

# Financial Freedom

## WEEKLY APPLICATION

### **Week 1: Budget**

“MANAGING MONEY WELL”

### **APPLICATION**

During this week’s video, Jeff & Gunnar introduced us to three practical steps that we can take to apply Biblical principles to our personal finances. The challenge for this week is to go home and begin to put these principles into practice.

#### **Step 1:**

Determine and write down your Top 5 Financial Goals.

#### **Step 2:**

If you don’t currently have a budget, commit to using the 30-Day Income & Outgoings Tracker as a starting point to help you create a financial plan. To complete this, simply keep a record of every penny you earn or spend in the Tracker to help you identify where your money is going. Once you have completed this for a month, then create a budget based on your tracker. Withdrawing cash at the beginning of each week for the money that you’ve allocated to spend, rather than using a debit or credit card, is a great way of ensuring that you stay disciplined in sticking to your planned budget.

#### **Step 3:**

Once a budget is established use the Fat Finder to identify and trim any excess spending. Using comparison websites such as Money Supermarket or Compare the Market is a great way of reducing monthly bills.

## Week 1: Budget

"MANAGING MONEY WELL"

### STEP 1: MY TOP 5 FINANCIAL GOALS

**S.M.A.R.T. Goals** = Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely

Financial Goals	Description	Estimated Cost	Goal Completion Date
Example	Buy a car	£5,000	01/06/18
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			









## Week 1: Budget

"MANAGING MONEY WELL"

### STEP 3: FAT FINDER

INCOME	Weekly	Monthly
Combined Total Income (inc Benefits)		£
<b>COMBINED TOTAL INCOME</b>		£

HOUSEHOLD	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
Mortgage/Rent				
Council Tax/Service Charge				
Electricity				
Gas				
Water Rates				
Home Phone and Internet				
Household/Garden Maintenance				
Mobile Phone(s)				
Shopping Bulk (Food, Toiletries etc)				
Shopping Odd Bits weekly (Bread, Milk etc.)				
Other (Insert Name)				
<b>HOUSEHOLD TOTAL</b>		£		
<b>HOUSEHOLD TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				£

INSURANCE	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
Building and Content				
Car Insurance(s)				
Life Insurance(s)				
Private Health Care/Health Insurance				
Pet Insurance				
Travel Insurance				
Credit Card Payment Protection				
Mortgage Protection				
Other Insurance (Insert Name)				
<b>INSURANCE CURRENT TOTAL</b>		£		
<b>INSURANCE TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				£

## Week 1: Budget

"MANAGING MONEY WELL"

### STEP 3: FAT FINDER (CONT.)

CARD & LOAN REPAYMENTS	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
Debt(s) Combined				
<b>DEBT TOTAL</b>				
SAVINGS				
Savings (inc, Pension, ISA's, Trust, Stocks, etc.)		£		
<b>SAVINGS CURRENT TOTAL</b>				£

TRAVEL	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
Petrol/Diesel				
Road Tax				
Parking				
Break Down Cover				
Oyster Card/Travel Card				
Other (Insert Name)				
<b>TRAVEL CURRENT TOTAL</b>		£		
<b>TRAVEL TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				£

FOOD & DRINK	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
Meals/Snacks/Beverages Partner 1				
Meals/Snacks/Beverages Partner 2				
<b>FOOD &amp; DRINK CURRENT TOTAL</b>		£		
<b>FOOD &amp; DRINK TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				£

LEISURE	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
Socialising/Nights Out				
Alcohol				
Smoking				
TV License				
Satellite/Cable etc				
Other (Insert Name)				
<b>LEISURE CURRENT TOTAL</b>		£		
<b>LEISURE TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				£



## Week 1: Budget

"MANAGING MONEY WELL"

### STEP 3: FAT FINDER (CONT.)

CHILDCARE	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
Child Maintenance				
Childcare/Babysitting/Nursery				
School Meals				
Children's Activities/Hobbies				
Pocket Money				
Other (Insert Name)				
<b>CHILDCARE CURRENT TOTAL</b>		£		
<b>CHILDCARE TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				£

