



FINE ARTS

deployed july week 1

discipleship dimension: generosity

DIMENSION OBJECTIVE:

Disciples learn to biblically manage their personal resources well, giving the Lord's tithe and offerings beyond the tithe, saving for the future, and learning to budget.



Giving Freely to God

Hailey Hibbard

scripture

“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 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.’ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, ‘They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.’ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 9:6–13

discover

My Nanny was a wise woman. For as long as I knew her, she was the picture of what it meant to love Jesus with your whole life. She never missed a church service, she sang praises to the Lord at any and every opportunity, and there wasn't a situation she didn't have a Scripture for. You'd also never see her dodge an offering plate—she would say that everything was the Lord's anyway.

In fact, I didn't know until she passed away that she was paying her tithes and offerings at her church while also making monthly offerings to two other churches, and did it all on a fixed income. It was astounding to me. When you crunched the numbers, it made no sense how she was able to give that way and never miss a bill. I knew she was a giver, but this went beyond being faithful. This was cheerful giving, and God had honored her heart by pouring out His favor in every way imaginable. In fact, when her affairs were being sorted by our family, we used to joke that God was still dumping out the rest of His favor on her—she kept receiving checks, out of the blue, for more than six months after her death.

develop

Reread verses 6 through 11 in our opening passage. What do you think my Nanny learned about giving cheerfully as she grew in her relationship with the Lord? Do you think she considered her financial giving to the church an act of worship? Who do you think she was ultimately giving to? Thinking specifically of verse 6, how do you see the actions of sowing and reaping playing out in her life?

deploy

Share with the group a time when you were excited to give and why. Talk about what it means to you to be a cheerful giver. Discuss the ways you have seen sowing and reaping play out in your own life. Now take time to think and share ways you might cheerfully give of your time, talents, gifts, or possessions this Fine Arts season. Who on your team do you feel like the Lord is asking you to bless through some form of giving?

prayer

Set aside time to pray that God would develop in each of you the heart of a giver. Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire within you the deep desire to give cheerfully as an act of worship. Pray He would root out any part of you that wants to hold out when you are invited to give.