

CELEBRATING GOD'S GIVING TO US

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Closing Celebration (#21)



Sharing THE “GREAT EXPERIMENT” IS **JOY** – FINANCIAL JOY.

Dear Group Leader, Thank you for your hard work to bring God's Financial Blessings to each group member. After covering 20 lessons you were probably quietly sighing “I am glad this is the last lesson”. But -- a whole new celebration is awaiting you! A celebration of JOY to share with your group.

THE LEADER'S HOME PREPARATION

1) **Pray**

O Lord, You are our delight! Our hearts rejoice in You—in Your character, Who you are, and in Your marvelous deeds and blessings. Help me to pass this joy and excitement on to this group and end our study together with a celebration that will be a lasting memory. Help me to be excited about You as I prepare this celebration! Amen.

- 2) **Preparing** for this session. This is not a lesson. It is the PEACE BOOKLET (#21) celebration resulting from the commitments to all 20 lessons. Your goal is to review the victories of the past year, have them sign them “again” to reinforce the commitments they have made, and to look to the future and how they can help others embrace financial freedom.
- 3) **Reconfirm** tasks. At the end of the last lesson you were to assign tasks, including bringing food items and possibly decorating the room. Be sure to follow up so that everything is prepared.
- 4) **Candies**: You will notice in the lesson presentation that you need to have candies. Candies should be passed out every hour. Experience has proved that this is a hilarious happening. Begin with a very simple candy and graduate each hour to more special and better ones. During the review of “*The Peace Booklet*” (#21) encourage each member who signs the commitments (or re-signs them) to take a candy just as an extra touch of delight. So be sure that you buy enough so that you will have about 25 pieces per person.
- 5) **Brochures**. There are two brochures that will be used during this session: “**Count Your Blessings**” and “**Faith Promise**”. Make sure that you have 2 of “**Faith Promise**” for each member of your group and 3 copies of “**Count Your Blessings**” so that they can share it with someone else. Also prepare copies of the song “Count Your Blessings” so that you can sing it together.
- 6) Please look at “*Passing GBF to Future generations*” (#22). We don't want this series of lessons to end here, but to impact the future of your church, so we are recommending an opportunity for you to make that happen.
You will have your group prepare to make a presentation in a Worship Service, or to the church board or council. Be sure to *fix a date to meet with the church authorities.*
- 7) Prepare a special take home gift for each participant.

- 8) If for some reason your church leaders could not participate in these 20 lessons, invite one who has been quite in favor of your GFB studies to this special celebration session.
- 9) Obtain some simple completion certificates and show your personal interest by filling out, signing and presenting each member with a certificate of GFB completion.
- 10) For continuing unity and group JOY your personal responsibility as Group Guide this coming year should be to contact each member **monthly** to ask for a victory happening.

11) **Pray**

Open our eyes to see what You are doing in our lives. Give us grateful, joyful hearts. Help me to truly make this a time of celebration that will make a lasting imprint on all of our hearts.

LESSON PRESENTATION

TOTAL anticipated celebration time is several hours

Arrive early so that you can make sure everything is prepared!

PRAYER TIME-

Encourage everyone to give a one sentence prayer of praise or thanksgiving to God as you begin this special celebration.

LESSON GUIDE

1. INTRODUCING THE FINANCIAL PEACE BOOKLET (#21) TO YOUR GROUP

God's gift of the Financial Peace booklet focuses on the "Great Experiment".

The "Great Experiment" is **JOY** – Financial Joy. Joy is to have peace!

The "Great Experiment" is celebrating that God always gives more than we do. Mal. 3:10

The "Great Experiment" is celebrating that God often gives us more than we know.

The "Great Experiment" is celebrating that God often gives us more than we know what to do with.

The "Great Experiment" is celebrating God's many blessings upon our lives.

One of the greatest difficulties in life is 'TO BE HAPPY'. We think we want it, but often deep down inside we choose to be mundane, negative, complaining, worried, critical.

Today is a practice session of "The Great Experiment of JOY".

We will begin this CELEBRATION today with some candies. I have here 25 candies for each one of you.

We will enjoy some candy every hour and also one candy for each lesson you celebrate with us by signing the COMMITMENT NOTE. The candies are in a tray, so let us pass the tray around.

Passing out these little candies provides fun, JOY, laughter, a bit of hilarity – a celebration of sorts, which symbolizes the exuberant generosity of God.

