

John Wesley said, “The last part of a man to be converted is his wallet.”
Do we have a story from someone who’s willing to share how they’ve moved to greater trust in God and tithing?

October 8, 2017: “Naming Our Idols”

Scripture #1: Exodus 20: 22-24, 32:2-4 (Today’s English Version)

^{20:22}The Lord commanded Moses to tell the Israelites: “You have seen how I, the Lord, have spoken to you from heaven.

²³Do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gold to be worshiped in addition to me. ²⁴Make an altar of earth for me, and on it sacrifice your sheep and your cattle as offerings to be completely burned and as fellowship offerings. In every place that I set aside for you to worship me, I will come to you and bless you.

^{32:2}Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold earrings which your wives, your sons, and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.”

³So all the people took off their gold earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the earrings, melted them, poured the gold into a mold, and made a gold bull-calf.

The people said, “Israel, this is our god, who led us out of Egypt!”

Scripture #2: 2 Kings 17: 38-41 (Contemporary English Version)

³⁸And remember the solemn agreement between us.

I will say it again: Do not worship any god ³⁹except me. I am the Lord your God, and I will rescue you from all your enemies.

⁴⁰But the people living in Israel ignored that command and kept on following their old customs. ⁴¹They did worship the Lord, but they also worshiped their own idols. Their descendants did the same thing.

Scripture #3: Luke 10: 27 (New International Version)

²⁷He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Synopsis: We may not think that we worship idols at all, but anything or anyone that receives the energy and resources that should belong to God first is an idol. When we worship the gift that God has given instead of the Giver (God), we begin to become the center rather than putting God at the center. How do we turn back to true worship that honors God first?

Visuals:

FYI: Wedding on October 7

Media: Skit Guys “Idol Worship”

Activity: “NAME THAT IDOL” game show

Music:

October 15, 2017: “Money, Work, and Debt”

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28: 12-14 (Today’s English Version)

¹²He will send rain in season from his rich storehouse in the sky and bless all your work, so that you will lend to many nations, but you will not have to borrow from any.

¹³The Lord your God will make you the leader among the nations and not a follower; you will always prosper and never fail if you obey faithfully all his commands that I am giving you today. ¹⁴But you must never disobey them in any way, or worship and serve other gods.

Synopsis: Part of our purpose on earth is to care for God's good creation and to create with the gifts that God has given to us. Meaningful work is about using our gifts and looking at the outcome we produce, not the income we receive. Indebtedness is not God's intention for us, nor is it an effective witness to who God calls us to be because it keeps us from true freedom and joy.

Visuals:

FYI: Wedding on October 14

Media:

Activity:

Music:

October 22, 2017: "Earn-Save-Give"

Scripture #1: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-12 (New Living Translation)

⁶Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

⁷You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."^E ⁸And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ⁹As the Scriptures say,

"They share freely and give generously to the poor.

Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

¹⁰For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

¹¹Yes, you will be enriched 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. ¹²So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

Scripture #2: Mark 6: 34-43 (New Living Translation)

³⁴Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

³⁵Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. ³⁶Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."

³⁷But Jesus said, "You feed them."

“With what?” they asked. “We’d have to work for months to earn enough money^f to buy food for all these people!”

³⁸“How much bread do you have?” he asked. “Go and find out.”

They came back and reported, “We have five loaves of bread and two fish.”

³⁹Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

⁴¹Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. ⁴²They all ate as much as they wanted, ⁴³and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. ⁴⁴A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed from those loaves!

Synopsis: John Wesley encouraged people to “earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can” as a way to serve God and others well. Earning means using what God has given us to make more. Saving is a part of God’s plan so that we’re prepared for whatever comes. Giving is a spiritual discipline that reminds us of God’s generosity and our call to respond to God’s gifts to us.

Visuals:

Media:

Activity: Make a budget. Live simply. Set goals for doing good with time and money.
(10-10-80 PLAN)

Music:

October 29, 2017: “Heart Giving”

Scripture #1: Matthew 7: 7-12 (New Living Translation)

⁷“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

⁸For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

The Golden Rule

¹²“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the

Scripture #2: Romans 12: 1-2 (Contemporary English Version)

¹Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That’s the most sensible way to serve God.

²Don’t be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.

Synopsis: God’s desire is that we give willingly and joyfully knowing that we’re sharing God’s gifts with others. Generosity is a witness to the world of God’s goodness and grace.

Ultimately, God calls us to giving that costs us something and makes us better understand what it means to sacrifice for the sake of others in Jesus' name.

Visuals:

Media:

Activity: Faith Commitment Sunday - offering our Faith Commitments of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness for 2018

Music: