



live  
to  
GIVE

church  
of ireland   
**youth**  
department

  
Church of Ireland  
Generous Giving Programme

 **STAND  
BY me**

“  
I THINK EVERYBODY  
SHOULD GET RICH  
AND FAMOUS AND DO  
EVERYTHING THEY EVER  
DREAMED OF SO THEY  
CAN SEE THAT IT'S NOT  
THE ANSWER

”  
*Jim Carrey, Actor*



All Scripture quotations taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version.

# Welcome...

We hope and pray that this resource is a blessing to your young people and you. *Live to Give* aims to be a fun and relevant way to introduce young people and get discussion going around the area of generosity, giving and money, and what the Bible has to say.

We are a part of a culture that celebrates self and self-interest: where our time is precious, our gifts and abilities are directly linked to a worldly view of success and where money is looked upon as a god. *Live to Give* aims to help young people as they think through their commitment to God, to their church and to the wider community. It will enable young people to:

- Think seriously about their giving of time, talents and money;
- To consider carefully and prayerfully the effect that their decisions may have on others;
- To learn more of God's generosity.

The resource is designed to be creative, interactive, thought provoking and challenging but, most of all, fun! It is suitable for young people who already have some grasp of Christian teaching and some experience of church. However, that is not to say that young people who have no such experience should be excluded. Each session is designed to be about an hour long, though this timing is only a suggestion and we would encourage you to be as flexible as possible and to tailor the material to suit your group's needs and maturity level. Don't forget to include time for refreshments and socialising.

Please do not feel that you must stick rigidly to our suggestions - though we would suggest you read through each session carefully so that you can be prepared practically. To encourage young people now towards a biblical understanding of generosity, giving and money will enable them to take hold of these principles into adulthood as effective members of God's church.

Partnership has been at the centre of *Live to Give* - with the Church of Ireland Youth Department, Church of Ireland Generous Giving Programme and Stand By Me collaborating to create this unique resource for the benefit of young people to grow deeper in knowledge and understanding of the generous God that we serve. We hope you and your group are blessed using it together as much as we have been by working together.

Blessings,

*Simon, Nicola & Jonny*



## AIMS OF THE *resource...*

- 1.** *To help young people explore the biblical principles of generosity, and help them delve into the character of our generous God.*
- 2.** *To help young people think about giving their time, talents and money and inspire them to live generously.*
- 3.** *To offer practical tools to help us manage our money.*
- 4.** *To look at how giving can transform lives, both at home and across the world.*

## SESSION 1:

# *Where the heart is...*



### *Aim*

To explore what brings us joy / happiness, the importance of gratitude, and the challenge of putting God first.





### ICE BREAKER: "GRATITUDE GAB"

As the young people arrive, randomly hand out these questions on bits of paper - they then have a few minutes to think about answering the question before you gather as a group to answer. Every person will have something unique to them to share and it will ease young people into thinking about the notion of gratitude.

- Describe a peak experience from the past year, what made it special, and why you are grateful for it.
- Describe a special favour you received, how it helped you, and how it touched you.
- Describe a special gift or talent you have, how you use it, and why you are grateful for it.
- Name someone you know who makes your life better and why.
- Think of something you used today that other people make take for granted.
- What do you appreciate the most about the person sitting next to you?
- Describe something you are particularly grateful for in your life and why.
- Describe something that you do often that makes you happy and why.



### GROUP DISCUSSION:

What we invest in is what matters to us most. How do we spend our time, money, etc?

Let's get thinking about what's important to us - Is God important?

Is He first or are we swayed by what the world says we should be?



### BIBLE STUDY: MATTHEW 6:19-24 & 33

<sup>19</sup> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

<sup>24</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**Opener:** Talk to the person beside you: What do you think this phrase means "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (verse 21) ?



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

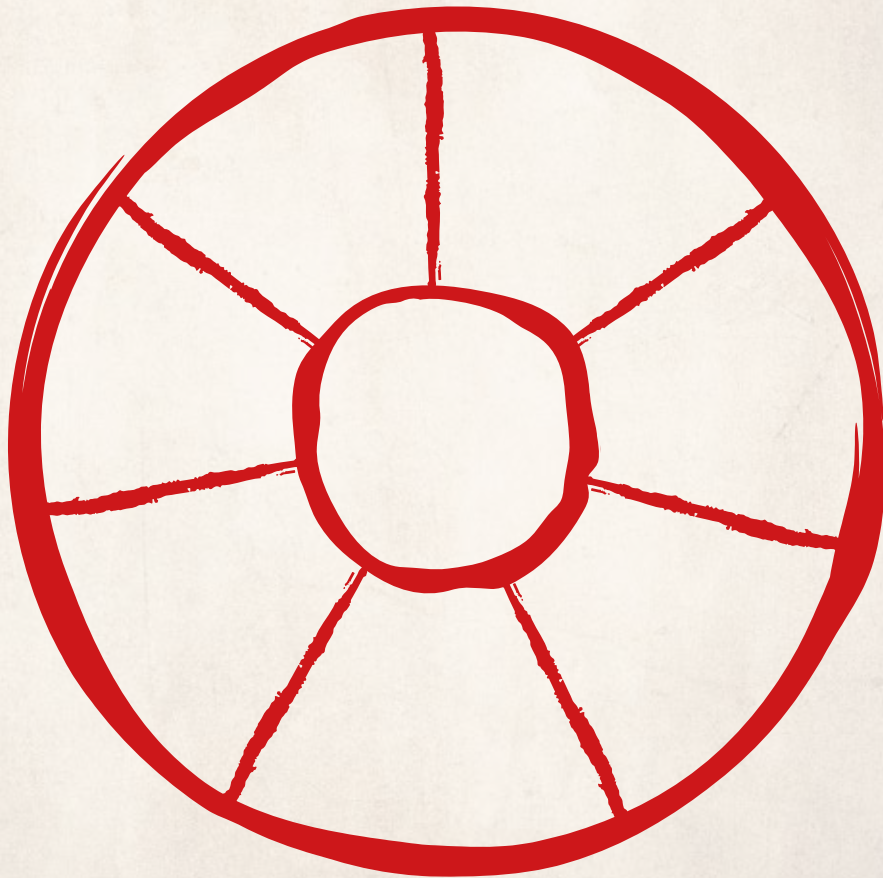
1. For what are you thankful?
2. In your daily life, how faithful are you to thank God for the blessings He's given you?
3. What could you do to express your gratitude to Him on a regular basis?
4. How would following the words of Jesus in these verses change how you view earthly possessions and your own spending habits?

