



The Offering Talk

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CHURCH FUEL

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Introduction

Pastors pray, read, and study to prepare for a new sermon each week.

Worship teams learn new songs, rehearse together, and do a run-through so they can lead the congregation to worship God.

Children's ministry leaders prepare crafts and download curriculum because they know a few minutes of planning will help children follow Jesus.

But there's something that happens in nearly every church service that gets very little attention.

There's little practice. There's almost no thought put into it. Almost zero creativity.

And it's one of the most important moments of the entire weekend.

I'm talking about the offering, specifically the minute or two of communication that happens right before the plates are passed.

The worship leader might mumble some words after a song is complete. Or maybe the pastor moves into a brief explanation after the sermon.

Without the attention it deserves, this moment feels tacked on, either awkwardly following a time of worship or coming across as another announcement in an already-packed schedule.

Just like the preacher should pray, read, and study—and just like the musicians should be scheduled and rehearsed in advance—someone needs to plan what is going to be said and who is going to say it.

This moment in the service is actually the moment that funds all the other moments of ministry in your church. It's so important, but it's under-planned.

It should be an intentional, planned moment of explanation in your church service.



One or two minutes of carefully planned communication can really help people connect to generosity.

We call this moment an “offering talk.” It’s just a short explanation of how the offering works and then a clear call to participation.

Here’s what it can do in your church.

1 | A MOMENT OF CLARITY

This isn’t a time for flowery language.

You need to be clear.

Say something like: “In just a few minutes, we’re going to pass the plate down the aisles and you’re going to have the opportunity to financially support the mission and vision of this church.” It might sound obvious to you, but clarity is always a good thing.

Don’t say: “We’re going to have the offering.” Guests don’t know what that means.

Don’t say: “This is a time for God’s people to bring their tithes and offerings.” People may not understand those words.

Don’t say: “We invite you to give.” Instead, be more specific and say, “Ushers are going to pass buckets down each aisle and you can drop your gift in the bucket.”

It might sound silly but being clear will help your communication. Your goal here is to be as clear as possible.

2 | A MOMENT TO CONNECT THE DOTS

Share a statistic, tell a story, or read a Scripture passage that emphasizes why giving at your church is important.

Plan out what you’re going to say. Do *not* make things up on the spot.

This is your opportunity to tell people WHY they should give. This is your chance to motivate, inspire, and educate. You’re not asking for people to help pay the bills – you’re asking for them to live on mission

An effective offering talk requires a few minutes of preparation and practice. Don’t let someone wing it—make sure they have something important to say.

3 | A CALL TO ACTION

This is the moment where you tell people exactly what you would like them to do. It’s a clear and specific action step.

Say something like: “If you’re a guest, you can drop your connection card in the buckets. If you’d like to give, then use the envelope located in your seat back and place your donation in the buckets.”

An effective offering talk requires a few minutes of preparation and practice. Don’t let someone wing it.



You need a *person* to emphasize the offering this week, and they need to *plan* what they are going to say.

Now that you know what an offering talk is, and now that you understand the importance, let's talk about how you plan and schedule this important service element.

Who Can Do This?

Look around your church and you'll find many people who can do a great offering talk.

First, think about the pastor.

It's certainly appropriate for the senior pastor, lead elder, or teaching pastor to do the offering talk. Hopefully, this person has the gift of communication and can explain what's happening with skill and passion. Schedule the lead pastor for the offering talk at least once a month.

Second, another staff member could do it.

This is a great opportunity to give other staff members time on stage. Let the children's director, youth pastor, worship leader or small groups pastor do the offering talk. Not only will they do a great job (they may need coaching), but it's good for your church to see other staff members in the spotlight.

Finally, a volunteer could do a great job.

Schedule a volunteer or another leader from time to time. Although they will need coaching too, volunteers can explain the offering. It's a powerful testimony to other attenders. I bet you and your team could come up with a list of ten people who would do a great job with the offering talk.

If you intentionally plan the time of giving in your services, you'll see better results. And when more people connect with giving, the gospel goes further.

You can plan giving talks by emphasizing a Scripture verse, telling a ministry story from your congregation or community, or turning current events into teaching moments. Like sermon illustrations, they are everywhere once you learn how to look.

Here are several scripts to get you started.

Let them inspire you or hand them to a staff member and volunteers so they can add a little personalization.

Use them to lead your congregation in generosity.



When your seed is for the work of the church, you're sowing into good soil.

1 | Good Soil

Good morning! My name is Peter and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church. In just a minute, we're going to continue in worship with a time of giving. It's something we do every week here because we're committed to make Jesus known in our community. But first, I have a quick question for you: Are there any green thumb gardeners out there?

I'm not much of a gardener but I've always been intrigued by what Jesus said about soil. In Mark 4:3-9, Jesus talked about the difference between seeds in rocky ground, thorns, and then on good ground.

And in Luke 8:8 where He teaches us about the bountiful crop that happens when a seed falls on good soil.

I wanted to encourage you as you prepare to give, that when your seed is for the work of the church, you're sowing into good soil. How do I know?

Your gifts have provided *(share examples of causes donations have provided for in your church and local community)* 178 backpacks for local students in need, 208 bags of food for the shelter, and support for the upcoming mission trip to Guatemala where hundreds will hear the gospel.

That's good work on good soil. When you give here, you can know that we're going to use everything to keep doing work like that. You get to be a part of it. Let's pray and ask for the Lord for a bountiful crop.

2 | Flying by Faith

Hi everyone! My name is John and I serve Fuel Church on our hospitality team. I get to hold doors, say hello, and hand out bulletins to guests. I love getting to serve here.

We're going to take up our offering soon but as you prepare to give, I wanted to talk about airplanes for a minute.

Nothing has increased by prayer life as much as airplane turbulence. I don't know if anyone loves airplane turbulence, but let me tell you, it makes me nervous. When I'm up in the air and that plane is shaking, I realize how little control I have.

I'm high up in the sky and just trusting that a pilot I've never met is going to get me to my destination safely. I'm sure she's trained. I'm sure he's paying attention. But it still makes me nervous.

But despite all that, I have to fly by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight."

That's true in all of our lives. We have to be confident that the Lord is in control. And that includes control over the resources that He has given us. When I give from what God has given me, I know I can trust Him to use it for His work. I give, and then I see what God will do with it. Even though I can't see exactly how God is going to provide yet, I know He's faithful to fly this plane. I know He's a provider.

Sometimes, when we give, we don't get to see all the results of that. We have to trust that God is in control. Sometimes, our personal finances are turbulent. We have to trust that God is in control.

That's something we can rest in today. Pray with me and then we'll receive an offering.



3 | Remember His Words

Good morning! My name is Phil and I'm a 7th grade leader in our student ministry here at Fuel Church. I've been a part of this church family for 3 years now. Even though we're pretty busy like many of you, I love getting to help on Sundays with my group of 7th graders. They are great. I think they teach me just as much as I teach them.

In just a few minutes, we're going to receive an offering, something we do every week here. It's our way of giving back to God through His church.

I was thinking this week about giving and gifts. I've exchanged a lot of gifts with people in this room. Birthday gifts, Christmas gifts, you name it. We like to say that "it's better to give than to receive" but one day, I stopped to think about what that really means.



It's from Acts 20:35: "In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Paul is encouraging us to remember Jesus' words. Remember His words when you think about giving. Remember what He said and remember why you give. "It is necessary to help the weak," Paul said, and we're a community. Our gifts help us advance Kingdom work and support each other.

(Read a testimony from someone who received assistance from the benevolence fund.)

That's how communities in Christ are supposed to work. It's one of the reasons I love giving to God through Fuel Church. Let's pray and then our ushers will come forward and you can participate in the time of giving.

4 | Calculate the Cost

Good morning, everyone! I'm Bryce, our outreach team leader here at Fuel Church. I hope you've had your coffee! In a few minutes, we're going to receive an offering but before we do, I want to talk about what happened when I met a friend for coffee last week.

Someone ahead of him in line paid for my friend's drink at Starbucks a few days prior. And when he met me a few days after that, he was still buzzing with joy at the thought of their generosity. He said he wanted to do it for someone else the next time he's in a drive thru. He was so encouraged by this stranger's generosity that he was already planning to be more generous himself.

