



Financial Stewardship Programs

Tools to aid in Christian
discipleship and generosity
through a growing
relationship with God

2024-2025



**WISCONSIN UNITED
METHODIST FOUNDATION**

750 Windsor Street, Suite 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Phone: 608-837-9582

Email: wumf@wumf.org Web site: www.wumf.org

*The mission of the Foundation is to be the primary
resource in the Wisconsin United Methodist Fellowship for lifelong financial stewardship.*

Programs Described in this Booklet

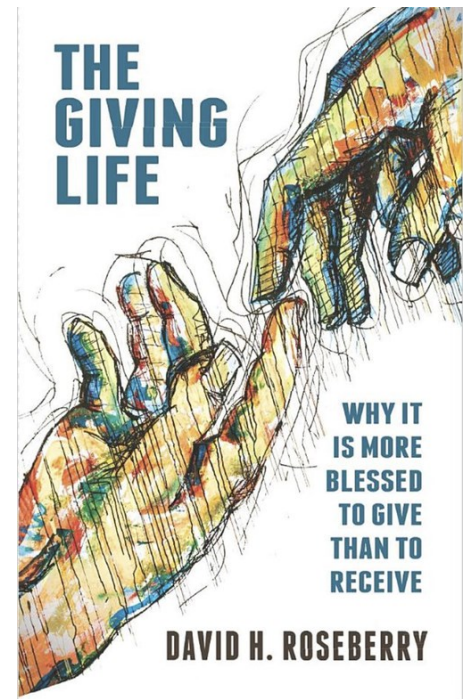
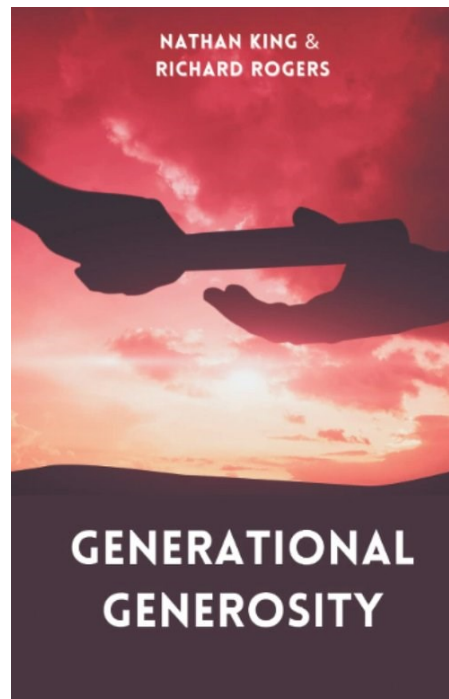
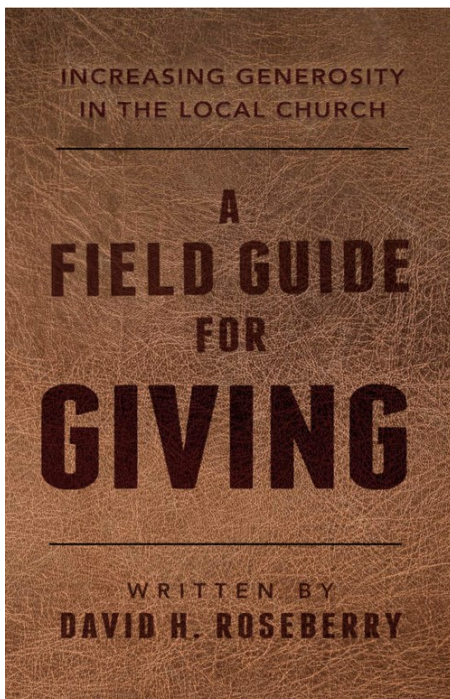
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Whatever approach you choose, remember that each year, your church needs to deepen its understanding and practice of “Whole life” stewardship. Such a year-round stewardship emphasis will enable your church family to make significant strides in developing mature disciples.

But also remember - studies show that even mature Christians need to be asked to give! Of those asked to increase their giving through an organized program, 82 percent will do so! So a good stewardship program should challenge members to take a fresh look at the variety of ways open to them to respond to the blessings that all of us continue to receive - and help them affirm God’s call to Spirit-led management of the resources God provides.

Timothy C. Ek

Other Great Resources for Your Team



These resources are each available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Selecting a stewardship campaign?

Congratulations! You've come to the right place to start!

