



Session Objectives

- To learn that tithing is money given generously as a response to the generous gifts God gives
- To understand that a disciple is a committed member who makes a generous response in congregational life and to the world
- To discuss generous responses to God's gifts of love and grace

A Disciple's Generous Response

IMAGE Reflection

*A Disciple's Generous Response*¹⁰

Church leaders and members have, over many years, been exploring God's scriptural encouragement to view stewardship of our money in light of God's grace and love as demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ.

Tithing is deeply rooted in the scriptures and affirms God's generous gifts of grace and love. The spirit of generosity is not about mathematical formulas but about thankfulness. Therefore, a disciple's generous response asks, "How much can I hope to give?" rather than "How much should I give?"

Let whoever is of a generous heart bring the LORD's offering.
—Exodus 35:5 NRSV

Tithing is . . .

- Tithing is money shared generously as a response to the generous gifts God gives.
- A disciple's tithing response expresses love of God, neighbor, creation, and self.
- The principle of tithing is a response of thanksgiving and is contributed first.

Mission Tithes—a disciple's response (the giving of money) to world and local missions of the church.

For example

- Local congregational ministries
- World Church ministries
- Oblation/ministry for the poor
- World Hunger Ministries
- Camping ministries
- Other designated projects

Community Tithes—a disciple's response (giving of money) to church-affiliated organizations and other charitable nonprofit organizations that are "*in the forefront . . . recognizing the worth of persons and are committed to bringing the ministry of my Son to bear on their lives*" (Doctrine and Covenants 151:9).

For example:

- Graceland University
- Outreach International
- Restoration Trail Foundation
- Saints Care (Australia)
- The Groves Retirement Community
- World Accord (Canada)
- Other charitable nonprofit organizations

Let the truths of my gospel be proclaimed as widely and as far as the dedication of the Saints, especially through the exercise of their temporal stewardship, will allow.—Doctrine and Covenants 153:9a

Saving is . . .

- The principle of saving is an expression of hope for the future. Disciples save in order to create a better tomorrow for themselves, their family, the church's mission, and the world.

For example

- Reserves for expected and unexpected needs
- Retirement funds
- College funds
- Estates for family and church

*For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?
—Luke 14:28 NRSV*

Responsible Spending is . . .

Responsible spending is a disciple's use of their remaining income for supporting family, personal needs, and developing talents and interests. For example

- Housing
- Health care
- Transportation
- Food
- Clothing
- Recreation
- Personal development

*It is incumbent upon the Saints . . . to be in the world but not of it, living and acting honestly and honorably before God and in the sight of all [people], using the things of this world in the manner designed of God, that the places where they occupy may shine as Zion.
—Doctrine and Covenants 128:8b–c*

Where does the money you spend come from?

How do you spend most of the money you receive?

Who pays for your food, shelter, clothes, and school supplies?

When was the last time you gave money to the church or to a "good cause"?

Do you have a savings account?

If someone gave you \$3,000 to spend any way you want, how would you spend it and how long do you think it would take you to do so?

What does responsible giving, saving, and spending have to do with being a disciple of Christ?

To respond as a generous disciple means making choices about how you live so that you have the capacity to continue to increase your generosity.

*Rich Young Ruler:
Mark 10: 17-31*


What choices are you ready to make?

In a world where credit cards are given to college students like candy, credit and debt have become an accepted way of life. Free and easy money—that's what it feels like—but the responsibility still belongs to the card holder. If you charge it, *you* owe it! To use credit cards is to borrow against your future.

Do you have offering envelopes? If not, ask your congregational financial officer to get them for you.

Widow's Mite: Mark 12: 41-44

Read the story of the widow's offering. What did Jesus say about her giving? How does that relate to the way you give and spend?

		MISSION TITHES	481
Sharing equally with both Congregation Ministries and World Ministries will help to 'meet the needs of a growing church'—Doctrine and Covenants 154:5			
\$ _____		\$ _____	
CONGREGATION MINISTRIES (WAS CONGREGATIONAL OPERATING)		WORLD MINISTRIES (WAS TITHES AND GENERAL OFFERINGS)	
ADDITIONAL LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS		ADDITIONAL WORLD CONTRIBUTIONS	
BUILDING	\$ _____	OBLATION	\$ _____
CONG CAMPSHIP	\$ _____	WORLD HUNGER	\$ _____
FOOD PANTRY	\$ _____	TEMPLE ENDOWMENT	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	WORLD MINISTRIES ENDOWMENT	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> You may mark this box and place this empty envelope in the offering if you usually contribute in some other way, such as Pre-Authorized Transfer (PAT), or at some other time.			
			A

Give Generously

What does a generous response look like? Take a loaf of bread, a pie, or a cake, and cut it in sections. Remove one piece to represent your giving amount. Look again. If you were sharing with a stranger, how much would you be willing to give? If you were sharing with a friend, how much would you give? If you were sharing with someone who hadn't eaten in three days, how much would you give? If Jesus were sitting at your table, how much would you give?

Do the sidebar activity. How did you respond in each case? Was it always the same? Why or why not?

Blessings from 1 to 10

Even in the hardest of times, through the love and grace of God, we are blessed. List ten blessings that fill your life each day.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Sharing because God Loves You

Sharing does not always happen with money and things. God also calls us to share our love, our time, our talents, our knowledge, and our witness. What can you share?

Stewardship is the response of my people to the ministry of my Son and is required alike of all those who seek to build the kingdom.
—Doctrine and Covenants 147:5a

You Did It Also to Me

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

. . . Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?

. . . Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.—Matthew 25:35–40 NRSV

How can you help the hungry in your community?

How can you help the homeless, the poor, the needy?

How can you help the sick or imprisoned who need your ministry?

Is there someone who needs your understanding? your friendship? your unconditional love? How will you help them?

God loves a cheerful giver.
—2 Corinthians 9:7 NRSV

Enough for All

Arrange to share this object lesson on the concept of generous giving as a children's moment in a worship or for children's class.

Use one single sheet of paper to illustrate the following.

“God has blessed me in many ways. Each corner on this piece of paper represents a blessing. It has four corners. *(Count them aloud.)* We are called to share generously with others. *(Tear a square off one corner of the paper and give it to a student.)* When I shared, what happened? What does my friend have? *(Count corners of friend's square.)* Do I have less because I shared? *(Count the corners of your paper—now five. Continue until everyone has a piece of the paper.)* When you give generously in response to God's blessings, you also receive.” Close with prayer, thanking God for all blessings.

Music Idea
“Lord, I Give You,”
NS 32

Financial Management

To be able to generously give financially, a disciple must also be a wise manager of their money.

• Talk with your parents (or other responsible adult) about what expenses are required to run a family household in your community.

- Look ahead to plans for your future. Do they include college or skill training? If so, how will you pay for it? If you have not done so already, establish a savings account in your name.
- Copy the monthly record sheet (see page 6) and use to record how you give and spend money.