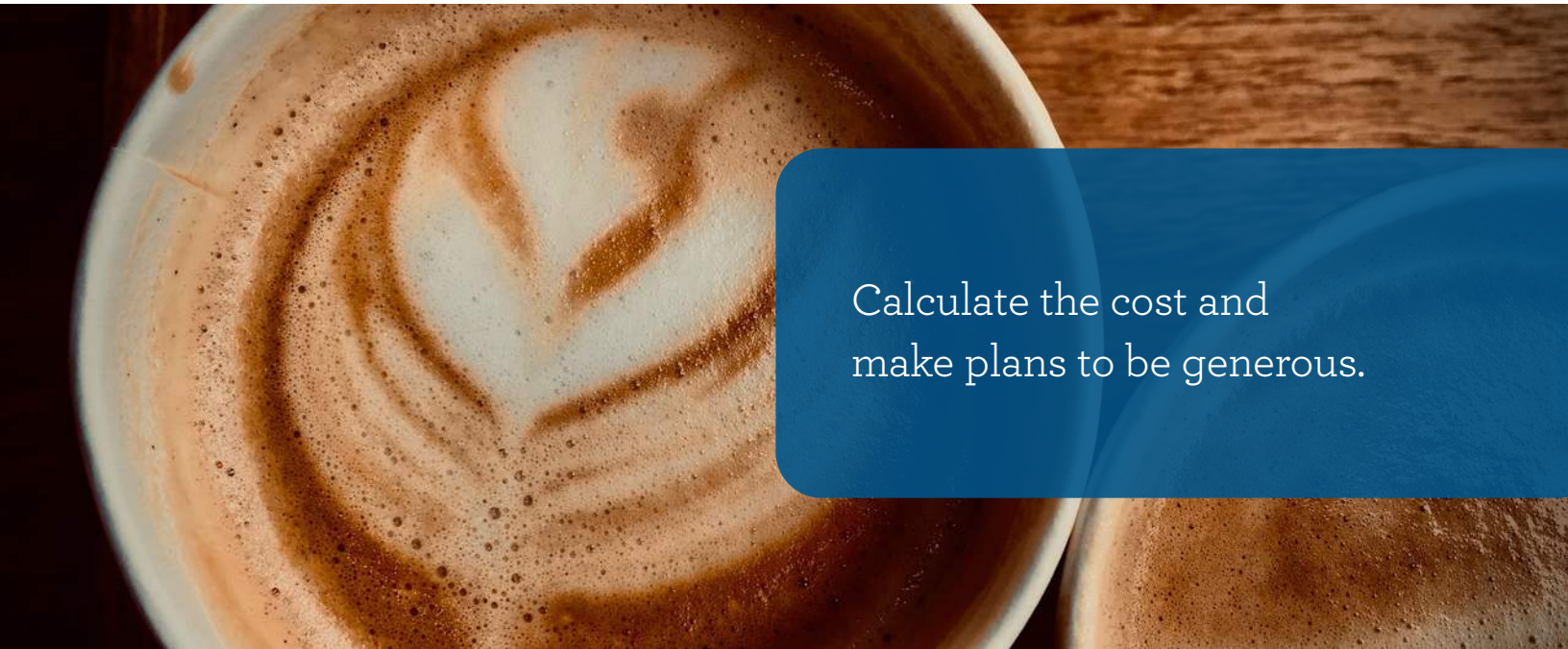
He mentioned how little it would cost in comparison to the joy the act could bring to someone's day. It reminded me of Luke 14:28, which always convicts me when I'm being flippant on making plans to do what God has asked me to do. It says, "For which of you, wanting to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?"

Calculate the cost and make plans to be generous. There will always be other things competing for our money and time, but when we're intentional about giving toward the work God is doing through His church, we're already prepared to be generous.

It's one of the reasons that percentage giving works so well. It's intentional, strategic, and purposeful.

Like my friend, generosity will bring joy to you and to others. Thank you for being generous toward the work we're doing here at Fuel Church.

Let's pray and then our ushers will come forward and we will receive this week's offering.



Calculate the cost and
make plans to be generous.

5 | Did You Know? (Event Tie-In)

Hi, everyone! My name is Joyce and I serve as the outreach coordinator here at Fuel Church. I see a lot of familiar faces in the audience and I'm so glad to see our women back from their retreat. Eighty-five women attended the retreat last weekend and prayed, studied, and got to know each other better.

I got this email from one of the ladies who attended and wanted to share with you.

(Read testimony from someone who attended the event. Of course, you can substitute this story and focus for another event that happened recently in your church.)

Isn't that awesome?



We're getting ready to receive our offering this morning. And whether you participate in the service or whether you give online like I do, you play a part in stories like that.

Your gift facilitates this type of growth in Christ. Your gifts supported women who wouldn't have otherwise been able to attend the retreat. For all of the powerful experiences that happened last weekend, they wouldn't have been possible without your generosity.

Know that you're making a difference. Join me in prayer now and let's ask the Lord to continue using our generosity to change hearts.



6 | Don't Grow Weary

Good morning, everyone. My name is Matt and I'm one of the pastors here at Fuel Church.

We're excited to serve you today and every Sunday. It's amazing to think about how many Sundays we do this throughout the year. It can start to feel like a routine. It can take a long time to see the fruit of what we do every single Sunday.

But today, before we receive our offering, I want to remind us of what God is doing through what we're doing here every Sunday. In the past six months,

- 81 people have given their lives to Christ
- 47 people have been baptized
- 29 people have gotten connected in a Bible study group
- 21 teens have joined our youth group

Let that sink in. Those aren't just numbers. Those are people's lives that have been impacted by the gospel of Jesus Christ because of what we do here every Sunday.

Even on the Sundays that feel mundane, God is working.

As Galatians 6:9 says, "So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up."

So don't grow weary in doing good for God's kingdom. The harvest of fruit is coming, even when we don't see it yet. We'll just keep praying, keep serving, and keep giving toward what God is doing in this church.

Every week when we gather, we receive an offering. This moment actually funds all the other moments in our church. Since we do it every week, it's easy for this to feel routine. But I want to say thanks to everyone who participates. I want to ask everyone to participate. Because we're doing a good work here and we should be encouraged.

Let's pray and then our ushers will help us receive the offering.



7 | Exceedingly and Abundantly

Hi, everyone. I'm Sarah and I serve in our Fuel Church youth ministry. Before we have our time of giving, I wanted to bring up Joey. I wanted you to see exactly who your gifts are helping to impact this summer.

Joey, can you tell us how many students are going to camp in July?

118. That's right. Joey is one of 118 students going to camp this year. And your prayers and generosity have made it possible.

Joey, how many students received Christ at camp last year?

37 students. And we're praying that God will work mightily in the hearts of even more students this year.

I've been praying Ephesians 3:20-21 over this year's camp: "Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

For those of you who give, thank you. Many of you give online. Or using our mobile app. Thank you! Some of you give in the service when we pass the plates . . . thank you. Some of you just recently started giving. Thank you. You're making a difference in this generation and in all generations.

I want to pray this together now, in Jesus' name, that He would use our gifts to change lives in a way that is beyond what we could ask or think. Let's pray.

8 | Fragrance

Good morning! My name is Frank and I'm a member here at Fuel Church. It's so good to see everyone today.

Anyone can tell you that when I'm not on this stage, I'm going around getting hugs. That's what I do. I'm a hugger.

Show of hands . . .

How many of you are huggers?

How many of you would rather nobody invade your personal space?

Animals!

Do you know what one of the best things about getting a hug is?

It's when you hug someone and they smell like nectar from the heavens. I mean, their perfume or cologne smells so good that you don't want to let go. We're not going to talk about what it feels like when it's the opposite . . . but I love hugging my sisters and brothers in Christ and smelling those good fragrances!

As I think about our time of giving that's coming up in just a few minutes, I think about something Paul said about fragrances.

In Philippians 4:18, he said the gifts the Philippians gave to provide for his needs were “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.”

I'm praying that our gifts today would also be a fragrant offering to God. That as we give to support the needs in our church and the local community, God will be pleased. Let's pray this together.



9 | In Action and Truth

Good morning! My name is Chris and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church. Before we transition to our time of giving, I just wanted to thank you for sticking it out with us this summer.

Summer can be sticky, right? The other day, I took my daughter, Laura and my son, Luke, out for ice cream. It doesn't get much stickier than that. We're trying to teach our kids to be responsible with money, so they used their allowance money for the ice cream.

Well, Laura bought hers with the last of her allowance and promptly dropped it on the ground. I know, tragic. Luke springs into action helping Laura clean up her fallen ice cream cone. But not only that, Luke decides to buy his sister another cone.

