



GENEROUS ACTS



CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP DRAMAS
TO INSPIRE AND CHALLENGE!

BY DR. KEN LONG



GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

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Preface:

The Power of Christian Drama

Stewardship and giving have always been central to my life. It feels as though God has called me to be a stewardship evangelist – someone who shares the incredible benefits that come when we recognize His ownership and respond accordingly. Stewardship education can take many forms, and drama is a powerful way to challenge established ways of thinking.

Welcome to a transformative journey through Christian dramas, where the principles of stewardship and generosity are brought to life through storytelling and acting. Throughout history, the Gospel has been shared in many ways to reach people’s hearts and minds. Among these, storytelling stands out as a powerful method – one that Jesus masterfully employed through parables. Just like Jesus used different ways to connect with His audience, we can use drama to engage our congregations and inspire them to think about stewardship and generosity.

Drama can engage the senses and evoke emotions. While a sermon provides valuable insights, a dramatic performance creates an immersive experience that captivates the audience. The sights, sounds, and movements invite people into the story, allowing them to feel the characters’ journeys and decisions. Parables convey profound truths through simple stories, making them accessible to a wider audience. Dramas can evoke great laughter or tears, but their underlying goal is to connect with people’s hearts.

Visual learners are drawn to the vivid imagery and actions on stage, while auditory learners connect with the dialogue and music. Kinesthetic learners engage with the physicality of the performance. Laughter, tears, and moments of reflection become shared experiences, enhancing the message of stewardship and generosity long after the performance ends. This multifaceted approach ensures that the lessons from the dramas remain in the minds and hearts of the congregation. Drama has the potential of opening up the hearts of the audience so the speaker can minister in a deeper way.

Drama can break down communication barriers and cultural differences. In a divided world, storytelling transcends language and background, creating unity and understanding. A well-crafted drama can address contemporary issues like compassion and giving through faith, prompting dialogue and inviting reflection. Like Jesus’ parables, these dramas can challenge our perspectives and inspire us to live out our faith through acts of generosity. In 2 Samuel 12, God sends Nathan to tell David a story – a drama – about a poor farmer, his favorite lamb, and a rich man stealing the lamb for dinner. David clearly identifies with the drama and responds immediately, his heart wide open. It’s then that Nathan steps out of the drama and speaks directly to David, bringing the truth of God directly into his heart. Drama opened up David’s heart, and as a result, healing began.

In this book, you will find a variety of dramas about stewardship and generosity, designed to inspire and challenge. These scripts are for performance in church settings, small groups, or community gatherings. They serve as tools for entertainment and spiritual growth, encouraging audiences to engage with Scripture and Christ’s teachings in new ways.

As you explore this collection, may you be inspired to use drama in your worship services and stewardship ministry. Let these stories ignite your creativity and spark conversations that lead to deeper faith and an understanding of being good stewards. Together, let us follow Christ’s example, using storytelling to reach our congregations with God’s love, inspiring them to embrace generosity in their daily lives.

Drama can be used to support the pastor’s message, bringing people’s hearts to a place where he could step in and bring the truth of God. It rarely stands on its own. You don’t have to tell the moral of the story. Its bottom-line purpose is to show the conflict, ask the question and then hand the audience over to the speaker.

Welcome to the world of Generous Acts – where stories come alive, faith is ignited, and the message of stewardship unfolds in unforgettable ways.



Stewardship involves managing the resources that God entrusts to us in a way that honors Him and aligns with His purposes. It is based on the understanding that God is the Creator and ultimate owner of everything, including wealth, and that we are His stewards, with the responsibility to use these resources wisely and faithfully.

Biblical Foundations of Stewardship

I. God as Creator and Owner

Genesis 1:1 declares, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,” establishing that everything, including wealth and material resources, belongs to God (Psalm 24:1: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it”). Financial stewardship begins with recognising that all we possess is entrusted to us by God.

II. Mankind Made in God’s Image

In Genesis 1:26-27, God creates mankind in His image and gives us dominion over creation. This dominion includes managing the earth’s resources, which extends to financial resources. Our role as God’s stewards reflects His character – wise, generous, and just.

III. Accountability and Trust

The stewardship mandate in Genesis implies that humanity will give an account for how they manage God’s resources. Financial stewardship involves making decisions that reflect trust in God, wise planning, and a commitment to generosity.

Principles of Financial Stewardship

I. God Owns Everything

As stewards, we recognise that all financial resources belong to God. This principle challenges us to use money not for selfish gain but to glorify God (Deuteronomy 8:18 says, “But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth”).