**Related Bible passage for further exploration:**  
Matthew 19 v 16-27: Parable of the Rich Young Ruler



### ACTIVITY: ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE 7-DAY CHALLENGE

Print and cut out the template for your group on card, or have them do it, listing 7 things they can be grateful for - they can do this individually or small groups to come up with ideas and discuss why they are thankful for each thing/person. Over the next 7 days they should pray for each item they have listed and thank God for them.



### WATCH: THE BIBLE PROJECT - "LEV"

This clip explores the biblical understanding of our hearts and our heart "condition", in need of God - giving, whether it is time, talents, or money, is a heart: [www.standby.me/livetogive](http://www.standby.me/livetogive)

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### SUMMARY: "THE HEART OF THE HUMAN PROBLEM IS THE PROBLEM OF THE HUMAN HEART"

Being generous is a huge part of being a Christian.

The problem is it starts with us and our hearts. We are sinners and choose ourselves and we need God to help us to choose other people and to choose him.

We need his Holy Spirit to change our hearts to be hearts of love and generosity, and not just with our money but with our time.

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### CHALLENGE:

Use your social media positively! Each day this week, tag a person/people and upload a picture of something you are grateful for and explain why - using the hashtag [#livetogive](https://www.instagram.com/livetogive)

If you don't use social media, surprise someone with an encouragement - write them a letter or note. Surprise someone with an act of kindness or give a gift to someone who you think deserves some thanks.



## SESSION 1 - WHERE THE HEART IS



### PRAYER:

Photocopy (in colour if you can) this heart and cut and hand out to young people in your group to use and take home with them.

*"Create in me a clean heart O God, renew a right spirit within me"  
(Psalm 51:10)*

Write a prayer asking God to give you a generous heart like his - write down specific areas of your life where you want to have God's heart and keep it somewhere you will see it everyday as a reminder to you.



## SESSION 2:

# A God of Plenty

*Aim*

To explore the nature of our generous God who gave everything for us, and what it means to be stewards of what we've been given.





### ICE BREAKER: WOULD YOU RATHER.... ?

Get young people to respond to these statements by standing at either side of the room and ask them randomly to explain why they have decided on their choice, to encourage conversation starters.

- *Would you rather be 10 feet tall or 10 inches tall?*
- *Would you rather be blind or deaf?*
- *Would you rather break a promise or break a heart?*
- *Would you rather be able to fly or able to run 50 mph?*
- *Would you rather steal from an old lady or laugh out loud at a funeral?*
- *Would you rather travel 100 years back in history or 100 years into the future?*
- *Would you rather bite your tongue or burn your tongue?*
- *Would you rather attend the Last Supper or discover Jesus' empty tomb?*
- *Would you rather have bad breath or body odour?*
- *Would you rather live forever or be remembered forever?*



### GROUP DISCUSSION:

Discuss the statement:

**“You can GIVE without loving, but you can never LOVE without giving.”**

*Do you agree or disagree? Why/why not?*



### BIBLE STUDY: 1 JOHN 3: 16-24

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

<sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

“

**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.**

”

*John 3: 16*





**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How is Biblical love different than the world’s concept of love?

*As believers we must try to emulate God and be like Him. Loving others is one of the best ways to do this. God of course showed us His love by sending Christ. Jesus showed His love by giving His life for us. The world’s idea of love is completely self-centred. The world tells us that we have found love when we find someone who makes us feel special, makes our days brighter, meets our needs, and realises how special we are.*

2. How do you distinguish between needs and desires? What are examples of needs?

*We would be mistaken, though, to think that God does not bless us with more than we need. Paul said “God...richly supplies us with all things to enjoy” (1Timothy 6:17) It is important to recognise, though, that these “extras” are luxuries - not needs, failure to do so can lead to a spiritually unhealthy attitude. The confusion of needs and wants can also make us ungrateful. When God has given us so much more than our genuine needs, we may fail to properly appreciate this fact with appropriate gratitude.*

3. How do people avoid “seeing his brother in need” (v17)?

*Verse 17 gives a practical way to love others. We can use our material possessions to help them. If we see people in need and close our hands to them, then it is unloving.*

4. What does this verse tell us about God’s view of our possessions?

*If possessions are a higher priority in your life than God is, we need to realise this is displeasing to God. God gives blessings to us materially so that we can be a blessing to others, not to maintain a luxurious lifestyle to benefit us. The Christian journey is not about the here and now ultimately, but about eternity.*

5. Is verse 22 a guarantee to give us everything we ask for in prayer? What conditions are there for God answering our prayer?

