

STRAIGHTFORWARD PLAN

Challenge 8— USE MONEY FOR GOD'S GLORY

This challenge in the Journey to Biblical Manhood shows people that they are stewards of the gifts God has given them. It encourages them to be God's money managers, avoiding or reducing consumer debt and contributing to Kingdom work. **This particular challenge is open to all of the men and women in the church.** The Straightforward Plan option makes the Plan portion of the challenge simple—most of the planning is already done for you!

You may have an existing group, class, or other opportunity that would work well to **Capture Momentum** and/or **Sustain Change**. **Feel free to use that;** just be sure to apply the principles in this section.

The **Deliver Content** resources for the Straightforward Plan version of Challenge 8 are:

- **Create Value** event: Have your teaching pastor deliver a two-week sermon series on stewardship. (It can be longer or shorter but we recommend keeping it under four weeks.)
- **Capture Momentum** small group resource: *The Treasure Principle* book by Randy Alcorn, Multnomah (6 chapters) (**read two chapters per week**)

Optional student groups: *Give, Save & Spend* study by Howard Dayton, Compass (6 weeks) (**for young adults/college students**)

- **Sustain Change** curriculum: *Navigating Your Finances God's Way* workbook by Howard Dayton and Steve Moore, Compass (9 chapters)
- **Celebrate** gathering: Host a night of dinner and entertainment and take up a special offering for a ministry or need of your choice. Provide childcare or activities for the young kids and team-building exercises for the adolescents. Ask a couple of people to share their testimonies.

PLAN FOR THE CHALLENGE

Although many of the challenge options have been chosen for you, there are a few things that you still need to decide:

- On what date do you want to start the sermon series? Meet with your pastor; discuss the church calendar and how The Journey fits in with other efforts. You might start by listing your top three choices for starting dates.
1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
- Will you offer the six-week *Give, Save & Spend* study to youth/young adults? (*circle all that apply*)
high school students college students young adults

1. **Recruit new leaders to help with this challenge.**

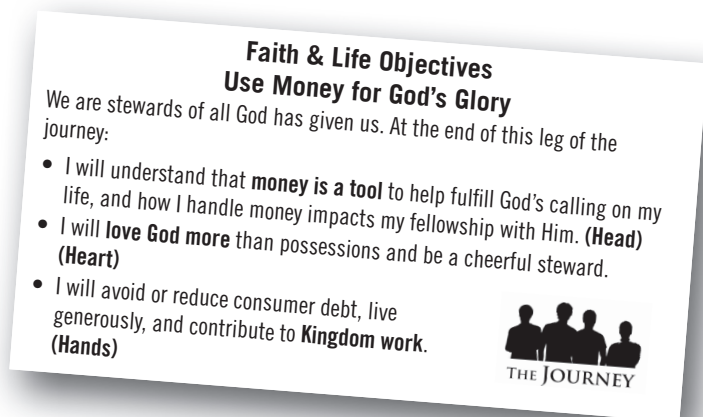
- a. For every challenge, aim to have a combination of existing leaders and new leaders working together. This will prevent burn-out and foster a feeling of inclusion.
- b. In the Helpful Tools section of this notebook, complete the Leadership Audit and Recruiting Worksheet with your current team.
- c. Using the Recruiting Worksheet as your guide, invite these new guys to join your team for Challenge 8. Share your vision with them for the kick-off event and challenge as a whole.
- d. It may be wise to give your current leaders an opportunity to gracefully take a break from the leadership team at the start of each challenge. The Journey can be a long process and you don't want any one man feeling overwhelmed or overcommitted.

CAST THE VISION

Once you have decided on the above, you are ready to cast vision and to assess the adults in your church in the areas related to this challenge.