II. Generosity as Worship

Financial stewardship calls for a heart of generosity, recognising that giving is an act of worship and trust in God’s provision. Proverbs 3:9-10 says, “Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing.” Giving, whether through tithes, offerings, or acts of charity, reflects our acknowledgment of God’s ownership.

III. Wise Management

Biblical stewardship involves careful planning and responsible use of finances. This includes avoiding unnecessary debt (Proverbs 22:7), saving for the future (Proverbs 21:20), and investing wisely (Matthew 25:14-30, the parable of the talents).

IV. Contentment and Trust

Financial stewardship involves cultivating contentment and relying on God as our ultimate provider. Philippians 4:11-12 teaches the value of being content in all circumstances, while Matthew 6:24 reminds us that we cannot serve both God and money.

V. Accountability to God

Like Adam and Eve’s stewardship of Eden, financial stewardship involves accountability. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus highlights that stewards will one day give an account for how they managed their resources. Faithful financial stewardship demonstrates trustworthiness and an eternal perspective.

Application of Financial Stewardship Today

I. Earning and Working Diligently

Financial stewardship begins with hard work and recognising our income as a gift from God.

II. Budgeting and Living Within Means

Managing finances well includes creating budgets, avoiding unnecessary debt, and prioritising needs over wants.

III. Faithful Tithing

Malachi 3:10 reminds us that we are to “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse.” Leviticus 27:30 tells us that tithe is holy and should be set apart. Tithing is about obedience whereas giving is about generosity.

IV. Giving Generously

Stewardship includes setting aside resources for God’s work, whether through tithing, giving offerings, supporting ministries, or helping those in need.

V. Saving and Investing for Future Generations

Wise saving ensures provision for future needs, reflecting the biblical principle of preparing for the future (Proverbs 6:6-8).

VI. Trusting God Over Wealth

Financial stewardship is ultimately about trusting God, not money, as our source of security (1 Timothy 6:17).

Conclusion

Stewardship is about recognising that all our resources, particularly our financial resources, come from God and belong to Him. As His stewards, we are called to manage money with wisdom, generosity, and a heart that seeks to glorify God. By following biblical principles, we align our finances with God’s purposes and reflect His character in how we earn, spend, save, and give.

Foreword

Do you ever wonder why the Bible contains sixty-six books? Or why biblical content needs to be portrayed as poetry, apocalyptic literature, prose, parables, and genealogies? God could have used only one book and style of writing to convey His message of salvation to lost humanity. But God chose this modus operandi because within the human fabric is an intrinsic predisposition to diversity and appreciation for presenting data in different styles.

God is a creative genius whose genetic footprint was implanted in us at Creation. When God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground” (Genesis 1:26, NIV), He was passing on to us the potential to appreciate diversity and creativity.

Generous Acts is leveraging the human ability to appreciate different ways of assimilating biblical narratives. It took me years to appreciate the books of Chronicles because the genealogical data seemed tedious and unnecessary. My view of the books is different now because mentioning the lineages of biblical characters proves to me that God is interested in our personal lives.

