

Value the Church: *Giving is...*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
Facilitator Notes:	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some characteristics of giving? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Giving is love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship. <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IGNITE Bible <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: Matthew 6:1-4, Matthew 22:37-39, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 12:41-44, John 4:23, John 13:34, 2 Corinthians 8:9 ➤ "Giving is..." resources – https://ndi.nac-usa.org/en/resources/giving
PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
	<p>This week we will continue our discussion on giving and look at some of the characteristics of giving. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.</p>
POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary. 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder..." question was about various characteristics of giving: giving is love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship. Take time this week to talk with your student about giving. Perhaps your understanding of giving has developed as you have matured as a Christian. When you reflect on giving, what do you think about it? How do you give in your own life? You can also review the "Giving is..." articles that have been published in the VISION Newsletters so far (Autumn 2017, Spring 2018, Autumn 2018, Summer 2019). As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Youth Leaders</p>

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday’s sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
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HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Ask the students to reflect individually and make a list of what they have given to others in the last month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This could include energy or time they’ve spent doing an activity or project that helps others (whether for school, charity, a family member, etc.), or material goods that they’re donated (clothes to Goodwill, food items to a food pantry, etc.) <p style="margin-top: 20px;">After they’re thought about this for a few minutes, have them look at their lists and identify what motivated them to do or give these things. Talk about these different motivators aloud with the group.</p>
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SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preview the “I wonder” questions with the students. 	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some characteristics of giving?
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LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click here for the Giving is...introduction video • Clarify with the students that there may be more characteristics of giving (i.e. obedience, etc.), but these are the ones that the lesson will focus on. 	<p>What are some characteristics of giving?</p> <p>Tell the students: As Christians, giving is an integral part of our faith and a vital part of our profession to the world that we are followers of Jesus.</p> <p>Ask the students: Different motivations for giving can also give us insight as to some characteristics of giving. Based on the hook activity and what motivated you to give, what do you think are some characteristics of giving?</p> <p>After a few minutes of discussion, tell the students: Today, we’ll focus on the following characteristics of giving – love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship.</p>
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- Please note that “mite” is a Jewish coin with little value. Make sure the students don’t confuse this coin with the word “might.” The Bible story is not about how strong the widow was or the effort she gave, but rather about the money she gave.
- [Click here for the Giving is...love video](#)
- **John 4:23** – *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*

Student Question #1 How is giving a sacrifice?

Together, read Mark 12:41-44.

Ask the students: What do you think this story about the widow’s mite says about giving?

- Some possible answers are:
- We should give all that we have to God.
- We shouldn’t be greedy with our money or try to hold onto it.
- Sometimes, in giving, we make sacrifices.

Brainstorm with the students sacrifices that are made for the sake of giving.

- Answers can range from small sacrifices to very big sacrifices, such as sacrificing one’s life.

Student Question #2 How is giving an example of love?

Tell the students: Our desire to give begins and ends with God. It is because God loves us, that He sought us out to have fellowship with Him. It is the love God has shown us that fuels our passion to share with others what we have been given. When we recognize that we are unworthy to receive all that God has given us, we must respond in love towards our God and our neighbors. This love prompts us to give freely from what we’ve been blessed with.

Ask the students: What has God given you that demonstrates His love for you?

- Some possible answers are: my family, my friends, His Son, etc.
- Read Jesus’ commandments in Matthew 22:37-39 and John 13:34.

Ask the students: How does giving fulfill Jesus’ command to love God and our neighbor?

Student Question #3 How is giving a form of worship?

Tell the students: In the last semester, under “Invest in your spiritual health,” we learned the definition of worship. Worship means to ascribe value or worth to something or someone, usually an idol or a deity. For Christians, this means recognizing and expressing who God is and what He is worth to us.

Together, read the “Flashpoint: Worship” on page 1096 of the IGNITE Bible.

Ask the students: How is giving a form of worship? How does giving help us to worship in spirit and truth as referenced in John 4:23?

- [Click here for the *Giving is...faith* video](#)
- The widow's mite example in Mark 12 is also an example of faith.