It was at that moment, in the most simple, childlike way, that I saw the type of generosity and love that Jesus modeled for us. 1 John 3:18 came to mind where it says, "Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth." Luke loved his sister in action and in truth that day. And when we give, we're doing the same thing. We're putting our love into action and providing the resources needed to support our brothers and sisters.

In just a minute, we're going to receive an offering. It's something we do every week here and it's a really important moment. When you think about it, this moment makes all the other moments happen. We're so grateful for those of you who give consistently and we're so grateful for those of you who are thinking about it. It's a great thing to do.

Let's pray that God would use our generous gifts today to allow us to show His love to someone.



10 | Storing Up Treasures

Hello, everyone! My name is Sharon and I serve in our Fuel Church Groups ministry.

I'm so excited to worship the Lord with you with a time of giving, but first I wanted to tell you about a lesson the Lord recently taught me about giving.

I collected Barbies for years. Even when I was a teenager, I knew one day I would sell my collectible Barbie dolls and make a fortune. I eventually had to clear up some space and put my Barbies in the attic until I was ready to sell them years down the line but before I did, one of my nieces asked me if she could have them.

I told her no. I told her that they were collectibles for adults. But when I went up in my attic many years later, I discovered that the collection was dusted over and almost all of the dolls had been destroyed by critters.



It took me a while to see the lesson in that, but it pointed me to Matthew 6:19-21. Jesus says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Not only did this lesson make me wish I'd just given my niece the dolls, but it also caused my mindset about money to shift. When it comes to money, we don't need to "store up treasures" there either. I don't mean that we shouldn't have savings accounts or collectibles, but we don't have to be tight-fisted when it comes to being generous. God is a provider. When we're willing to give up some of our treasure, it shows where our heart is.

Let's pray over our offering and ask God for generous hearts.



What thoughts could make me more cheerfully generous?

11 | Defining “Cheerful”

Good morning! I’m Clark and I’m one of our Fuel Church group leaders. I’m here to transition us to our time of giving but first, let me tell you about a Bible verse on giving that I’ve been thinking about lately.

It’s 2 Corinthians 9:7 and it says, “Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.”

The word that stuck out to me the most was “cheerful.” I had to think about it . . . am I cheerful about giving? The thought of reading a book with a hot cup of coffee makes me more cheerful about getting up in the morning. The thought of dessert makes me more cheerful about eating my dinner. But how can I be more cheerful about giving? What thoughts could make me more cheerfully generous?

I thought about our recent Fuel Church Block Party where we reached 248 of our neighbors. And the 116 people who have been helped through counseling sessions this year. And the 27 people who were baptized last month.

Many of you give regularly here and we’re so grateful. I know you find joy in giving and that helping others through generosity makes you feel good. Giving really is good for the soul.

So for that, I just want to say thanks. For those of you thinking about getting involved in giving, I want you to know that we don’t pressure or guilt people into giving. We ask, but we don’t beg. We invite, but we don’t pressure.

12 | What's Ours is His



Good morning and thank you for joining us at Fuel Church today. My name is Alex and I serve our church on the communications team. As we're preparing for our offering, I want you to imagine something.

Imagine that you have a valuable car. Maybe it's a Tesla. Or a brand new F150 Super Crew Texas Edition, not that I want one of those or anything.

But it's a nice car.

You're only willing to let the teens in your family borrow under certain perimeters. You want someone who will look after it well and honor your investment, not use it to commit crimes or drive recklessly.

Because it's valuable to you, you want to make sure that anyone you loan it to has respect for it. Takes care of it. Treats it right.

If you've ever borrowed someone else's car, don't you drive it a little safer? Aren't you a little more careful?

That right there is the principle of stewardship.

That's God with the resources He's given us. Our talent, our money, and all of our belongings actually belong to Him. And He's asked us to honor what He's given us by using it wisely and giving of it generously for purposes that glorify Him.

As people preparing for Passover were instructed in Deuteronomy 16:17, "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you."

So should we. Every gift we have belongs to the Lord and we should always remember that when we give.

When we give, we're actually giving back to God what He's given us in the first place.

Let's pray, and then we're going to receive the offering this week.

13 | The Privilege

Hello, everyone. I'm Curtis and I'm one of the pastors here at Fuel Church.

I just want to say that I'm excited that I get the privilege of being here with you this morning and I hope you see it as a privilege to be here, too.

I've noticed that when I frame my thinking as "I get to," things change for the better. I get to pick up my wonderful kids from school. I get to serve this amazing church. I get to worship God and pray in a public place.

That little phrase really can change my perspective. The reality around me isn't changing, but my attitude toward it does.

We don't *have* to give, we *get* to give.

That's one of the reasons we have an offering time every Sunday. Yes, we're doing ministry, heating the building, and paying for ordinary things. But more than that, we're participating in Kingdom work and working to make an eternal difference.

We don't *have* to do this, we *get* to do this.

It's not a chore but a privilege that we get to gather here and soon, we'll get to give toward what God is doing here. We get to see what God does through our generosity.

Again, thank you for being here. I'm honored that I get to do this with you. I'm going to pray and then we'll receive the offering.



We don't *have* to give,
we *get* to give.

14 | Ways to Give

Good morning! My name is Michelle and I serve in our children's ministry here at Fuel Church. In a few minutes, we're going to receive an offering. But first, I want you to just look around for a second.

There are so many people here with so much to give to the glory of God. I've heard it said that we can give three ways.

We can give our time, talents, and treasure. As one who loves alliteration, I'll remember that.

So many people give their talents here. There are gifted, skilled, educated, passionate people who use their abilities to serve God through this church.

People give their time—serving the church every Sunday. Today, there are several serving in the children's ministry while we're in here. I'm so grateful for that.

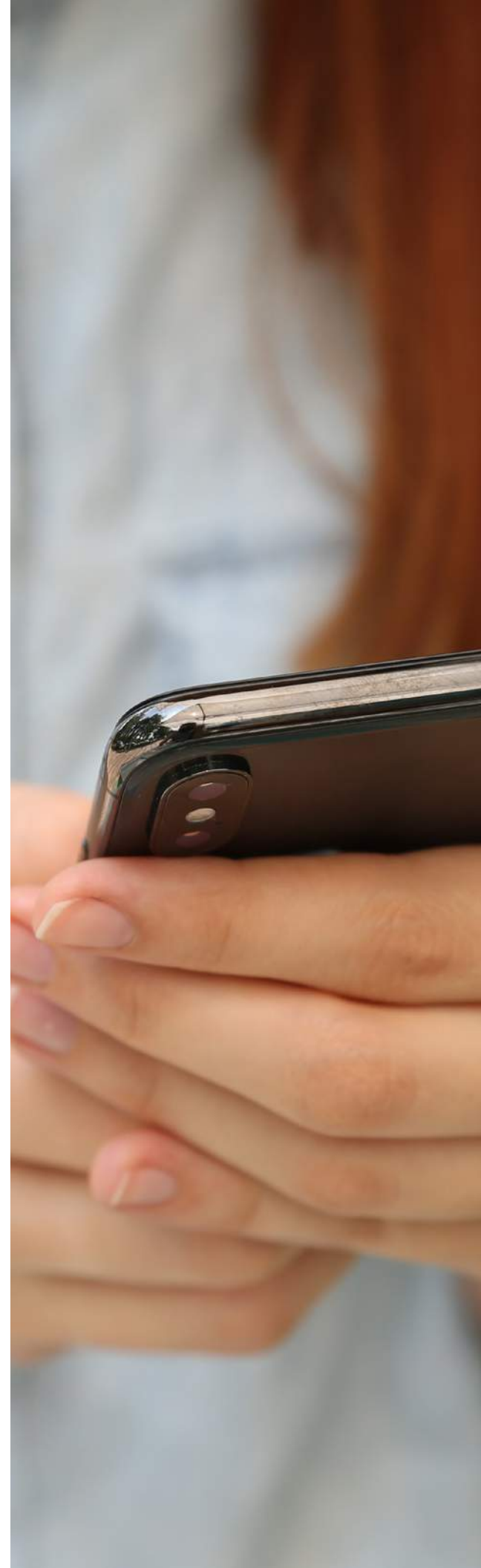
And then there's treasure. That's our finances.

