discernment guide

As you discern God's direction in launching your giving collaboration, please take 21 days to pray and reflect on Scripture. This guide can be completed in just five minutes per day.

### GOD'S VISION FOR THIS INITIATIVE

Passage	Questions to Ask God	Notes
Day 1: Zechariah 4:6	Holy Spirit, how might I be tempted to rely on my own might and power? How can I rely upon You rather than myself?	
Day 2: Acts 13:1-3	Father, what role do you want fasting and prayer to play? Whom do you want to commission for this work?	
Day 3: 1 Peter 4:7-11	Holy Spirit, how do you want to shape this initiative so that "God may be praised through Jesus"?	
Day 4: Mark 10:45	Jesus, how do you want me to be a servant in this initiative as you have been a servant to me?	
Day 5: John 15:4-8	Jesus, what fruit do you want this to bear? How do you want me to abide in you?	

## BETTER TOGETHER

Passage	Questions to Ask God	Notes
Day 6: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Father, since you say two are better than one, who do you want to walk with me in this?	
Day 7: Hebrews 10:24-25	Father, how do you want to use this initiative to encourage your children?	
Day 8: 1 Corinthians 12:12-20	Holy Spirit, what gifts have you put in people that this initiative will need?	
Day 9: 1 Corinthians 12:21-26	Father, what gifts am I prone to value less? Value more? How do you want us to suffer together and be honored together?	

## GOD'S HEART FOR GENEROSITY

Passage	Questions to Ask God	Notes
Day 10: Acts 2:42-47	Holy Spirit, what compelled such radical generosity? How will you use our generosity?	
Day 11: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9	Jesus, what do you want me to see about the Macedonian's generosity? What do you want me to see about your sacrifice for me?	
Day 12: Isaiah 58:6-12	Father, what promises do you make to those who love the oppressed?	
Day 13: Acts 20:32-35	Jesus, why did you say that it's more blessed to give than to receive? What blessings have you given me through giving?	
Day 14: 1 Tim 6:17-19	Holy Spirit, how can I avoid the spiritual entrapments of wealth? Would you help me lay a foundation for the age to come?	

## INVITING OTHERS

Passage	Questions to Ask God	Notes
Day 15: Judges 7:2-8	Jesus, who are the right handful of people? Am I tempted by large numbers? If so, why?	
Day 16: Acts 4:32-35	Father, whose hearts are you preparing to be "one"? What are you inviting me to sell?	
Day 17: John 19:38-40	Jesus, why did you have Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus work together to prepare your body?	
Day 18: Acts 6:1-7	Holy Spirit, who are the kinds of people you want to gather together to distribute gifts through this initiative?	

## EARTHLY MISSION, ETERNAL HOPE

Passage	Questions to Ask God	Notes
Day 19: Matthew 22: 36-40	Jesus, will you deepen my understanding of your great commandment? How can we live this out through our giving?	
Day 20: Matthew 28:18-20	Holy Spirit, how can I better align my life with the great commission that Jesus gave His disciples?	
Day 21: Revelation 21:1-7	Father, thank you for this picture of hope. Will you help me be a part of realizing glimpses of this future reality, in the here and now?	

**What themes did you sense God highlighting for you?**

**How has this engagement with Scripture and prayer shaped your thinking regarding your planned giving collaboration?**

## appendix c

# create your charter

Focus	Friends	Funds	Frequency	Financial Model
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### WHAT FAITH-DRIVEN GOALS HAS GOD GIVEN THIS GROUP?

You may have already set this direction with clarity during preliminary group discussions. If not, it's time to establish a geographic and sector-based focus for your group.