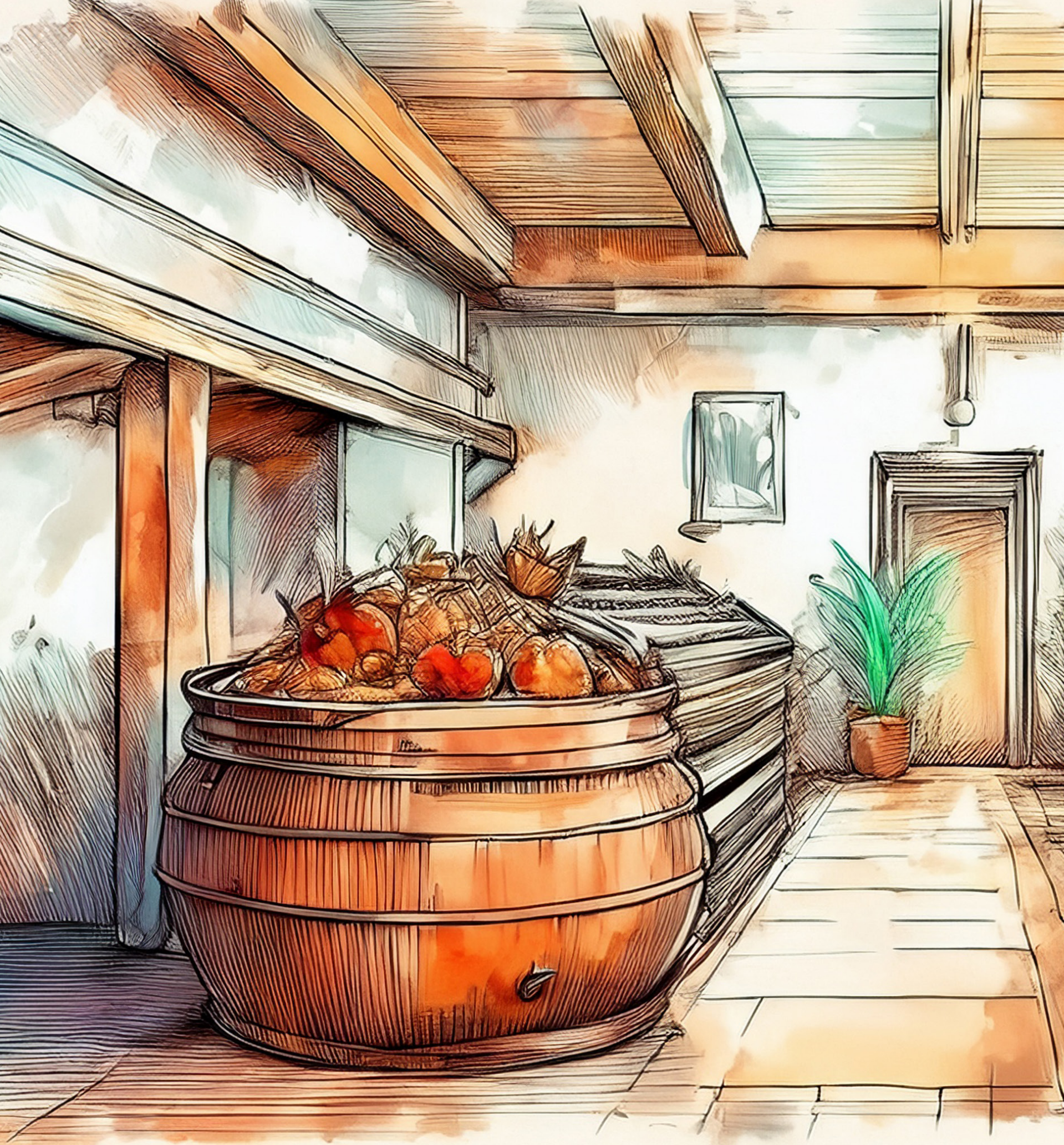
Genesis 1:26 also contains a stewardship mandate for Adam and us to take care of God’s possessions, and that everything belongs to Him. The General Conference Stewardship Department breaks down the principles of stewardship and generous giving through the creative arts. Drama is a potent way of bringing truth home. The interest in drama cuts across all generations, especially young people. In Pathfinder camporees and other Youth Ministries events and programs, we harness the use of puppet ministry and skits to bring biblical content alive.

The Adventist Youth Ministries Department affirms the approach exhibited in *Generous Acts* because stewardship is an integral part of our lives. Christ used parables and object lessons, which were understood by His primary audience, to simplify the teachings about the kingdom of God. Similarly, we should package stewardship in words and methods that are appreciated by the youth.

Generous Acts is a resource that speaks to the felt needs of the youth. We believe that it will enhance the collaboration that already exists between the Youth and Stewardship Departments. The Stewardship Honor, as well as other points of convergence between the two departments, are already yielding positive results. The addition of this resource will bring much-needed impetus to the promotion of stewardship and generous giving among young people.

Stewardship is a litmus test and a cornerstone of one’s Christianity. Some of the conventional methods of promoting stewardship are not embraced by the youth. We believe the stories in *Generous Acts* will cultivate an appreciation for stewardship among our youth and will help them embrace a God-first lifestyle.

Busi Khumalo
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist
Youth Director



Old Testament



1. The Generosity Factor

Deuteronomy 16:10

Theme

We should give in proportion to our blessings.

Summary

In this engaging drama, Mark, a financially successful businessman, grapples with the concept of generosity. With the help of his friend, Laura, he learns that true wealth is reflected in how he shares his blessings with others, leading to a transformative understanding of stewardship.

Key Text

Deuteronomy 16:10 (NIV) – “Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a stylish office, adorned with awards and accolades. Mark is sitting behind a large desk, reviewing financial reports with a confident smile. Laura enters with a cup of coffee.