HEALTH & BEAUTY	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
Gym Membership/Other Recreation				
Haircut His				
Hairdressing Hers				
Beauty treatment (inc. Nails, Facials etc)				
Beauty Products				
Other (Insert Name)				
<b>HEALTH &amp; BEAUTY CURRENT TOTAL</b>		£		
<b>HEALTH &amp; BEAUTY TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				£

MISCELLANEOUS	Weekly	Monthly	Can Reduce To	Total Savings
New Clothes				
Newspaper/Magazine				
Tithing/Charity				
Other (Insert Name)				
<b>MISCELLANEOUS CURRENT TOTAL</b>		£		
<b>MISCELLANEOUS TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				£

SUMMARY				
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME	£			
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPEDITURE		£		
TOTAL MONTHLY SAVINGS (FAT FOUND)				£

# Financial Freedom

## WEEKLY APPLICATION

### Week 2: Debt “BREAKING FREE”

#### APPLICATION

During this week’s video, Jeff & Gunnar introduced the *Debt Freedom Accelerator*, which when applied has a snowball effect when it comes to reducing your debt. Follow these instructions below and put this into practice this week.

##### How to fill in the Debt Freedom Accelerator:

1. List the full amount of all of your debts in order of the smallest balance to the largest (regardless of the interest rate), including the minimum payment amount required for each debt. This will provide you with two important totals:
  - I. The sum of all your debts combined.
  - II. The sum of your minimum monthly payments.
2. To press the accelerator in paying off debt, add as much money as you can squeeze out of your budget to the smallest debt to get it paid off as quickly as possible.
3. Once the first debt with the smallest balance is paid off in full, add what you were paying towards the first debt to your current payment on the second debt and whatever extra you can find, and roll that onto the second debt. As you gather more funds, it will make a bigger impact – that’s the accelerator effect. By making continuous payments, over time the second debt will be paid off.
4. Then take full amount you were paying on the second debt, add on the minimum payment you were paying on the third debt and put the total amount towards paying on your next (third) largest debt. Soon you will be accelerating even more. You’ll be amazed to see how fast God works on your behalf to get you out of debt.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 all the way down your *Debt Freedom Accelerator* entries until you are debt-free. It does take time but you’ll be amazed to see God’s hand in your finances to speed up the process.

## Week 2: Debt

“BREAKING FREE”

### DEBT FREEDOM ACCELERATOR (EXAMPLE)

The cost of debt is more a function of time (pay-off date) than the interest rate.

Your Current Debt Situation				
Monthly Bills	Current Balance (From £ to ££££)	Interest Rate	Minimum Monthly Payment	Accelerated Monthly Payment
1. Store Card	984	18.9%	20	59
2. Bank Overdraft	1,546	12%	26	26
3. MasterCard	3,635	18.9%	107	107
4. Visa	5,671	21.9%	135	135
4. Car Payment	11,042	5.9%	212	212
6. Personal Residence Mortgage	177,210	3.5%	889	889
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£200,088</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>£1,389</b>	<b>£1,428</b>

## Week 2: Debt

“BREAKING FREE”

### DEBT FREEDOM ACCELERATOR

The cost of debt is more a function of time (pay-off date) than the interest rate.

Your Current Debt Situation				
Monthly Bills	Current Balance (From £ to ££££)	Interest Rate	Minimum Monthly Payment	Accelerated Monthly Payment
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
<b>Total:</b>				

# Financial Freedom

## WEEKLY APPLICATION

### Week 3: Savings

“BUILDING YOUR FUTURE”

### APPLICATION

In this session we've been looking at Savings. Our application for this week is to set out personal savings goals, whether this is for:

1. £1,000 Emergency Fund Established
2. 3-6 months Expenditure Emergency Fund established
3. Short-Term & Long-Term Savings plan established

### MY SAVINGS GOALS

**S.M.A.R.T. Goals** = Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely

Savings Goals	Description	Estimated Cost	Projected Completion Date
<b>£1,000 Emergency Fund</b>	Reserved exclusively for unforeseen circumstances	£1,000	
<b>3-6 Months Emergency Fund</b>	Reserved exclusively for unforeseen circumstances		
<b>Short-Term</b>			
<b>Long-Term</b>			

## Week 3: Savings

"BUILDING YOUR FUTURE"

### THE RULE OF 72

The Rule of 72 approximates the number of years it will take to double your money at a fixed rate of interest over the period.