2. THE CONCEPT & PURPOSE OF THE FINANCIAL PEACE BOOKLET

Let us turn to page 1 of your booklet and note the following. God has enabled many of you to discover Financial Freedom and --- yes --- many are discovering:

"A Whole New Lifestyle".

Spiritual anointing and ongoing freedom are closely linked to reviewing, repetition, establishing new habits and new traditions. As a family of God these things need to be experienced and practiced as individuals, as families, as groups of prayer and Bible study, and also as whole congregations.

The 20 lessons of God's Financial Blessings cover a wide spectrum of our physical lives in depth. God's Financial Blessing can really come to fullness if it is practiced by a large segment of local church attenders. God's Financial Blessing will remain and grow to become more beautiful if individuals and groups will **publically delight** and articulate on a regular basis the extra blessings God bestows upon them as individuals, and then as a church, taking time to praise God on behalf of HIS special care. We often practice this in cases of special healing etc. But financially **we need to develop monthly church worship traditions**.

3. PRACTICING “A WHOLE NEW LIFESTYLE” AS A FAMILY

All of us understand that finishing these 20 lessons without continuing applications will NOT bring us a new lifestyle. So now let us look into the future. On page 2 we find 3 suggestions about how to enjoy financial peace and a better lifestyle. The last item is for the whole church and we will cover it later.

This “**FINANCIAL PEACE**” booklet is to serve as your **monthly family praise & prayer guide**. Through Financial Freedom family prayers should include joyful monthly events focusing on praise – maximizing praise and minimizing prayer requests– celebrating God’s Financial Peace.

This “**FINANCIAL PEACE**” booklet should be placed in a **display cabinet** or a prominent place as a regular reminder to the household and a testimony to visitors. The Bible strongly encourages us to display spiritual signs in our homes.

4. SHARING VICTORIES AND EXPERIENCES

We will begin this Victory Celebration at the end of the booklet and work from the end backwards to the beginning.

The **KEY** of each lesson review is to learn to regularly celebrate God’s giving to us!

As the leader, in each lesson discover an item of God’s great generosity that we can celebrate. Remember that many of the blessings God gives us are not just financial. But they are still a result of us putting our faith into the Lord and following His principles for our finances.

We will review each lesson by beginning with lesson #20 and ending with lesson #1.

This will be a quick review only. The purpose is to engage each person, so focus on b), c), & d).

Below is an outline which provides each lesson with a new perspective.

For each lesson we cover:

a) the title.

b) tell us in your own words what this means.

c) Did anyone teach this principle to your children or others and how?

d) ask for a victory they experienced. (Tell us a bit).

e) the leader’s own comment, (optional & only if needed.)

f) and close by reading the commitment note and having each person sign it.

Let us review lesson 20 and be sure to take one candy for each lesson you celebrate with us by signing the COMMITMENT NOTE.

The candies are in a tray and we will pass a tray around after we have covered a lesson.) Remind people to only take one candy per commitment signed.

!!! Do not pass out all candies at one time at the end !!!

To have family unity husbands & wives should both sign this booklet as it serves as a testimony in their **display cabinet**.

CELEBRATING GOD'S BLESSINGS & FINANCIAL PEACE (#20-11)

20. THINGS I DISCOVERED ABOUT PREPARING FOR A LASTING HERITAGE
19. NEW DISCOVERIES I MADE LISTENING TO THE CAUTIONS OF MY WIFE – ((SPOUSE))
18. WHAT I HAVE PRACTICED ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES OF PRAYING FOR MONEY
17. FOR ME & MY FAMILY I CHOOSE A GOOD NAME WHATEVER THE COST
16. I BEGAN TO DEVELOP A FULLER POTENTIAL OF MY HOME
15. HOW I AM ATTEMPTING TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM
14. WHAT I DID TO IDENTIFY AND CONQUER MY SLOTHFUL POINTS
13. I WILL REMEMBER TO AVOID FUTURE TRAPS OF BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
12. I WILL HONOR FRIENDS BY NOT LENDING OR CO-SIGNING FOR A LOAN
11. I AM LEARNING NEW WAYS HOW TO GET THE BEST BUY

5. "COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS"

After covering lesson # 11 distribute the brochure "**Count Your Blessings**" – each person should receive 3 copies. One to use, and 2 to pass on God's glory to someone else.

TAKE TIME TO READ THIS WHOLE BROCHURE

Just rotate around the group and let each person read a small paragraph.

We recommend you highlight certain phrases and words and encourage the group to circle them in their brochure.

