



# With Joy and Thanksgiving



## A 52 Week Christian Lifestyle & 2020 Stewardship Challenge

Below are 52 activities to challenge you to think about a daily living in relation to our Christian faith and commitment and continually place before us a form of Christian lifestyle.  
Can you complete each weekly activity (if not numerically, then in any order)?

### Week of/# Challenge



Jan. 1/1 – Read Matthew 6:9-21.

Jan. 8/2 – Plan a recreational activity that gives physical exercise and/or builds relationships but uses little fuel or other non-renewable resources.

Jan. 15/3 – Contribute to church 25% of the amount you spent on pet food or a hobby.

Jan. 22/4 – Notice advertising. Discuss its effect with family members. List some things that ads make you “want” that you wouldn’t even know existed otherwise and would never have missed.

Jan. 29/5 – Read Matthew 4:1-11. Discuss how Jesus was tempted and how he resisted. What are some of your own temptations that pertain to lifestyle?



Feb. 5/6 – Make a special effort to help someone in need.

Feb. 12/7 – Increase your offering by contributing 25% of your recreational expenditures for the week.

Feb. 19/8 – Go through your closet and give unused clothing away. Learn to live with less. Reactivate old clothing instead of buying new. Discuss what guides your clothes purchasing habits.

Feb. 26/9 – Read Luke 14:25-33. Discuss how you have been blessed today, last week, last year, in your lifetime.



Mar. 4/10 – Estimate how many pounds of meat your family ate during the past week and give \$1 per pound.

Mar. 11/11 – Eliminate 1 cup of coffee or soda each day and add the cost to your offering.

Mar. 18/12 – Pray to use your personal freedom to serve the needs of people in bondage to hunger. Keep a visible reminder of such people in your kitchen during these 40 weeks.

Mar. 25/13 – Read Joshua 24:14-15.



Apr. 1/14 – Nearly 40% of Bolivia’s people live in poverty. Hunger, malnutrition, natural disasters and lack of education plague their many children. Give \$.25 for each lightbulb in your house to World Hunger.

Apr. 8/15 – Eliminate desserts for this week and contribute the savings to the Improvement Fund.

Apr. 15/16 – Many electronics are assembled in Taiwan where workers earn less than 75 cents an hour. Give 50 cents for each electronic appliance or gadget in your house to the General Fund.

Apr. 22/17 – Read Mark 10:17-31.

Apr. 29/18 – The average TV viewing time in U.S. households is 7.8 hours a day. Decide to do something other than watch TV such as read, take a walk, play a game, etc.



May 6/19 – Count the number of dispensers or bars of soap in your house and contribute same to food pantry.

May 13/20 – Make a list of the things you have and what you would like to have. Discuss with your family which are necessities and which are luxuries. Give \$.25 for each luxury item to a charitable organization.

May 20/21 – Read Matthew 19:16-24.

May 27/22 – Americans waste about 1 lb. of food per person each day with highest waste coming from fruit, veges, dairy and meat. Discuss how you can avoid waste by better planning and smaller portions.

June 3/23 – Pray for a spirit of openness and sensitivity. Ask God to help you see how your lifestyle affects those around you and sisters and brothers who are poor throughout the world.

June 10/24 – Almost 1.5 million people in the United States lack a plumbed connection to drinking water or sewers. Give \$.50 for each faucet or toilet in your house to the Samaritan Fund.

June 17/25 – Read Acts 4:32-36.

June 24/26 – Avoid throwing away items and products that are over-packaged. Use the nearest recycling center for newspapers, glass, tin, plastic, etc.



July 1/27 – Choose 1 poor country. (*Haiti is the poorest nation in the hemisphere.*) Compare your lifestyle with the lifestyle of the majority of people in that country. Eat a meal of the common foods of that country.

July 8/28 – List some ways in which you can simplify your lifestyle and keep reminders posted.

July 15/29 – Read Corinthians 12.

July 22/30 – About 1/3 of all rubber in the world comes from Thailand where workers make \$7 a day. Give \$.25 for every shoe and pacifier in your house and tire on your car(s).

July 29/31 – Discuss where the food you eat comes from. Why do people go hungry in countries that export food products to other countries? Write a table prayer expressing your feelings about this situation.



Aug. 5/32 – Driving a car is probably a typical citizen's most 'polluting' daily activity. This week decide to walk, carpool or use mass transit whenever possible.

Aug. 12/33 – Read Psalm 24. How can we be a better steward of earth?

Aug. 19/34 – Evaluate your church celebrations by their lifestyle and economic witness. What kind of foods are served? Are disposables used?

Aug. 26/35 – 1 out of 5 children in the U.S. is poor. Discuss what it means to be poor in a country of such wealth. What actions for change can you take?



Sep. 2/36 – Across the world, 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity; 300 million are in India alone. Give \$.25 for every outlet in your house to the Missions Fund.

Sep. 9/37 – Read Matthew 6:16-18. Discuss fasting.

Sep. 16/38 – Pray for God's help to look wisely at your life with a perspective which embraces the whole earth and all its people.

Sep. 23/39 – Write a letter or e-mail to an appropriate government official, business executive or to the editor of your newspaper expressing your concern about a lifestyle issue (ie. environment, poverty.)

Sep. 30/40 – Avoid using disposable products whenever possible. Give \$.25 for every paper plate and cup in your cupboards.

Oct. 7/41 – Read 1 Timothy 5:17-19.

Oct. 13/42 – Fast for one meal today and give the equivalent of what your family would have

Oct. 20/43 – Discuss with others the question: If Jesus accompanied you shopping, would your buying habits be different?

Oct. 27/44 – Pray this Latin American Mealtime prayer: "To those who hunger give bread, and to those who have bread, give the hunger justice."

Nov. 4/45 – Read 1 Peter 4:7-11.

Nov. 11/46 – "Dematerialize" celebrations by making your own gifts or giving gifts to non-profit organizations in honor of family and friends. Share with others about a meaningful gift you have received.

Nov. 18/47 – Eat your evening meal by candlelight tonight and discuss ways in which you can better conserve energy. Give \$1 for every electrical appliance in your kitchen.

Nov. 25/48 – Contribute 5% of your costs for Christmas gifts or participate in the Gift of Giving Tree.

Dec. 2/49 – Read Luke 2:1-20.

Dec. 9/50 – The world produces enough food to feed every human being alive today. Plan to creatively use leftover food today. Check out "Use-it-Up Cookbooks" for practical ideas.

Dec. 16/51 – Contribute 25% of your expenditures for liquor, cigarettes, soda and candy to your offering.

Dec. 23/52 – Give thanks to God for both the challenges and choices you have in your life. Ask God's spirit to fill all with compassion, insight and concern when making personal decisions which may affect the lives of others.



***"Live simply so that others may simply Live!"***

***Weisenberg Lutheran Church Stewardship Team***