There are different types of commitment campaigns. The campaigns listed here are organized into categories according to the style of approach used. Many of the campaigns are tricky to classify, so don't automatically rule out an option because it is in a certain category! Begin by considering the following questions:

- ♦ What approach will people respond to best at this time?
- ♦ How will this help people be open to growing in their generosity?
- ♦ How does the congregation enjoy spending time together - in a large group or small group discussions or meetings? Do you prefer mailings?
- ♦ What types of campaigns have you done lately?
- ♦ What is the budget and amount of time to be spent on a campaign?
- ♦ What spiritual needs does the congregation have in regards to giving? Has there been discussion about tithing?
- ♦ Does the congregation consist of mostly lifelong members or newer Christians?
- ♦ What about missions? What are the educational goals for the program? What are the goals for interpreting the ministries of your congregation?

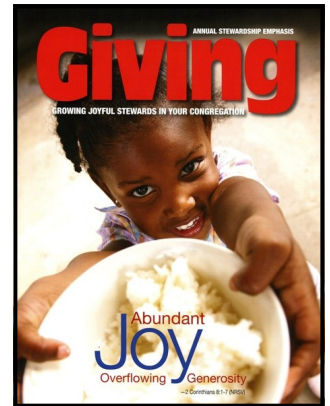
We suggest the Pastor and a member of the stewardship committee start by narrowing the initial selection to about **2 to 6 options** from this brochure. A committee could make the final decision. Folks are invited to come to the Foundation office to PREVIEW the materials in our Stewardship Resource Room. Please call 608-837-9582 or email wumf@wumf.org for an appointment!

P.S.: Feel free to call the Foundation and ask for a comparison chart of the 2-6 campaigns you're considering.

Commitment Sunday Programs

ABUNDANT JOY – OVERFLOWING GENEROSITY

"Giving" Magazine 2012, Volume 14



The center section of the "GIVING" magazine gives practical ideas for using the theme "Abundant Joy—Overflowing Generosity". A four Sunday emphasis on four ways of giving:

- ♦ Giving of our Day—giving God a portion of the day through devotional prayer
- ♦ Giving the Sabbath—giving the Sabbath to God in worship
- ♦ Giving our Spiritual Gifts—so that we may be blessed, bless others, and bless the ministry of the church with our spiritual gifts
- ♦ Honoring God with our use of money—learning, understanding and deciding how to use money in a God-honoring way. The fourth Sunday has an opportunity to present a commitment card.

Theme materials such as bulletin inserts and covers, commitment cards, poster, and logo are available. The Companion Guide has detailed timelines (including a simplified timeline for small congregations), Bible studies, sermon suggestions, more letters and worship aids.

No longer in print. Available to borrow from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation Stewardship Library at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 608-837-9582; 750 Windsor St, Ste. 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

Fearless Generosity

"Giving" Magazine 2014, Volume 16

"Fearless Generosity" is based on Ephesians 3:20-21. The four Sunday stewardship program explores how individuals and faith communities are called to live, serve, sow, and give fearlessly and faithfully.

Giving Magazine is packed with resources to support stewardship in the local church. Articles explore the intersection of faith and giving, and offer practical information on Christian stewardship for all generations. A center section outlines a simple response method for an annual congregational stewardship emphasis which can be used "as is" or supplemented with additional theme materials and companion resources.

The "Fearless Generosity" digital Companion Resource provides additional worship and study materials.



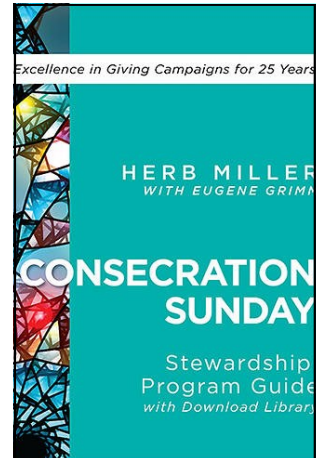
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CONSECRATION SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

By Herb Miller

Consecration Sunday approaches financing the ministries of your congregation by focusing on the question, "What is God calling me to give?" rather than, "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?"

