



Program Overview

"From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another" (John 1:16). God abundantly blesses us and wants us to use those blessings to his glory. So how does this look in our daily lives? This program of worship, Bible study, and personal devotion will guide followers of Christ through the Bible's clear teachings on the management of our possessions.

Worship

Sermons and worship suggestions are provided for each of six weeks. The emphasis can be done at any point in the church year. It is a special emphasis that does not follow the lectionary readings.

Bible study

- While there are six weeks of sermons and worship plans, the Bible study is laid out for five weeks simply because that is the estimated time needed to cover the topic. If you prefer the Bible study to run the same number of weeks as the worship emphasis, this should be possible through expanded discussion at any point that allows the study to spill over into a sixth week.
- Lesson 3 of the Bible study includes a few parts requiring information specific to your congregation.
- The Bible study is laid out so that one packet of handouts for all the weeks can be provided to each family at the start of the study. This way certain pages, such as the congregation's mission statement or the proportionate giving chart, can be referenced at any point.

Devotions

- Members can utilize these 21 devotions for personal meditation at home during any point of the stewardship emphasis.
- The end of the devotions document includes a couple appendices requiring information specific to your congregation. These are referred to in devotions 14 and 18.

Supplemental resources

- Use the School of Stewardship workshop with your congregation's leadership (e.g. church council or stewardship committee) either at one sitting of 2.5 hours or spread out over five roughly half-hour meetings. This provides a good foundation for what to expect in ongoing stewardship teaching in a congregation.
- A couple options for proportionate giving charts and commitment forms are included at the end of the Bible study and devotions documents.
- A PowerPoint template is provided for your use as needed.

- Two versions of the graphic used with the program are available for web (lower resolution) and for print (higher resolution).

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Minnesota District President, Rev. Charlie Degner, and Rev. Nathan Nass, who authored the materials and provided them for use across our synod.

Questions or comments

If you have any questions or comments about *Joyful Generosity*, please call WELS Ministry of Christian Giving at 800-827-5482 (local: 414-256-3209) or e-mail mcg@wels.net.

If any of your members need assistance with making a gift to your congregation, the synod, or another WELS ministry, WELS provides free and confidential assistance through Christian giving counselors. The counselors can also provide presentations on Christian estate planning and different ways to make planned gifts. Visit wels.net/givingcounselors or call WELS Ministry of Christian Giving at 800-827-5482.

In our Savior's service,

Pastor Kurt Lueneburg, WELS Director of Christian Giving