



FINE ARTS

deployed july week 4

discipleship dimension: generosity

DIMENSION OBJECTIVE:

Disciples begin to recognize and experience God's provision. They learn to give sacrificially of their time, talent, and treasure as the Holy Spirit leads.



Our Sacrificial Giving and God's Provision

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scripture

"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

Luke 6:38

"Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.'"

Mark 12:41–44

discover

As a worship pastor, there aren't many Sundays off. There was a rare occasion where a night service was canceled and to be truthful, I was looking forward to a small break. A few days before that Sunday, I got a message from a local pastor friend inviting me to come lead at their church if I ever had a Sunday night free. I knew immediately the Holy Spirit was prompting me to go and be a part of their service, so though I was excited about the extra rest, I said yes.

The church was about 45 minutes from my house, and I arrived an hour early for sound check. I was met at the door by my friend, introduced to the sound engineer, and did a quick run of songs. Frankly, I was quite tired, so I began praying as I waited for the start time, asking the Holy Spirit for strength and clear direction. When service started, I was completely floored by the presence of God in the room. With only ten or fifteen people in the pews, there was an evident move of God's Spirit and sincere worship broke out for nearly an hour. I was humbled and so in awe of what God had done with what felt like so little from me.

After service, I had three people come to me with money they felt the Lord had asked them to give. It covered my gas and even paid a couple of bills I had coming up. I drove home completely stunned by God's provision.

develop

In Luke 6:38, we read that the measure with which we give is the measure it will be given back to us. And in Mark 12:41–44, we read the story of Jesus and the widow who gave everything she had. There is great significance not only in what we give, but in our willingness to give all that we have. What was my sacrificial offering? What do you see in God's response to my willingness to say yes even when I didn't feel I had something to give?

deploy

Talk with your team about giving from your “poverty,” like the widow. What does sacrificial giving mean to you? Discuss the connection between our willingness to give all that we have and God's ability to give back to us with the same measure. Recall Luke 6:38 and talk about releasing God's provision in your lives. What measure would you like God to use in providing for you? How can you and your team practice sacrificial giving to one another—in ministering, in rehearsals, in relationship? How can you practice giving in relationships beyond your team?

prayer

Take some time to pray together. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see the places you haven't been willing to give all that you have when He asks. Ask for His help understanding and practicing giving with a good measure and being ready to respond sacrificially to His leading.