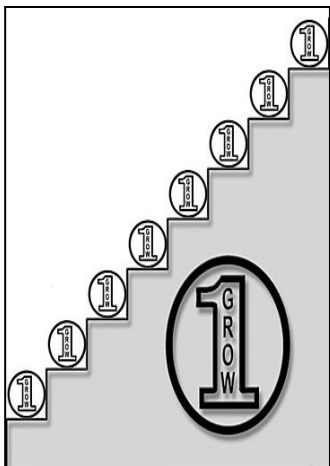
The campaign involves leadership from an outside leader/preacher at a special Leadership Event for church council members and other church leaders, the Consecration Sunday worship service, and the Celebration Meal. Members of the congregation are recruited to share their testimonies on why it's important to them to give to Christ through the Church and how it impacts their life of faith. The guidebook includes sample letters to be used in the program, a calendar of events and mailings, instructions for each sub-committee or work area, a step chart and a sample Estimate of Giving card. The Program Guide includes downloadable material including templates for letters, presentations, newsletter articles, social media posts, and more.



Cost: \$9.49 for the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Team Manual* and \$27.49 for the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program Guide with Download Library*. www.cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789. Purchase one copy of the complete program guide and additional copies of the *New Consecration Sunday Team Member Manual* for members of the committee at \$8.99 each, plus \$5.99 for 100 *Consecration Sunday Estimate of Giving Cards*. Consider \$250-\$300 Honorarium for Guest Leader plus travel, mailing costs and catered Celebration Meal.

THE GROW ONE SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ONLINE

By Herb Miller



This is an approach to Consecration Sunday that does not require an outside leader or a "celebration luncheon." It can be a good follow-up to the *New Consecration Sunday* program. It is based on the need of the giver to give. It is also especially valuable in churches that have never conducted an annual stewardship program or churches whose unpleasant experience with an ineffective stewardship model in past years prejudiced them against conducting any kind of financial stewardship program.

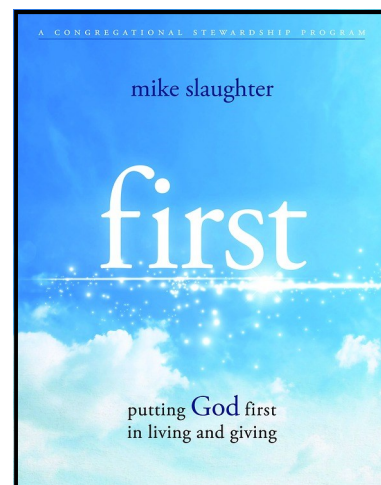
Cost: \$12.99 for electronic download from Cokesbury at

<https://www.cokesbury.com/9780687036127-Grow1-Stewardship-Program-Online>

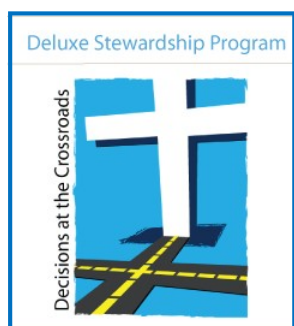
FIRST
by Michael Slaughter

What happens when we truly put God First in all aspects of our lives? In a culture guided chiefly by shiny, life-promising distractions, “enough” seems elusive and keeps us indebted to that next source of satisfaction.

In *First: Putting God First in Living and Giving*, pastor and author Mike Slaughter conducts a four-week all-church stewardship program to help participants reassess priorities and create a culture and a lifestyle of giving with a special emphasis on missions. To help parents educate and model generosity for their kids, *First* includes components for children and youth that help families explore financial decisions together. Sessions include: Naming Our Idols; Money, Work, and Debt; Earn—Save—Give; and Heart Giving.



Cost: \$99.99 for Program Kit. Includes one each of the program components: the book *shiny gods: finding freedom from things that distract us*; Program Guide with flash drive; Children’s Leader Guide; Youth Study Edition; DVD with Leader Guide; and Devotional Book. Available from Cokesbury, www.Cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789.



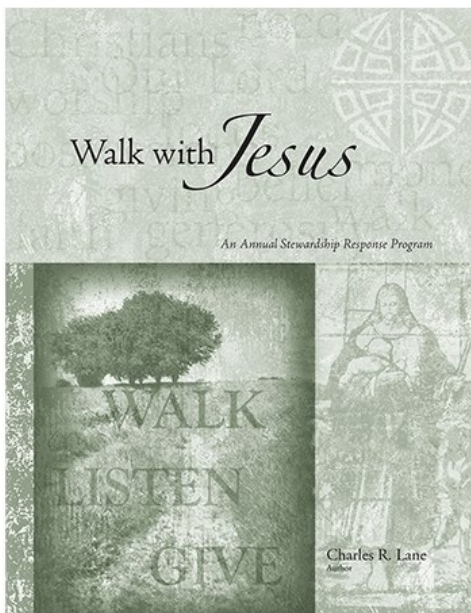
DECISIONS AT THE CROSSROADS

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

An ideal program to use during **Lent**, *Decisions at the Crossroads* is a 10-week stewardship program that focuses on the crossroads that Jesus faced on his journey to the cross and the decisions we face at the crossroads to faithful discipleship.

