

Building A Generosity Plan

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"

Luke 14:28 NIV

The
Signatry 



Building A Generosity Plan

Most of us have a plan for everything else in life, so why not generosity? Generosity is more than just a transaction. Generosity focuses on the heart, which is why a generosity plan can be helpful. It enables you to align the values which guide your generosity and the causes you want to champion with the organizations you wish to support. When you start with God's heart and the passions He gave you, it brings greater intentionality and clarity to your acts of generosity.

What to Expect

This guide will prompt you to focus on and clarify your generosity vision. The goal of working through this process is to help you align your generosity with your values and to help you start building a plan for your generosity. Let's walk together through this guide to unpack three main questions:

- **Why do I want to be generous?**
- **Where will I be generous?**
- **How will I be generous?**

To begin, set aside time to dedicate to this process. Whether going through this individually or with your family, take time to pray and seek God's direction as you work through this document. This opportunity will allow you to further discover the value of generosity and spark deeper conversations.

Whether you are just starting your generosity journey or have been practicing generosity for a while, a generosity plan will help you articulate the causes God has laid on your heart, identify your style of generosity, and recognize which organizations you want to support.

We hope this guide serves you well as you purposefully walk through your generosity journey.



Why Do I Want to Be Generous?

You know the clichés about why you should practice generosity, and many studies have proven the psychological and sociological benefits of generosity. But how do you begin to move beyond the default actions and make generosity personally meaningful? It starts by discovering the driving passion behind your generosity. Genuine generosity comes from an overflow of your heart.

What Motivates You to be Generous?

Generosity often arises from seeing problems in the world and choosing to say “no more” in order to champion the cause. In many cases, those who are passionately generous have personally experienced the causes they are working to champion. Reflect on your life experiences and seek to discover what breaks your heart. It may be an issue you have experienced in your own story, or perhaps you have heard about a problem that inspired you to take a stand. Use those experiences and passions to guide your generosity journey. Understanding the motivation for your generosity engages your heart and allows you to practice generosity in a more personal and impactful way.

As you think about why you practice generosity, consider the passions God has laid on your heart. These questions below can help unpack what drives your generosity.

What are ways you would like to see the world look different?

How does your story and walk with God influence your passions?

What do you want your witness to be?

What are the values that you want to continue to foster?

Using your answers above, write a 1 or 2 sentence explanation of your passion for generosity. Imagine you are telling your family and friends why you practice generosity. What would you tell them?

These underlying passions will drive your generosity.
The best acts of generosity start with God’s heart and His prompting.



Where Will I Be Generous?

Determining what organizations you want to support is where your generosity plan becomes real and personal. Here is where the Kingdom vision comes alive. This is where you get to explore the causes you are most passionate about and find organizations on the front lines with whom you can partner.

Start with Values

Before you get started finding organizations, it is crucial to connect your values to the causes closest to your heart, so that you can partner with organizations that have the same mission and mindset.

To get started, first consider your guiding values. If you have completed our [Keys to Legacy Guide](#), use the values you chose for this exercise. If you have not set foundational values or beliefs, take a few minutes to write down three values that will guide you below.

Guiding Values: _____

Discovering Causes to Champion

Next, identify the causes you may be interested in pursuing. Look at your guiding values and your answers from the previous page. Is there a common theme? Was there a cause or world problem that stuck out to you? You may already have a cause or passion in mind.

If not, below are a few suggestions to help you get started identifying the causes God has placed on your heart. Choose a few areas that are closest to your heart.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism/Missions | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty Relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Translation | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Art/History/Museums |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Development/Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible College/Seminary | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare/Hospitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Human Trafficking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Marriage Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Freedom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphan/Foster Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Once you have identified the causes you wish to champion, it is time to find organizations that are working towards those same causes. You may already know the organizations you want to support. If not, you can use tools like GuideStar or Charity Navigator to research organizations and review records. Be sure to evaluate each organization's mission statement and consider partnering with organizations whose purposes closely align with your guiding values.



How Will I Be Generous?

You have laid the foundation for your generosity plan by identifying your driving passion for generosity and the causes you want to champion. Now it is time to connect your passion with the practical side of generosity by deciding your style of generosity and how you can use the resources with which God has blessed you to further His Kingdom.

Generosity is not only limited to cash, but it also encompasses everything God has entrusted you. This includes your time, talent, and treasure. Whether it is the time you spend volunteering, using your God-given talents to help those in need, or stewarding the other resources God has placed in your care, these are all opportunities with which you can be generous.

Your Style of Generosity

As you think about how you want to practice generosity consider these questions to help identify your generosity style:

Do you prefer to provide support to a few or many organizations?

Do you want to give regular support? Or as needs arise?

Do you prefer investment style gifts? Do you thrive off innovation and creativity?

Do you have other resources you can give from to further the Kingdom?

Do you want to work with others to accomplish a mission?

Do you prefer time to process and research opportunities on your own?

Answering these questions will help you determine how God is calling you to practice generosity personally. How you choose to be generous should be a reflection of who God made you, as everyone has a unique calling and personality. Consider the areas of generosity in which you flourish but also the areas in which God may stretch you beyond your comfort zone as well.

Giving from All Resources

You can use all of the resources God has blessed you with to support the causes closest to your heart. Some common resources you can give from include real estate, publicly traded securities, and business interests.

Click **HERE** to learn how you can live generously using all of your resources.



Acting on Your Generosity Plan

Now that you have identified why, where, and how you will be generous, it is time to put your generosity plan into action. The best way to carry out your generosity plan is to establish accountability. Discuss your generosity plan with your friends or family and how they can encourage and even walk with you in your generosity journey. Maybe it is gathering one Saturday a month to volunteer at a local organization, or perhaps it is regular discussions about the organizations you wish to support financially. However you decide to put your generosity plan into action, it is beneficial to have someone to walk alongside you.

Your Generosity Matters

Your generosity not only makes a difference here on earth, but it also carries eternal significance. Effective and meaningful generosity is not dependent on the size of your wealth, only thoughtfulness and planning.

Let this guide be a launching point in your generosity journey. Your generosity plan may change over time as God continues to reveal Himself to you. Revisit your answers from time to time, evaluate how God is directing you in your journey, and readjust your plan accordingly.

It is our prayer this guide provides clarity and intentionality as you continue on your generosity journey.

**Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds,
and to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they will lay up
treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age,
so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.**

1 Timothy 6:18-19 NIV



Mission

To inspire and facilitate revolutionary biblical generosity.

Vision

The Signatry exists to write the last check to the last missionary to be sent out to the last unreached people group so the last person can hear the gospel.

Values

We are focused on this generation—and the ones that come long after. We value family, creativity and innovation, generosity, collaboration, integrity and transparency.

How The Signatry Can Serve You

The Signatry is here to walk with you as you embark on your generosity journey. We provide many tools and resources to assist you along the way. One of the tools The Signatry provides is the donor advised fund. A donor advised fund is a tool that can help bring clarity and intentionality to your generosity.

DISCOVER HOW a donor advised fund can help you carry out your generosity plan.