**Godly confidence leads to a bold prayer life. This does not mean we can demand anything, however, we will receive everything we ask for in agreement with God’s will. There is a two-way relationship at work here. The more a person understands the will of God, the more likely it is that their prayers will be in harmony to His plans - A strong prayer life is based on pleasing God.**

**Related Bible passage for further exploration:  
Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus Feeds the 5,000**



**ACTIVITY:**

Ask young people to write down - see template below that you can photocopy - how they spend their time/talents/treasure (money) and what they spend most of their time thinking about? Compare and contrast lists as a group and discuss the usefulness or otherwise of what is on their list, and how all three could be better spent!

Time	Talents	Treasure





**WATCH: "THE BIBLE PROJECT - IMAGE OF GOD"**

This clip traces the idea of humans as co-rulers alongside God, who are commissioned to develop the world and its resources and take it into new horizons. This has been compromised by our selfishness and evil, leading to God giving us Jesus to open up a new way of being human through his life, death, and resurrection. Please visit: [www.standby.me/livetogive](http://www.standby.me/livetogive)



**SUMMARY:**

God is a God of plenty, he owns it all! We should give because God first gave to us - through his son Jesus Christ. The Lord loves a cheerful giver. As God has been so generous to us, we need to challenge ourselves to serve him selflessly and give generously in every way we can.



**CHALLENGE:**

Using their own pocket money (*not the "bank of Mum and Dad" or simply raiding the cupboards at home!*) ask your group members to bring 3 items next week to donate to your local food bank. If you don't have a local food bank, find out where your nearest one is and plan a trip there as a group to deliver a multitude of items and to see the operations at work.



**PRAYER: GENEROUS PRAYER WEEK**

Photocopy this sheet for each young person and encourage them to come up with ideas together to fill in the boxes for the week ahead and commit to praying as a group each day before you meet again.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
God thank you for....	God please bless...	Help me to be better at...
Thursday	Friday	Saturday
God thank you for....	God please bless...	Help me to be better at...



“

REMEMBER THIS: WHOEVER SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY, AND WHOEVER SOWS GENEROUSLY WILL ALSO REAP GENEROUSLY. EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. AND GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.

”

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

## SESSION 3:

# More than enough

*Aim*

This session will help young people to explore the ways in which God has equipped them to make a practical impact for the Kingdom of God in the world around them.





### ICE BREAKER: CHINESE TAKEAWAY

Place a large bowl filled with M&M's (or Skittles) in the middle of the room; divide the young people into four teams and assign each team a colour for the round and a bundle of toothpicks. Explain to the group that when you say go they must race to the bowl in the middle and transfer their colour of M&Ms one at a time back to their teams bowl using nothing other than two toothpicks.

After each round count the number of M&M's gathered (1 point for each!) by each group and award five bonus points to the round winners. Continue the game by alternating the colour for each round. The winning team is the team who have accumulated the most points; each team can then consume the contents of their bowl... however the winning team can choose whether to SPLIT the remaining sweets in the main bowl across each team or STEAL the sweets for their own group.



### GROUP DISCUSSION:

**Explain to the group that we are going to be thinking about how we can use the things that God has given us to better serve Him. Divide into smaller groups and ask the young people to share their answers to the question; "What is the greatest thing you have ever owned and why?"**

Follow up questions: *At what stage do we have enough? If God is more than enough then how do we use our stuff to serve him? Do I own my stuff or does my stuff own me?* Allude back to the game as a picture of our world.

We have loads of great things in life and each of those things are valuable as they are a gift from God. In our icebreaker, the goal of the game was to gather and consume as many M&M's as possible... it gives us a glimpse into how many people view the world; that we should try to get as much as we can, hoping that if we can get enough that they'll eventually find happiness. And so an important question that we should ask ourselves is; *"Do I own my stuff or does my stuff own me?"*

In a world of consumers, God calls us to be contributors. That means we have an opportunity to take what we have and use it to impact our world. It means we have opportunities to serve, to give and to invest in the lives of others... it means that we believe Church doesn't exist for us but that; *"we are the Church and we exist for the world."* - Erwin McManus.



### BIBLE STUDY:

Have someone within the group read *Matthew 25:14-30*. In the story Jesus told, the master entrusted some of his own wealth to his servants; this would be a massive responsibility! They knew that the master would want them not only to care for his money but to be creative with it... after all if he only wanted it kept safe he could have looked after that himself.

***How would you feel if you were one of the servants and you had been entrusted with such great wealth?***

When the master distributes his wealth, he doesn't do it evenly. We are told that the first servant gets five talents, the second two talents and the third one talent, each according to their ability. Our resources are more than just the money that we have, it can be our time, our talent and our opportunities; God has created each of us uniquely and he has specific ways for us to serve. God has created each of us with a capacity to serve him.

***The servants in the parable didn't compare themselves to each other, rather they realised that the master had entrusted them with something significant. What has God given you that you can use to serve him?***

“  
MY FAVOURITE THINGS IN LIFE  
DON'T COST ANY MONEY

”  
*Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder*



After the master returned from his journey there was an opportunity for the servants to show how they had used their time and resources; the first two servants had immediately set to work investing what the master had given them and they both were able to show that they had doubled what the master gave them. They must have felt good about what they had achieved for the master and the master himself gave them both equal praise. It is important to notice that the servants weren't praised in regard to the amounts that they were given but because of what they had both achieved. The master praises them both in exactly the same way which reminds us that it is not what we have been given that matters most but what we do with it.

***What are some of the practical ways that we can serve God with our time, talents and money both locally and globally?***

We find out that the third servant reacted very differently; as soon as the master left he headed out, dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. His decision to do this was based on an incorrect view of the master and a complete misunderstanding of his responsibility to the master. The first two servants understood the master better than the third servant.