#### **Principles:**

##### **Gather to share.**

- "We had vague vision. But we've listened and prayed and strategized to ask, 'What do we move towards?'" - Johan, Madagascar
- "We couldn't gather around principles. Next time, I would be explicit and purposeful." - Unsuccessful Collaboration, UK
- "We all start with specific passions. To give together, we have to take off those 'passion hats' and look at Kingdom advancement." - Danie, South Africa

##### **Give to solve.**

- "We wanted to end human trafficking in our city." - Kendra, USA
- "We are here to raise the tide of ministry effectiveness in India." - Joseph, India
- "We want healthy churches planted in every major European city. We identified the church value chain and found the two spots where money is helpful." - Patrick, UK
- "We are attacking evangelism in Tasmania in a proactive way, sharing the Gospel." - John, Australia
- "You need big vision. How can we bring givers together for powerful Kingdom impact?" - Todd, USA

#### **Questions:**

**What passions—particular issues or places—has God put on the hearts of your group?**

**What would it look like to solve that issue? Is there a big vision you can rally around?**

**Given our focus, by geography and sector, should we name our group? If so, what (e.g., European Great Commission Collaboration, Tasmania Christian Fund, Ambassadors Club)?**

Focus

**Friends**

Funds

Frequency

Financial Model

## WHO'S INVOLVED?

### **Principles:**

#### **Safe.**

- "We create a safe environment. Only business people. No ministry people." - Emanuel, Romania
- "It's donors relating to donors; we invest in relationship." - Todd, USA

#### **Aligned.**

- "They have personal faith in Jesus and realize that their money is God's. - Ken, N. Ireland
- "We want them to hold to the Lausanne Covenant." - Sanjay, Pakistan

#### **Selective.**

- "You have to be recommended by another donor" - Patrick, UK
- "We need people who can think big and are not afraid of giving large amounts." - Romain, France

### **Questions:**

**Who's invited and how do we determine eligibility to join? (Will we adhere to a statement of faith?)**

**Who will meet with candidates to cast vision? How do they become a member?**

Focus

Friends

**Funds**

Frequency

Financial Model

## WHAT DO PARTICIPANTS GIVE?

### *Principles:*

#### **Minimums.**

- “We expect 5000€ beyond your tithe.” – Emanuel, Romania
- “We look for people who can invest \$1 million...” – Al, USA
- “We start with \$10,000 overall for the group of ten.” – Johan, Madagascar
- “Our group was 125,000£ for the founding donors.” – Ken, N. Ireland

#### **Marketplace or mutual fund.**

Most groups take a “marketplace” approach in which givers gather to learn about projects but make individual contributions. Those are coordinated and distributed by the collaboration. Mutual fund approaches – where funds all go into one pot – work when: (a) contribution levels are lower; (b) security makes project evaluation hard; and/or (c) givers have longstanding relationships of trust.

- “You can invest in specific geographies, topics, or agencies.” – Todd, USA
- “There is no shared purse. Givers make their own decisions as God leads.” – Dusan, Czech Republic

### *Questions:*

**What minimum is high enough to set big vision, but modest enough to be inclusive?**

**Do you prefer a marketplace or mutual fund approach?**

**If marketplace, who administers and coordinates the gifts? Are gift amounts public, or held confidentially by the administrator?**

**If mutual fund, who decides how the mutual fund is deployed? How do they give transparency to the givers to build trust?**

Focus

Friends

Funds

**Frequency**

Financial Model

## HOW OFTEN WILL YOUR GROUP GATHER? FOR HOW LONG?

### *Principles:*

#### **Personal.**

- “Our collaborations meet in person at least once a year, sometimes twice.” - Marcin, Poland
- “The investment council meets monthly by phone, but the whole group goes to a retreat center together once a year.” - Al, USA
- “We gather for a quarterly event for one hour. People are busy and they appreciate that it’s a set amount of time. But some people come early or stay late for a glass of wine.” - Carolyn, USA

When people live in the same city, they tend to gather quarterly for an evening. All long-standing groups meet in person, usually somewhere fun, getting to know each other as families.

#### **Periodic.**

- “We meet twice a year at a restaurant in Paris.” - Romain, France
- “We meet once for inspiration and once to give to projects.” - Adam, Czech Republic
- “We take one day a year to review all the projects and make decisions.” - John, Australia
- “We’ve had an overnight retreat for couples and then meet for dinner once a quarter.” Jonathan, USA

### *Questions:*

**How often will your group gather in person? How often for virtual updates?**

**What role do you want spouses and children to have in these events?**

**What are some locations that might be conducive to a relaxing, reflective time?**



## Generous Together Group Charter

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

We have sought God and believe He’s invited us to begin a group that will be generous together.

