



FINE ARTS

deployed july week 3

discipleship dimension: generosity

DIMENSION OBJECTIVE:

Disciples learn how they can contribute to God's economy by giving, working, and helping others fulfill their mission.



Giving Freely to God

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scripture

“don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Matthew 6:19–21

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42–47

discover

I will never forget the year our church’s youth group made a faith pledge to Speed the Light. Our community is very poor and most of our students came from families who struggled day to day. Committing to give was a huge deal since none of them really had money to give. So, they immediately began making plans for how to raise the money and eventually decided on a run.

The idea was that each student would ask people to donate for every mile they ran. Students gathered pledges from everyone they could, and the race was set for a hot, July day. The morning of the run, the students met at the church to ride to the track. They had one hour to run as many miles as possible. Not every student was an athlete and certainly not many were runners, but not one of them stopped or gave up.

By the end of the hour, the students were extremely tired but excited to find out how much they had earned. The next Sunday, they announced they had fulfilled their giving pledge for Speed the Light! The students were so proud to have been able to give toward that year’s missionary vehicle.

develop

In the opening passages, we read the instruction to lay up our treasures in heaven, then see the example set by the New Testament Church after the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Think for a moment of Acts 2:44–45. What similarities can you draw between the actions in these verses and the purpose behind the Speed the Light run? What do you think the students' goal was? Now thinking of Matthew 6:19–21, what type of treasure was laid up by the fundraiser?

deploy

Talk with your team about what treasures are or can be and the practical ways to be sure you're laying them up in heaven. Discuss the Church in Acts 2 and the motivation in seeing God's kingdom advanced and His people cared for. How can you and your teammates give your time, talents, and resources to see the gospel furthered? Do you think your hard work and participation in Fine Arts counts as giving toward the ministry? Can you see your teamwork as a part of building a heavenly treasure, and if not, how could you change your heart toward it?

prayer

At the end of your time of devotion, pray together for the Holy Spirit to help you begin laying your treasures up in heaven. Ask Him to keep your heart focused on the right things and to make you aware of the everyday opportunities you have to pour into God's kingdom. Pray that you and your team may deal generously with one another, recognizing each other's needs and being quick to help.