

# seasons of giving:

a small group study series on generous giving



# discover seasons of giving

A retired Bishop included the following story in a small book of humorous stories which is all the more funny because it is true.

A clergyman gave a lift in his car to a friend who was catching a train. At the station his friend got out and before he could close the car door a total stranger jumped in and asked to be taken to a hotel. Saying nothing, the vicar did as requested and on arrival the passenger handed over a £5 note. When the vicar explained the situation the passenger immediately withdrew the £5 proffered for a taxi ride and instead offered a 50p piece for the church collection! That's a tithe!

## money and giving

The bible calls us to give of our 'first fruits' – to give as a priority and not as an afterthought. Giving should not be on the margins of life, a tip to charity or God but a natural part of life.

Seasons of Giving is a fresh and creative four week bible study which will get small groups in church talking and thinking about their giving and their discipleship around money.

## a bible study with a difference

Over the four weeks, with an optional fifth starter session, Seasons blends study of four key money passages from Luke's gospel with our own experience and the imagery of the seasons in nature:

- Bringing together bible study with creative and visual elements which encourage group members to explore their personal experiences
- Stimulating group discussion but also making space for personal reflection in and after the meetings
- Talking about giving but aware that giving is influenced by how we manage all our money
- Being rooted in the word of God but drawing the theme of the seasons of nature from a remarkable modern story of generosity, 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde



## why give?

*"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; that though he was rich for your sake he became poor that we might become rich."* (2 Cor 8:9).

In this one verse, Paul captures the generosity that is at the heart of God. Far from being a casual afterthought, generous giving is the reflection of God's generosity in our lives. That is why Paul speaks of the grace of giving (2 Cor 8:7).

Seasons of Giving will take us a little further on a journey towards generous giving, to financial freedom and to the faithful and joyful stewardship of all God has entrusted to us

Like all journeys, this is a journey best done with friends. Why not run Seasons of Giving in a home or cell group at your church? Travel with friends as you explore generosity, get reassurance and encouragement from others and think about the changes you want to make in your own life.

## finding the resources

Seasons of Giving is made freely available by Stewardship, the Christian financial support services charity.

➔ To download the files, visit our website at [www.stewardship.org.uk/money](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/money) and click on the spotlight tab.

The files are suitable for home or small office printing. See the website for further details.



This is a creative and refreshing approach to the subject. a great place to start thinking about giving and a good way to get people thinking about how their relationship with money affects their relationship with God. (Reuben; Lincoln)

### session 1:

#### I want to break free

Spotlight: Giving helps set us free from the love of money  
Luke 18:18-30 – the rich ruler

### session 2:

#### the winter of discontent

Spotlight: Giving recognises that everything comes from God and is a gift entrusted to us  
Luke 12:13-21 – the rich fool

### session 3:

#### a spring in your step

Spotlight: Giving is the hallmark of discipleship around money  
Luke 19:1-10 – the story of Zacchaeus

### session 4:

#### summer lovin'

Spotlight: Giving is part of our stewardship responsibility before God  
Luke 16:1-15 – the shrewd manager

### personal reflection: autumn days

A personal reflection exercise for after the group finishes