

GOSPEL GIVING

LOVE GIVE GROW

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.
(2 Corinthians 8:9, NLT)

Big Idea:

We give in light of what Christ has done for us.

Church Giver

Prosperity
Socialized
Guilt
Duty
Need

Gospel Giver

Gratitude
Generous

My thinking

Illiterate
Insecure
Ingrained

My thinking

Faith
Hope
Love

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Gospel Giving Questions

1. Ideas have consequences. How we think affects how we act. We find this throughout the Bible. Jesus said God cares for us, therefore, we should not worry (Matt 6:30-31). If we 'think' the first part, we can act correctly in the second part.
 - a. *What are some unbiblical ideas around God that create unbiblical reasons to give?*
 - b. *What was the most significant thing you learned about the reasons people give (prosperity, socialization, guilt, duty, & need)?*
 - c. *What is different about these reasons than the reasons Jesus had for giving his life? (cf., Rom 15:3a; 1Jn 3:16).*
2. How does the giving-nature of God affect your giving? What has changed about since you started focusing more on God's gifts to us than our gifts to Him?
3. Why is it important to imitate God? (cf., Eph 5:1ff.)
4. Read 1 Cor 13:1-3. What are the different things that are 'given' in these verses? Why are these gifts inadequate according to Paul.
 - a. *Why is the motivation for these gifts important and not just the gift itself?*
 - b. *How are faith, hope, & love essential ingredients for every Gospel Giver?*
5. What needs to change in your thinking so you can become a Gospel Giver? (i.e., so your giving is an expression of your hope, faith, & love rooted in the Gospel more than fear, punishment, or reward).

Love Give Grow Questions

1. A tithe is 10% of a person's income. In Old Testament times people gave a tithe plus alms and various offerings. At The Journey Church, the Tithe would be what we give to the General Fund (to God's Church), Alms would be for Community Care (to help those in need), and Offerings would be for one of our several other funds (mission, building, special).
 - a. *Why do you think people confuse Tithes, Alms, & Offerings as being the same thing?*
 - b. *What kind of planning would be required for a family to start giving a full tithe and alms and offerings? Do you have a financial plan that includes regular giving? (giving with PAD is one way to help you have consistency).*
 - c. *What impact does debt have on our ability to give generously? Do you have a plan to reduce personal debt so you can become more generous?*
 - d. *What do you think would happen if all God's people were obedient in giving a tithe to the local church?*
2. In the Gospels, the only thing Jesus talked about more than money was the Kingdom of God.
 - a. *Based on Jesus' emphasis, what can we do to have a more biblical understanding of money?*
 - b. *What can we do to be less defensive (or offended) when discussing money?*
3. Paul writes: "God loves a cheerful giver." What are some marks of a cheerful giver? What one thing can you do this week to become more cheerful in giving? If you acted on this question last week, how did it go? Share with your group.