Included is a prayer emphasis. Financial commitments are received on “Decisions at the Crossroads” Sunday.

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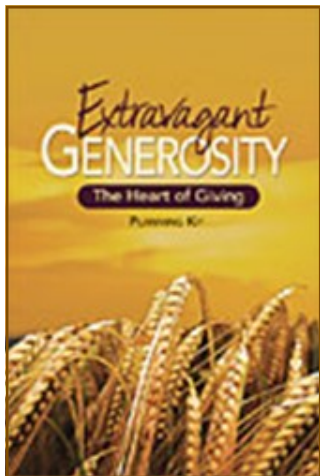
Walk with Jesus by the ELCA

A new stewardship response program written specifically with small membership and mid-size congregations in mind. The four-week program contains everything needed to conduct a biblically based effective stewardship program in your congregation. "Walk with Jesus" is well-organized, straight-forward and easy to use.

Materials are provided both in a booklet and on a CD. Included are a bulletin insert, letter and worship talk guide for three consecutive weeks. The materials for each week focus on the theme for the week: walk, listen, or give. Commitment Sunday materials, including an estimate of giving card, and extensive follow-up

helps are also provided. Materials on the CD are Microsoft Word files that are customizable for the congregation's specific needs

Cost: \$10.00 from Resources.ELCA.org



PRACTICING EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

By Michael Reeves and Jennifer Tyler

Practicing Extravagant Generosity is built on Bishop Robert Schnase's groundbreaking book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. The objective is to change the culture in your church from fund raising to generosity as a core value of discipleship.

A guidebook for leaders covers all aspects of the campaign, from detailed plans for each of the four Sunday services to marketing materials like flyers and postcards. Email messages and letters designed to be sent to specific groups within the congregation are also available on the CD-ROM. A small-group leader's guide to host Sunday school and other small groups during the program

using the devotional book is available along with a DVD with video segments for four group-study sessions and short clips for use in worship. Sermon outlines, timelines and checklists, and PowerPoint slides are also included.

A book of devotions, *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*, designed to be distributed to all the members of the congregation, leads them through the Scriptures covered in each of the four weeks and encourages them to understand financial discipleship in terms of their own mission to build God's kingdom.

Cost: www.Cokesbury.com \$49.00 for Download Kit, \$5.99 or less for devotion book. Available through www.Cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789.

Change The World

Welcome to the "Change the World" financial stewardship worship series!



This is different from your usual annual financial campaign because it is centered in quality, creative worship with an invitation to grow in our generosity and discipleship.

This began with a group of 40+ pastors and lay leaders from United

Methodist Churches throughout Wisconsin who met for a Creative Worship and Stewardship Workshop led by Jason Moore of Midnight Oil Productions, Inc. and Rev. Jean Ehnert Nicholas of the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Inc. in April 2016. Workshop participants responded to four major ideas and texts and shared ideas which have been incorporated into the finished product you have here.

We hope this will provide another tool for growing in our discipleship of giving as we acknowledge the various stages of giving many people take a journey through:

- Who me? I'll take one step!
- What's my Fair Share?
- How much should I give?
- How can I say thanks and leave a legacy?

Cost: Free of Charge



CELEBRATE THE FAITH

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

This program uses ***Celebration Cards*** to celebrate the positive aspects of your church's ministry. These are displayed for the congregation. Emphasis is on faith formation, challenging members to practice at least one of the suggested faith disciplines for a five week period. Faith disciplines are: worship in church regularly, meditate (creative silence) regularly, pray daily, fast (not for everyone), practice acts of hospitality, simplify ones lifestyle, read the Bible daily, practice generous living (list acts of generosity you've seen). Financial commitments are received on "Celebrate the Faith" Sunday.

No longer in print. Available to borrow from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation Stewardship Library at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 608-837-9582; 750 Windsor St, Ste. 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

CELEBRATE THE GIFT

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

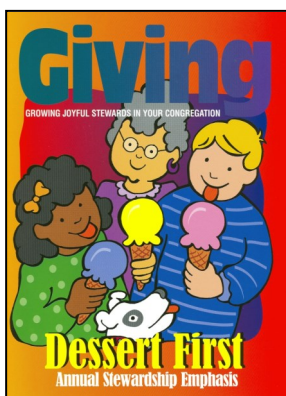


This program is designed to unite your congregation through a **Prayer Connection** in which households pray for five other households at least once a week for four weeks.

