

CD Files listed Alphabetically

- Answer guides for both Bible studies
- Art work
- Bible study week one
- Bible study week two
- Bible study week three
- Bulletin message after the emphasis
- Bulletin message prior to start of emphasis
- Bulletin messages week one
- Bulletin messages week two
- Bulletin messages week three
- Bulletin messages with illustration
- Children's message for week one
- Children's message for week two
- Children's message for week three
- Coming soon
- Commitment form
- Devotions for week one
- Devotions for week two
- Devotions for week three
- Devotions title page
- Energizing your church's stewardship
- Flyer 1 - coming soon
- Flyer 2
- Flyer 3 – Bible, Cross, and offering plate
- Flyer 4 – Coming soon
- Flyer 5 – Receiving, managing, sharing
- Flyer 6 - Joy
- Flyer to encourage members to share God's love
- Getting organized
- Joy of generosity emblem
- Lay reader talk week one
- Lay reader talk week two
- Lay reader talk week three
- Leader tips
- Letter from pastor
- Letter to members who have not turned in a commitment form
- Letter to thank members for their financial commitment
- Newsletter article
- Order form for banners
- Order form for trifold brochures and "Tithing: An Unexpected Joy"
- Sermon points
- Sermon for week one
- Sermon for week two
- Sermon for week three
- Sermon for week three power point
- Trifold power points
- Worship helps week one
- Worship helps week two
- Worship helps week three

Experiencing the Joy of Generosity



Leader Tips:

A Three-week Stewardship Emphasis

- The Joy of Receiving God's Blessings
- The Joy of Managing God's Blessings
- The Joy of Sharing God's Blessings

Emphasis Goal:

The goal of this three-week emphasis is to address whole-life Christian stewardship. We first receive with gratitude the generous blessings from our Heavenly Father; then we are called to faithfully manage those blessings; and then we are to share the blessing that God has entrusted to us. Through this emphasis, your members' relationship with their Lord will be deepened, they will better understand Christian stewardship, and they will grow as stewards.

Small-group Bible Study Participation:

In order for your members to grow as faithful stewards, they need to be reading and studying God's Word. Every effort should be made to increase Bible study participation. To show the importance of Bible study, council members, elders, and other church leaders should be encouraged to attend. This small group Bible study covers the three studies from the book *Tithing: An Unexpected Joy*. An answer guide is on the CD. You will need to recruit leaders and secure locations for the three studies. The effort to get the Bible study leaders and set the locations for the studies needs to get underway at least two months prior to the emphasis.

Sunday Morning Bible Studies:

In order for your members to grow in their relationship with the Lord and to grow as stewards, they need to spend time reading and studying God's Word. The three studies for Sunday mornings are available on the CD. An answer guide is on the CD.

Testimonials/ Lay reader talks

There are three lay reader talks provided. Personal testimonials are more effective, but, if no willing member is found to share his/her stewardship story with the congregation, these talks may be used. The talks may be given at the start of the service or during the time of the offering.

Daily Devotions

It is recommended that you distribute the copied daily devotions for the first week on the Sunday prior to the start of the emphasis, and the other two sets on the following two Sundays (one set each Sunday). Then members will be able to read the daily devotions focusing on the weekly theme prior to the message on Sunday.

Emphasis CD

All the material in the binder and on the CD may be copied. The only optional materials that will need to be purchased, if interested, are the trifold brochures and the banners

Banners and Trifold Brochures

Both the banners and trifold brochures are optional. If you want to use them, they will need to be ordered. The larger banners can be clipped very nicely onto 30 x 40 inch foam board that can be purchased at places like Office Depot and Staples for approximately \$2.00 each. These will sit on tripods or easels which make the banners very visible to the congregation.

Elders/ Council Members

To seek the support and prayers of the elders and council members, you need to inform and discuss the emphasis with them. Any input that they offer should be considered.

Commitment Sunday (weekend)

Members should be encouraged to make financial commitments to the Lord through their church. Commitment forms can be distributed with the bulletins/worship folders on commitment Sunday, which is the third Sunday of the emphasis. Members should be asked to bring their commitments forward to the altar. Every effort should be made to make Commitment Sunday a special and meaningful day. To show the joy and importance of making a commitment to the Lord, you may want to have balloons and/or other decorations. You could provide some special snacks. Some churches have found that inviting a special guest preacher is helpful. Some churches celebrate their commitments by having a lunch on Sunday.

The commitment forms need to be available on commitment Sunday. If you send the pastor's letter to your members, you are encouraged to enclose a commitment form with the letter. This will act as a reminder for members to think and pray about their commitments. If they fail to bring their commitment form with them, it won't matter because there will be another form for them on Commitment Sunday.