The Rule of 72 is calculated by dividing 72 by the rate of return that your investment earns.

Number of years	3%	6%	12%
0	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
6			£20,000
12		£20,000	£40,000
18			£80,000
24	£20,000	£40,000	£160,000
30			£320,000
36		£80,000	£640,000
42			£1,280,000
48	£40,000	£160,000	£2,560,000

# Financial Freedom

## WEEKLY APPLICATION

### **Week 4: Giving**

“ENLARGING YOUR WORLD”

### **APPLICATION**

This week’s topic was Giving and our application this week is simple; Set time aside this week to “have a coffee with God” and consider how your life can be defined by generosity.

In particular ask the following questions:

1. How does my current giving reflect God being first in my life?
2. What practical steps can I take in my finances to enable me to be more generous?
3. Who can I bless and how?

# Financial Freedom

## WEEKLY APPLICATION

### **Week 5: Legacy**

“LIVING WITH PURPOSE”

### **APPLICATION**

This week’s topic was around Legacy and our application now is to review the last few weeks and consider the lasting impact that you would like to have.

In particular ask yourself the following questions:

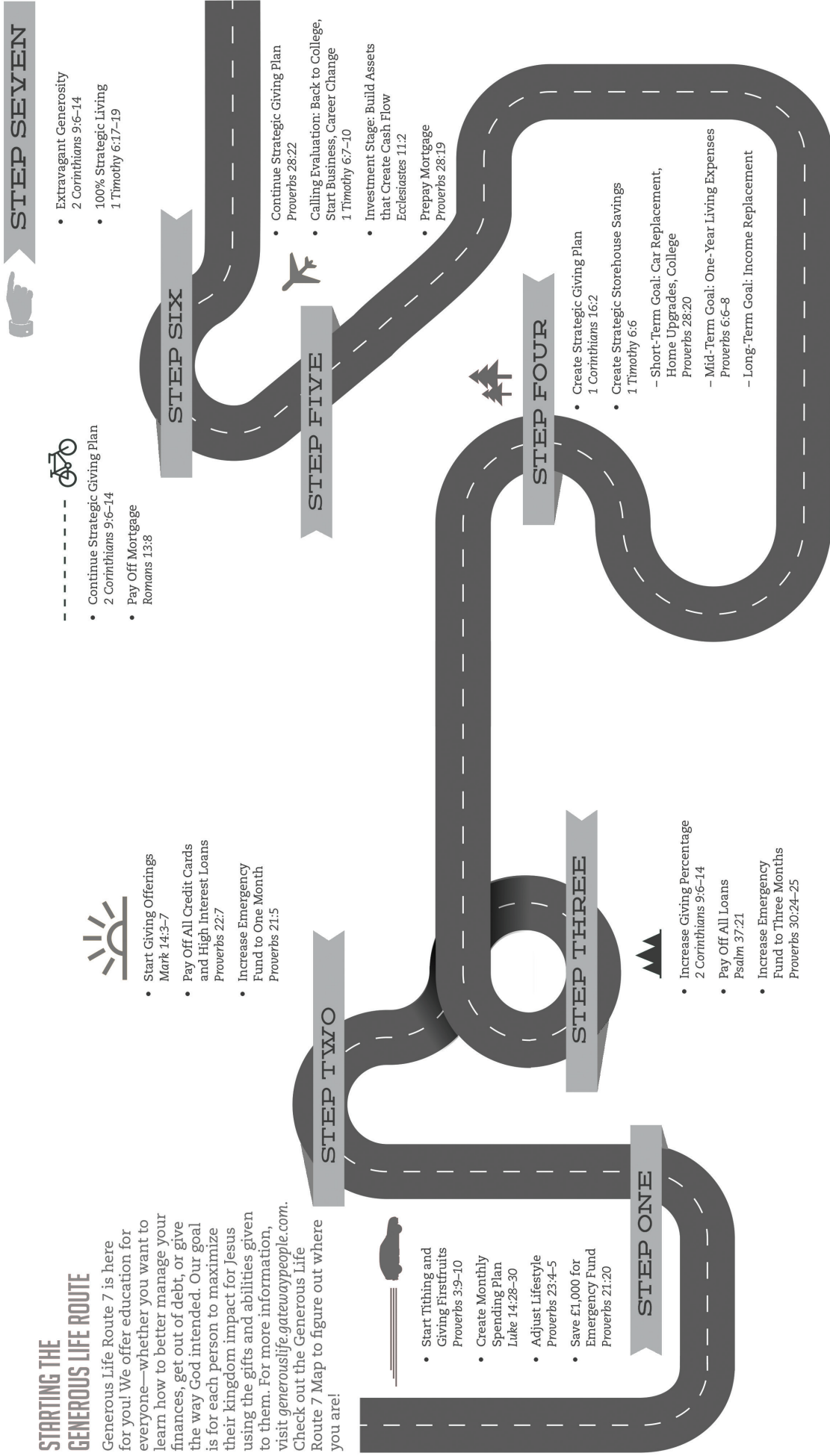
- 1.** Who is a financial mentor that you could learn from, who is perhaps ahead of you in the area of finance, and who is one person you could help move forward?
- 2.** What opportunities do you see in church that you could commit to when it comes to leaving a legacy? For example:
  - Hillsong Foundation
  - Compassion Child Sponsorship
  - Vision Rescue
  - A21
  - Refugee Crisis
  - Green Light
  - Nation Builders
- 3.** What principles from the last 5 weeks will I now apply, and how will I commit to making these things consistent in my life so that I can live a life of Financial Freedom?