***How do you think the first two servants would describe the master? What do we learn about God's character through this parable?***

The master takes a risk in the parable, trusting his servants with such an important task and when the servants understand the master he is so pleased to see how they respond. How encouraging it is to know that God invites us to use our time, talent and resources to play our part in His story! God wants us to use what he has given us to share his love with others and to see His Kingdom grow, quite often that means taking a risk, not playing it safe... stepping out in faith and trusting God with what he has given to us.

When we follow Jesus our goal is to live our lives like He did; that means that we are here to serve, to be spiritual contributors in the Kingdom of God. We choose to give, not take. When we're spiritual contributors, we're giving our time, our energy, our ability, and even our money to a cause that is far greater than ourselves.



### WATCH: STAND BY ME FILM

This short film introduces the work of Stand by Me and how the organisation seeks to show God's love in word and action to children and young people around the world. To download the film please visit: [www.standby.me/livetogive](http://www.standby.me/livetogive)



### ACTIVITY:

If the entire world was represented by everyone in the room what would our world look like and how would resources be distributed? Invite 10 people to the front as volunteers and have each of them draw a number at random from a bowl. Ask who picked 1 & 2 and give each of them a single sweet, explain that these people represent those living in extreme poverty struggling to make it by on \$1.25 per day or less. Ask who picked 3-5 and give them two sweets each explaining that these people represent those in the world who have only \$2.50 per day or less to survive. Ask who picked numbers 5-8 and give each of them a small 10p packet of sweets explaining that this group represents people who have up to \$10 per day to live on. Finally draw attention to the two people who were lucky enough to draw numbers 9 & 10; give each of them as many sweets as you can get your hands on (*the more they get, the more it shows how little others have!*) and explain that these people have more than the other 80% combined.

The world is far from equal and although we may not always feel it, we are in an incredibly fortunate position... we live in the top 20% of richest people on our planet and so the question becomes; *"how can we use what God has given us in order to bless others?"*



### GROUP DISCUSSION:

Desmond Tutu told us to; *"Do your little bit of good where you are, it's those bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."* What are some of the ways we can use what God has given us to make an impact in the lives of those less fortunate in our world?





### WATCH: MERSAYIT'S STORY

Mersayit lives in a town called Bekoji in a rural part of Ethiopia. Life in Bekoji lacks many of the luxuries that we are familiar with yet in the midst of hardship there is hope as Stand by Me help to ensure Mersayit gets everything she needs including an opportunity to attend school to get a great education. Watch the film and highlight how lots of “little bits of good” such as clean water, food, shoes and a uniform combine to make such an enormous difference in Mersayit’s life. Please visit: [www.standby.me/livetogive](http://www.standby.me/livetogive)



### SUMMARY:

God wants us to use what He has given us to make an impact on the world. We are reminded in *1 John 3:16-18*.

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

God wants us to tell people about His love and to demonstrate His love through our actions, so the challenge becomes “*what have we got in our hands?*”

Before commencing Session 4, we would suggest that you use the “*Made for Market*” Optional Extra Session 3 (page 36) to link in with the session you have just delivered.

Stand by Me would love to come and deliver the Made for Market session to help resource groups and share first hand stories and to link in with your group to resource them further. Email [jonny@standby.me](mailto:jonny@standby.me) or phone the Stand By Me Office on **028 9335 0009**.



### CHALLENGE:

Talent / skill	I'm good at or interested in (tick)	How can I use this in church?	How can I use this in the community?
Music / sing / play instrument			
Working with children			
Arts and crafts			
Practical skills			
Cooking			
Social media / technology			
Talking / presenting			
Gardening			
Organising activities			
Being with older people			
Welcoming and encouraging			
Drama			
Other			





**PRAYER:**

*"God we thank you for your goodness to us and that you invite us to play our part in Your Story. We thank you that you trust us with this incredible task of showing your love to the world and that we don't have to do this alone but that we do it through your power working within us. We ask that you would fill us with the faith and courage that we need to live generous lives that show your love in action to people both here at home and around the world. Amen."*

**SESSION 4:**

*Money  
talks*

*Aim*

To explore what we have to give (*time talents and treasure*). To explore what happens when we give. To offer practical tools / advice / biblical principles for handling our money.





## ICE BREAKER: THE DONUT GAME

Give everyone in the group a donut to eat. You have to hold the donut in your hand, but you're not allowed to bend your arm!! Enjoy your donuts!

How quickly did they decide to share? Did they pair up or was it a whole group decision?

There are around 2300 verses in the Bible on giving, sharing, money and possessions! Love is mentioned just over 500 times in the Bible, and when we talk about God we talk mostly about love. But he has made us in his image - in the image of a generous God who gave all things for us - and he wants us to demonstrate his love by giving and sharing our time, our talents and our treasures (*our money*). We are called to be good stewards of all that we've been given and to share and use our money wisely.



## GROUP DISCUSSION: LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

1. What is your earliest memory of money? Is it funny or sad? Does it make you feel angry, resentful or grateful?
2. Is money talked about in your home, or is it a taboo subject? Does money cause you stress? Does one situation stand out?
3. Do you get pocket money? (*You don't have to tell everyone how much you get!*) Do you earn it or is it given to you? What do you spend it on? Do you save any? Do you give any away?
4. Do you think you have enough?

You may think that giving to church or to charity is only something that you do when you start earning, when you finish school/college and get a job, when you get married, or when you are older. You may think that you don't have anything to give at this point. But we all have something to give. Let's look at what the bible says...



## BIBLE STUDY: 2 CORINTHIANS 8: 1-9

<sup>1</sup>And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup>In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup>For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup>they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>5</sup>And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. <sup>6</sup>So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup>But since you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you - see that you also excel in this grace of giving. <sup>8</sup>I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

### Read the passage aloud.

Paul is writing to the Corinthian Church in this passage to encourage them to be more generous and uses the Macedonian Church as an example.