The families agreeing to this charter are:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Focus.** We are called to fund \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

Solving this issue will look like: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We readily and happily acknowledge that only God can solve this, but we are grateful that our Father invites us to come to work with Him.

**Friends.** To partner with God, we will invite a group of friends to a safe group, aligned on this issue.

People we will invite will believe these things about God: \_\_\_\_\_

To keep the environment safe, when new people want to join the group, we will vet them by \_\_\_\_\_

Before they join, the people who need to approve are \_\_\_\_\_

**Funding.** Participants will agree to give at least \_\_\_\_\_.

We will fund projects through the...

**Marketplace approach** so givers make individual decisions, coordinated by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mutual fund approach** Mutual fund approach, and the people in charge of allocating this mutual fund are \_\_\_\_\_. They will report their decisions to the group by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Frequency.** This group will gather \_\_\_ time(s) a year in person, and \_\_\_ times virtually. In-person events will take this much time: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Financial Model.** As we covenant, we recognize that there will be administrative costs. These costs will be handled in this way: \_\_\_\_\_.

Other givers cover some costs. These costs include \_\_\_\_\_.

Unless the Lord builds this house, we recognize that we are laboring in vain. (Psalm 127:1).

We pray that God breathes life into this charter and builds a house that solves the problem of \_\_\_\_\_ and that we get to celebrate this great victory together throughout eternity!

## appendix d

# establish roles: role descriptions

Once a group builds out their charter and prepares to launch, it is helpful to bring in workers who can help make the group's vision a reality. There are two key roles to be filled. They can be filled by volunteers, paid professionals, or seconded employees from a givers' business. We can often help groups think this through and are happy to discuss options with you.

These roles will vary considerably from one collaboration to the next, so please don't feel bound by what is written here. It's just a starting point that we hope is helpful.

### COLLABORATION MANAGER

**The Collaboration Manager (CM)** serves as the project manager and administrator of the giving collaboration. The CM must be respected by givers and able to manage complex initiatives with excellence. The CM is responsible for organizing group events and managing giving opportunities for the group.

**With regard to giving projects, the CM plays four key roles:**

1. gathering projects for consideration,
2. grooming projects by helping ministries sharpen proposals in order to fit the collaboration's desired profile,
3. grading projects in coordination with the Project Advisor(s), and
4. guarding givers, providing a buffer between givers and ministries, when desired.

Over time, the CM may become a trusted giving advisor for group members, counseling them on a wider range of issues related to giving.

### PROJECT ADVISOR

**The Project Advisor (PA)** serves as the subject-matter expert for the giving collaboration. Givers typically do not possess the nonprofit experience or expertise, or schedule capacity necessary to evaluate project proposals. The PA solves this issue by providing expert counsel to the collaboration, working in partnership with the Collaboration Manager. Note, there may be more than one PA (i.e. one PA for church planting, and another for youth outreach, based on individual expertise).

The CM often recruits the PA(s). Working with the CM, the PA evaluates and grades project proposals. The best proposals are taken before the giving collaboration for potential funding. The PA role may be extremely part-time, involving periodic engagement to evaluate a slate of projects that have been groomed and prepared by the CM, followed by longer periods of inactivity.

## appendix e

# host your event: creating your program

This section provides a summary of how to think about planning an event, while also giving a framework you can use to design your own collaborative giving gathering. What follows is flexible and adaptive, but gives clear directional guidance. We hope it proves helpful!

Your givers aren't just givers. They are whole people with hearts, souls, minds and strength. Most want to bring themselves to giving together. They're often tired of being treated as though their net worth equals their real worth.

C.S. Lewis asked, "Is any pleasure on earth as great as a circle of Christian friends by a fire?" Jesus agrees! "Love one another....By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." When Jesus called Peter to his greatest work (John 21), he didn't hold a strategy meeting. Rather, He cooked breakfast! Loving one another requires space and time.

