

RENOVATION

CITY CHURCH

GIVING

KIDS (5 Minutes)

Hand each kid \$10 in fake/Monopoly money. Have 3 buckets – “Spending”, “Saving”, and “Giving” and ask them to put their money in the buckets they want.

After they have put the money in the buckets, ask them:

Q: Where did you put your money? Why?

Q: How many of you chose to give? Why? Who would you give to?

Let’s see what the Bible has to say about work:

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

Q: Would any of you change what you put in the giving bucket after hearing this verse?

Pray. Say a simple prayer about learning to give cheerfully.

-----DISMISS CHILDREN TO PLAY!-----

ADULTS (20-22 Minutes)

INTRODUCTION

As we heard in the kids lesson, giving is something for each of us to “decide in our own heart”, so there is some “subjectivity” involved when it comes to this topic. However, let’s go deeper into what the Bible has to say about the importance of giving.

QUESTIONS

Q: Is giving something that you have struggled with doing? Why or why not?

Leader: share a personal example of how you have contemplated giving or maybe have changed your giving habits over time

SCRIPTURE

Although it doesn't provide guidance on a specific amount, the Bible talks about giving quite a bit! Here are 5 principles of giving that the Bible establishes. As we're reading through these, think about which of these is the most challenging for you and prepare to share with the group why.

- 1) Giving should be **cheerful** (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
 - Each one must decide how much to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion (under pressure or being forced)
 - Different than being compulsive
- 2) Giving should be **voluntary** (Deuteronomy 15:10)
 - Giving is not a law or something you are bound to
 - It's probably a "red flag" if you are giving only because someone is telling you that you have to
- 3) Giving should be **secretive/anonymous** (Matthew 6:1-4)
 - Don't be obnoxious or blare a trumpet to let others know of your good deeds. God knows
 - Giving is an intimate thing between you and God
- 4) Giving should be **sacrificial** (2 Corinthians 8:3)
 - By their means and PAST their means, by their own accord
 - Lady with two coins who gives all she had (Mark 12:41-44)
 - God gave his ONLY Son. What is more sacrificial than that? He provides us the perfect example.
 - It should be noted that God also wants to be wise with what he has given us. For example, we probably shouldn't sacrifice so much that we can't provide for our family
- 5) Giving should be **with gratitude**. (I Chronicles 29: 12-14)
 - Recognition that everything we have is a gift of God.
 - God gives and takes away because everything is HIS. (Job 1:21)
 - Every good gift is from God (James 1:17)
 - Honor the Lord with your first fruits (Proverbs 3:9-10)
 - A lot of times, gratitude is the origin of giving. "We love because he first loved us" (I John 4:19)... "We give because he first gave to us"

FINAL QUESTIONS

Q: Which of the above 5 principles is challenging for you? Why?

Q: What do you think it will take for you to grow in the area that you find to be the most challenging?

PRAYER (2-5 Minutes):

Leader: *Lead Prayer for the group with the prayer below (or something similar).*

Lord, thank you for how you have given to us in the most sacrificial way possible—by giving us your Son, Jesus. We pray that you give us the hearts to also give sacrificially and that we do it cheerfully and humbly. May our giving be a blessing to others and ultimately bring glory to you both from our act of giving and the fruits that will come from our giving. Amen.