

Day 4—A Willing Yes: Be a Giver

Scripture Reading

You have been given the principles of generosity, rightly interpreted for a new time. These principles call every disciple to tithe faithfully in accordance with means and capacity. Those values, deeply rooted in the Restoration faith, affirm that stewardship and discipleship cannot be divided and are dependent upon each other.

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:7c

Music

“Lord, I Give You” NS 32

“Take the Path of the Disciple” R-19

“I Am Standing Waiting” SP 27

“Lord Jesus, of You I Will Sing” SP 31

“This We Can Do” SP 32

Gathering/Worship

Intergenerational book: *Incredible You!* by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer with Kristina Tracy, illustrated by Melanie Siegel (Australia: Hay House, 2005), ISBN 1-4019-0782-2.

Lesson

Provide copies, project an overhead, or show a PowerPoint slide of the following rap. Separate students into small groups, and provide time to read and prepare their own version of the rap. Let each group perform for the rest.

A Silly Rich Fool

*Once a rich farmer stood in his field;
He wanted to know how big was his yield.
He felt so great as he saw his crop;
He knew his barn would be filled to the top.
I'm a wealthy man! And he started to ponder,
A bigger barn is needed out yonder.
So he got his hammer and then some nails,
First came the flooring and then the rails.
Bigger and bigger the new barn grew,
With lots of building yet to do.
He laughed while he worked as he thought of his life,
Of riches great for his son and his wife.
He never thought to offer a share
To the hungry workers gathered there.
No way, he said, this crop is all mine;
I'm planning to party and richly dine.*

*I'll wear fine clothes and look so great,
But he didn't know what was really his fate.
The very next night as he lay on his bed,
He breathed his last and they found him dead.
This man who thought he was really cool
Wound up in a grave a silly rich fool.
So don't forget to share of your wealth;
Giving to others brings spiritual health.*

—*Judi Hopkins in Worship Resources, Year C, Beginning Advent 2003 up to Advent 2004, Jane Gardner, ed. (Independence: Herald House), 167–168.*

One of Jesus' parables, Luke 12:13–21 NRSV, is about a rich man who had so much success that he was going to tear down the existing storage facility to build a bigger one to hoard his wealth. It seems he wanted to store up all his things so they'd be there when he was ready for them. Jesus called him a fool. He said something like this to the rich man. "What are you going to do with all this stuff if you die? You can't take it with you." Read the scripture and explain verse 21 about storing up treasures for yourself and not being rich in God. Do you think the rich man understood Christ's peace?

For contrast, use the parable of the "widow's mite" found in Mark 12:41–44 NRSV. Ask a volunteer to read the scripture. What is the difference between the rich man and the widow? Which one was a willing giver? Who gave more? What do these parables tell us about how to live today? How was Jesus informing us in these stories about his peace?

Read Doctrine and Covenants 162:7c from the prepared poster. Discuss how this adds to our responsibility to share Christ's peace.

We are asked to give of our resources generously and willingly. We are asked to live wisely so we will have enough to share generously. We have many opportunities. What are some of these opportunities?

Suggested Activities

Christian Generosity

Show a clip from the movie *Pay It Forward* (Warner Brothers, 2000, PG-13). Begin at the scene where Chris's Mustang is crashed and end as the stranger walks away after leaving Chris his Jaguar. Discuss what it means to give willingly and generously.


1. When have you been the recipient of generosity? Share stories when someone has given to you generously.
2. How difficult is it to give with no expectation of a returned gift?
3. When have you shared generously?
4. How would it change the world if we were all generous, willing givers?
5. How can you give your time and resources more willingly?
6. How does being a willing giver share Christ's peace?

Willing Giving

Sing “Lord, I Give You” NS 32. Look at the words again. Divide into teams, one each for voice, feet, will, hands, heart, mind, and life. Each team is to invent a working machine emphasizing their category by using only their bodies and human sound effects to demonstrate a “willing yes.” Student teams could act out a machine for their verse, and other teams might guess what their machine is (computer for mind, treadmill for feet). Each team could sing their verse before they demonstrate their machine.

Where the Church Gives

Discuss and make a list of opportunities to give that we find in the church—offerings, oblation, special offerings, and so on. Draw a Mission Tithes envelope on poster board.

MISSION TITHES		4349
	Look to the needs of your own congregations, but also look beyond your walls to the far-flung places where the church must go. . . . share equally in the outreaching ministries of the church. —Doctrine and Covenants 162:7d	
LOCAL	WORLD	
CONGREGATION MINISTRIES	WORLD MINISTRIES (Field Ministers, New Congregations, Missionary Outreach)	\$ _____
(Operating Budget).....		\$ _____
BUILDING	OBULATION	\$ _____
_____	WORLD HUNGER	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
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_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> You may mark this box and place this empty envelope in the offering if you usually contribute in some other way or at some other time.		
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Discuss the different opportunities there. Invite a church financial officer to talk about a Disciple’s Generous Response to the class. After the discussion, give students large sheets of poster board and markers to illustrate an opportunity for sharing Christ’s peace by giving through the church. Students may work individually or as partners. Arrange drawings in a mural around the room.

Give each student three sticky-notes—blue for first choice, yellow for second choice, and purple for third choice. Tell them to write their names on each, and then tour the mural placing their notes on a drawing that represents an opportunity they want to pursue first, second, and third when they return home.

Take a look at what the group as a whole is choosing to do. Discuss what impact this group can make to share Christ’s peace by giving of their money, time, and talents.

What Can You Give?

Ask the class to think of a time when they've given something to a friend (such as lunch money, part of their lunch, or use of their text minutes). Maybe their "gift" didn't cost anything (like giving help in math class, inviting someone to church, or giving their time and energy helping someone with a project or chore). Even giving a friendly smile to a little kid at camp can be a gift. Their contributions can add up to make a huge difference in the lives of many people.

Plan a service project for the class to do at reunion. Find something suitable for your situation. It might be an afternoon car wash, picking up trash around the ground, taking the clean-up shift in the dining hall, or cleaning the shower house. Before reunion, check with the grounds keeper or reunion planning committee for any jobs that could be done during the week.

Journal

When You Give

What does sharing generously look like? Divide a round loaf of bread, a pizza, or breakfast cake into ten sections. Remove one piece to represent the giving of one tenth. That's the minimum that's required of us. 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? Are you willing to give more than one tenth? Write your thoughts in your journal. Listen to "When You Give" on the Mark Schultz CD.

Peace Prayer

Peace for the World

Place a large, wall-sized world map on the floor. Ask students to think about the needs of people and the environment around the world. Ask them to silently think about how they can be a willing giver to help meet some of those needs. Pass around a basket filled with dimes, asking each student to take several. Tell them each dime represents one-tenth of something they have to offer—time, talents, or monetary resources. One at a time, have students toss their coins on the map. Instruct them to pray for the needs of that continent or country where their dimes land. If the dime lands on a body of water, choose a nearby island or country that hasn't been prayed for. For their own empowerment, challenge them to willingly share Christ's peace through their resources. Tell them the dimes will be given to the World Hunger Fund, www.CofChrist.org/hunger/. If they want to contribute additional money, they can put their offering in the basket today or bring an offering tomorrow.