

Talking about Giving with Young People

Where my money is, there
is my heart.

Matthew 6:21



Two reasons why we should talk about giving...

Our giving reflects God's love for us

And, more practically, to explain that the income needed for what God wants us to do will primarily come from the thank offerings of church congregations

Our young people deserve to know about:

The biblical concept of giving.

How a church meets its financial commitments and how The Church is funded.

And, that it is a myth that most churches have huge monetary reserves.

Thinking about Giving



Ice-breaker

Have an activity which is unfair; a pass-the-parcel where some layers have sweets and others don't, or as young people arrive give sweets to some and not others.

Ask them how it felt if they received something and also if they didn't.

Introduction

You could photocopy these statements and ask your young people to look at them either individually or in twos and threes and then share their thoughts.

Giving Is....

- * Something that happens on birthdays
- * A waste of time - why give anything away
- * A way of showing people you care
- * A way of sharing resources
- * A response to God' generosity

When we give?

- * It stops us feeling guilty
- * It's doing what we ought to
- * We do it grudgingly
- * It's a way of honouring God
- * We only have to do it once

Why give to others?

- * Because we should share what we have
- * You shouldn't - you don't know it's going to be used properly
- * It makes us feel good
- * Because they can't do good work if we don't
- * One day you might need help

What the bible says.... some options for discussion

There are several options, you could hold your discussions over four sessions looking at one passage each week, or simply choose one or two of the passages.

It's a good idea to read the bible passage a couple of times asking for peoples immediate thoughts and then to use the questions to begin some discussion.

1. Matthew 25:14-30

Some questions to consider;

- * I wonder what was the most important part of the story
- * I wonder what was your favourite part
- * I wonder how the third servant felt when the master returned
- * I wonder what this story says to us about giving

2. Leviticus 27:30-32

Some questions to consider;

- * I wonder what was the most important thing in these readings
- * I wonder what was your favourite part
- * I wonder how the people felt when Moses gave them this law
- * I wonder what this says to us about our giving

3. Mark 12:41-44

Some questions to consider;

- * I wonder what was the most important part of the story
- * I wonder what was your favourite part
- * I wonder what led the widow to give what she did
- * I wonder what this story says to us about giving

4. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, James 1:5, 2 Corinthians 9:7

Some questions to consider;

- * I wonder what was the most important thing in these readings
- * I wonder what was your favourite part
- * I wonder what led Paul and James to write what they did
- * I wonder what these verses say to us about giving

A practical project.....

This is a real opportunity to enable the young people to think about the life of their parish.

It's worth talking to the incumbent and treasurer before embarking on the project as it could make a real difference.

The aims of the project are:

- * To discover how parishes are funded**
- * To discuss how parishes might raise the funds they need.**
- * To produce a plan to help a parish meet its financial commitments**

Ask your group to imagine that they are working with the church treasurer and they have to look at the budget for the next year. First ask them to list all the things they will have to spend money on (heating, lighting, services etc) and estimate how much that will cost.

Then ask them what else they might need to spend money -this is a chance to be creative and think about the mission & outreach - and to estimate how much that will cost.

The next task is to think about how all of this might be paid for - encourage the group to think of how the budget can be met and to plan their campaign.

Why not present the ideas to incumbent and treasurer (and the PCC?), who knows there could be a viable stewardship campaign for the parish.....

Other Resources:

<http://www.parishresources.org.uk/issues/young%20people.htm>

CPAS and Christian Aid also provide resources