After Final week

You are encouraged to send reminder letters to members who failed to return their commitment forms and send thank-you letters to members who returned their commitment forms.

Experiencing the Joy of Generosity

Getting Organized Prior to the Emphasis:

Publicity/ Communication

- Two months prior: Identify small group Bible study leaders and locations for Bible studies focusing on the booklet *Tithing: An Unexpected Joy*.
- Month prior: Newsletter article
Listing of small group Bible study times and locations
Promote sign up for small group Bible studies
Order the trifold brochures, Bible study booklets *Tithing: An Unexpected Joy*, and banners.
- Three weeks prior: Place clip art—"Coming Soon"—in bulletin.
Promote sign up for small group studies.
- Two weeks prior: Promote sign up for small group studies.
Place clip art—"Coming Soon"—in bulletin.
Copy daily devotions to be distributed the Sunday prior to start of emphasis.
- One week prior: Place devotions "The Joy of Receiving God's Blessings" in bulletins or have ushers hand them out (Members should be encouraged to read the devotions prior to next week's sermon on the theme "The Joy of Receiving God's Blessings.")).
Place bulletin message in bulletin.
Start small group Bible studies.
Put up banners.
Send letter from pastor to church members..

In order for people to grow in their generosity and to help them experience the joy of generosity, they need to be reading and studying God's Word. This emphasis offers two three-week Bible study opportunities. The small group studies will focus on the booklet: *Tithing: An Unexpected Joy* and the Sunday morning Bible studies will use the Bible studies found on the emphasis CD.

Launch the Three-week Emphasis:

First week:

“The Joy of Receiving God’s Blessings”

Place the bulletin message and bulletin message with illustration in the bulletin
Place copied devotions “The Joy of Managing God’s Blessings” in bulletins or
have ushers hand them out (Members should be encouraged to read the
devotions prior to next week’s sermon on the theme “The Joy of Managing
God’s Blessings.”).

Testimonial or Lay-reader talk for first week provided on the CD

Distribute trifold brochure “The Joy of Receiving God’s Blessings.”

Remind people of the small group Bible studies and the Sunday morning Bible
study opportunities.

Second week of the small group Bible studies and first week of the Sunday
morning studies

Children’s message

Worship helps

Sermon

Second week:

“The Joy of Managing God’s Blessings”

Place the bulletin message and bulletin message with illustration in the
bulletin.

Place copied devotions “The Joy of Sharing God’s Blessings” in bulletins or
have ushers hand them out (Members should be encouraged to read the
devotions prior to next week’s sermon on the theme “The Joy of Sharing
God’s Blessings.”).

Testimonial or Lay-reader talk for second week provided on the CD

Distribute trifold brochure “The Joy of Managing God’s Blessings.”

Distribute or email flyer encouraging members to experience the joy of
generosity this week.

Remind people that next Sunday is Commitment Sunday or Commitment
Weekend.

Third week of the small group Bible studies and second week of the Sunday
morning studies

Children’s message

Worship helps

Sermon

Third week:

“The Joy of Sharing God’s Blessings”

Place the bulletin message and bulletin message with illustration in the bulletin

Testimonial or Lay-reader talk for third week provided on the CD

Distribute trifold brochure “The Joy of Sharing God’s Blessings.”

Place commitment form in bulletins. Allow members time to fill them out and
collect them at the altar.

Third week of the Sunday morning studies

Children’s message

Worship helps

Sermon

Following the Final Week of Emphasis:

Bulletin message for week following emphasis

Experiencing the Joy of Generosity

Members Respond to Annual Stewardship Appeal

We are wrapping up our annual stewardship commitments. We thank all those who have already submitted their commitments for ____ (year) _____. Your support enables us to continue our ministries in the church and the community. Thank you! We encourage everyone to submit a commitment for ____ (year) _____ commitment by the end of the year. Making a financial commitment is part of the commitment that we make to the Lord and to each other as members of our church. God has brought us together—let's all do the best we can for the Lord!

Telling your members thanks

Pastors and stewardship leaders have the opportunity to say thank you to those who made financial commitments. This letter should come from the pastor or stewardship leader. This thank you should be sent as soon as possible after each commitment is received. You may use the letter that is on the CD or write your own personal thank-you letters. If you write your own letter, you should describe some highlights of the past year and a paragraph looking forward to opportunities for the coming year.

Asking members for their commitments

A letter should be sent to encourage those who have not submitted a commitment to make a commitment. Following up with this letter shows that it is important for each member to make a commitment to the Lord through your church. A letter is provided on the CD.