Your generous together group isn't another shareholders' meeting; it's a sacred celebration! As you architect your time together, think in terms of "good", "better", and "best". It's "good" and worthwhile to host an extended dinner as a group. It's far better to spend a full day together. And finally, the best case scenario is a weekend away or overnight retreat, where relationships can deepen and flourish.

Relationship-Building Event Options		
Good	An Extended Evening / Dinner	6-9 p.m.
Better	A Full Day	9 a.m. - 5 p.m., or Noon - 9 p.m.
Best	An Overnight or Weekend Retreat	2-3 days

### THE THREE "BS" OF CREATING YOUR PROGRAM: BLOCKS, BREAKS, AND BEYOND

- Blocks.** Below are ten blocks of time. If you're spending a weekend together, each block is 90 minutes. If you're spending one evening together, each block is 15 minutes.

**Block 1:** Heart (God)

**Block 2:** Heart (One another)

**Block 3:** Head (Generosity)

**Block 4:** Head (Subject Matter)

**Block 5:** Head (Subject Matter)

**Block 6:** Hands (Projects)

**Block 7:** Hands (Projects)

**Block 8:** Hands (Projects)

**Block 9:** Hands (Q&A, Discernment)

**Block 10:** Heart (Prayer for projects and one another)

## Block 1: Heart (God)

### *Principles:*

#### **Create sacred space first.**

- “We’ve created this space where they can create community and relationship.... When people arrive, everyone’s stressed like crazy because they can’t be away from business and they have 1000 employees. We get them there and start to help them decompress. - Todd, USA
- “There’s a lot of prayer [when we gather]. They come together for a couple of days. Inviting spouses is important.” - Al, USA
- “Even though it’s more like a business meeting (over a long dinner in Paris), we have a little Bible study for 10-15 minutes and then prayers.” - Romain, France

#### **Connect to God.**

- “Prayer is just a matter of prioritizing. We have a time of prayer each morning [of a three-day collaboration meeting] and a time of listening to the Lord.” - Sanjay, Pakistan
- “We’ve asked a friend to be our chaplain. We tend to be too business-like. We’re getting better about spiritual care and spiritual community.” - Jeff, Middle East
- “We spend 30-60 minutes [of a full-day meeting] praying. It’s mostly an appeal for wisdom. And there are themes that emerge.” - John, Australia

### *Questions:*

**How could you welcome people and give them space to exhale when they arrive?**

**Who are three people - either members or outside speakers - who could share a devotional thought or biblical teaching about a topic other than generosity?**

**Who among the group could lead a spiritual exercise or a time of group prayer?**

## Block 2: Heart (One another)

### Principles:

#### Connect to each other spiritually.

- “We have couples share their journey and how they got to this place (of generosity). Next time we’ll also do more stories with roundtable discussion to react to someone else’s story.” – Emanuel, Romania
- “One of the missing links for us was having the givers knowing each other better. We want a place for them to build friendships where they aren’t twisted by the money factor. People need to know each other. Our participants are geared toward relationship.” – Alexandre, Switzerland
- “We didn’t leave a lot of time for getting to know each other. I think that why it’s been hard to get people to come to our meetings.” – John, UK (Collaboration Failed)

### Questions:

#### Which of your group’s “Core” would be best positioned to lead in sharing?

*The transparency and intimacy of the first story will set the tone.*

#### Given your group’s context, how many others should take a moment to share their story?

*Longer retreats give everyone 10 minutes; shorter meetings may rotate who’s sharing a 5-to-10-minute version of their story.*

#### What questions could you invite the giver/couple to touch upon as they share?

*Some examples: How did you find Jesus? How did generosity—or this group’s topic—become part of your journey? How is God encouraging you these days? How can we pray for you, your family, and your business?*