These members covenant to pray for the concerns and spiritual growth of themselves, the rest of the congregation and the success of the program. On the five Sundays prior to "Celebrate the Gift" Sunday, special cards are used in the worship service to help members celebrate what they enjoy and appreciate about the church.

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Delivery Programs



DESSERT FIRST: Celebrating God's Blessings

A Stewardship Emphasis Involving Youth
From "Giving" Magazine 2001, Volume 3

A favorite of the Foundation staff, *Dessert First* is fun and flexible. The congregation is invited to participate in developing a devotional booklet for the campaign which emphasizes giving to God first, trusting God to meet all our needs, and celebrating the joy of giving.

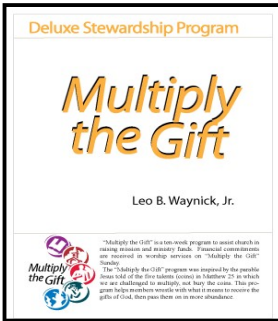
Then a packet is delivered to each household that includes the devotional booklet, a cover letter, a commitment card for each potential giver in the home, AND an appropriate number of special DESSERT servings. Some churches have made "dessert mix in a jar" to aid in flexibility. This is written to be a youth project, but can be delivered in many different ways. Ideas for children's classes are included along with a three-person drama. Stewardship speakers are invited to share during worship. The program ends on Celebration Sunday followed by a dessert reception! Eat your dessert first!

As with all of the "Giving" magazines the center section gives practical ideas for using the theme and the articles support the theme and process.

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MULTIPLY THE GIFT

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.



Multiply the Gift, based on Jesus' parable of the coins in Matthew 25, emphasizes the importance of investing gifts from God. Symbolic coins are distributed for five weeks and the congregation is challenged to find ways to multiply these gifts. They each symbolize a different gift from God: the gospel, the church, our lives, society and the earth. A devotional booklet is prepared for use during the 5 weeks. Small group gatherings are used to share the vision and budget information.

Download includes: Manual, 2 leaflets, inserts, letters, logos, estimate of giving cards and license to use for one year.

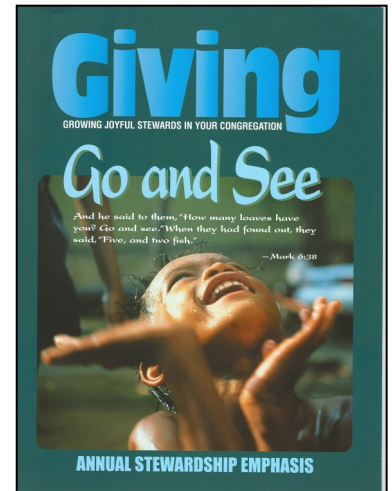
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Mission Oriented Programs

GO AND SEE **Mission Festival**

From "Giving" Magazine 2004, Volume 6

Go and See is designed to assist your congregation in receiving financial commitments for the ministry and mission of the congregation while illustrating and celebrating their ministry and mission in a festival setting. *Go and See* is inspired by the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Through the celebration of a mission festival it seeks to encourage a sense of discovery and wonder—discovery of the gifts God has given and wonder at the joy and increase the Holy Spirit brings when those gifts are offered in service to a world hungry for the good news of Jesus Christ.



The mission festival can be a one-time presentation with a few well-designed displays and handouts or a full-blown celebration with food booths and live music. The program guide suggests planning at least 10 weeks before the actual festival weekend. A Bible study is provided to be used 2-3 weeks ahead of festival weekend. Sample letters of invitation, worship resources, church school activities, a sample commitment card and a weekly giving guide are also included.

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Every Member Visitation Programs

COURAGE TO CARE

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

This is a program where people are invited to commit themselves to at least one act of caring. Visitation teams share the program with members in their homes. Members are invited to write cards to those who have shown a caring spirit to them. The question in this program isn't "are we giving all we can?" but "are we caring all we can?"

Emphasis is on **Six Principles for Caring**: 1)Those who care listen, 2)Those who care are non-judgmental, 3)Those who care place no conditions, 4)Those who care do so without expectation of return, 5)Those who care do not seek recognition 6)Those who care discern the care that is needed.

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TOGETHER WE SERVE

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.

Together We Serve...to make a difference is a program that focuses on Christians making a difference in the areas where they serve. It sets stewardship in the context of vocation.

