

# At Home Practice #1

## LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

You may have heard that it's impolite to talk about money. **Over the next couple of weeks, we invite you to break that taboo by having a conversation about money as a household.** Talking about money can bring you closer together, relieve anxiety, lower stress, and help you see where God might be leading you in your relationship with money.

### INSTRUCTIONS

The following questions are designed to be used throughout the next few weeks. While you can certainly work through them all in one sitting, we suggest working through one set of questions once a week over the next four weeks.

Find a time to work through the questions where everyone is comfortable and has space to listen and share. This might be around the kitchen table during dinner, around the fireplace in the evening, over coffee on a weekend morning, or on a walk through the fall leaves.

There are no right or wrong answers. These questions are designed to help you think about how your faith and your money intersect.

Don't have someone else at home with whom you can discuss these questions? Find a family member, friend, or someone else at your church you can meet with each week to walk through these questions together.

HAVE YOUNGER KIDS AT HOME? WE'VE INCLUDED AN ADAPTED LIST OF QUESTIONS ON PAGE 3 THAT CAN BE USED WITH CHILDREN AGES 5-12.

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## LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

### ADULT AND TEEN MONEY QUESTIONS

#### WEEK 1: ME & MONEY

1. What is your earliest experience with money that you can remember?
2. Who stands out as a primary money role model for you? What's one key thing you learned from this person?
3. What's one way you've used money recently that you feel good about?
4. How would you describe your present attitude toward money? How has that changed as you have aged?

#### WEEK 2: FAITH & MONEY

1. Does your relationship with God influence the way you use your money? If so, how?
2. What's one way you've heard money talked about in a faith context that you resonated with? Why?
3. What's one way you've heard it talked about that you didn't resonate with? Why?
4. If someone asked you "What does the church say about money?" How would you respond?

#### WEEK 3: CHURCH & GENEROSITY

1. Growing up, what do you remember seeing and hearing about giving to others, including the church? Who taught you about charitable giving?
2. What's one way you've heard giving talked about in a faith context that you resonated with? Why?
3. What's one way that you didn't resonate with? Why?
4. If you give to the church ...
  - a. What first prompted you to give to the church?
  - b. What keeps you giving to the church?
  - c. Does it feel like an act of worship for you? Why or why not?
  - d. Does giving to the church feel different from giving to other nonprofits? Why or why not?
5. If you don't give to the church, what keeps you from giving?

#### WEEK 4: MOVING FORWARD

1. What values or beliefs guide the way you spend, save, and give your money?
2. What obstacles or beliefs hinder you as you spend, save, and give your money?
3. Might God be leading you to use your money differently? If so, how?



# At Home Practice #1

## LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

This list of questions is geared toward kids age 5-12.

### KIDS MONEY QUESTIONS

#### WEEK 1: ME & MONEY

- What's your first memory that involves money?
- What's one way that you used money that made you happy?

#### WEEK 2: FAITH & MONEY

- Have you ever heard money talked about in church? When?
- Do you remember any bible stories that include money?

#### WEEK 3: CHURCH & GENEROSITY

- Have you ever given money at church? If so, how did it make you feel?
- Why do you think we give money at church? Where does it go?

#### WEEK 4: MOVING FORWARD

- Do you think God cares about the way we use our money? Why or why not?
- What are some ways we might use money to share God's love with others?



# At Home Practice #2

## GIVING TOGETHER

### INSTRUCTIONS

Too often decisions about how much to give to the church are made by just one person and the rest of the family is left out of the conversation. In this activity, you'll learn how to talk about your giving as a family so you can make a joint decision about how much you're giving and why.

While the conversation will be helpful no matter how you give or who is in your household, it's especially helpful for families with children who give online and don't have a chance to model their giving to their children during worship.

Don't have someone else at home who you can work through this practice with? Find a family member, friend, or someone else at your church who can do this practice with you.

#### Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for all the things you have entrusted to our care: family and friends, food and shelter, money and talents. Be with us as we reflect on the ways you are present with us through this congregation. Guide us as we decide how much money to give to the church so we can help do your work in the world. Amen.



# At Home Practice #2

## GIVING TOGETHER

### 1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Stewardship begins with God and what God has done, not with us. Share a story of one way you've experienced God's presence, love, grace, and/or mercy recently. Not sure? This might be on a walk in God's creation, a conversation with a friend, or even in the words of a favorite hymn.
- What's one way your church has helped you grow in faith?
- What's one way your church is sharing God's love with those who need it?
- How much is your household currently giving to the church? How did you land on this number?
- Do you think God might be calling you to grow in your giving? Why or why not?
- If you decide to increase your giving: What might you need to cut back on as a family in order to increase giving?

### 2 IMAGINE:

As you think about the next gift you will be making to your congregation talk about how the church might use that money. For instance, might it be used to buy craft materials for Sunday School, new sheet music for the choir, a meal for a hungry person in your neighborhood, etc. Be as creative as you can.

### 3

**Giving Together:** Take the time to walk through the giving process together. If your congregation uses an "estimate of giving" or "commitment" card, fill that out together with your new giving amount and sign each of your names on the card.

- **If you generally give in-person during worship:** Together, write the check for next Sunday's service or collect and count the cash you will give. Remember to increase your gift if you decided to do that.
- **If you give online during worship:** Together, walk through the process of giving online that you use during Sunday worship. If possible, invite the children to walk through the process with you on the next Sunday. Remember to increase your gift if you decided to do that.
- **If your giving is automatically withdrawn from your bank or credit card:** Explain where the money is coming from and when it will be taken out. If you're increasing your giving, go online, and together, make that change.