## Blocks 3-5: Head (Updates, Projects, Decisions)

### **Principles:**

#### **Learn about generosity.**

- “We’re trying to make it so they can learn from each other. We’re not the ones teaching them, but they’re discovering through discussion and hearing from each other.” – Emanuel, Romania
- “We’ll have an outside speaker... share on why this kind of giving is a great and needed vehicle.” – Al, USA

#### **Learn about the sector you’re funding.**

- “We have a section called ‘Perspectives’ and that’s ten minutes each from the project leaders who have received funding and are reporting on what they’ve achieved along with challenges faced, surprises, and spiritual reflection.” – Sanjay, Pakistan
- “We’re on a learning journey and we’re trying our very best and you’re part of that journey. We invite donors to tell us how they think we should do it.” – Patrick, UK

For Block 3: As the group learns about generosity, who are two givers/couples who might be willing to share what they’re learning about how to give? Consider having a small “panel” that addresses questions givers ask. (A list of common questions is below.)

#### **What questions could you have participants discuss in smaller groups in response to the presentation?**

*Time for small-group discussion and feedback are essential to these busy leaders.*

#### **Questions Givers Ask:**

*To help you think about possible topics, here are some questions we hear from givers. The point isn’t to help everyone get the “right” answer, but to create space for givers to ask God—and one another—how to follow Him with wise generosity.*

**Purpose.** *Why did God give me this wealth? What should be my mission statement for giving?*

**Finish Line.** *How much is enough? Annually and for good? How rich is it OK to be? Is it OK to have nice things?*

**Discernment.** *How do I listen to where God wants me to give? Should I focus on a few ministries or have a portfolio? How do I find my giving passion?*

**Timing.** *How much do I give now, versus generating income and giving more in the future?*

**Strategic Giving.** *How can I maximize the impact of what God has entrusted to me?*

**Joy.** *Why isn't there more joy in my giving?*

**Inheritance.** *How much do I pass to my kids? When do I do that? How do I provide well for my family without spoiling my children?*

**Church vs Ministry.** *Where does my church fit into my giving? How much of my giving should it be?*

**Planned Giving.** *Does giving after I die (through my will) "count"?*

**Anonymity and Community.** *When should I be anonymous as a giver? Does all my giving need to be secret? Why should I find others with whom to give?*

**Relationships with Ministries.** *What kind relationship should I have? How can I be a good partner without controlling the ministry? What kinds of reports should I require? What if the ministry fails to deliver?*

**Due Diligence.** *How do I vet requests? How do I measure the impact my gifts are having? How do I know a ministry is trustworthy?*

For Blocks 4-5: Who are five possible people you could invite, either in person or by Zoom, to share about the sector that you're funding?

*If one of these speakers also has a project before the group, consider allowing one or more other grantees to share as well. It's important for your group to maintain some neutrality between various projects/ministries.*



## Blocks 6-9: Hands (Projects, Q&A, Discernment)

### **Principles:**

#### **Aim for participation and unity.**

- “The value is fellowship. They like they process. It’s like building a building together. They say, ‘Wow, I’ve been listened to and I’m getting enterprise-level work and I join a fellowship of people doing things that matter.” – Patrick, UK

#### **Leave space for discussion and group discernment.**

- “We want to create a space where there’s discerned giving. Giving per se is good, but how do people who give and are busy discern together?” – Johan, Madagascar

#### **Present with stories and vision.**

*Whether providing updates on past projects or sharing vision for a new project, share stories and vision. (We have tools available to help you tell ministries’ stories.)*

*Some groups bring ministry leaders to present in person; others collect video clips of these leaders.*

#### **Generally, tell the ministry’s story this way:**

- How it started (the history)
- How it’s led (the leader)
- How it works (the model)
- How it’s changing lives (the impact)
- How many it’s touching (the scale)
- How to help (the need)

**Provide extra details and print out copies in advance.** *As the leader or a facilitator shares the project, givers should have paperwork in front of them with more complete information on the ministry and project. More on how to gather and groom projects for presentation is available upon request.*

More on how to gather and groom projects for presentation is available in \_\_\_\_\_.