1. **Determine the Faith & Life Objectives for this challenge.**

- a. What do you hope to accomplish in the heads, hearts, and habits (hands) of the adults in the church?
- b. Download the template for the Faith & Life Objectives (F&LO) for Challenge 8 from the website www.journeytobiblicalmanhood.org. Review it with your team. Adjust as needed. Note that you'll want an objective for "Head," one for "Heart," and one for "Hands."
- c. Give the F&LO card to your senior pastor for approval.
- d. Print them on **business cards**, either through a commercial printing company or on your own. If you print them on your own, use the Avery template for business cards, 10 per sheet (Avery business card paper can be purchased from Office Depot, Staples, or a similar supply store). **Be sure to have one for EVERY adult in your church.**
- e. Establish a distribution plan: Determine who, where, when and how. Be sure to cover Sunday worship services, home groups, Sunday school classes, sports teams, etc. The idea is for every person—including those on the periphery of church activity—to feel included in the challenge and aware of the objectives.



Who: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

How: _____

2. Develop your Assessment.

- a. Where are your men and women starting from in the areas of this challenge?
- b. Visit www.journeytobiblicalmanhood.org and download the standard Assessment for Challenge 8. Note that there will be two Assessments for each challenge—a pre-challenge and a post-challenge. Be sure to download the pre-challenge. Review it with your team. Adjust as needed. (Note: The Assessments are also in the Forms section of this notebook.)
- c. Give the Assessment form to your senior pastor for approval.
- d. Print one for EVERY adult in your church.
- e. Establish a distribution plan: Determine who, where, when and how.

Who: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

How: _____

- f. Note: We recommend you distribute the Assessment before the Faith & Life Objectives card so people can answer before they see your goals for the challenge.

3. Download the promo video for this challenge from the website for use in the weekly worship service, Sunday school classes, etc. This will help you cast vision for the challenge.

4. Distribute the Faith & Life Objectives and the Assessment.

- a. Approximately three or four weeks before the sermon series begins, using the plan agreed upon by the team, distribute the pre-Assessment and then the F&LO cards.
- b. **The point of the Assessment** is to help both the leaders and the members of the church see where they are spiritually at both the start and the end of the challenge. Ask people to take the pre-challenge Assessment based on their life during the last year.
- c. **The point of the F&LO card** is to help all the people of the church see that you are trying to accomplish something more than just another class or event.

- d. If possible, have your pastor reference the Assessment during regular worship services and give people the option of dropping their completed Assessment in the offering basket or tray.
- e. **It's very important that you get back every completed Assessment possible. Give them multiple ways to do this:** a drop box in the lobby, an opportunity during the service, collection by their small group and class leaders, collection at their sports games, etc.
- f. Create a simple report with the results of the Assessment. Share the report with your pastor and the leadership team. Keep the results confidential among the leadership team.

INCLUDE ALL YOUR MEN

1. Determine the Disciple Every Man activities.

- a. Inevitably, there will be men who cannot or do not actively engage in the group study portions of the challenge. There will always be a percentage of people that will not come to an event or join a small group or class. **It's critical that your team helps them participate in the challenge through whatever ways they are already engaged at your church.**
- b. Below are some ideas for discipling every man (and woman) through this challenge—even those who aren't going to participate in the **Create-Capture-Sustain** portions. We also provide communication templates on our website for involving other leaders. Review them and see how they might fit into your plans.

DISCIPLE EVERY MAN

- ☐ Give people who aren't participating in group studies the chance to be involved through individual study. Post a link on the church website or email a link to the online Man in the Mirror three-part video series, *Money and the Man in the Mirror*. The study can be watched for FREE by streaming or downloading from the website.
- ☐ Share the article "Money and Possessions" via email or print. Questions for discussion and/or journaling are included.
- ☐ Use the Money Q&A section of the Compass website to send article excerpts and encouragement through weekly emails.
- ☐ Challenge people to choose an area of stewardship that is a struggle and memorize a related Bible verse(s). Pull Scriptures from the Bible on Money section of the Compass website.
- ☐ Post a link on the church website or email a link to the video How Jesus Looks at Generosity from the Man in the Mirror video series, *Hanging Out With Jesus*.

DISCIPLE EVERY MAN (continued)

- ☐ Email your members videos from the sermon series *God’s Economy* by Pastors Darrin Patrick, Jonathan McIntosh, and Adam Dressler.
- ☐ Invite adults to sign up for the free 40-day devotional, *Journey to Generosity*, from Brian Kluth.
- ☐ Send out a video from the sermon series *Strapped or Being Rich* by Pastor Craig Groeschel.