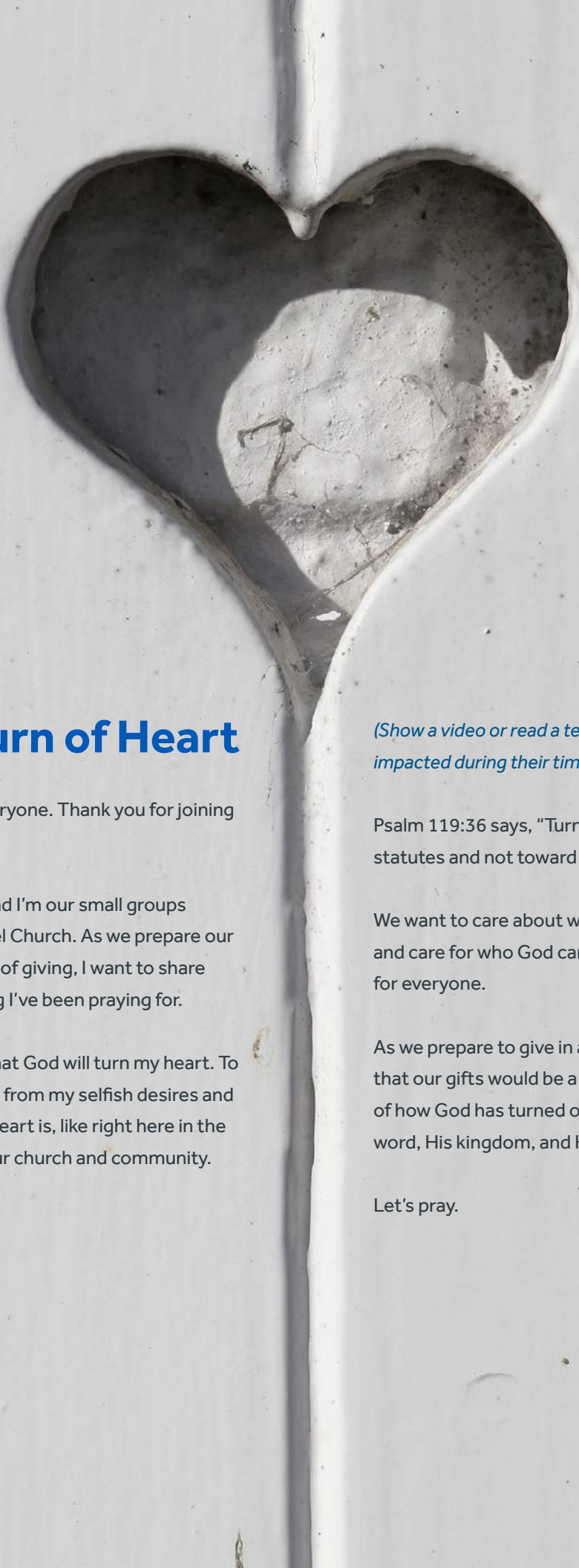
I mean, we all know it takes money to run the church and do ministry. There are no secret government grants—everything we do here is because people give generously.

God gave you all of these things to bring Him glory. God gave them to you so that when you give, the world will see more of Him through you.

Now is a time to give back to God what He has given to you. To sign up to serve, just fill out the connection card in front of you. To give financially, you can give on our website, on our mobile app, or in the bucket that will come by soon.

Now, I'm going to pray and ask God to help us use what we've been given for his Kingdom. Pray with me.





15 | A Turn of Heart

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining us this morning.

My name is John and I'm our small groups director here at Fuel Church. As we prepare our hearts for our time of giving, I want to share with you something I've been praying for.

I've been praying that God will turn my heart. To turn my heart away from my selfish desires and toward where His heart is, like right here in the lives of people in our church and community. Like this.

(Show a video or read a testimony from someone impacted during their time at the church.)

Psalm 119:36 says, "Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain."

We want to care about what God cares about and care for who God cares for. And He cares for everyone.

As we prepare to give in a minute, I want to pray that our gifts would be a tangible expression of how God has turned our hearts toward His word, His kingdom, and His people.

Let's pray.



16 | Come and Go

Hello everyone.

My name is Bill and I'm one of the pastors on staff here at Fuel Church.

Have you heard of the Fortune 500 list? This is a list of the 500 biggest companies in the country. It gets updated each year, but what's interesting about this year's list is more than half of the business that were on the Fortune 500 list in the year 2000 are now gone.

It's only been about 20 years, but half the list is new. Half the companies on the list just 20 years ago aren't even companies anymore.

Enron. Sears. K-Mart. Not on the list.

It just reminds me that things change kind of quick. These big, strong, wealthy companies in the year 2000 . . . safe investments by all account, are now gone.

I think this is why the Bible encourages us not to put our trust in money or even focus on storing it up here on earth. There's something bigger, something eternal in play.

An investment in MCI Telecom probably isn't worth much.

But an investment in God's kingdom? That's another story.

This is why many of us choose to give to Fuel Church . . . because we're not building a business. We're doing ministry that can make a difference throughout eternity.

When you give here, you can do so knowing that your contributions will still matter when *all* the companies on the Fortune 500 are gone.

Let's pray, and then we're going to receive the offering this week.



Church isn't supposed to be an inside thing. We're supposed to go outside.

17 | Going Outside

Good morning, church. My name is Jim and I'm one of the pastors here at Fuel Church. Thank you so much for being here. If you're new, we're about to enter into a time of giving in just a few minutes. It's a time where we give toward the ministry and ask God to bless our efforts.

I was thinking about something my mom and grandma used to tell me when I was a kid when they were cooking and wanted me out of their way. They'd say, "Go outside!" and that memory reminded me of what happens when we give.

How many of you got told to go outside? For many of us, that's how we played after school. Who knows what we were doing . . . we were just outside. When it got dark, you went home. There was something fun and simple about those times.

I was thinking about going outside and that's really what we're trying to do here. Church isn't just supposed to be an inside thing. We're supposed to go outside.

Out into the world. To schools and offices. To neighborhoods and communities.

Not only does our generosity help make Sundays happen, but it allows us to go outside of these four walls Monday-Friday.

Please know that when you give, it doesn't just stay in here. It goes outside, where God is using it to impact people and show His love.

Let's pray over these gifts today.

18 | Refreshing

Hello, everyone! I'm Bobby and I serve with our care ministry here at Fuel Church. In a few minutes, we'll be doing something we do every week—receive an offering. But before we do, I want you to think about the word “refreshing.”

A cool drink of water on a hot day.

The first day of vacation.

Some time at the spa...

But do you know what else is refreshing? Generosity.



We've seen a lot of refreshing moments at Fuel Church that happened because you were generous.

The first year of sobriety for a former addict.

Six people accepting Christ on our first Sunday in the new building.

A single mother having a fully stocked fridge for the first time in months.

Let's keep Proverbs 11:25 in mind as we give now and as we look for opportunities to be generous throughout the week: “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Pray with me.

19 | Your ROI

Good morning! My name is Chad and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church, where everything we do is possible because of a powerful God and generous people who give so that we can worship Him here.

There's going to be an opportunity to give in a few minutes. And when you give, you might be wondering what the return on your investment will be. Here's what I mean.

Let's say you give your nephew \$50 to start a lemonade stand. By the third week of summer, he's turned that \$50 into hundreds more.

So I want to let you know what God is turning your investment into at Fuel Church. It doesn't work like

the lemonade stand or the stock market, but I can give you a few examples.

When you give \$40, it provides a counseling session for an individual or couple who needs it but can't afford it.

\$25 puts school supplies and food items into a backpack for local students in need. \$10 buys a Bible for a new believer. \$2 gets turned into a warm cup of coffee for a first-time visitor to Fuel Church.

I want to say thank you for your investment. Let's pray now and thank God that the return on our investment is transformed lives and glory to His name.



20 | The Posture of Giving



Hello everyone. My name is Chris and I'm one of the pastors here at Fuel Church.

I noticed during the time of worship that some people had their hands raised. If you're new to church, or maybe if you grew up in a different church background, that may have been weird to you.

I remember the first time I saw someone do that, I thought they had a question. Did they need to use the restroom? Did they notice a spelling error and feel compelled to point it out?

No, raising hands in worship is an expression of dependence. Like a child lifting up their arms to their dad to pick them up. That's actually why people do that sometimes.

Arms crossed is the opposite, right. Cross your arms and it looks like you're closed off to people.

It's true of your hands, too.

Take your hands and ball them into a fist. Feels like you're ready to fight, doesn't it?

Now, open them out and lay them flat. Feels like you're ready to receive a gift.

Same hands, totally different posture.

See, giving isn't just an action.
It's a posture.

One of my hopes for you as your pastors is that you would adopt an open hands posture toward other people. That's a posture of generosity.

Not close-fisted or protective. But open handed and ready to serve.