- Giving to the furtherance of the church could include tithes and offerings, along with giving of our time, energy, possessions, passions, talents, etc.

- **Matthew 28:19-20** – *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

- [Click here for the *Giving is...joy* video](#)

Student Question #4 How is giving an example of faith?

Together, watch the video, "Giving is Faith."

After watching the video, ask the students: How is giving an example of faith?

- Some possible answers are:
- We have faith that God will use our giving to make a difference in others' lives.
- We have faith that our giving will leave us with enough for our own well-being.
- Giving shows that we are faithful to God through our serving

Student Question #5 How does giving contribute to the mission of Christ?

Tell the students: As part of the family of God, we are on a mission. It was given to us by Jesus Christ through the apostles. And when we choose to follow and give to the furtherance of the church, then we are choosing to give to the mission of the church. Jesus' mission when He came to the earth was to rescue humankind from their sin and re-establish their relationship with God, the Father. Before ascending back to His Father, Jesus placed His mission into the hands of His Apostles, which we can read together in Matthew 28:19-20

Ask the students: How can you specifically give to contribute to the mission of Christ?

- Some possible answers are:
- I can talk with other people about Jesus.
- I can make offerings, which helps the church to teach people about Jesus and make disciples.
- I can serve others so that they see and feel the love of Jesus.

Student Question #6 How does giving bring joy?

Tell the students: Think back to a moment when you gave someone a Christmas present. Choose a moment when you were excited to give this person a gift because you chose it specifically for them, rather than just getting them a gift because it was the nice thing to do.

Ask the students: What did it feel like to give this person their gift?

- Some possible answers are:
- They were excited to give the gift.
- They were joyful because of the person's response.
- They felt happy that they could give something nice to this person.

Ask the students: How did the person receiving the gift react?

- Ideally, they would answer that the person was happy that they received this gift.

Tell the students: Now imagine being able to give to something (a charity, church, etc.) or someone, and it truly helps them! Maybe your gift helps them to have food the next day. Maybe it helps them to come to know Jesus. Maybe it helps a charity that is serving people in your community or in a community in a different country. When we give out of our own joy, because we know and are thankful that God has given us so much, our giving has the ability to cause joy in others.

	<p>Student Question #7 Why should I give secretly?</p> <p>Together, read Matthew 6:1-4.</p> <p>Ask the students: Why do you think Jesus teaches His disciples, and us, that we should give in secret?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some possible answers are: • We don't want to give just so others can see how great we are. • If other people know what we give and think highly of us for it, we might lost our humility. • We want to glorify God in our giving, and only He needs to know what we give. • We find joy knowing that we have given in order to serve God and others.
<p>WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)</p>	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p>	<p>Wrap up the lesson with why giving is important.</p> <p>Close with the "I Wonder...." questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words. ➤ As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions. ➤ Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already vowed to surrender themselves to the triune God and be obedient to Him. <p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some characteristics of giving? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Giving is love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship. <p>Point to Ponder....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The concept of Christian giving is integrated within the broader concept of discipleship. Christian giving is more than money: it is our offering of time, spiritual giftedness, and financial support. <p>A Call to Action....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read "Flashpoint: Money" on page 1024 of the IGNITE Bible with a parent or someone else in your family.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

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<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are some characteristics of giving?	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Giving is love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship.
<p>References: Matthew 6:1-4, Matthew 22:37-39, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 12:41-44, John 4:23, John 13:34, 2 Corinthians 8:9</p>	

1. How is giving a sacrifice?

2. How is giving an example of love?

3. How is giving an example of worship?

4. How is giving an example of faith?

5. How does giving contribute to the mission of Christ?

6. How does giving bring joy?

7. Why should I give secretly?

Point to Ponder: The concept of Christian giving is integrated within the broader concept of discipleship. Christian giving is more than money: it is our offering of time, spiritual giftedness, and financial support.

Call to Action: Read "**Flashpoint: Money**" on page 1024 of the IGNITE Bible with a parent or someone else in your family.