

Small Group Ministry  
Group Session Plan  
**Generosity as Spiritual Practice**

**Opening Words:** "[D]iscipleship and effective stewardship go hand in hand. We are called to create churches that reach out and serve. This is a far cry from asking people for money to pay the church's bills. Until people of faith are willing to become bolder in this adventure called religion, I believe large numbers of traditional, mainline churches will be perceived. . . as increasingly weak and possibly irrelevant." Michael Duran, "Beyond the Collection Plate."

**Check-in/Sharing**

**Topic/Activity** "People come to church because they want to, and because they find something of value there. . . . At times, churches are places of comfort, respite, and solace. But not always. Sometimes churches present great challenges. Sometimes we may be asked to give small amounts of time, effort, or money. But sometimes the church might ask us to make the most significant commitment we've made in our entire lives. And sometimes we may be asked to make the largest charitable gift we've ever made. This is the nature of churches. Anyone coming into the church should know what's in store — perhaps a roller-coaster ride, perhaps one of the greatest adventures of a lifetime" Michael Duran, "Beyond the Collection Plate."

1. What does this church offer, you that you cannot find elsewhere in your life?
2. For what ideas, actions, pqqplp and/or wacticps,4re :t9 invest your time, effort, and money, willingly and joyfully?, 1,
3. How does generosity — with your time, effort and money — shape and inform your spiritual life or practice?
4. How do your values affect your giving to the church?

**Check-out/Likes & Wishes** How was this session for you?

**Closing Words:**

"If you knew what I knew about generosity, you would share every meal." The Buddha.