Let's pray and then we're going to receive our offering.

21 | Equal Sacrifice

It is wonderful to see everyone at church today! My name is Chris and I'm the Discipleship Pastor here at Fuel Church.

In just a minute, we're going to participate in a time of giving. You can give in multiple ways to this church: online, via our app, via text, or you can give cash or a check as the offering plates are passed in a couple of minutes.

Did you know that Jesus cared much about our generosity? In fact, there's a moment documented in the Gospel according to Mark in chapter 12, verses 41 through 44. I'll read it for you.

Mark 12:41-44: "Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Jesus watched people give! He watched wealthy people give large amounts. But then . . . a poor widow gave two very small copper coins. Two copper coins—just like these two copper coins (*hold up two pennies*).

Jesus then shared that she had given more than all the others! Put another way, it doesn't matter the amount you give, it matters what you give in proportion to how the Lord has blessed you.

May we all give today in a way that reflects the blessings the Lord has given to each of us. Amen?

Will you join me in praying for our offering—that the Lord would bless it as well as the giver?





22 | Trust God in Giving

Good morning! My name is Angela and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church. Thank you so much for being here this morning.

We'll go into a time of giving soon but first, I want to remind us of something.

How many people know that we can trust God? Raise your hand.

That's right. And in trusting God, we know that we can trust Him to lead us to do the right things.

He's always going to lead us in doing what honors Him. We can trust Him to lead us to serve our families and our church in a way that honors Him.

We can trust Him to lead us to live and work in a way that honors Him.

And we can trust that He's always going to lead us into generosity that honors Him.

I'm going to pray now that God would lead and guide us in our giving and help us have hearts that trust Him with everything.

23 | Photo Example

Hi, everyone - my name is Joey and I serve as our Executive Pastor here at Fuel Church. If you're new here, right now is a time where we transition into a time of giving. And before we do that, I want to show everyone something.

Check this out. *(Show behind the scenes photo.)*

This photo was taken last week during one of our services. These two teens are serving their hearts out on the production team, and it's amazing to see. I wanted you to see it because your generosity in support of the ministry we're doing here is making this happen. That's why these everyday moments in ministry are possible.

Those graphics and slides they're showing and the equipment they're showing them on? They're paid for by the generosity of people in this room. So I wanted you to know that when you give today, your generosity is creating an environment for the next generation to serve and worship God in. You're making ministry possible.

Let's pray over our time of giving.



You're making ministry possible.

24 | He Supplies Our Needs

Good morning. My name is Kevin and I have the privilege of being one of our pastors here at Fuel Church.

I've been here since this church was planted 5 years ago. And before we receive offering in a few minutes, I want to take a few minutes to thank God for supplying all of our needs. And I'm sure you do, too.

Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

I'm so thankful for that. Over the years, I've seen Him supply needs that we didn't think would happen.



We needed \$1,000 to keep the lights on in this church. He supplied that need.

We needed \$870 to meet an urgent need of someone in our community. He supplied that, too.

We needed \$550 to make sure students weren't going to school hungry. And He supplied that need.

Do you know who God used to supply these needs? You. He worked in your heart and compelled you to be generous, and that's why the ministry of this church can continue.

Let's pray over our offering now and ask God to keep supplying needs in Jesus' name.



25 | Perspective

Hi, everyone. My name is Lisa and I work with the connections team here at Fuel Church.

If you're new here, I wanted to say welcome and thank you for joining us. Right now we're going to have a time of giving, and I want to lead us into it with something that stuck out to me in 1 Chronicles 29:14.

It reads, "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

It says, "That I should be *able* to give as generously as this."

You see, a lot of things in life are all about perspective. It helps for me to see my kids as wonderful little blessings from God and not as sticky little monsters. And it helps us when we have the opportunity to give to say, "Thank you God that I'm even able to do this. Wow, who am I that you would even allow me to be this generous?"

As the host team comes up, let's pray and ask God to keep shifting our perspective and thank Him that we are able to give as generously as this.

26 | Living a Generous Life

Good morning. I'm Michael and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church.

You'll have an opportunity to give toward our ministry here in just a few minutes. But first, let me show you 46 photos of my lovely grandchildren.

Don't worry, I'm kidding.

But I was thinking about my grandchildren the other day, about the legacy I want to leave for them. What would I hope they'd say about me after I'm gone?

One thing that came to mind was that I hope they'll remember that I tried to live a generous life. They'll know that I wasn't perfect, but I hope part of my legacy will be that I did my best to give graciously to others as God has so graciously given to me.

What do you want to characterize your life?

Do you want to live a generous life? I can't promise you that it will be easy. You'll need to pray about what that looks like and plan for it. But I can tell you that God will always give you the grace you need to live generously.

Pray with me that God will bless our generosity now and help us live generous lives.



27 | Progress Report

Hi, everyone! My name is Morgan and I get to serve our children's ministry here at Fuel Church. If you've been around for a little while, you might have noticed that we have some construction going on.

Our team is working on updating our children's area. It will have more space, updated technology for teaching, and a safe, secure environment. We love teaching the next generation about Jesus and the heart behind this project is to have a better space to do that.

We're about halfway through, and so far we've been able to bring in the technology we'll need and start setting it up and this week we'll focus on painting. We want to serve our children the best way we can and I'm so excited for what God is going to do through this space.

I just wanted to say thank you for giving today because you're making this project possible.

It's time to receive our offering so I invite you to pray with me now over our new children's area and everything else God is going to accomplish through the generosity of His people.



28 | Let Love Drive

Good morning! Thank you for joining us at Fuel Church. My name is Robert and I'm on staff here. I get the honor of serving with our care ministry.

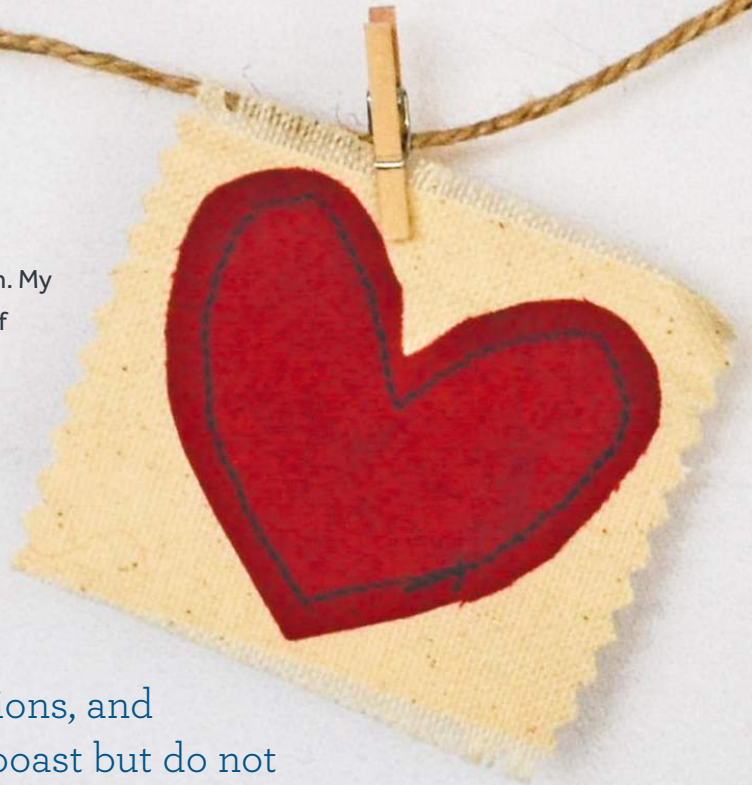
In just a few minutes, we're going to enter into a time of giving. Now, some people might argue that there's no right or wrong way to give. But I would say there's one way that's best, and I think 1 Corinthians 13:3 backs me up on this. It reads:

“And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

Giving with love is the best way to give. We don't give out of obligation or so that we can brag about how generous we are. We give because we love God and we love other people.

So I want to encourage you today as we're about to have an opportunity to be generous. Let love drive your giving. When love is in the front seat, your heart is in the right place.

Let's pray.



29 | Hospitality

Good morning and thank you for being here. I'm Jacob and I get to serve our youth here at Fuel Church.

One of the many things I love to do with our youth is to invite them over to my house, whether it's for a Bible study, game night, or to sit around the fire pit with s'mores.

Any time they're at my house, I want them to feel welcomed, loved, and supported.

At Fuel Church, we want that for everyone who comes into this house, too.