1. **How many times does he use the word Grace in this passage? What does GRACE mean and why do you think it is important?**

In Verses 2 and 3, even in a time of trial and poverty, and because of God's grace, the Macedonians were overflowing with joy, and gave as much as they were able, and more to help the church.

2. **Do you think you have anything that you can give to the church? Is there anything specific?**

It can be money, but it can also be your time, talents and gifts. You may think at this stage in your life you don't have much to give. Rob Parsons - a Christian writer who runs Care for the Family, says this "*I give what I can today. It is not a burden but a privilege, because we can partner with Him to change lives.*"



**3. How does verse 4 make you feel? They wanted to play their part in God’s work and make a difference. Do you?**

**4. What can we learn about what is important from verse 5?**

In Session 1 we reflected on how important God is in our lives. Do we put him first? When we do, he gives us life in all its fullness. He gives us joy, contentment, freedom, and a life of adventure. We get to make a difference in the world, and play our part in building God’s kingdom.

**5. What does verse 7 say is the most important thing we should strive to do?**

This is a very different to what the world says we should do. We are told to be successful in everything - to look amazing, to get a great job, earn loads of money, buy and have nice things - and this is what will make us happy!! Jim Carrey said *“I think everyone should get rich and famous and do everything they’ve ever dreamed of so they can see that it’s not the answer!”* God calls us to do the opposite and to excel in the grace of giving! Are we willing to give our time, or talents and our treasure (*our money*) back to him?

**6. Why should we excel in the grace of giving? What does verse 9 tell us? What does it mean when Paul says ‘so that you through his poverty might become rich?’**

We serve a generous God who has given everything for us, and showed the extent of his love for each one of us by sending Jesus to die for us. Do you believe that if we give back to God we will be blessed? 2 Corinthians 9 verse 11 (NLT) says *‘You will be made rich in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.’*

Managing our money can be stressful! How much should we spend, how much should we save, who should we give our money to? But when we view our finances through God’s eyes, and when we follow his principles for being good stewards of what we’ve been given, we can put our faith into action and give joyfully and graciously. Giving our money is not a loss but an investment in the kingdom of God. The bible gives lots of ideas to help us manage our money.



**ACTIVITY: BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGING OUR MONEY**

In groups of 2 or 3, look up the following passages:

Giving should be:	Bible passage	What does it say?
A Tithe	Deuteronomy 12 v 22	
A Priority	1 Corinthians 16 v 2	
Prayerful	1 Chronicles 29 v 10-14	
Planned	2 Corinthians 9 v 7	
To help others and build the church	Acts 2 v 42-47	
Sacrificial	Luke 21 v 1-4	
Cheerfully given	2 Corinthians 7 v 7-8	





**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:**

Invite the Church Treasurer or Rector / Pastor to come and explain how the church finances work, what the money is used for, and how giving enables mission and ministry.



**WATCH:**

**The Tithe Rap 12Stone Church**

This is a funny dance but with a serious message. Tithing is a biblical principle where we give 10% of our income to back to God and is one of the principles we'll look at in our next activity. Please visit: [www.vimeo.com/13953181](http://www.vimeo.com/13953181)



**SUMMARY:**

Giving is not losing money, but is an investment in the kingdom of God.

Giving should be planned and regular, where we set aside an amount at the beginning of each week to give away to church or charity.

The 10% rule. This should be our starting point. If we get £5.00 a week, we should aim to give away 50p! If we receive £10 a week, we should aim to give away £1.00. Many Christians use the 10-10-80 principle: Give 10% Save 10% and live on 80%.

Giving enables mission and ministry, builds up the church and helps people.

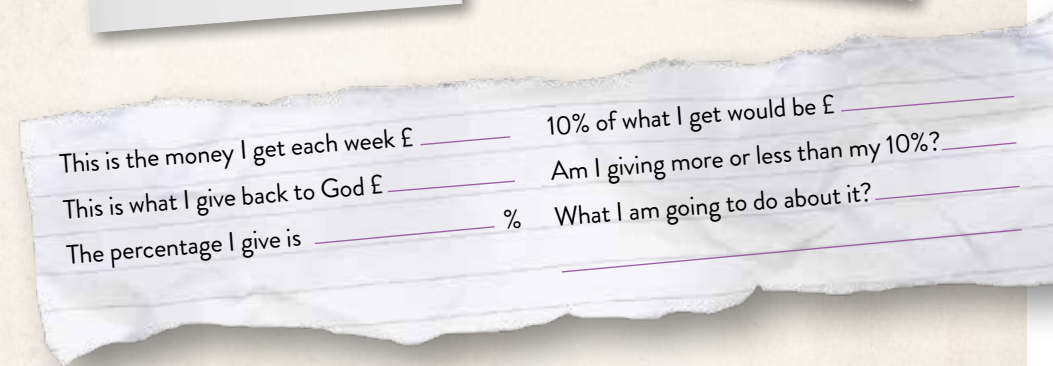
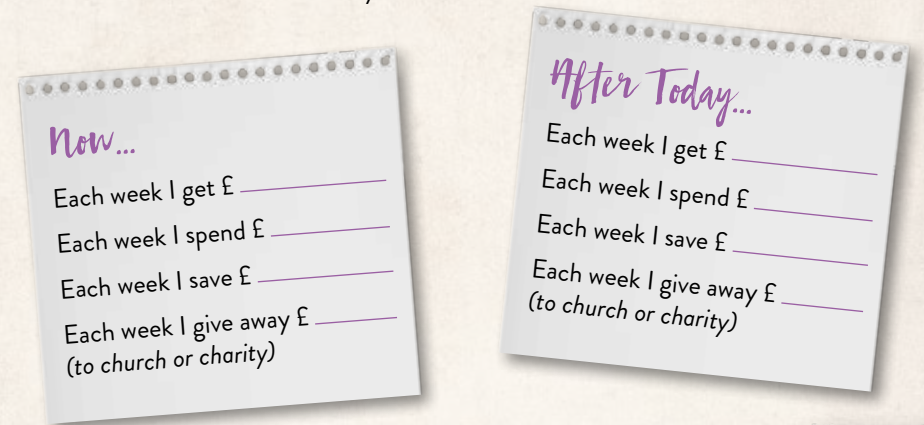
Giving is not easy - but it brings joy and blessing - to us as well as to others!