Members are recognized for their exemplary ministry and an invitation is given for all members to claim their ministry in the five Sundays of emphasis: Church, Home, World, Community, and Workplace.

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"Together We Serve" challenges members to make a difference in the church, community, home, workplace, and world; and identifies how your church is in ministry in these areas. Financial commitments are made in worship on "Together We Serve" Sunday.

Year Round Programs

THINK GREATER!

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even **greater** things than these, because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12 **Think Greater!**



How does our faith result in greater living, greater giving, and greater loving? In what ways does being Christian propel us to great works in the name of Jesus Christ? What are the possibilities for “greater works” we can

strive for? We do good works—but what happens when we raise the bar to GREAT works?

Think Greater! is a six-week stewardship emphasis for the local church. Materials include a full instruction manual, letter templates, commitment cards, bulletin inserts, worship helps, small group discussion guides for all ages and across a variety of topics, a Wesleyan devotional, instructions for a Money Autobiography, narrative budget samples, as well as banner, button, and poster designs.

This was written by members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference for the use of local congregations.

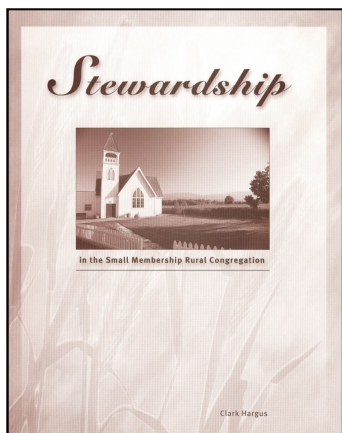
Cost: **Free**—Contact the Foundation for Digital Resources

STEWARDSHIP IN THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATION

by Clark Hargus

This program emphasizes small group Bible Study for all members and provides a series of questions to be asked in worship that might be used for long-range planning. Following a period of time for Bible Studies, three Sundays are used for encouraging members to be **Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving**. Every member is involved at some level in Bible Study or in Worship Response questions. The celebration at the end includes a compilation of all the worship responses gathered during the three weeks prior to the Fellowship Dinner.

There are clear, step-by-step guidelines for the Fellowship Dinner. A holistic commitment card outline invites persons to commit their prayers, presence, gifts, and service. We suggest that churches include a narrative budget and a chart on percentage giving as they invite members to grow in their commitment and stewardship. While this program is designed specifically for small membership congregations, it can be easily adapted and used in churches of every size.



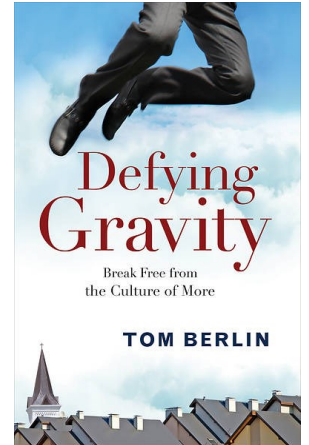
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Book Study or Small Group Programs

Defying Gravity

by Tom Berlin

We all want to be generous, but most of us find this hard to accomplish. We seem to be held down and held back by forces that seem beyond our control. But there is good news! Jesus offers us a way to defy gravity and break free from the culture of more. *Defying Gravity* is a four-week stewardship program exploring what the Bible says about how to experience a generous life. Program resources include a participant book, small group DVD, small group leader guide, program tools flash drive, which contains videos, graphics, worship resources, emails, and marketing materials, and a guide for pastors.



Each week's message ends with a congregational challenge, including a *Clean-Out Challenge*. The *Clean-Out Challenge* invites congregants to go through a part or all of their homes, throw out the garbage, and set aside those things that are still useable, but haven't been touched in a long time. The church then comes together during a three-hour window to donate those useable items to organizations, such as Goodwill and St. Vincent DePaul's.

Available through Cokesbury or Amplify Media.

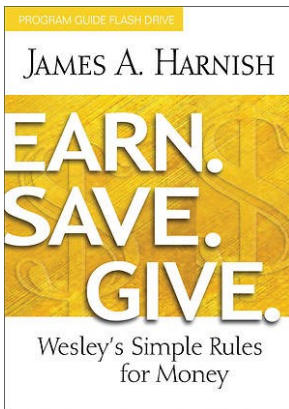
33 DAYS OF STEWARDSHIP

by Dave Southerland and Kirk Nowery

Based on the book *The 33 Laws of Stewardship*, by Dave Southerland and Kirk Nowery, this unique program is a master plan to mobilize Christians for purposeful stewardship. *33 Days of Stewardship* motivates believers to be faithful, committed stewards. This includes an insightful book on stewardship, a day-by-day discovery guide, and a comprehensive manual. The manual contains pastoral letters, inspiring sermons and theme-specific lessons for adults and youth. There are also bulletin inserts, posters, commitment cards - all designed to culminate in a day of commitment by the entire church body.



