

GENEROSITY SUNDAY FOLLOW UP

Small Community Material November 2021

On Sunday, we spend some time together talking about money and our giving towards God's Kingdom and specifically what that means at Christ Church. If you haven't yet connected to that or would like a refresher, we've created a couple of separate links from our 10am gathering. The first is a [conversation between Mark Parsons and Hannah Gibney](#) and the second is the [message given by Chris Whitwell](#).

We'd love you to spend some time over the next couple of weeks reflecting more on this in your small communities and encouraging your small community members to make their own response (if they haven't already done so), which they can do at www.ccweb.org.uk/give. Below, there are some questions to be thinking about and then also some very practical information too.

We hope you have a great time talking more about this as we continue to walk towards that place of everything in our relationship with Jesus and receive the invitation to be joy filled, generous disciples.

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QUESTIONS

Key Scriptures: Philippians 3:1-4, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Mark 12:41-44

1. On Sunday, we talked about all the different things we can be dependent on, the things that give us worldly standing and value. How do we move towards greater dependency on Jesus?
2. How might this move towards greater dependency on Jesus impact our approach to money?
3. What would/does being a 'cheerful' giver look like in your life?
4. Part of our journey in generosity is asking people specifically to be generous towards Christ Church. How should we view our giving and generosity to our church?
5. Being generous is obviously a great blessing to the person (or church) on the receiving end, but what about the giver? How are we, as givers, changed through the act of giving?

4 Practicalities for giving at Christ Church

1. Give Regularly

- One-off gifts are amazing, but what really makes a difference to our work at Christ Church is when we, as a church family, commit to giving regularly
- Most of us are paid regularly, usually once a month, and at church most of our costs are monthly too
- So we simply ask that if you are able, you give a regular amount to Christ Church each month

2. A planned amount

- This is about intentionally getting before God and asking him how much you should give
- At Christ Church, we spend around £48,000 per month and over 90% of that comes directly from us, the church family. We don't really have any other sources of income other than a bit of rental income and some interest. It's all down to us!
- That sounds like a huge number, but that's something like £100 per month for every member of the church
- Some people ask for guidance on how much they should give. The Old Testament had a principle of tithing – giving 10%, but we are New Testament people and the New Testament turns this Old Testament principle on its head – this is no longer the finishing line, it's the starting point of generosity
- So you may find that 10% as a useful starting point but don't get stuck there! The key is to ask God to speak into your circumstances – some of us will be called to be even more generous. For others, we are in a different season of life – and that's fine too. So ask him, and allow him to speak.

3. Tell us about it

- We all love unexpected gifts! But if you are giving regularly, a planned amount, it's super helpful to tell us!
- There is so much more we want to do to bless the church family here at Christ Church and to impact our local community and the City, and knowing how much you are giving in advance really helps us to plan.
- Equally, if your circumstances change and you need to make a change to your planned amount, please don't be embarrassed to tell us. That helps us plan as well, and avoids us wondering what's happened!
- That's why we are asking you to make a pledge ... so that we can plan for all God wants to do in the coming year.

4. Gift Aid it if you can

- If you are a tax payer, please Gift Aid your gift – for every £1 you give, the tax office will give us an additional 25p.
- So if you are giving £100 a month, and you Gift Aid it, we'll get an addition £300 each year, just by you filling in a one off form.

You can make a pledge and find all the information to give on our website at

www.ccweb.org.uk/give.