***How will we respond to all that we have learned about God's principles for giving?***



**CHALLENGE: CONFIDENTIAL**

Photocopy this for each young person and get them to complete it on their own to take away with them.



*Thoughts...*

- Is there a charity or organisation I'm interested in or passionate about that I could support?
- Could I open a charity account with my 10% so that I can give when I want to?
- Could I hold an event or coffee morning to raise money?
- Could I get donations for a charity instead of presents for my birthday?
- Could I sign up for Freewill Offering Envelopes or Standing Order to support my church?





### GROUP CHALLENGE:

Choose an organisation for your youth fellowship to support this year

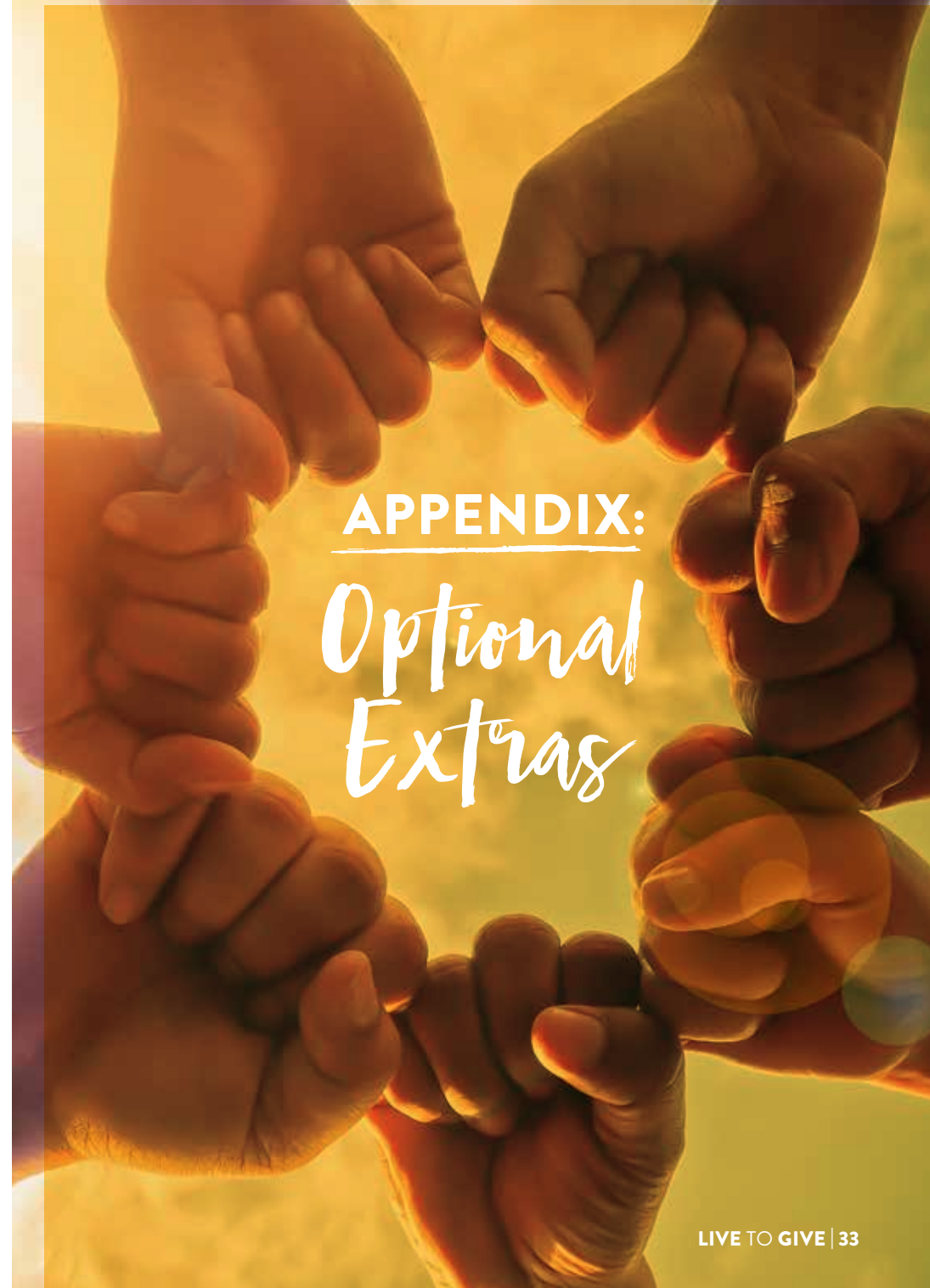
Bring in some local organisations or charities to tell you about their work. Decide as a group who you would like to support and commit to supporting them for a year. Plan some special fundraising events. Encourage young people to bring money each week. Tell your church about the charity you are raising money for. At the end of the year, invite the charity back to present the money raised. Maybe invite your local newspaper too to share the good news!