(Links to all of the above videos and articles can be found under Challenge 8 at www.journeytobiblicalmanhood.org.)

- c. Brainstorm with your team additional ideas to reach those who aren’t participating in the standard ways:
- i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
- d. Determine who on your leadership team will be responsible for the different aspects of implementing the Disciple Every Man activities you’ve chosen (two or three).

Disciple Every Man activity: _____

Who else do we need to involve from other ministries in the church for permission or help? _____

Who on our team will provide leadership to this effort? _____

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Who on our team will provide leadership to this effort? _____

2. **Choose two or three “Hands” opportunities.**

- a. During the **Sustain Change** time period of the challenge, give people an opportunity to put what they're learning into action. Below are some ideas.

USE YOUR “HANDS”

- ☐ Challenge your families to make or re-examine a budget. Email out the free Spending Plan Worksheet from the Compass website to help them get started!
- ☐ Offer a short budgeting workshop at the church one morning or evening; invite church members who may have expertise in the field, such as a financial planner, to be involved in the workshop. If there's a Compass Budget Coach in your area, enlist his or her help.
- ☐ Invite the seniors in the church to a 90-minute video seminar, using the DVD *Because I Love You Christian Legacy Organizer* by Brian Kluth, along with the accompanying 40-page planning manual (available for purchase or download).
- ☐ Ask the leaders of the youth and children's ministry to encourage parents to teach their children about money using Compass' *ABCs of Handling Money* or *Secret of Handling Money God's Way*.
- ☐ Challenge each Sunday School class (or small group) to do a fundraiser for a local charity or to meet a local family's need. Encourage groups to be creative or inject some fun by making it a competition. Get the youth group or student ministry involved as well!
- ☐ Offer piggy banks to parents with young children, along with a simple card they can use to teach them about saving and giving—order piggy banks that have more than one slot (one for savings, one for giving, etc.).

(Links to all of the above resources can be found under Challenge 8 at www.journeytobiblicalmanhood.org.)

- b. Advertise these opportunities church-wide, not just to those participating in the study! You may choose to use portions of the promo plan found in the Helpful Tools section for this effort, depending on the nature of the Hands project.
- c. Be sure to delegate related tasks to your leadership team members for this challenge.

DELIVER CONTENT: CREATE VALUE

The Create Value step for the Straightforward Plan of Challenge 8 is a two-week sermon series on stewardship. This challenge is designed for the entire church—not just the men—and **it is vital that you share the vision with your pastoral staff and have their full support**, as they will be teaching this series to kick-off the small groups.

In conjunction with the teaching pastor, choose the weekend to start the sermon series on stewardship.

1. **Let the rest of the church’s leadership team know the dates.**
 - a. Organize a time with the other men’s leaders to pray for your pastor as he or she prepares to teach the messages.
 - b. If not read during a previous challenge, set up weekly meetings with your leadership team for the challenge to study the book, *No Man Left Behind*. For more in-depth training, go through the video-based No Man Left Behind Courseware.
 - c. Adults will be invited to join a follow-up group BEFORE they leave church following the final sermon in the series. Decide where this will be organized—a large meeting room, the fellowship hall, the sanctuary, or the lobby. Make it someplace visible and easy to get to; the closer to the sanctuary it is, the better.
2. **Build excitement for the sermon series.**
 - a. Work closely with other ministries, groups, and leaders in your church to involve everyone in creating value surrounding this challenge. (See Promotions Plan in Process Four.) Make it an all-inclusive effort.
3. **Plan and prepare for the Capture step for the adult study groups.**
 - a. The **Capture** step for the sermon series is a three-week study of *The Treasure Principle*. It is designed to be an “entry-level” study—attractive to those who have never been involved in a small group study. **There are six short chapters in the book; read two chapters each week.**
 - b. Make an educated estimate to determine how many small group facilitators you’ll need to have in place. Aim for one per 10 people expected.
 - c. With your team, make a list of men/couples you’d like to ask to be small group facilitators.
 - d. Invite them to facilitate a three-week follow-up group, with the understanding that they will also facilitate the nine-week study directly following *The Treasure Principle*. Emphasize that facilitating a group should be easy and just requires a willing person.

