

SESSION 1

Financing Ministry  
in the  
Local Church

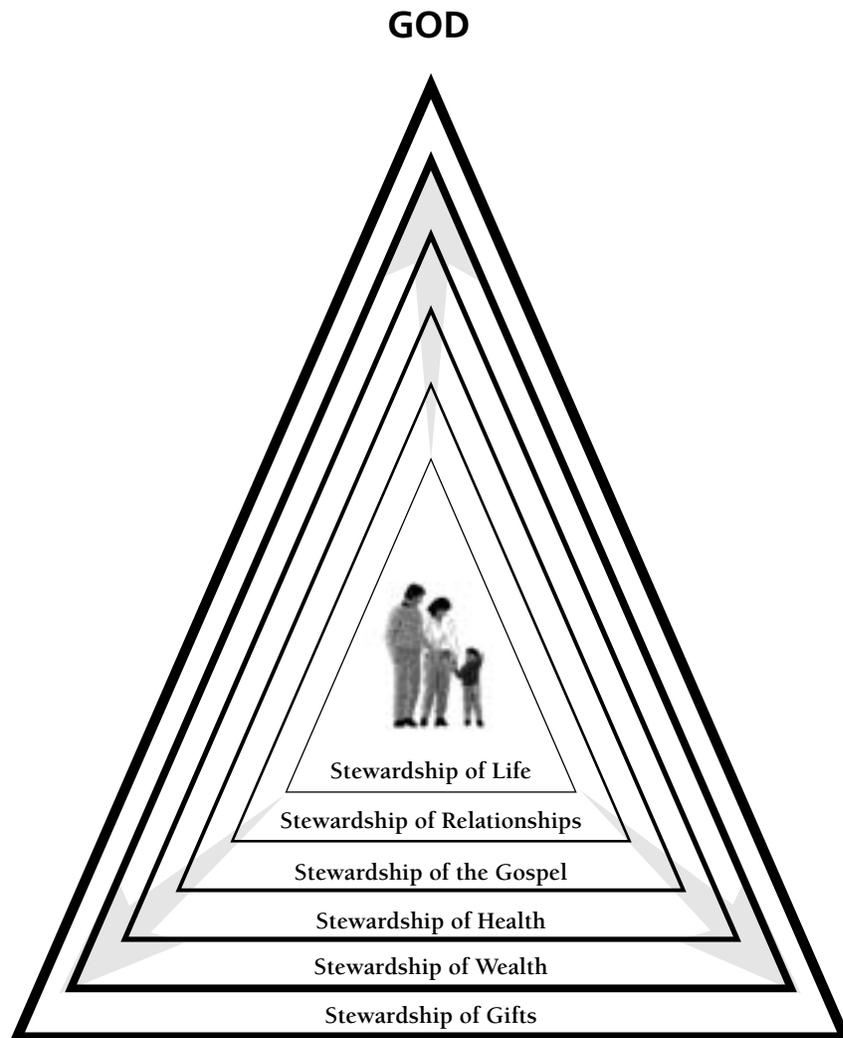
**"A steward is a trustee, caretaker, and chosen servant of God."**

**—Steve Weber**

# LET'S REVIEW: DEVELOPING A GIVING CHURCH

*"Then your barns will be filled to overflowing,  
and your vats will brim over with new wine" (Prov. 3:10).*

1. Biblical stewardship \_\_\_\_\_ God as the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of all things (2 Cor. 9:8).



2. Biblical stewardship is God's \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ the local church (1 Cor. 9:6-14).

## CURRENT TRENDS IN CHURCH GIVING

1. The average annual giving per attender based on personal income:

Mainline churches \_\_\_\_\_ percent.

Evangelical churches \_\_\_\_\_ percent.