### PRAYER:

*Loving father  
you have made us your people,  
richly provided us with good gifts  
and called us to live for you;  
may gratitude be in our hearts;  
may generosity be in our hands;  
may justice and righteousness guide our feet  
and may the life of your kingdom and the joy of  
heaven be found among us.  
Amen*

(From [www.red2black.org.uk](http://www.red2black.org.uk))



## APPENDIX:

# Optional Extras



1

**SESSION 1:****MAKE A GRATITUDE JAR OR BOX:**

Get a simple jar or box. Decorate it as you like. At the end of each day write a little note - *Today I am grateful for .....* At the end of the year, open your jar/box and read the notes. Don't be tempted to peek before then! This reminds us that we have enough, we are enough and God is enough.

*Psalm 107:1 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever.*

2

**SESSION 2:****PASTA SOUP IN A JAR:**

*recipe from [www.mixesinajar.com](http://www.mixesinajar.com)*

A practical activity that encourages us to step out of our comfort zone and give away something that we've made to bless someone else.

Why not cook up a storm as a group and give to an elderly person in your church or someone you know who could benefit from a free meal? Divide out the ingredients and ask each young person in the youth group to bring one of the following (*this should make around 10 jars*):

*4 1kg bag of dried pasta  
(small shapes work better like macaroni)  
4 500g bag of dried red lentils  
2 packets of grated parmesan cheese  
1 jar of garlic powder  
1 jar of dried parsley  
1 jar of dried oregano  
1 box of chicken or veg stock cubes  
1 clip jar for each young person*

In each jar layer the ingredients in the order below:

**1st layer**

½ cup of dried pasta

**2nd layer**

2 tablespoons of parmesan cheese

**3rd layer**

¼ tsp of garlic powder

1 tsp of dried parsley

½ tsp of dried oregano

1 stock cube crumbled

*Mix these together and add to your jar.*

**4th layer**

¼ cup of red lentils

Seal and attach the label below.

**Pasta Soup**

Combine all the ingredients in a large saucepan. Add 1 ½ litres (900mls) of boiling water and 1 tin of tomatoes. Bring to the boil and simmer for 30 mins or until the pasta and lentils are soft!

**Enjoy!**

**STREETREACH:** Organise a team of people for a week each year to do various practical jobs to bless the community, such as tidying up streets, litter, gardening, cutting grass and other small jobs.



## 3

## SESSION 3:

## LIVE TO GIVE - EXPERIENCE SESSION: MADE FOR MARKET

*Resources required*

Made for Market Resources (*download and printed*)  
 Tables with chairs around them and a marketplace table  
 Scissors  
 Marker pens (*non-permanent*)  
 Videos downloaded



## ICEBREAKER: A TO Z

Print the “A to Z” letters on A5 paper and scatter them face up across the floor. Explain to the young people that you will read out a question and they have to stand on the first letter that corresponds to their answer. The icebreaker works best with questions that require one word answers.

*Example Questions:* A country you would like to visit? One word to describe yourself? Favourite subject in school? What would be your dream job? Word that comes to your mind when you think of poverty?



## INTRO: WHO AM I?

We are all unique as the activity proves; some of us want to go to America, some to Asia, some to Africa... we want to be doctors, teachers or mechanics. But when we follow Jesus we all share one thing in common we are all called to be part of God’s Mission... it’s why we are here! God has equipped each of us with different skills, talents, interests and abilities and he has made us this way to have an impact on our world. Sometimes we underestimate our level of influence, thinking less of ourselves or not seeing the fullness of the opportunities God has given us. Today we are going to explore how we can bring about change in the world through living lives marked by gratitude and generosity.



## BIBLE THOUGHT: JESUS FEEDS THE 5000

**Read Matthew 14:13-21** In this infamous story we are reminded that where we see problems God sees potential. The disciples learnt a valuable lesson in never underestimating the power of God to work beyond what we imagine to be possible. And it all began with the simple generous gift of a lunchbox placed in the hands of Jesus. This simple moment of generosity led to the needs of over 5000 people being met, sometimes even the smallest things done with a heart to serve Jesus can make such an incredible difference.

Today we’re going to think about how we can impact the wider world through living lives marked by gratitude and generosity as we look at the work of Stand by Me.



## VIDEO: STAND BY ME

For over 20 years, Stand by Me have been rescuing kids then doing whatever it takes to provide the care, love and attention they need to thrive. Show the young people this short video which highlights how change is possible when we take what God has placed in our hands and use it for His Kingdom. Please visit: [www.standby.me/livetogive](http://www.standby.me/livetogive)



## ACTIVITY: MADE FOR MARKET

Divide the group into teams of 4-5 young people in each group and have them sit around tables which will be their family for the remainder of the activity. You will need to set up one table as the main market trading table, from here all resources will be bought and sold and two leaders will need to be present at this table throughout the activity.

**Explain the format of the activity as follows:** “You are now each in a family and you are going to compete against all the other families in the room to see who can make the most money at our marketplace. In a moment you will each be given some money and you can use this money to purchase the resources that you will need to make t-shirts.



You can purchase paper, pens, scissors and you will also be given a free template to help you manufacture your t-shirts. The t-shirts that you sell back to the market place must be detailed, well cut out and the exact same size as the template. You must trace the t-shirt design onto a fresh sheet of paper, cut it out perfectly and then bring your best sales pitch to the market table in order to try to get as much money in return for your hard work.

You can also save your money to purchase a designer logo trademark, this will entitle you to full use of the logo and four coloured pens to help you create the logo. Unauthorised use of the logo will result in a large fine, but gaining use of the logo will allow you to sell t-shirts at a considerably higher price.

