

4. Prepare the Literature

Our letters, brochure and response forms invite us to make a response; to review and renew personal giving. **We're not begging.** We're asking our brothers and sisters to resource mission and to journey into generosity. Don't let our asking be reluctant, embarrassed or apologetic. Our literature should reflect our confidence in the Gospel and the ministry of our church.

The Leaflet

The public face of your stewardship invitation, the leaflet informs and challenges your church congregation to **think and pray** about increasing their giving. Using real information and stories, it's a chance to **encourage** church members to join in what God has planned for your church.

The Response Forms

A response form turns our best **intentions into action.** It's not one size fits all because we are all different. So we give from what we have; not what we don't have. Whatever any individual pledges, remember to thank them and God for their generosity.

5. Thanksgiving Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday is about celebrating generosity together, ending the programme well, and **encouraging** people in their ongoing journey of giving. Its a chance to say 'thank you' to our generous God as a united church family.

Practically speaking, a Thanksgiving service marks the final date for everyone to get their response forms back to church, bringing the campaign to a close.

Prepare personalised **Thank You** letters. This will show that you've recognised how your congregation have responded and are **showing appreciation.** Saying thank you values the giver and their relationship with their church; **not just their gift.**



All resources found at:

www.givinginrace.org

Giving in Grace

Creative resource for your stewardship programme



Design your own stewardship programme using tried and tested resources!

Build a culture of generous discipleship in your church.

Invite your community to be transformed by the generous grace of God.



All resources found at:

www.givinginrace.org

1. Before you Start

The Planning Group

The key to a successful programme, is a small, committed planning team. They will execute and **deliver** the Giving in Grace programme, ensuring it is thoughtful, **prayerful**, and well-resourced. After all, **prayer** is the engine of the Christian walk.

Situation Report

Your Stewardship Resourcing Officer has summarised your church/parish's **key financial data** in the form of a **Situation Report**. This data will help build a clear picture of your church's fiscal health and enable you to create a simple, but **missional aims**.

2. The Basic Outline

Choose the Dates

If you plan ahead, there are many good times to start a stewardship campaign. **Advent, Lent, Harvest and early summer** all offer spiritual richness. Ensure the campaign fits within what the Church is already doing.

Stewardship Sprint

Sometimes there is the need for **disciplined generosity** is recognised, but there simply isn't enough time for a full campaign. A Stewardship Sprint is a **two-week mini Campaign** and can be used as a foundation, before launching a fully resourced plan a few months later.

Parish Giving Scheme

A Stewardship Campaign is the ideal time to launch (or re-launch) the scheme within your congregation, providing a simple and clear way to **respond** to God's generosity.

Decide the Length

Most campaigns last **four weeks**, but the length can be tailored to suit your Church's needs. The final week should be reserved for **Thanksgiving Sunday**, an opportunity for your church to praise God and respond in faith.

Understand your Vision

When planning a stewardship campaign, it's critical to hold and understand a vision for your Church. Your **vision must be communicated** throughout the campaign and is linked to why we are giving; to resource God's ministry and mission in our time and place.

3. Design your programme

Giving in Grace website provides a wide range of resources which can be **adapted to your context**.

Choose from one of the preaching series as the pillar of your programme:

Exodus

This three week series focuses on the Exodus story, in which money is part of the release and the journey from poverty in Egypt to the richly decorated Tent of Meeting.

Ruth

This four week series dives into the deeply sacrificial life of Ruth and her life and relationships with Naomi and Boaz.

Luke

This four week series explores generosity through four passages in Luke's Gospel, identifying parallels between the environmental seasons and our own attitudes to giving.

2 Corinthians

This three week series looks at Paul's apostolic ministry, a sacrament of unity, obedience and grace, and giving as the overflow of grace.

Matthew

From a choice of five parables, preachers are invited to select three or four passages at the heart of Matthew's Gospel, reflecting some of his distinctive themes.

Mark

This four week series both points us towards the real cost of following Jesus, and explores the discipleship challenge for how we act, think and feel around money.

Then, choose from the additional resources to complement your preaching and create an impactful message to share with the **whole church**. Each sermon series includes **liturgy** themed to the bible passage and **all-age activities** for children and young people. Some feature **small group study** sessions.