

Session 3: Stewardship and Personal Giving

Aim: To help course participants to consider both the context and the extent of their personal giving

It is often assumed that mature Christians have a good relationship with money, but experience sometimes shows otherwise. If we look at our own money story and come to terms with the issues it raises then we are better equipped to speak about these matters with confidence and an underlying sense of integrity.

There is an Appendix to this session giving four stories of Personal discipleship. You may find it helpful in planning the session to read through. You can even use them if you would like to, but watch the timing of the input if you do.

Input ideas: Choices – lifestyle
Choice – to whom do we give?
Choice – How much should I give?
Choice – What should I give?

Study questions:

1. What is the risk to the church if we preach more about stewardship and generosity in general, and less about tithing or 'paying our way' in particular?
2. What does your own giving grid look like? Are you satisfied with that distribution?
3. "The teacher/preacher cannot give people hard rules about these choices. All he or she can do is remind people that they must make some choices." Is this a true statement about the limits of the teacher's/preacher's task?

Session 4: Stewardship and Church Resourcing

Aim: To encourage Vision in resourcing the church, both locally and in a wider context, and to identify what initiatives could be supported to aid mission via stewardship.

At some point we have to lay these issues before the Church. It will be helpful to remember that not everyone in the congregation understands the Church in the same way. As well as giving them the financial facts, we have to put them in a Christian context and connect them with the life of discipleship.

Input ideas: How do we think about the Church?
Parish Share / Common Fund
Preaching and teaching in a context of giving
Stewardship and Mission

Study questions:

1. If the parish share / common fund system did not exist in this diocese, would you have to invent it?
2. How can you explain the parish share system to all members of the congregation?
3. Consider how mission could be supported through stewardship in your local church.
4. What would be the priorities in your local church, and in a wider church context, if increased giving can be encouraged, so that additional resources become available?

To find these full resources go to the Church of England Website www.cofe.anglican.org. In the search box on the right hand side of the screen type in training modules. Then click on the heading 'Training for Clergy and Readers'.