The marketplace have guidelines for the prices that can be paid for t-shirts so please do bargain for the best price, however under no circumstances are you allowed to discuss, loan or steal money from other groups. Doing this will result in a significant fine.

Prices will fluctuate as the game progresses and to give you some incentive we will offer triple the normal purchase price to the group that completes the first t-shirt.”

### **Note for Leaders**

The premise of the activity functions around the fact that one group starts the activity with 10x the wealth of all the other families. In order to do this, distribute £15 to each family and £150 to a family of your choosing. When handing out the money, discreetly explain this to the family receiving the increased amount and ask them to come up as the last group to purchase their resources. This is important as it will ensure all the other groups are busy and distracted and will therefore not see the obvious discrepancy in how the wealth has been distributed.

### **How the Activity Works**

The groups will have 30 minutes to generate as much income as possible through making and selling their t-shirts. Approximately every 6 minutes you should progress to the next slide of the presentation which will alter

the selling price of resources and at the same time move to the next page for your guideline purchase prices.

To ensure the point has its maximum impact you should find subtle ways of making life more difficult for the families with less money, finding discrepancies with their work and not offering more than 10% more than the advised purchase price. However, for the richer family you can treat them more favourably giving a tip off that their t-shirts will be worth the most money in the final 7 minutes of the game so they can stockpile them and sell for the maximum profit.

The activity ends when the timer is up and no additional sales can be made after the market closes, prepare for a busy last 60 seconds as everyone tries to sell their final goods; in the last 60 seconds it's advisable to buy all t-shirts for a flat fee of £5 to make sure that everyone has a chance to sell their final t-shirts.



### **RESULTS: MADE FOR MARKET**

Have the groups return to their seats to count their money, have them write their team name and final total on a folded piece of paper to be revealed in reverse order. It is worth having a good prize such as a bag of sweets for each player on the winning team in order to emphasise the disappointment and injustice of the situation.

Read out the results congratulating each team in reverse order, finally revealing that the winning team have eclipsed their rivals with an overwhelming victory. There will be natural outcry from the other groups and this should be noted.

Finally explain to the group why this particular team won... remind them that we have previously thought about how we live in the top 20% of richest people on the planet... today that was this table (*indicate the winning group*) but the reality is that the winning table is 'us'. If the group had shared some of their money with any of the other groups it could have made a massive difference... generosity has the power to set people free.



**VIDEO: ABDI**

Abdi's mum received a small business grant from Stand by Me and has launched a business selling vegetables at the marketplace, this has transformed her families present and future. One of the biggest things that poverty robs people of is 'opportunity' and simple acts of generosity can allow people to have the opportunity to change their current situation and experience God's love and grace. Please visit: [www.standby.me/livetogive](http://www.standby.me/livetogive)

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Matthew 6:19-21:** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Bible reminds us that we are to have a Kingdom focus when it comes to our material possessions. When we live generously we are investing in God's Kingdom this starts from a place of gratitude. Lead the group in a prayer giving thanks for what God has given us and asking him to stir our hearts for how we can use what He has given us to serve Him.

“  
**I THINK YOU HAVE A MORAL  
 RESPONSIBILITY WHEN YOU'VE  
 BEEN GIVEN FAR MORE  
 THAN YOU NEED, TO DO WISE  
 THINGS WITH IT AND GIVE  
 INTELLIGENTLY**

”  
*J. K. Rowling*

**SESSION 4:****SHOE BOX APPEALS:**

Partner with a shoebox appeal organisation. Encourage your youth fellowship and church members to put together small items and gifts in shoe boxes at Christmas time. These are collected by the Charity and given to children in need across the world.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM BANKS:**

Support struggling families with the cost of buying uniforms by working in partnership with other churches to encourage families to donate good condition school uniforms that are too small etc. The uniforms can be made available in a 'shop' for families to take and use.

**BLESSING PACKS FOR THE HOMELESS:**

Put together packs for people who have to sleep rough. Work in partnership with a homeless charity to supply packs that contain toiletries, blankets, hats & gloves, etc.

**HOST A RICH MAN POOR MAN MEAL:**

The youth fellowship could host a fundraising meal to raise money for a charity in the developing world. Numbered tickets are sold for this event. At the start of the night a draw takes place, with 10% of the tickets given a rich man meal (3 courses) and everyone else to receive a poor man's meal (soup and bread etc). This is to highlight the disparity between the rich and poor around the world. Invite your chosen charity to do a presentation over tea and coffee.

More ideas can be found in "*Inside Out, Outside In*" available at: [www.ddyc.co.uk](http://www.ddyc.co.uk)



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“

BRING ALL THE TITHES INTO THE STOREHOUSE SO THERE WILL BE ENOUGH FOOD IN MY TEMPLE. 'IF YOU DO' SAYS THE LORD OF HEAVEN'S ARMIES, 'I WILL OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN FOR YOU. I WILL POUR OUT A BLESSING SO GREAT YOU WON'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOM TO TAKE IT IN! TRY IT! PUT ME TO THE TEST!'

”

*Malachi 3 v 10 NLT*



## OUR VISION

To equip, empower and engage the Church of Ireland, young people and adult youth leaders & workers with the right skills, knowledge and understanding to facilitate progressive youth ministry.

[www.ciyd.org](http://www.ciyd.org)  
[www.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.ireland.anglican.org)



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AT THE END OF THE DAY,  
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU  
HAVE OR EVEN WHAT YOU'VE  
ACCOMPLISHED. IT'S ABOUT  
WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THOSE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS. IT'S ABOUT  
WHO YOU'VE LIFTED UP, WHO  
YOU'VE MADE BETTER. IT'S ABOUT  
WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN BACK

”

*Benzel Washington*

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