When you give, you're sharing with people as you would when they come into your house. You're allowing this church to be able to give love and support to everyone who enters this house and be in a position where we can bless people in our community who may never come through these doors.

So I want you to keep Romans 12:13 in mind as you prepare to give in a few minutes:

“Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

I'm going to pray, then we'll receive an offering, and then Pastor Joe is going to come out to continue our series on Matthew.





Your generosity produces
thanksgiving to God.

30 | Your Generosity, His Glory

Good morning! I'm so honored that you chose to worship with us today. My name is Jackson and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church. It's almost that time where we have an opportunity to give but before we do that, I'm going to read 2 Corinthians 9:11–13 and I hope you'll listen closely:

"You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the proof provided by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone."

Did you notice those themes? Your generosity produces thanksgiving to God. Not only does your generosity supply needs, it overflows into expressions of thanks to God.

People will glorify God for your obedience and generosity.

Your generosity = His glory. Let's pray over our time of giving right now.

31 | Three Things About Money



Hi, everyone! My name is James and I get the privilege of serving our teens here at Fuel Church. It's a fun role to be in. With our teens, I've tried a few different things to keep their attention, like three-point sermons. As we prepare for our time of giving in a few minutes, I wanted to give you three quick points, too.

We all want to be generous, but it's hard to have a generous heart when you have a worried heart.

I get that. We want to help you manage your money in a way that reduces your stress and honors God, so here are three ways:

1. Did you know we have a group that meets every other Tuesday for a Financial Peace workshop? It's at 7pm, and you can get more details on our website.
2. Two of our small groups are reading the book Financial Faithfulness together. It's a great way to learn about wise money management along with other people. More about that on our website, too.
3. You know that we have a team of people on our care team who counsel people, but did you know that we have people who are experts in financial stewardship who can counsel you in that area? Reach out to us at hello@fuelchurch.com to get connected.

Any of these three opportunities are a great start if finances are a point of stress for you right now. We don't want you to feel pressured to give—we want you to receive the help you need.

Join me in prayer now for anyone struggling financially and for the offering we're about to receive.

32 | Hard Work and Sacrifice

Good morning! My name is Roger and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church.

If it's your first time here, this is a time where we'll have an opportunity to give toward what God is doing in this church. But before we do that, I wanted to acknowledge something.

We know you work really hard. And we know that serving and giving can be a real sacrifice of your time and resources.

But I want to say thank you for being faithful.

The ways you give and serve in this church really do make a difference. *(Share examples of people in your church who make sacrifices to serve.)*

Take Samantha Jones, for example, who is a doctor by day and a small group leader by night. She has poured into so many lives here.

And Tim and Kiara Clark. They're parents of three who both work full-time, give toward this ministry, and serve with our outreach team.

Jason Thompson, too. He works long hours but when there's a need in this church, I've seen him step up many times to help fill it, whether it's buying canned goods or fixing some of our technology.

Thank you all for making ministry happen here. Your hard work and sacrifices are not going unnoticed.

Pray with me.



33 | Blessings



Hello. My name is Joey and I'm one of the pastors on staff here at Cross Church. In just a few minutes, we're going to receive an offering.

This is a time for those of you who love the mission and vision of the church to *support* the ministry of the church. A lot of you have already given online, or you give automatically through the app—we're so grateful for that. You are a huge blessing to our entire community.

I was thinking about that word "blessing" . . .

When you hear that word, what do you think? I think of the prayer that happens before a meal. In our house growing up, we always said the blessing. We prayed and asked God to "bless this food to the nourishment of our bodies" Anyone remember praying that?

But a blessing isn't just a prayer before a meal. In the Bible, a blessing is a favor, or a gift bestowed by God. It's the opposite of a curse.

It's something we receive that we don't deserve. One of the earliest blessings in the Bible was actually given to the nation of Israel in the book of Genesis. God promises Abraham that he will be the father of a great nation and that through him, people will be blessed. It goes on to say that "all the people of the earth" would be blessed through Abraham.

In a way, Abraham was not just the recipient of the blessing, he was the conduit. God gave Abraham the blessing, but everyone was blessed through him.

That's actually how blessings work. We aren't supposed to keep them—we are supposed to share them.

As you give today, you're passing on just a part of what God has given you. You're not keeping it—you're sharing it. You're a conduit so that many others can experience God's goodness. Let's pray and then we'll have our offering time.



34 | Telling Lies

Good morning. How are you?

Fine? That's great. That's what everyone says.

Seriously, if you ask someone, "How are you?" I bet 9 times out of 10 they will respond with "I'm fine."

They aren't fine. You're not fine. None of us are fine.

But we all say we're all fine.

World Net Daily News did a survey and found "I'm fine" was one of the most common lies people tell. In fact, they found that people lie 4 times a day. That's over 1,400 lies every year.

"I'm fine" was definitely the most common. Some of the others were:

- "Nice to see you." Ha...not nice to see you at all! I was hoping I wouldn't see you!
- Another was... "Sorry I missed your call." Yeah, not true. I actually hit decline.
- And, "This tastes delicious."

These little lies are like second nature for most people. They just come out of our mouth without even thinking. We're almost conditioned to say them.

I was visiting a church one time and the pastor got up to explain the offering, just like I'm doing now. He was talking about the church and the ministry and

how important it was and was about to ask people to give when he gave a little disclaimer.

He said, "If you're a guest, I don't want you to give . . . your presence here is gift enough."

Now that's sweet, but I thought...that's a little bit of a lie, isn't it? I bet he really did want people to give. I bet if Bill Gates happened to be in the congregation that day, he wanted Bill Gates to give.

At our church, we don't want anyone to feel guilty into giving.

That's why that pastor made that statement.

But can I tell the truth?

I do want you to give.

We are doing important work here and I'd love for you to be a part of it. I think it would make a difference. I think it would make you feel great. I believe you'll be proud.

Let's pray and then we'll receive our offering.



Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which [Jesus] walked.

35 | Walk Like Jesus Walked

Hello, everyone. My name is Casey and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church.

If it's your first time here, welcome! We're so glad to have you.

One of our values at Fuel Church is to live like Jesus. I love 1 John 2:6 which says, "Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which [Jesus] walked."

And as we prepare for our time of giving, I want us to remember the life that Jesus modeled for us—a loving life, a generous life. He is calling us to reflect His generosity. So as we seek to live like Jesus and love like Jesus, let's keep in mind that walking in the way that He walked is to walk generously through this life.

I'm so thankful that Jesus taught us to live this way and that He provides us grace for every step.

Pray with me now that Jesus would guide us in living generously and loving the way He loves.



36 | It's in Here

Hello. My name is Joey and I'm one of the pastors on staff here at Cross Church. In just a few minutes, we're going to receive an offering.

This is a time for those of you who love the mission and vision of the church to *support* the ministry of the church. A lot of you have already given online, or you give automatically through the app—we're so grateful for that. You are a huge blessing to our entire community.

I was thinking about that word "blessing" . . .

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In a way, Abraham was not just the recipient of the blessing, he was the conduit. God gave Abraham the blessing, but everyone was blessed through him.

That's actually how blessings work. We aren't supposed to keep them—we are supposed to share them.

As you give today, you're passing on just a part of what God has given you. You're not keeping it—you're sharing it. You're a conduit so that so many others can experience God's goodness. Let's pray and then our ushers will come forward and we'll have our offering time.

37 | Our True Treasure

Good morning! My name is Richard and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church serving with our family ministry. Soon, we're going to do something we do every week, and that's have a time of giving.

As you give, I want to comfort us with a thought: whatever we give is not our true treasure. I'll say it again: what we have to give is not our true treasure. Our true treasure is the kingdom of God, and that's a freeing reality that allows us to be generous.

The kingdom of God is so valuable that even if we lose everything we have in this life, it was worth the sacrifice to receive our true treasure in heaven. We don't have to give fearfully—we can give freely. And when we do, we honor God as the great giver and creator of all.

I find so much comfort in knowing where my true treasure is, and I pray that we would all be comforted by that thought. As the host team comes up, let's pray and ask God to remind us of our true treasure and bless our generosity.



What we have to give is
not our true treasure.

38 | How to Fight

Hello, everyone. I'm James and I'm on our pastoral team here at Fuel Church. I'm sure this is something you never thought your pastor would ask you, but who here has ever been in a fight?

A few of us. Well, in the Christian life, there are a lot of things we still have to fight—not with our fists necessarily, but we do have to fight. And one of the things we fight constantly is greed.

