

Why Do We Collect Offerings Every Sunday?

Message 5 of 5 in the series: "Why Do We Do That?"

A. God is generous.

"Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; **may I never forget the good things he does for me.** He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things." Psalm 103:1-5a (NLT)

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and **to give his life as a ransom for many.**" Mark 10:45 (NLT)

"Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?"
Romans 8:32 (NLT)

B. God wants His children to be generous like He is.

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. **God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.** This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, **you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.** For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike." Matthew 5:43-45 (NLT)

"Freely you have received; **freely give.**" Matthew 10:8b (NIV)

"You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**"
Acts 20:35b (NLT)

1. God wants His children to trust Him to provide all they need with plenty left over to be generous.

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. **Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.** Tell them to use their money to do good... By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

"Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop... **And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others...** For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat." 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, & 10a (NLT)

Note: God will bless us materially with the resources we need to be generous. He will also bless us spiritually so that we become generous. "In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce **a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.**" 2 Corinthians 9:10b-11a (NLT)

"For God is working in you, giving you the **desire** and the **power** to do what pleases him."
Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

2. God rewards His children when they practice generosity.

"Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine." Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT)

"**Give, and you will receive.** Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." Luke 6:38 (NLT)

C. We collect offerings every Sunday so we can all contribute to the ministry of our church and grow in our generosity.

"Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. **On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned.**" 1 Corinthians 16:1-2a (NLT)

“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very 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 Lord’s people.**”
 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (NIV)

1. We should give as we are able.

“Give in proportion to what you have. Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. **And give according to what you have, not what you don’t have.**” 2 Corinthians 8:11b-12 (NLT)

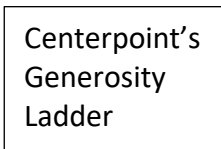
“While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in **two small coins**. ‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus said, ‘this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.’” Luke 21:1-4 (NLT)

2. We should give cheerfully.

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. **‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’**” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

3. We should ask God to help us grow in generosity.

“Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.”
 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)



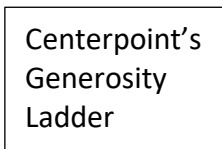
- Step 1: I will give for the first time.
- Step 2: I will give on a regular basis.
- Step 3: I will budget a specific amount to give each month.
- Step 4: I will tithe (give 10%).
- Step 5: I will give beyond the tithe.

Life Application: We must not put off growing in generosity. “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” 1 Timothy 6:7 (NKJV)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Did you grow up in a home where giving to a church was practiced? If so, how did this impact you? If not, who first told you why giving to the church is important?
2. How does it make you feel to know that God has been more generous to us than we will ever be able to repay? (Psalm 103:1-5, Mark 10:45, Romans 8:32)
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, and then discuss the following statements about giving and generosity:
 - God wants His children to trust Him to provide all they need with plenty left over to be generous. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
 - God rewards His children when they practice generosity. (Proverbs 3:9-10, Luke 6:38)
 - We should give as we are able. (Deuteronomy 16:17, 2 Corinthians 8:11-12)
 - We should give cheerfully. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
4. Read Matthew 10:32 & Luke 21:1-4. If we can’t afford to give as much as some other people give, does it really matter if we give at all?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:7 & Philippians 2:13. Then talk about the steps on Centerpoint’s “Generosity Ladder.” Discuss your climb up the ladder. Where are you? Where would you like to be? What has God been showing you about generosity/giving/faithfulness?



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6. Why is it important to NOT put off growing in generosity? (1 Timothy 6:6-7, Luke 12:16-21)
7. Spend some time praying as a group. Ask God to move in the hearts of everyone in our church so that we will all grow in generosity and become more joyful givers.