



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

**Giving
rooted in
the heart**

**Offering and
tithing**

**Love is the
foundation**

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2017

October

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Session 1: Giving rooted in the heart

1. *Giving is a matter of faith rooted in the heart.* What does this quote from the video mean to you? How could you put it in your own words? How are faith and the willingness to give connected?

2. Why was Abel's offering accepted by God and Cain's offering wasn't?

3. What do we learn about God from the story of Cain and Abel?

4. The video says, "Cain's offering wasn't rejected because it was inferior to his brother's." Do you try to compare yourself with others in regards to offering and serving? Why is comparison so embedded in our human nature?

5. Have you ever thought about your motivation for offering to God? How could that change the way you offer? Are there wrong motives for giving, and what could they be?

6. What inspires you to give and share what you have been blessed with?

7. We often hear about a “right heart’s attitude.” How would you explain this to a new believer?

8. Do we decide the condition of our hearts or is the condition the result of what we have lived through?

Bible References

Genesis 4:2-4
Hebrews 11:1, 4

Proverbs 15:8
1 Samuel 15:22

2 Corinthians 9:7

Session 2: Offering and tithing

1. In the Old Testament, tithing was a part of everyone’s life. How do we view tithing now? Is it necessary? Is it important?

2. Tobit’s beliefs about giving and tithing were a foundation for his son. What would be the benefit of discussing how you offer with your family?

3. The Mosaic Law notes three different tithes: priestly service, annual festivities, and charity for the poor. What could the parallel of these tithes be in today's terms? Do you feel they are worthwhile motivations for your offering?

4. How is our desire to give connected to our relationship with God?

5. Our God loves and blesses His people regardless of how much they offer and give. How can we defend ourselves from the mindset that if we give to God and others, then He will give to us and bless us in return?

6. How are giving and the mission of the church connected?

7. Would you agree with the statement, "You can tell what is important to someone by how they spend their time and money?" Why or why not?

8. If tithing is so important, do you think we should talk about it?

9. PERSONAL TAKE-HOME: Take time this week to figure out what your tithe would be if you gave 10% of your income. How does this amount compare to your current giving? How could you be more intentional in your giving?

Bible References

Genesis 14:18-20
Genesis 28:20-22

Tobit 1:7-8, 11-12, 16-18
Tobias 12:1-5

Luke 11:42

Session 3: Love is the foundation

1. How are your offerings of time and money investments in relationships? With God? With others?

2. The New Testament is full of verses that tell us about God's love for us. What does our giving tell God about how we feel about Him?

3. Think for a moment about your willingness to give. Would you say that you live your life with your hand clenched shut or with your hand open? How can the love demonstrated by Jesus on the cross inspire you to live your life with your hand open?

4. The video states, "Don't let yourself be limited in honoring God and demonstrating your compassion towards the needs of others." What stops people from showing compassion? How can you remove these obstacles?

5. The verses in Matthew 25 were the basis for the Fall Family Day that took place in October 2016. What are ways that your congregation has embodied these verses in your community, families, and congregation?

6. God gives without calculation. Is it possible for humans to truly give without calculation? Why or why not?

7. Make a list of things in your life that can be used to serve God and others. How could each of these things fill a person's needs?

Bible References

Matthew 25:35-36

Acts 20:35

John 13:34