Characters

Mark

A successful businessman in his early 50s who has built a lucrative career. He's confident and driven but struggles with the idea of giving, often viewing money as a measure of success rather than a tool for generosity.

Laura

Mark's insightful friend and financial advisor in her late 40s, who strongly believes in the importance of stewardship and giving back to the community. She is practical, wise, and has a knack for encouraging others to see the bigger picture.

Key Words

Generosity, blessings, proportion



LAURA: *(cheerfully)* Morning, Mark! You look like you just won at gambling!

MARK: *(leaning back in his chair)* Well, I might as well have! Business is booming, and profits are soaring!

LAURA: *(teasingly)* That's great! But you know what they say: "With great power comes great responsibility."

MARK: *(chuckling)* I'm not Spider-Man, Laura! I'm just a businessman.

LAURA: *(smiling)* True, but you have a unique opportunity to make a difference! Have you thought about giving back?

MARK: *(scoffing)* Giving back? I mean, sure, I donate occasionally, but I can't just give away my hard-earned money!

LAURA: *(leaning in)* But, Mark, think about Deuteronomy 16:10. It says to give in proportion to the blessings God has given you. Your success isn't just for you; it's an opportunity to worship God and a way to bless others!

MARK: *(pausing)* I get that, but what if I give too much? What if it affects my business?

LAURA: *(nodding)* That's a valid concern. But generosity doesn't mean going broke! It's about being intentional with your resources. How could you use your success to support God's mission and uplift others?

MARK: *(thinking)* Well, I could sponsor a local charity or support a youth program. But I always thought generosity was more about big donations.

LAURA: *(smiling)* It can be, but it doesn't have to be! Even small, consistent offerings and contributions can create waves of change. Remember, it's the heart behind the giving that matters.

MARK: *(considering)* So, you're saying I should reflect my blessings in my giving?

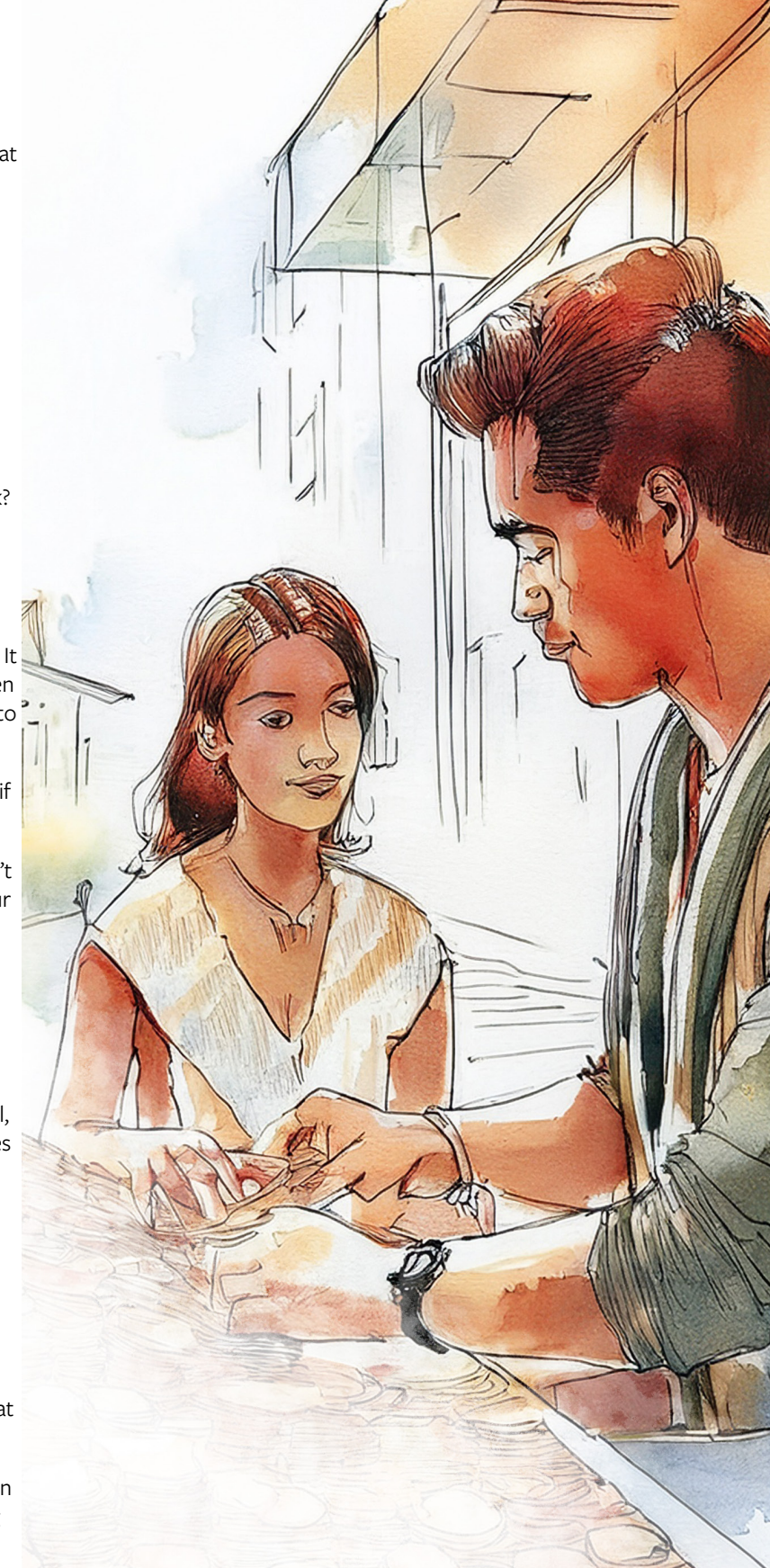
LAURA: Exactly! Your financial success is a blessing, and by sharing it, you can inspire others and create a legacy.

