



# All Our Mite

## A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:9

### Trip Planning

Traveling includes packing. This involves decisions based on the space available and the need for certain things on the journey. Necessary items might include clothing, toiletries, financial resources, and sometimes legal documents to enter and leave countries. Optional items might include playthings, nonessential toiletries, and extra clothing. Today's scriptural theme addresses what to bring. Do we plan in a way that increases our true capacity, or do we plan in a way that may become a burden or occasionally is no burden at all? Today's lesson explores giving according to true capacity. Using Doctrine and Covenants 163:9c, as supplemented by Mark 12:42–45, we will focus on

1. how much we have and assess how we give our time, talent and treasure, and
2. how we can make commitments to give according to true capacity.

### Packing List

- Bible
- Doctrine and Covenants
- bubblegum
- paper chains
- glue or tape
- chart (Give with All Your Mite)
- pencils

### Navigational Aids

“Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return. Could it be otherwise in the domain of God, who eternally gives all for the sake of creation?” —Doctrine and Covenants 163:9

“A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” —Mark 12:42–45 NRSV

### Unpacking the Scripture

Ask the youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:9. This scripture shares about the importance of giving according to true capacity, which involves a great deal of sacrifice. True capacity challenges everybody to examine their lives and assess where they waste and conserve. This task helps find a balance in giving time, talent, and treasure. The following activity will help explore further today's theme and the Mark 12 story about the widow's mite.

### True Capacity

Today's navigational aids tell the importance of assessing true capacity and giving. The story of the widow's mite goes even further and stresses sacrificial giving. To explore true capacity, hand out balloons or bubble gum to students. If using a balloon, ask them to blow only one breath into it. Then ask them to inflate a balloon as big as they can (without popping). True capacity can be compared with the balloon. Using a small amount of air doesn't do much. But when using more available resources, the results are greater. The same exercise may be done with bubble gum. Suggest that as we contribute to the life of the church and building of the kingdom, true capacity involves an exercise in using all our resources—not just a weak effort.

### Give With All Your Mite

Read Mark 12:42–45. This story of the widow giving all she had is an example of giving beyond true capacity. While this act is commendable, it is an extreme example that Jesus used to capture his audience's attention. The scripture addresses an old model of giving from abundance, when the challenge is to give according to gifts one has received. To help students explore their gifts, use a chart, listing gifts on one side and giving on the other.

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This should be done individually, rather than in public, to provide privacy and comfort.

My Gifts Are	I Share My Gifts By

When the students are finished, ask those who are willing to share their charts. Also ask them to keep the charts, which will be used for the next activity.

### Being “Mitier”

Ask the youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:9, which discusses true capacity and the giving of time, talent and treasure. The previous activity explored giftedness and giving. To go further and explore true capacity, ask the youth to focus on the second column. The widow gave far more than required, but she did so from a giving heart. Ask the youth to review the second column and list what they could give in the future according to their true capacity. Ask what they might be willing to forgo so that they may give according to their true capacity. When all are finished, ask if anyone is willing to share a list.

### Repacking the Scripture Breaking Chains

Doctrine and Covenants 163:9 focuses on the tangible acts of giving according to true capacity. The scripture also expresses breaking free from a culture that involves self-serving interests. For the following activity, ask the class to grasp the paper chain. To be more dramatic a metal chain with bolt cutters may be used. Ask the youth to think of cultural things that keep them in bondage and serve as barriers to true giving. Provide time for each student to break a link of the chain and name an obstacle.

### We’re Not There Yet; Relink

This class has explored ideas about giving and true generosity. The class has considered true capacity, giftedness, and obstacles to giving. As a closing, ask participants to take the links they broke and reattach them to the chain. Have them write on the links (or state) how they want to overcome obstacles and what commitments they will make to live and give according to their true capacity. Additionally ask them to talk about what they have received from others who shared with them abundantly and what it meant to them. Close with prayer.



### Legend

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