- e. For more instruction on choosing and preparing group leaders, see Process Five in the Helpful Tools section of this notebook.
 - f. Order the books.
4. **Plan and prepare for the Capture step for the student groups (optional).**
- a. Invite a youth leader(s) to facilitate the six-week study, *Give, Save & Spend*.
 - b. Approximately two weeks before the sermon series, announce a short information meeting after youth and/or young adult services, open to anyone interested in learning more about how to give, save, and spend.
 - c. At the meeting, invite them to study *Give, Save & Spend*. This will serve as the **Capture** and **Sustain** resource for them and can be done in a class or small group setting.
 - d. Once you have a count, order the books from *Compass—Finances God's Way*.
 - e. **Kick off the challenge with the sermon series!**
 - f. Provide a bulletin or handout for taking notes during the message.
 - g. Be attentive to men sitting alone or men who are new to the church. Have leaders in place to welcome or sit with them.
 - h. On the final Sunday of the series—whether you're forming follow-up groups in the fellowship hall, sanctuary, or lobby—signs should be hung up around the room with follow-up group locations, days, and times (see Process Six).
 - i. Help adults form small groups at the end of the service—**BEFORE they leave**.
 - j. Books can be distributed one of two ways: 1) Participants leave service with *The Treasure Principle* and instruction to read Chapters 1 and 2 before their first meeting, or 2) Participants receive the book at the first meeting, with instruction to read Chapters 1 and 2 before the second meeting.

DELIVER CONTENT: CAPTURE MOMENTUM

The **Capture Momentum** step for the Straightforward Plan of Challenge 8 is Randy Alcorn's *The Treasure Principle* for the adult groups, and Compass' *Give, Save & Spend* for the optional young adult groups. *The Treasure Principle* is for adults to read and discuss in small groups over three weeks—two chapters per week. Young adults will be in *Give, Save & Spend* for six weeks.

- 1. **Begin three-week small groups.**
 - a. The **Capture** groups should begin the week following the final week of the sermon series.

- b. **Invite ALL the adults in your church to join a follow-up group.** Have extra books on hand for late joiners to the groups.
 - c. Have group leaders give out and collect pre-challenge Assessments for anyone who hasn’t completed them. This should be done at the first meeting.
 - d. Have group leaders hand out a Faith & Life Objectives card to anyone who doesn’t already have one, but only after completing the pre-Assessment. They should read and briefly discuss them as a group at their first meeting.
 - e. Call each group leader to see how the first meeting went and to pray with them.
2. **Help those who don’t join the groups participate in the challenge.**
- a. Implement the Disciple Every Man suggestions found in this section of the notebook that are specific to this challenge.
 - b. Use the email templates and other communication tools found on the website to recruit leaders of existing ministries and groups, asking them to emphasize the Faith & Life Objectives during their interactions with the people in their areas of influence.
 - c. Make sure everyone has a Faith & Life Objectives card.
 - d. During the three-weeks of follow-up study, plug as many people as possible who aren’t participating in small groups into other ongoing ministries in the church.
3. **Prepare for the Sustain step.**
- a. Order *Navigating Your Finances God’s Way* workbooks.
 - b. Confirm that all existing **Capture** group leaders will continue leading a group for the next study. Replace and recruit as needed.
 - c. In Week 2 of the follow-up groups, announce the **Sustain** step—in both the small groups and church-wide.
 - d. If possible, send an email to all the adults in the church and invite them to join in the *Navigating Your Finances God’s Way* study. Re-communicate the Faith & Life Objectives.
 - e. In Week 3 of the follow-up groups, have participants agree to start the **Sustain** study the following week. As needed, reform groups or meet in larger groups to accommodate more people.

DELIVER CONTENT: SUSTAIN CHANGE

The **Sustain Change** step for the Straightforward Plan of Challenge 8 is Compass' *Navigating Your Finances God's Way* for nine weeks.

