

### **PLANNED GIVING WEEK 3: CHIPPER GIVER! (The Early Church and Tithing)**

**"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."**

**Mother Teresa**

**THE AIM:** The aim of today's session is to explore how the early Church approached giving, as opposed to tithing in the Law. The scriptural references for this session are 1 Timothy 5:18 and 2 Corinthians 9:7. Remember to look at what our thinking and attitudes are when giving.

**INTRO:** Leaders, welcome and settle your group. Discuss with your group what they learnt last week: if they attempted last week's 'ACT' task and how they are doing with the current memory verse. For this week's session you need: About 30 pop sticks, Corps Cadets Books, Bibles and pens.

'It's the thought that counts'... at least that's what we hear when we get socks or stationery as gifts. In fact, the most valuable gifts aren't often the most expensive, but those that are given happily to us out of love. The same is true for giving in the church. So today we are going to look at our attitudes when we give...

**PLAY:** Have a go at the 'Scissors Paper Rock Give' GAME...

**Leaders, distribute the pop sticks so that everyone has the same amount. People play scissors paper rock against each other, with the loser giving the winner one of their pop sticks. Whoever has the most pop sticks at the end of the game (whenever people have run out of pop sticks or after a certain amount of time) wins.**

How did you feel when you had to give up your pop sticks?

What did it feel like to have lots of pop sticks? What did it feel like to have none?

**TEACH:** Volunteer to read this info aloud...

There are only a handful of references to tithing in the New Testament, as the early Church separated from the Law. While Jesus says that those follow the Law should tithe, there is no specific instruction for the early Church to tithe. Instead, Paul thought that we should give of our own freewill, to support the apostles and those in the community (1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 9:7).

**DRAW:** Sketch a picture of the early Church sharing their possessions (extra points if you include a slice of pizza)...

**READ:** Look up 1 Timothy 5:18 & 2 Corinthians 9:7...

For the Scripture says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain." And in another place, "Those who work deserve their pay!" 1 Timothy 5:18

"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." 2 Corinthians 9:7

**TALK:** Discuss these questions...

Some in church may give money out of guilt or obligation, but this passage talks about choosing to give cheerfully. Discuss.

Do you think our society is happy and generous? Why? Why not?

How might your parents want you to use your money? How would they feel about you choosing to give to the church?

How do you personally feel about being a cheerful giver? Is it easy or hardtop give with a happy attitude?

**GOOGLE: For those with smart-phones, quickly Google and share with the group...**

- **Early Church generosity**
- **Christian giving**

**THE POINT: In our world, many talk of a ten-percent tithe and young people don't often have much money at all. However, scripture teaches that we can each decide how much is right for us to give. As followers of Jesus we must remember to cheerfully give whatever we may choose...**

**BTW:** There are many things we love about church: the youth group events, music, games, sermons, etc. There are also people we love who are employed to lead the church and work in the community. Things like buildings, resources and people aren't free. So if you love your church and your leaders, then find a way you can cheerfully give...

**WRITE: Answer these questions...**

Think about it. As a follower of Jesus, why is it important to give cheerfully? Why not?

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Get specific. What do you think it means to "give cheerfully"?

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Be practical. How would the money you give help your church?

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Choose a time and place. When and where can you give cheerfully?

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Make it personal. Who do you know who is a cheerful giver?

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**PRAY: Leader to close in prayer with Corps Cadets: consult group on their personal prayer points for the upcoming week. Also remind Corps Cadet group about the current memory verse.**

**ACT: Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is...**

- **Take your written answers and try some out this week.**
- **Find a way to try and be a cheerful giver.**
- **Discuss how the ACT task went with your Corps Cadets group next week.**

**If you want to know more...**

**Read:** Pick up Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37 to see how the early Church helped each other out.

**Watch:** Check out *A Christmas Carol*, 2009 (PG).

**Question:** Ask your Corps Officers about giving cheerfully and how it relates to the Mission Intention Making Disciples.

**Research:** Look up the ninth 'I will' from *The Articles of War, Soldier's Covenant*.

**Memory Verse:** "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."  
**Matthew 6:21.**