After the paragraph "Uncovered Blessings" discuss the little 'square' and underline the words
– *not because we had to, but because we wanted to!*

After the paragraph "A Startling Discovery" discuss and circle 5 words individually
'see' 'what' 'he' 'given' 'you'.

Now lead a discussion on **3** topics:

"Can God do this in Ukraine?"

And can God do this in our church?

Finally, can God do this in your life?

Sing together the familiar song "Count Your Blessings" ((*Make a copy for each person in the group.*))
Encourage them to sing this with their family at home or find a similar song.

In closing this section have everyone kneel to pray.

Request a moment of meditation and personal prayer to also "*Count your Blessings*"

to pray “Should I do that?”
and “How to share it with others”.

– and repeat a few times with the phrase: “Ask Jesus if counting your blessings is for you?”

For those of you who wish to try it, we suggest an experimental time frame of 3 months this spring or summer.. After that you seek God’s further directions.

Offer 2 minutes of silence.

Close by praising God for HIS generosity.

TAKE TIME FOR A FELLOWSHIP BREAK

6. CONTINUE WITH SHARING VICTORIES AND EXPERIENCES

CELEBRATING GOD’S BLESSINGS & FINANCIAL PEACE (#10-1)

10. HOW I ATTEMPT TO FLEE FROM THE HIDDEN TRAPS OF SWINDLERS
9. I AM EXPERIENCING NEW WAYS OF SALES RESISTANCE
8. I AM LEARNING TO LIVE WITHIN MY INCOME
7. I WILL DEFINITELY PURPOSE TO KEEP OUT OF DEBT
6. I ESTABLISHED THE TITHE AS A "WEEKLY/MONTHLY REMINDER"
5. I CHOSE TO SERVE GOD RATHER THAN MONEY
4. HOW I HAVE RECOGNIZED GOD'S REPROOFS FOR MY WRONG WAYS TO RICHES
3. HOW I IDENTIFY AND REJECT FALSE FINANCIAL CONCEPTS
2. I AM DISCOVERING GOD'S FOUR PURPOSES FOR MY MONEY
1. THIS IS HOW I AM LEARNING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FINANCIALLY FREE

7. “FAITH PROMISE PLAN” = 😊 GIVING WHAT YOU DON’T HAVE 😊

Lesson #6 is about “*The Great Experiment*”.

But the Great Lesson to discover today is not about TITHING--

“*The Great Experiment*” **today** is to discover God’s marvelous generosity.

Distribute 2 copies of the “**Faith Promise**” brochure to each person.

As before have each person read a section.

Prior to reading each new page have them underline the words on top of the page:

“It is giving something you don’t have.”

At the close of this booklet lead a discussion on **3** topics:

“Can God do this in Ukraine?

And Can God do this in our church?

Finally, can God do this in your life?”

Have everyone kneel to pray again.

Introduce the prayer by repeating the handwritten phrase – and repeat this phrase a few times.

Pray to ask Jesus **how** the church or you can do something like this?

Have **2** minutes of silence.

Then close by praising God for HIS generosity.

8. “**BECOMING STREAMS OF LIVING WATER**”

Close this celebration on “**The Great Experiment is JOY**” by discussing the future blessings from God that we want to experience as a church. page2 of this lesson 21.

We want to celebrate God’s Financial Blessings in *the future*. How are we going to do that? What can we do to make it happen?

You may wish to reiterate some items from page 1 and introduce some ideas from Pass GFB to Future Generations (#22).

Then have the group interact with suggestions on how to celebrate God’s Financial Peace in the future from the last of the 4 Financial Peace sections on page 2.

Discuss and as a group produce a written recommendation and present your request to your church authorities for prayer.

Fix a date to meet with the church authorities (note plural), and assign each group member to highlight one item you discussed from these sections by briefly sharing a joyful personal happening and their recommendation to quarterly highlight God’s Financial Blessing as part of the worship service.

LET US CONCLUDE OUR CELEBRATION of PEACE.

Please sign the commitment to obtain and maintain Financial Peace at the bottom of page 2, of the Financial Peace booklet.

And with great gratitude I want to present a certificate of completion to each one of you.

CLOSE AS THE LORD LAYS UPON YOUR HEART

☺Share the left-over candy with your own family ☺

It has been such a great pleasure to be your Group Guide. I would like to celebrate with you from time to time by contacting you and listening to the victories our Lord Jesus provided for you.

This is “**The Great Experiment**” that awaits your faith and participation to be discovered, enjoyed, and celebrated for a lifetime. I hope you will let me celebrate with you.