# THE FINANCIAL ROADMAP

## STARTING THE GENEROUS LIFE ROUTE

Generous Life Route 7 is here for you! We offer education for everyone—whether you want to learn how to better manage your finances, get out of debt, or give the way God intended. Our goal is for each person to maximize their kingdom impact for Jesus using the gifts and abilities given to them. For more information, visit [generouslife.gatewaypeople.com](http://generouslife.gatewaypeople.com). Check out the Generous Life Route 7 Map to figure out where you are!



# Further Reading Resources

## **True Riches: Prosperity with Purpose**

Author: Jeff Lestz

The theme of *True Riches* is that you can have a healthy, happy life in every area especially when you get your finances on track and do things God's way. It has both Biblical and practical steps to financial freedom. The book, also, covers how to not just make money but how to become kingdom-minded financially. If you have an interest in looking at finances from a Biblical, Jewish perspective this book is for you.

## **Generous Life Journey: The Road To Financial Freedom**

Author: Gunnar Johnson

At some point in life we will all encounter things that bring us to the intersection of faith and finances. How we navigate these roads will determine our success in our walk with God and in life. Picture in your mind what your life would look like if you were financially free. Dwell on that image. Then, begin to dwell on the impact your financial liberation life could have on your community—and on the world.

Pastor Gunnar Johnson has written about the powerful impact of a *Generous Life Journey*. This book is the culmination of over 10 years of faith, struggles and obedience in carrying out a very clear and precise vision God gave him on how to build a stewardship ministry. It's the story of how Gunnar's encounter with God forever changed his life and taught him how handling finances is an issue of the heart.

## **The Blessed Life: Unlocking The Rewards Of Generous Living**

Author: Robert Morris

Discover the Joy of Giving - and the Reward of Receiving.

This book will transform your life for the better, bringing you guaranteed financial results. But it will do more than that. It will change every area of your life: marriage, family, health and relationships. For when God changes your heart from selfishness to generosity, every part of your life-journey is affected.

If all believers followed the practical guidance of *The Blessed Life*, every church could be built, every nation would have an abundance of missionaries - and all would reap the benefits of having a generous heart. With humor, passion and clarity, Robert Morris presents the secrets of living a blessed life both financially and spiritually.

## **God's Economic Engine: Discovering Tithing In The New Covenant**

Author: Scott Wilson

This book examines a Biblical principle that still endures today.

The author shows that tithing is a New Testament idea. Contemporary theological views are also examined in light of this historical topic.

*God's Economic Engine* is written for those who are new to faith but provide ample resource for those who choose to examine the subject further. Whether you are a layperson or Pastor this book is a great tool to understand and help others understand the real truth about tithing.