

Good and Bad Habits - Giving Sermon Outline

Share about a time when you felt excited to give something. It might have been a special gift, a donation to a particular cause or time and skills that you used to help someone.

I wonder when you have felt excited to give. Do you consider yourself to be a generous person? How do you feel when you have the opportunity to give to others?

Paul called the believers to be generous and cheerful givers (2 Corinthians 9:7). Jesus also modelled and taught about giving. He gave of his time and energy, his money and his power. Ultimately, he gave his life.

1. Develop a habit of being grateful.

- What has God given you that you are grateful for? *Invite everyone to call out their answers or tell the person next to them 5 things they are grateful for.*
- Giving begins with a grateful heart (2 Corinthians 9:11). When we are mindful of God's generosity to us, we are inspired to give to others.

2. Give spontaneously.

- What can you give to others (1 Corinthians 12:7).
 - Time
 - Compassion
 - Skills e.g. cook a meal
 - Joy
 - Prayer support
 - Wisdom
 - Kind words
- With those things in mind, what opportunities have you taken this week to give generously to someone? Can you think of any opportunities that you might have missed?
- Jesus noticed the needs around him and responded with generosity. We can also develop the habit of giving spontaneously as we notice the needs of our family, friends, community, church, and world.

3. Plan to give.

- We can also plan to give.
- The Israelites were given instructions about when to give, what to give and how much to give (Deut. 10:19; 14:29; 15:10; 18:1-5).
- Plan for regular giving.
- Plan to support the work of God through the church (Deut. 18:1-5; Matt 22:21; 2 Cor 8-9)?
- Plan to give the first and the best (Deut. 18:4).
- Plan how much you will give. God instructed the Israelites to give one tenth of everything. This habit of tithing has continued to inform how we give. See also 2 Cor 8:11-12; 2 Cor 9:7
- 'I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare'. C. S. Lewis

GOOD HABITS



Conclusion

God calls us to give with gratitude and faith, trusting that when we give, God will meet our needs.

"As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ." 2 Corinthians 9:13