Cost: \$7.00 per giving unit. Available from www.spire-resources.com or 1-800-992-3060.



EARN. SAVE. GIVE.

Wesley's Simple Rules for Money

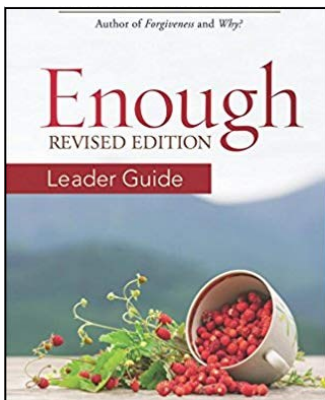
By James A. Harnish

Earn. Save. Give.: Wesley's Simple Rules for Money is a four-week church financial giving campaign rooted in John Wesley's classic sermon, "The Use of Money." Like much of Wesley's writing, this campaign is both spiritual and practical. Not only does it shift the perspective on stewardship from merely raising funds to deepening one's discipleship, but it offers a liberating word about financial freedom. It neither demonizes the earning of money nor disparages the saving of money. Rather, it encourages both earning and saving as a means to generous giving, and it stresses the joy of helping to build God's kingdom.

This campaign is customizable to your congregation's context, with flexible activities you can choose to supplement the overall campaign. These activities include options for:

- A "big event" similar to Herb Miller's *Consecration Sunday* program
- Small group studies to encourage relationship building and in-depth learning
- Devotions to cultivate spiritual disciplines for individuals or families

Cost: Program Guide Flash Drive \$18.99 or Download \$39.99, DVD \$4.99, Book \$10 or less from www.cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789. Also available in large print.



ENOUGH: STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GUIDE

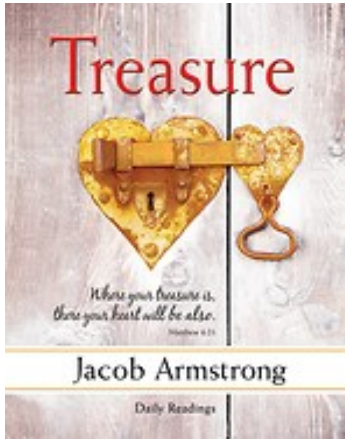
Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity

By Adam Hamilton

With *Enough: Stewardship Program Guide*, Adam Hamilton offers a simple campaign that will transform how the church and individuals view the role of money in connection with their life's purpose and the positive impact that transformation will have on the world. This program, based on Hamilton's companion book, *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*, (\$7.99 at Cokesbury) is designed for church-wide and

small-group studies. Leaders will be equipped with a campaign timeline, sample communication pieces, sermon series notes, and artwork for PowerPoint and signage. Very well written program that is easy to follow.

Cost: Program Guide Flash Drive or Download \$28.99, DVD \$35.99, Book \$13.49, 4 streaming video sessions at \$4 each or less from www.cokesbury.com or 1-800-672-1789.



TREASURE Jacob Armstrong

Whether you are in plenty or in want, money has a direct connection to your values, your faith and the health of your relationships. It's no wonder that in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presented a radical message about our "treasure" and our hearts. In this four-week stewardship program and church wide study, Jacob Armstrong uses Matthew 6 to reexamine how we look at our finances and possessions, through the counter-culture teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Sessions include (1) Where is your treasure?, (2) The Problem with Two Masters, (3) How to Give, and (4) Don't Worry 'bout a Thing. The kit includes one each of the Daily Readings, the DVD, and the Program Guide and Flash Drive.

Cost: [\\$39.99 through Cokesbury.com](http://www.Cokesbury.com).

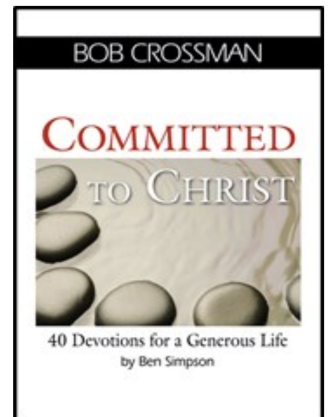
COMMITTED TO CHRIST by Bob Crossman

Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life is a seven-week program that presents giving as a lifelong journey in Christian discipleship. The six steps explore ways to a generous life: Prayer, Bible Reading, Worship, Witness, Financial Giving, and Service.