MARK: *(leaning forward)* You make it sound so appealing. What if my generosity actually leads to more opportunities?

LAURA: *(enthusiastically)* Bingo! Generosity opens doors! When you invest in people and projects, you're not just giving away money; you're investing in potential.

MARK: *(smiling)* I never thought of it that way. Maybe I could start with giving a percentage of my profits to God and see how it goes...

LAURA: *(clapping her hands)* That's the spirit! Just imagine the impact you could have on God's mission and in your community! You could even lead by example in your industry.



MARK: *(grinning)* You know, I could give a regular offering, sponsor an evangelistic series, or host a charity gala. Invite everyone, showcase our successes, and share how we're giving back!

LAURA: *(excitedly)* That's a fantastic idea! You'll not only raise funds but inspire others to join in. Your success could ignite a generosity movement!

Leading by Example

1 Chronicles 29:9

Theme

Generosity is contagious. Leaders inspire others through their joyful giving.

Summary

Tom is hesitant about giving generously, worrying about his finances. Sarah encourages him to demonstrate generosity as a leader, reminding him of biblical examples like King David, and they share a few laughs along the way.

Key Text

1 Chronicles 29:9 (NIV) – “The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a church meeting room decorated for a youth event. Tom is nervously shuffling papers while Sarah checks the arrangements.

Characters

Tom

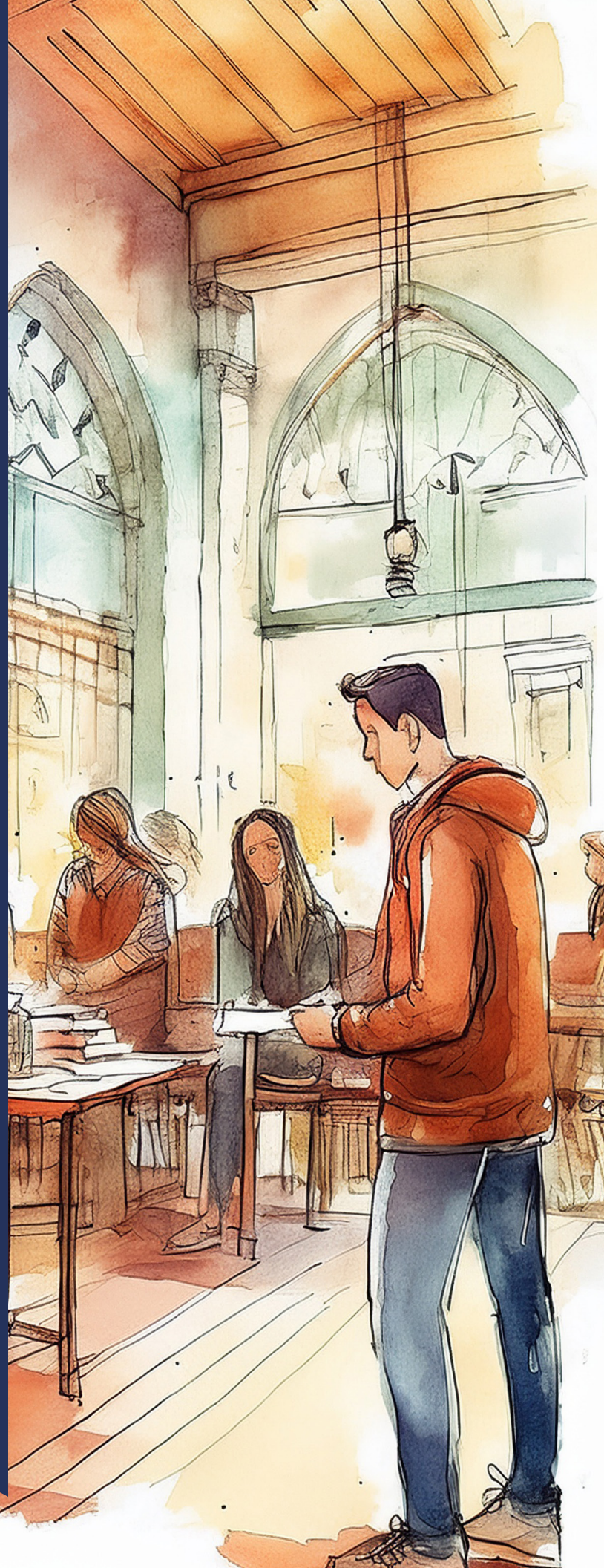
A slightly anxious church member who's always worried about his finances and tends to hoard his resources.