R.G. LeTourneau gave his life to Christ in 1904 and went on to become a successful businessman. As he became wealthy, he committed to living on 10% of his income and give away 90% of his personal income and profits to kingdom work. He said, "The question is not how much of my money I give to God, but rather how much of God's money I keep for myself."



That might seem radical, because it is.

We fight greed with radical generosity.

And however that looks for you, know that waging war against the love of money is always worth the fight.

Pray with me that God would help us see generosity as the true antidote to greed and that He would help us in this fight. Let's pray.



39 | Two Masters

Good morning. My name is Shaun and I've been a part of Fuel Church for six years. I came here at the beginning of my Christian walk.

When I became a Christian, one of the first things I noticed was how many choices I needed to make.

When I surrendered my life to Christ, I had to choose him over other things I was used to having. I couldn't serve Him and sin at the same time. I couldn't keep Him in my heart and have hatred there, too. And I couldn't love Him and love money.

Matthew 6:24 says, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you

will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

So since we've chosen God, let's keep choosing Him.

Money is not our master. Money is not our savior. We won't serve both, we'll serve the one—Jesus Christ. We'll serve Him and not money and show that we've made this choice by living generous lives.

We have an opportunity to be generous now, so let's pray over this time and then Pastor Rick is going to come out and finish our series on the beatitudes.

40 | Loving and Giving

Good morning! My name is Doug, I serve on the connections team here, and I'll be leading our worship through giving today. As you prepare your gifts today, it's my pleasure to share a thought for today's stewardship moment.

How many of you are early Christmas shoppers? *(Let them raise their hands.)* Yeah, you usually have all the shopping done by Thanksgiving. You enjoy the holidays a lot more than those of us who wait until the last minute. Where are my last-minute shoppers? *(Let them raise their hands.)* I'm a _____ *(share whether you're an early or last-minute Christmas shopper).*

Have you ever given thought about why you give? We give for many reasons—out of obligation or to receive recognition, but the greatest reason is because of love.

Love is the reason Jesus gave. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus gave His life for us because He loved us. It's the most amazing gift we could ever receive—and it was born out of love for us.

There is a connection here: If you love someone, you can't help but give to them. Whether you're an early shopper or venture out at the last minute—you will always give gifts to those you love. Always! We can't help ourselves because it is in our very nature.

Victor Hugo wrote *Les Misérables*, which became a runaway Broadway play in the 1850's. In it he wrote, "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." It is a truth birthed and written directly from Scripture.

As you give today, consider why you're giving. I pray that we would all give because of our great love for the Lord. Let's pray today and ask the Lord to receive these gifts as an expression of our great love for Him.



41 | Where is Your Hope?

Hi, everyone. My name is Dan, and I'm one of the pastors here at Fuel Church. If it's your first time with us, you may be wondering, "Who is this guy and why did they stop the music for this?"

Right now, we're preparing for a time where we give toward the ministry God is doing here. The music will be back but before that happens, let's read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 together.

It says: "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

Don't put your hope in wealth.

Why? Because it's uncertain. But instead . . .

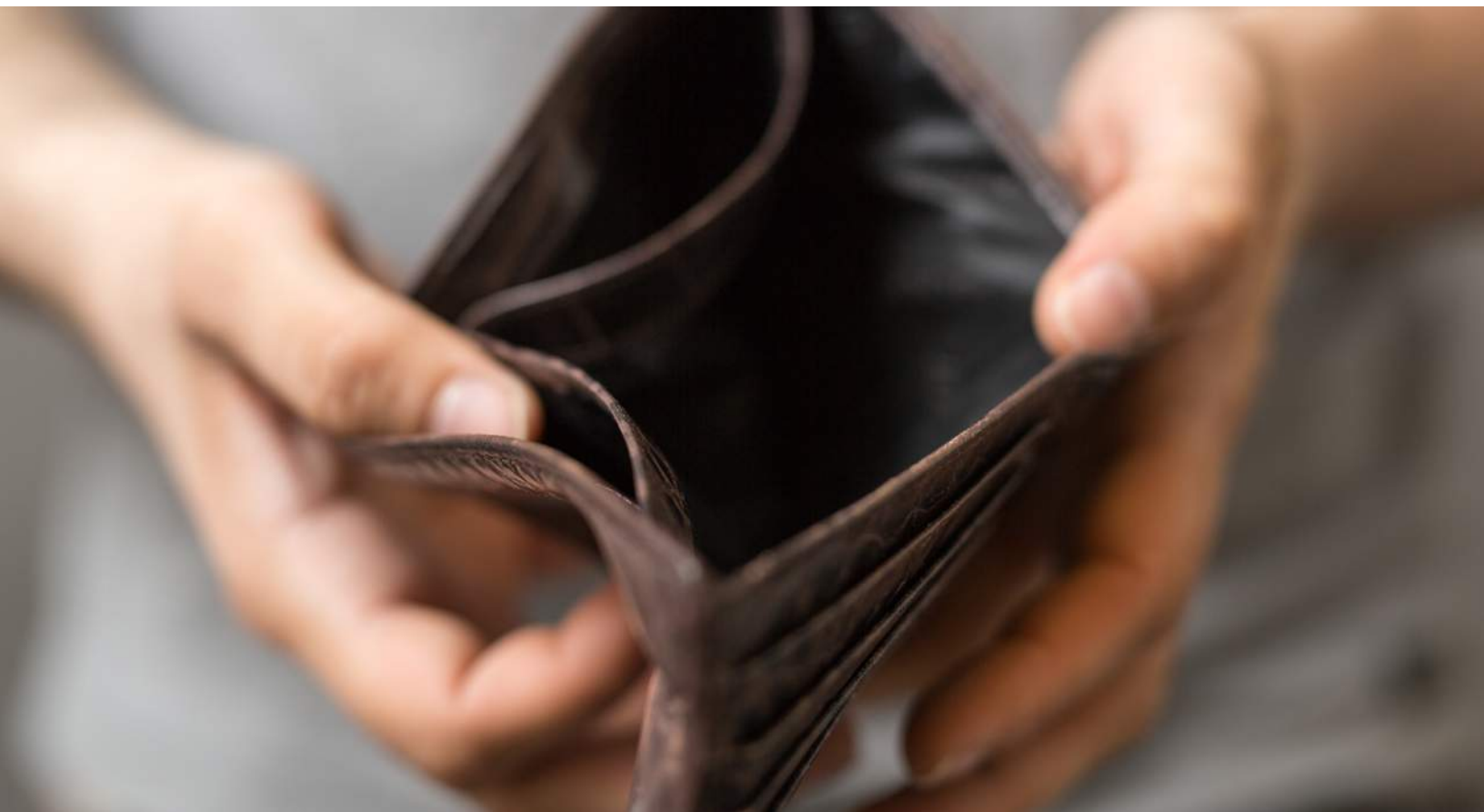
Put your hope in God, who richly provides us with everything.

Do good. Be rich in good deeds. Be generous. Be willing to share.

And then what?

You're taking hold of the true life.

So as we prepare to give, let's ask ourselves: Where is our hope? Make sure it's in God, who is our everlasting, faithful provider. Let's pray.



42 | Imagine the Possibilities

Good morning! My name is Don and I'm our executive pastor here at Fuel Church.

We do our best to be transparent about our finances, and you might remember when we told you a few months ago that we were going to give \$5,000 to a new church plant in our community.

Since then, that new church plant, Cross City Church, has seen 14 salvations. Fourteen people have given their lives to Christ since Cross City Church opened their doors.

But what if they had never opened their doors? I'm so thankful that they did and now we can praise God for what's taking place there.

Imagine the possibilities. Imagine all the other doors that generosity can open.

As we prepare to be generous now, I want to pray that we would be obedient in generosity for every new door God plans to open.



43 | The Paradox

Hello! Thank you for joining us at Fuel Church. I'm Stacey and I have the privilege of serving on our care team.

As we prepare for our time of giving, I want to share something I've noticed about giving—the paradox of it.

As Christians, a lot of what we do doesn't make sense to the world. Raising our hands in worship. Turning the other cheek. Giving money toward the work of the church.

But the Bible tells us about this paradox where we gain by giving.

Proverbs 11:24 says, "One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."

And 1 Timothy 6:6 says, "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

Giving leads to more and not less? We gain through contentment and not by chasing money?

Yes. And that's the beauty of this generosity paradox.

I've never met anyone who regretted being generous. When we give, we're more satisfied than when we keep.

Let's pray.



44 | Secret Sacrifices



Good morning. I'm Justin and I've been a part of Fuel Church for three years now. I'm here to introduce our offering time, where we'll have an opportunity to give toward the ministry here in just a few minutes.