1. **Begin the Sustain Change study groups.**
 - a. The **Sustain Change** group should seamlessly start as the **Capture** groups end.
 - b. Invite adults who haven't yet participated directly in the challenge to be a part of the book study.
 - c. Have group leaders hand out Faith & Life Objectives cards to any person who doesn't already have one (or who might have lost it).
2. **Help those who don't join the study groups participate in the challenge.**
 - a. Continue to implement the Disciple Every Man suggestions.
 - b. Keep the leaders of other ministries engaged and updated throughout the study. Ask them to support the challenge in their interactions with their members, and offer to serve them in any way possible.
 - c. This is a great time to give people an opportunity to put what they're learning into action by implementing the "Hands" activity you chose.
3. **Distribute the post-challenge Assessment.**
 - a. Visit www.journeytobiblicalmanhood.org and download the standard post-challenge Assessment for Challenge 8. Note that there will be two Assessments for each challenge—a pre-challenge and a post-challenge. Be sure to download the post-challenge. Review it with your team. Adjust as needed to conform to your pre-challenge Assessment.
 - b. Give the Assessment form to your senior pastor for approval.
 - c. Print.
 - d. Have the study group leaders distribute it in the final week of the study.
 - e. Distribute to all other adults in the church. Keep the Assessments of direct challenge participants separate from the others as you collect them.
 - f. Instruct people to complete it based on how they are living their lives *recently*.

CELEBRATE

This is the home stretch; don’t skip the end of the challenge! This final phase helps you determine and celebrate what God has done in the lives of those in your church.

Be sure to rally your leadership team during this integral time and thank them for all the work they’ve done and the impact they’ve made throughout Challenge 8. The last thing for them to do will be to help plan and execute the Celebration. The recommended celebration gathering is a **dinner, including a special offering** for a ministry or need of your choice.

1. **Assess your men and women.**

- a. Collect all post-challenge Assessments.
- b. Create a simple report of the results; **if possible, make one for those who participated in the group study portions of the challenge and a separate one for those who did not.**
- c. Share the results with the church leaders and senior pastor.

2. **Plan the celebration dinner.**

- a. Choose a date and time for the dinner, with approval from your pastor, who should plan to attend:
Date: _____ Time: _____
- b. Reserve space for the dinner: _____
- c. Ask the leaders of the **Capture** and **Sustain** groups for the names of some people who they think have particularly benefited from the challenge.
- d. Ask those people to share their story with you or another team member—either by email, on a web cam, or in person.
- e. Invite a few of them to share their stories at the celebration dinner.
- f. In order to emphasize the all-inclusive nature of the challenge, aim to find one person to share at the dinner who was impacted but didn’t participate in the study groups.
- g. Share all testimonies with the church leaders and senior pastor.
- h. Plan to take up a special offering the night of the dinner. Pray about a ministry or need that you’d like to receive this gift. Once you’ve thought of a few possibilities, discuss them with your pastor and choose one.
- i. Review celebration “hardware” ideas on www.journeytobiblicalmanhood.org. If you choose to give out coins, wristbands, or something similar, order them with plenty of time for arrival.

- j. Plan to include humor, competition, or entertainment as part of the celebration, as well as activities for any young children that will be there (or provide childcare). You may also want to include fun team-building exercises for older children.
- k. Decide on the menu and who will bring and do what. Be creative! Have the teenagers in the church help serve the sides or have the leadership team on the grill.
- l. Invite **all** the adults in the church to attend.
- m. Announce the special offering one week before the dinner during weekend services so people can prepare to give a gift.

3. **Celebrate!**

- a. Have people share testimonies, as arranged ahead of time.
- b. Take up the special offering for the ministry or need you selected.
- c. Announce the results of the Assessment, if appropriate. Remind people of their Faith & Life Objectives and how you hope that God worked in their lives.
- d. Connect the testimonies and other celebration remarks to the larger vision of the church and how God is using your church to impact their community and world.
- e. If you ordered any celebration giveaways, such as tokens or wristbands, pass them out.
- f. Unveil the next challenge and the next **Create** event.
- g. Ask men, "Who's missing?" and encourage them to invite others to the event from outside the church.
- h. Give men an opportunity to sign up for the **Create** event before they leave the dinner.
- i. Also, recruit additional men for the leadership team for the next challenge.