With each step, through worship, sermons, and small group activities, the congregation is asked to assess their own level of commitment and to consider increasing that commitment by one step. There are commitment cards for each emphasis. Equal weight is placed on each step, clearly communicating that this program is not simply about money, but rather cultivating a thankful heart that will lead us to give more than we can ever imagine.

The program guide lays out the basic plans for the campaign, including schedules, team roles, sermon illustrations, worship helps, letters, and commitment cards. Art, schedules, and task lists are found on the accompanying CD ROM. Suggestions are provided for expanding the program to 12 weeks, 7 months, or 12 months. Ideas for small attendance churches and year two are provided.

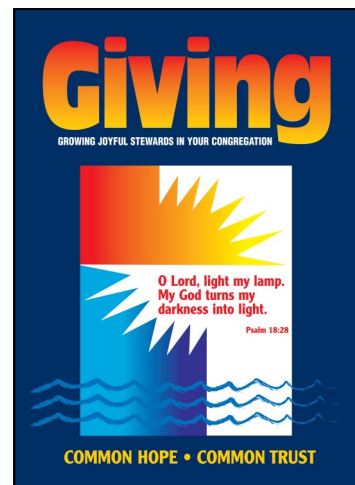
Cost: [\\$85.79 or less for complete kit](http://www.Cokesbury.com). Available from www.Cokesbury.com.



COMMON HOPE, COMMON TRUST

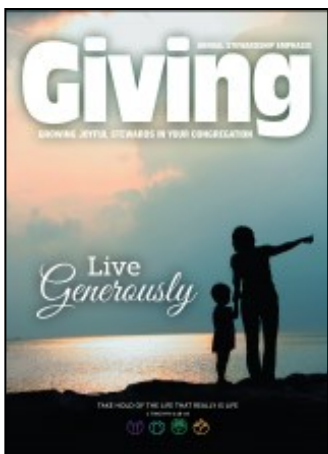
From "Giving" Magazine 2006

The 2006 GIVING stewardship emphasis, "Common Hope, Common Trust," gathers God's people for food and friendship around a common table. Shared meals become occasions for sharing joys, anxieties, and stories. Healthy conversation about money with clergy, leadership, facilitators, and the congregation help build a sense of security of people in their own finances. Through focusing on the strengths a congregation already has, people experience giving with a new sense of freedom and celebrate as God leads them from darkness and fear into light and freedom. Nine steps are given to implement this program.



As with all of the "Giving" magazines the center section gives practical ideas for using the theme and the articles support the theme and process.

No longer in print. Available to borrow from Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation Stewardship Library at wumf@wumf.org, Phone: 608-837-9582; 750 Windsor St, Ste. 305, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.



Live Generously

From "Giving" Magazine 2017, Volume 19

The Live Generously Congregational Financial Response combines small group gatherings and a Commitment Sunday. A small group gatherings is conducive to discussion and personal sharing. Meeting in small groups allows congregational members an opportunity to develop relationships with one another and provides a relaxed, informal atmosphere to talk about faith and becoming a better steward. Attendees will also understand more fully their connection to their faith community and their ability to have a positive impact on mission and ministry.

The gatherings allow for Bible study, mission interpretation and sharing dreams for the future. Participants will be asked to consider a financial commitment that they will present during worship on Commitment Sunday. Every member of the congregation will be invited to participate in a small group meeting.

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Stewardship Challenge Grant 3.0

The WUMF has created a Stewardship Challenge Grant as a tool for churches to use to help develop an appropriate, intentional stewardship plan. By providing a **cash incentive**, the Stewardship Challenge Grant is intended to **encourage** churches to design a comprehensive stewardship program to help achieve the goals of the congregation in the area of stewardship. It is also intended to reward you for your work in this area.

There are four different categories of tasks with several options in each category. You choose which of the tasks you will complete and indicate those on the application form. Some of the activities are required. You tell us how you will document the activities you've chosen to do. After completing and evaluating the tasks you send us your final report. There is no designated start date to this program.

After your application and plan are submitted to the WUMF you will receive \$200 (the encouragement part!) When the final report has been received and approved, the other half of the money will be sent (the reward part!) New grant levels of are **\$500, \$600, or \$700**. You may apply for up to three years and need to show growth throughout.

To see the full grant information go to <https://www.wumf.org/grants-program/>. For more information call WUMF at 608-837-9582.