



Living in Faith Together



November 2022

Thanks and Giving



Available online at www.hosannatogether.org/lift

This Month's Theme and Scripture

God has given us an abundance of blessings. We find joy in thanking God, and in sharing our bounty.

Mark 12:38-44 - The Widow's Offering

LiFT with Children...

Read this story together in a Bible:

Spark Story Bible:

The Widow's Offering, pages 342-345

The Action Bible:

Money Troubles, pages 681-684

This Bible has been revised, so your page numbers may be slightly different.

Ask each other some or all of these questions:

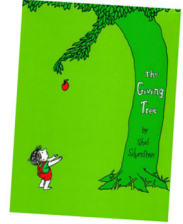
- Why do you think the widow shares her money with God and others? Why do you think the rich man does? Why might you want to share? What's the impact on others? On yourself?
- Can you name 10 things and people you are thankful for? 15? 20? One starting with each letter of the alphabet?
- What kinds of gifts can we give that don't cost any money? Who can you share with?
- Talk about organizations, causes, and people your family contributes to. What do you give? Why? How does your family decide how much to give? How does it make you feel when you give? How can your kids help contribute?

Read “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein

If you have the book, *read* it together.

If you don't, *listen* to it at

<https://youtu.be/XFQZfeHq9wo>



Discuss the following:

- What did the giving tree give to the boy?
Why do you think the giving tree gave so much?
- What did the giving tree have to give by the end of the story?
- Is there someone who is a giving tree to you?
- Who can you be a giving tree to?

Choose a few activities that fit you:

- **Find items you have that you aren't using or enjoying anymore to share with someone else.** Fill a box together, or one for each person. Give it to another family that might appreciate it, or donate the items to the Hillcrest Hope Thrift Store (<https://www.hillcresthope.org/thrift-store>).
Reflecting on how you enjoyed these things in the past, how do you think they will make someone else feel?
Parents, this is a great way to make room before the holidays!
- **Give Art.** Find out who in your congregation or community could use some joy. Work on an art project, such as a sculpture or painting. Give it to that person as a special way of sharing your talent. Tell that person the story of the widow's offering or ask them to share a favorite story with you.
- **Hold a coin toss!** Place several small boxes, cups, or bowls together on the floor. Have members of your family stand five to ten feet away and try to toss coins into the containers. On Sunday morning, take the coins that made it into the containers and give them as an offering.

- **Take this time to teach your kids how to manage money.**

Consider a jar system, using an app like FamZoo to track allowances and spending, playing the Savings Spree app, or find resources online that fit your kids (such as <https://tinyurl.com/kidmoney2800>).



A great model for kids is 10-10-80: share the first 10%, save the next 10%, and spend the remaining 80% (that's a lot!)

- **Choose one (or more) meals to make as inexpensively as you can.** Shop as a family and calculate how much you saved compared to another meal you might have had. Cook together. Give the money you saved to charity. Before you eat, pray for the charity and the people you helped.

- **Learn about how money is made.** Check out this video: <https://youtu.be/iJlJZOEjouQ>. If you give your last penny to help someone else, it can mean more than giving all the money in the video!



- **Fill out the Time and Talent survey.** Help your kids fill out the Time and Talent Survey (use the kids' version) that came in the stewardship letter and turn it in to the offering plate. Or, fill it out now online at <https://www.hosannatogether.org/pledge>.



Pray together--this or a prayer you make up:

Give us grateful and generous hearts, O God. You give us all we need. Help us to share all that we have like the widow. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Keep Thinking:

Keep looking around for opportunities to be grateful. Help kids value what they have whenever you see them really enjoying something by naming out loud what a joy it is. Keep looking for opportunities to turn thanks into giving.

LiFT with Teens or Adults...

Read the story...

Mark 12:38-44 - The Widow's Offering

Discuss these questions:

- *Why* do you think the widow shares her money with God and others? *Why* do you think the rich man does? What is your motivation for giving? If it's not where you'd like to be, be honest about it and consider how to alter your mindset.
- What do you think the widow's offering accomplishes when she gives to God? Is it just institution-building? What does God do with what you give to church and charities?

Read another passage...

2 Corinthians 9:16 - Cheerful Giving

Discuss these questions:

- Name 20 things and people you are thankful for.
- Talk about the organizations, causes, and people you support. What do you give? Why? How do you decide how much to give? How does it make you feel when you give?
- How do you feel when you give to help others? How do you think it makes them feel (be specific about the causes you support)?
- What difference does our mindset make when giving?

Read another passage...

Luke 12:22-24 - Where our treasure is

Discuss these questions:

- We usually think about giving where our heart is. However, Jesus says the opposite: “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Where are you investing your treasure, and how is that impacting your heart?
- It’s tempting to want to maintain control when we give to the church or charities. What might it be like to give trusting that God will use it as needed?

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Choose a few activities that fit you:

- Find out what percent of each dollar given to your favorite charities actually goes toward their actual programs versus how much is considered “overhead.” A great resource for this is <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>



- **Fill out your Hosanna! pledge and the Time and Talent survey.**

You can use the paper copy that came in your fall stewardship letter and turn it in to the offering plate. Or, fill it out now online at <https://www.hosannatogether.org/pledge>.



- **Find items you have that you aren't using or enjoying anymore to share with someone else.** Give them to another family that might appreciate it, or donate the items to the Hillcrest Hope Thrift Store (<https://www.hillcresthope.org/thrift-store>) or Goodwill. While you're there, ask about what your donations support. Reflecting on how you enjoyed these things in the past, how do you think they will make someone else feel?

- **Learn about how money is made.** Check out this video: <https://youtu.be/iJljZOEjouQ>. If you give your last penny to help someone else, it can mean more than giving all the money in the video!



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What is LiFT?

Living **i**n **F**aith **T**ogether is a monthly series of conversations and activities to grow your connection with God and others.

When do I LiFT?

We're encouraging you to gather the second Sunday of each month, but you can choose *any* day. Just be intentional (so you don't put it off--it happens to the best of us!).

Who do I LiFT with?

Anyone and everyone! LiFT at home with your kids, grandkids, or spouse (or all of them!). Invite grown kids over or talk with them on the phone/online. Gather a few friends or neighbors over a snack. Join a small group after worship the second Sunday of the month. Conversations and activities are divided by age, but you can do any of them.

COLORING PAGE

While coloring, think about something that you like to share, and what you're feeling when you share it.

