

Planned Giving Articles

*Your church can customize, copy, and paste the following text into your print and digital pieces to encourage stewardship and to inform people about how to make planned gifts to benefit your church.*

Ideas for Teaching Stewardship to Children

Philanthropic strategist Bruce DeBoskey, in an article titled “Involve kids early in family philanthropy and give them input in giving,” shares, “The passing along of family values cannot take place all at once, in a few conversations towards the end of life or in a paragraph buried in a will. Rather, to be effective, it must be an ongoing and integral part of family communications from the time children are very young well into their adult years.” He offers the following ideas for passing along stewardship principles to children.

1. Set an example by your own charitable giving.
2. Include children in conversations about giving decisions. Teach them how charities work, the different charities that exist, and how our gifts help.
3. Give them three jars for splitting their allowance between giving, spending, and savings. One possible breakdown is putting a tithe into a church jar, half into savings, and the other 40 percent into the spending jar.
4. Children can donate their gently used stuff to a local charity. They can come along to make the donation.
5. Instead of gifts for special occasions (birthdays, Christmas), children can request donations to a charity.
6. Kids can help you with a volunteer project. Volunteering can even be worked into family vacations (perhaps a mission trip).
7. Certain giving arrangements, including a donor advised fund or a family foundation, allow older children to research causes and advise on family gift distributions. (For more information about a donor advised fund visit wels.net/foundation.)

Of course, the most important thing Christian parents can do to teach children stewardship is to go to the authority on the matter through daily devotions in God’s Word. Here we will learn how we are empowered by God to trust him and worship him with our gifts.

There’s an Endowment for You.

WELS Foundation offers several options allowing individuals, families, churches, and WELS-affiliated organizations to provide ongoing support to WELS ministries.

* WELS endowments – Contribute to one of the synod-established endowments providing regular support and stability for missions, ministerial education, and the operating fund.
* Donor designated endowments – Through WELS Foundation, an individual or family can establish an endowment for the benefit of WELS ministries they designate, such as their church, school, and synod.
* Congregation endowments – A church or WELS organization can also establish an endowment to benefit local causes like community outreach, scholarships, and building maintenance, as well as wider synod efforts.

For free assistance with a gift or setting up an endowment, call [[phone number](https://wels.net/giving/ministry-of-christian-giving/christiangivingcounselordirectory/)] to speak with our congregation’s WELS Christian giving counselor. Or make an online donation now to a WELS endowment at community.wels.net/welsendowments.