But I want to acknowledge something first. And I want to make sure you know that God sees it, too.

God knows about the sacrifices you made just to be here today. He sees when we serve and give sacrificially, even when we think no one notices.

I'm convinced that my kids think their food, toys, and shelter are free. They think their lunch sandwiches just appear. But they didn't see all the times my wife and I went without new clothes so they could have new clothes for school.

Matthew 6:4 says, “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Our Father sees the selflessness behind your service. He sees the sacrifice behind your generosity. He sees how you trust Him to make it through every day.

So we're not doing this for human applause. We serve even when no one else seems to notice. And we give sacrificially for a God who sees it all. Let's pray.

45 | Two Lies About Money

Good morning! I'm so glad to see everyone today. My name is Laura and I've been serving in the student ministry here at Fuel Church for two years now.

In just a few minutes, we're going to receive an offering but first, I want to tell you about something that goes on in my house. My husband and I have deemed it "kiddo economics."

I have a daughter who's 4 and a son who's 6. They have two views of money: 1) It doesn't matter and 2) I need all of it right now. They either think it's crazy that we won't instantly spend \$200 on something they saw on TV because, in their minds, "What is money and why does it matter?" or "Give me that money for that toy because I want it or I'm going to cry!"



As adults, we can believe similar lies about money, can't we? We treat it like it's everything or we treat it like it's nothing. We hold our fists tight to keep every cent we have or we spend it recklessly on things we don't need.

But here's the truth. Here's the middle ground. All of our money really belongs to God, and we can be good stewards over what He's given us without being greedy. We can enjoy our lives without worshipping money or spending it selfishly all the time.

As our host team comes up, I want to pray that God would keep us from participating in "kiddo economics." Seriously. Let's pray that we would see the truth about money and live accordingly by living generously.



46 | Back to School

Good morning, everyone! My name is Jamie and I lead our outreach ministry. This morning, before we have our time of giving, I wanted to say welcome to Fuel Church and welcome back to reality.

For many of us, back to school time means the end of our summer vacations, our kids' camps, or our roads with lighter traffic.

But for many families, back to school means facing the reality that they don't have the resources to send their children to school with what they need.

We want to help meet this need in our community by serving students and their families. You can help by serving in our outreach or student ministries, but one other tangible way you can contribute is to give.

When you give, you're partnering with us to send backpacks, food, and school supplies to local schools for students who need them.

Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and help make the back to school season a better reality for families in our community.

Right now, I'm going to pray for the needs of students and that God would provide the grace, opportunities, and resources for us to help meet those needs. And then Pastor Jim is going to come give a few quick announcements. Let's pray.

47 | Good News About Generosity

Good morning and thank you for being here. My name is Morgan and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church. If it's your first time joining us, right now is a time when we'll have an opportunity to give toward the ministry that God is doing through our church.

I have a new way of visualizing our generosity. It's kind of like cake. Let me explain . . .

The other day, I was in the mood to make a big, dramatic dessert just because. When my 4-year-old and 6-year-old walked in the kitchen after it was finished, they thought it must be one of their birthdays. They started bickering about who the cake was for. And then I confused them even more by telling them that the cake was for everyone.

That's the good news about generosity, too—it's community cake.

It's for everyone and we're in this together. We all benefit from God's constant generosity toward us and now, we reflect it back out into the world.

Because the good news of the gospel is that Jesus is Lord, He is bringing His kingdom on earth, and we get to participate in it. One way we get to participate is through giving, to advance His ministry and His kingdom.

Pray with me now that this good news about generosity would be planted in our hearts and thank God that we all benefit from kingdom generosity.



48 | Christians are not Hoarders



Hello, everyone. My name is Jeff and I serve with our groups ministry here at Fuel Church. I'm so glad you're here. You could've been sleeping in or skiing in the Appalachian Mountains or binge-watching your favorite TV show all day but you're here, and I'm thankful.

Speaking of TV shows, there's a really strange one that has become a guilty pleasure of mine. It features people who have piled more and more stuff into their homes, including decaying food and more animals than they can feed, and now they need help clearing things out. That's right, the show is *Hoarders*.

It's easy to watch a show like that and think, "How could they let things get this bad? I would never hoard material things like that."

But sometimes, in many other ways, we do. Sometimes, we hoard our time instead of serving others. Sometimes we hoard our resources instead of being generous. Sometimes we hoard our talents because we think we're not good enough.

Let me encourage you with this thought: As a Christian, you don't need to be a hoarder.

The character of God has shown us that He is a sovereign provider and He has more than enough grace for us. And because of His grace, we don't need to "store up treasures for ourselves on earth" as Matthew 6:19 warns against. We can give freely through the power of His grace. Let's pray.

49 | Get Creative

Good morning. It's so good to see everyone. My name is Kyle and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church. In just a few minutes, we're going to receive an offering. Our time of giving is a blessing to our ministry but before we begin, I want to acknowledge that this can be a strange time for some.

Sometimes you want to support God's kingdom work but you simply don't have the financial resources to do so now. But with any kind of restriction, you have to get creative. There are at least four other ways you can give:

#1. GIVE GRACE. Look for ways to grace someone with a kind word or a helping hand this week.

#2. GIVE TALENT. Everyone is good at something, and I'm sure the church and even your neighbors could use some help in your area of expertise.



#3. GIVE TIME. It doesn't cost any money to serve. Just ask the friendly faces at the connection counter in the lobby about ways you can give to the church by volunteering.

#4. GIVE OTHER RESOURCES. Maybe you don't have cash, but maybe you have a drone we can borrow. Let's chat.

Don't be discouraged by this time. Be encouraged to participate in God's kingdom in the ways you can right now.

Pray with me.

50 | Millennials and Generosity

Good morning! I'm Joe and I serve in a few different areas here at Fuel Church.

Sometimes I edit videos, sometimes I play music. One more thing about me . . . I'm a millennial. Any other millennials here today? That just means you were born between 1981 and 1996. Raise your hand.

(You could ask for a show of hands representing other generations too.)

Despite having \$1.1 trillion of consumer debt, millennials are the most generous generation and give twice as much money and time. There are a lot of factors at play here but let this be a lesson for us all. A generation that often gets called lazy and entitled is actually giving the most.

So let's not assume anything about each other but strive to be as generous with our time and financial resources as we can.

Whether you're Gen X, baby boomers, or millennials, generosity is good for us all.

The willing heart behind your generosity is what matters.

As 2 Corinthians 8:12 says, "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."

Let's pray.





God uses the giver *and* the receiver to bring glory to His name.

51 | Giving and Receiving

Hello, everyone. Welcome to Fuel Church.

My name is Wesley and I'm on staff here at Fuel Church. In a few minutes, we're going to do something we do every week and that's receive an offering. Acts 20:35 says, "In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Someone is going to give and someone is going to receive. There are always two sides. Most of us have been on both ends in different points of our lives. But there's no downside to giving and no shame in receiving. God uses the giver and the receiver to bring glory to His name.

So no matter which end you're on today, know that we love you and we're glad you're here. When we've been on the receiving end of generosity, we're grateful to God for supplying our needs and encouraged to be generous ourselves when we're able. And when we're blessed to be able to give, we're grateful to God for supplying our needs and encouraged to help others.

I've never met anyone who regretted being generous.

As our offering team comes up, let's pray that God would give grateful hearts to those who give and those who receive.

52 | Giving Gifts

One of my favorite things about Christmas is all the gift giving. We love to receive gifts. We love to give gifts. People are just more in a giving mood.

I was thinking the other day about all the people on my Christmas card and gift list. I'm not going to tell you who I'm referring to, but tell me if you agree . . .

Sometimes, at Christmas, we give gifts to people we don't even really like. We get gifts for people at the office we haven't spoken to since June. We receive a gift from someone and think, "Oh man, now I've got to give them a gift."

We give gifts to family and friends and causes we care about, but you know this is true: We give gifts to people we don't even like just because it's Christmas.

I love it. It's how we should act. It brings out the best in us.

I hope that's not how you approach giving at church, though.
I hope you like us!

The other reason I love giving gifts at Christmas time is it's just a reminder of how much God has given us.

The gift of life, the gift of faith, the gift of His son – that's the reason we're celebrating after all. Those are great gifts.

There's an old saying that goes, "you can't out-give God." And Christmas is a great reminder of that. God has given us all so much. It's a reason to be generous.

Let's pray and then we'll receive our offering.