COUNTING THE COLLECTION	
Assembly of God	<u>5.26%</u>
Church of the Nazarene	<u>4.92%</u>
Presbyterian U.S.A.	<u>2.25 %</u>
United Methodist	<u>1.75%</u>
Episcopalian	<u>1.69%</u>
Lutheran	<u>1.51%</u>
Catholic	<u>1.21%</u>

Average given per attender as a percentage of income.  
Source: Christian Stewardship Association

2. Money is an indicator of personal \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Americans spend more annually on soft drinks than the total amount given to churches.”  
—Sylvia Ronsvalle, *The Empty Tomb**

## LET'S REVIEW: DEVELOPING A GIVING CHURCH

### PREDICTORS OF GIVING

- Income
- Education
- Church Involvement
- Personal Faith
- Size of the Congregation
- Age
- Children in Family
- Stewardship Materials
- Attitudes About Church/Pastor

Source: Russ Bredholt

*“Church giving is on the rise, albeit slightly. The proportion of adults who gave to congregations went up by one percentage point to 62 percent, but their average annual contribution rose 18 percent, from \$646 in 2000 to \$769 in 2001.”*

—Source: Barna Research Group

### MAKING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH

- 19% Give 10% of Income
- 27% Give 5% to 9% of Income
- 27% Give Less than 5% of Income
- 20% Give a Small Amount at Every Service
- 7% Never Give

Percentage of All Worshipers

Source: *A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations*  
by Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce

# A Look at Foundational Stewardship

*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7).*

1. Stewardship is based on our \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
2. Stewardship is based on our \_\_\_\_\_ to sacrifice.

## Key Principles in Building Kingdom Stewards

*“The Church needs to hear again that stewardship is more than money. The church that feels its stewardship base is covered when it has raised money and completed its pledge campaign is neglectful and wanting in its teaching.”*

—C. Neil Strait

1. Develop a \_\_\_\_\_ of giving.

### **Stewardship Theology:**

Stewardship is God’s resources deployed through His people to mobilize His people to evangelize.

### **Church Giving Models:**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Church

Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Church

Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Church

Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_ Church

Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Instill a \_\_\_\_\_ for giving

*“The life worth living is giving for the good of others.”*  
—Booker T. Washington

A. Focus on the Great \_\_\_\_\_.

*“When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (Matt. 28:17-20).*

**TRINITY’S VISION STATEMENT**

**TCN MAKING THE CONNECTION**

**C** ommunicating the Word

**O** pening the Doors of Fellowship

**N** etworking the Body of Christ

**N** avigating by Faith

**E** mbracing Biblical Stewardship

**C** elebrating Christ in Worship

**T** estifying Through Water Baptism

B. Emphasize \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,’ says the LORD Almighty” (Mal. 3:10-11).*

### WHEN WE TITHE . . .

- ✓ We get direct access to the capital of heaven.
- ✓ God’s returns are compounded.
- ✓ Paying tithe is an insured deposit.
- ✓ Others will be helped and blessed.
- ✓ God’s kingdom will be increased.

3. Educate steward \_\_\_\_\_.

*“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1 Cor. 16:2).*

### Principles of Grace Giving:

2 Cor. 8—9

A. Joy and \_\_\_\_\_ are twins.

*“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints” (2 Cor. 8:1-4).*

B. Grace \_\_\_\_\_ and the grace of \_\_\_\_\_ are related.

*"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).*

C. Obedience in giving is more important than the \_\_\_\_\_ given.

*"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have" (2 Cor. 8:12).*

D. Generous givers will have a \_\_\_\_\_ impact on the giving patterns of new believers.

*"There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the saints. For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action" (2 Cor. 9:1-2).*

E. Attitudes about giving are of \_\_\_\_\_ importance to God.

*"So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given" (2 Cor. 9:5).*

F. Generosity moves the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Cor. 9:6).*

G. Giving is the heart response to God's \_\_\_\_\_ gift.

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).*

4. Create a climate of \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind" (Ps. 26:2).*

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### Questions That Must Be Answered

1. How accessible are financial records?
2. Are accountability safeguards in place?
3. What is the debit/income ratio?

*"There are 2,350 passages in the Bible dealing with money, materials and possessions. Money is talked about more than any other subject in the Bible."*

—Ed Wood

5. Find a need and \_\_\_\_\_ it!

*"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on'" (Mark 12:41-44).*

## KEYS TO RAISING DOLLARS FOR MINISTRY

1. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_.

*"There was never a person who did anything worth doing who did not receive more than they gave."*

—Henry Ward Becher