## Block 10: Heart (Prayer for Projects, Each Other)

### **Principles:**

#### **Leave space for waiting on the Lord.**

- “There are concrete areas of strategy that have emerged from that kind of prayer. We sensed Him saying, ‘Remember the children.’ This phrase came interestingly to several of us. The Lord spoke to us.” – Sanjay, Pakistan

#### **Don’t forget logistics.**

#### *At the end of your time, be sure to:*

- Set the next meeting
- Give check-out instructions
- Establish how the group communicates between meetings
- Set a timeline for giving decisions (usually 1-2 weeks from the meeting date)

2. **Breaks.** For longer meetings, obviously build in breaks for meals and snacks and conversation. Don't cut these moments short. Some of the best conversations and connections happen when like-minded, like-hearted people have time to get to like each other!
3. **Beyond the Schedule.** Our friend, J.Paul Fridenmaker, often leads group of Christian givers. He says that when Christians gather to give, they should "feast together, play together, and bless one another."

Ask God to give you ideas on each of these.

- **Feasting.** How could you move from "eating" to "feasting"? What might make a meal together special and drive heart-level conversations?
- **Playing.** If you have a longer meeting, what could shift your meeting from "productive" to "playful"? Some groups schedule field trips to nearby tourist sites, wineries or create scavenger hunts. The best "play" are things that the entire group can do together rather than "some of us went shopping, some hiked, and others went golfing." The Pakistan Partnership Initiative had a meeting in Turkey and took a day trip to Ephesus!
- **Blessing.** How could you move from "conversing" to "blessing"? Blessing one another often involves taking a moment to have one member of the group speak a word of encouragement to another: "I've observed this weekend that you have such a kind spirit and you're fully present whenever I talk with you" or "God's given you a tremendous amount of energy and activity; you inspire others." Because God delights in us, when we delight in one another, we create sacred space. We encourage building this into **Block 10**.

#### Checklist:

- Our program engages **hearts** with God and with one another.
- Our program engages **heads** as givers learn about generosity and our ecosystem.
- Our program engages **hands** as we help givers engage (at least) financially.
- Our program allows leisurely **breaks** for rest and connection.
- Our program includes **feasting** together.
- Our program includes **playing** together.
- Our program includes space for verbally **blessing** each other.
- Extra credit:** Using the Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman, has your event loved participants by giving them (a) affirmation, (b) quality time together, (c) great service, (d) physical touch (handshakes, hugs), and (e) gifts (books, meals, chocolates)?

### Examples

Below, we built two example programs by simply following the prompts for each of the 10 blocks. Please know there’s nothing magical about having exactly 10 blocks, or the precise ordering of them. While there is an overarching narrative – start with the heart, engage the head, and work with the hands – the details are quite flexible. Adapt this model to your needs.

Block	Extended Dinner	Weekend Retreat
1	Pre-Dinner: 1 Worship Song; Host Welcome; 5 minute devotional	Friday Evening: 20 minute devotional; 20-30 minutes of corporate prayer; 10 minutes of table talk and reflection
2	Pre-Dinner: Groups of 3: Share highlights and lowlights of the year with one another (5 minutes for each family)	Friday Dinner: Tables/Groups: 20 minutes for each family to share your journey to faith and why you’re passionate about generosity
3	Salad Course: Watch a Generous Giving or Generosity Path video; discuss at tables	Saturday Breakfast: Have 2-3 individuals or couples share on a panel about a specific area of generosity; follow with Q&A
4-5	During Dessert: Project leaders provide education on specific projects or the overall sector; there is one 10-minute talk in each block	Saturday Morning: Project leaders provide education on specific projects or the overall sector; talks are 15-20-minutes, and there are 2-3 given in each session. (4-6 total talks).
6-9	After-Dinner Coffee: Project Presentations (10 min each)	Saturday Evening: Project Presentations and Giver Discussion (30 min each)
10	Wrap-Up: Prayer, Table Reflection, Logistics	Sunday Morning Wrap-Up: Prayer, Extemporaneous testimony, Celebration of results from night before, Logistics