Sarah

An enthusiastic church leader who is passionate about generosity and wants to inspire others, especially the youth, to embrace giving as a joyful act of worship.

Key Words

Generosity, leadership, example, worship, joy



SARAH (*enthusiastically*) Tom! I'm so excited about the youth program for this year! Are you ready to lead by example with your giving?

TOM (*fidgeting*) Well, I was hoping to just...you know, be here. You know me – I'm not exactly the poster child for generosity.

SARAH (*smiling*) Come on! Remember King David? He gave wholeheartedly for the temple, and the people rejoiced! You can do this, too!

TOM (*sighs*) I know, but what if I give too much? What if I end up living off instant noodles and prayer?

SARAH (*laughing*) Instant noodles can be a culinary delight! But honestly, giving should be a joyful part of our lives, not based on fear.

TOM (*raising an eyebrow*) Joyful? You mean like a party? "Surprise! It's offering time!"

SARAH (*playfully*) Exactly! We should make giving feel like a celebration! And you, as a leader, should show others how it's done.

TOM (*scratching his head*) Okay, but what if they expect me to pull out my wallet and do a magic trick?

SARAH (*giggling*) No magic tricks needed! Just be honest about your giving. You don't have to give everything at once. It's about consistency and being intentional.

TOM (*nodding slowly*) So, I could set a monthly goal? Like a percentage every month as my offerings?

SARAH (*cheerfully*) Yes! And you can encourage the youth to set a personal monthly goal as well! Imagine their faces when they realize they can also contribute to the church program!!

TOM (*smiling*) I can see it now: "Look at Tom, the generous leader! He's giving a percentage of his income every month while eating instant noodles because of his sacrifice!"

SARAH (*laughing*) And they'll be inspired! When they see you taking that step, they'll want to follow your lead and give too.

TOM (*thoughtfully*) You know, David didn't just give; he rejoiced in it! Maybe I should think of giving as an act of worship.

SARAH (*nodding*) Exactly! That's right. It's about honoring God, not just putting money in the offering plate.

TOM (*raising his arms dramatically*) "I give because I want to! Not because I have to!"

SARAH (*clapping*) Yes! You're getting the hang of it!

TOM (*grinning*) Alright, I'll lead by example. I'll plan to give 10 percent as offerings every month. That's \$200 a month.

SARAH (*excitedly*) That's the spirit! And who knows? You might inspire a few future generous leaders along the way! Generosity will bring blessings in unexpected ways!

(The scene ends with Tom and Sarah laughing and discussing fun ways to present giving to the youth, embracing the joy of generosity together.)

3. The Spiritual Gym Membership

1 Chronicles 29:14b

Theme

Giving takes practice.

Summary

In “The Spiritual Gym Membership,” Jim and Sally compare the concept of giving to a gym membership. As they navigate the pitfalls of both, they discover the importance of regular stewardship in a lighthearted and engaging way.

Key Text

1 Chronicles 29:14b (NIV) – “Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in a church hall with a sign that reads “Stewardship Sabbath.” Jim is sitting at a table, looking at a pamphlet for the church’s giving campaign. Sally enters, holding a yoga mat with a big grin.

Characters

Jim

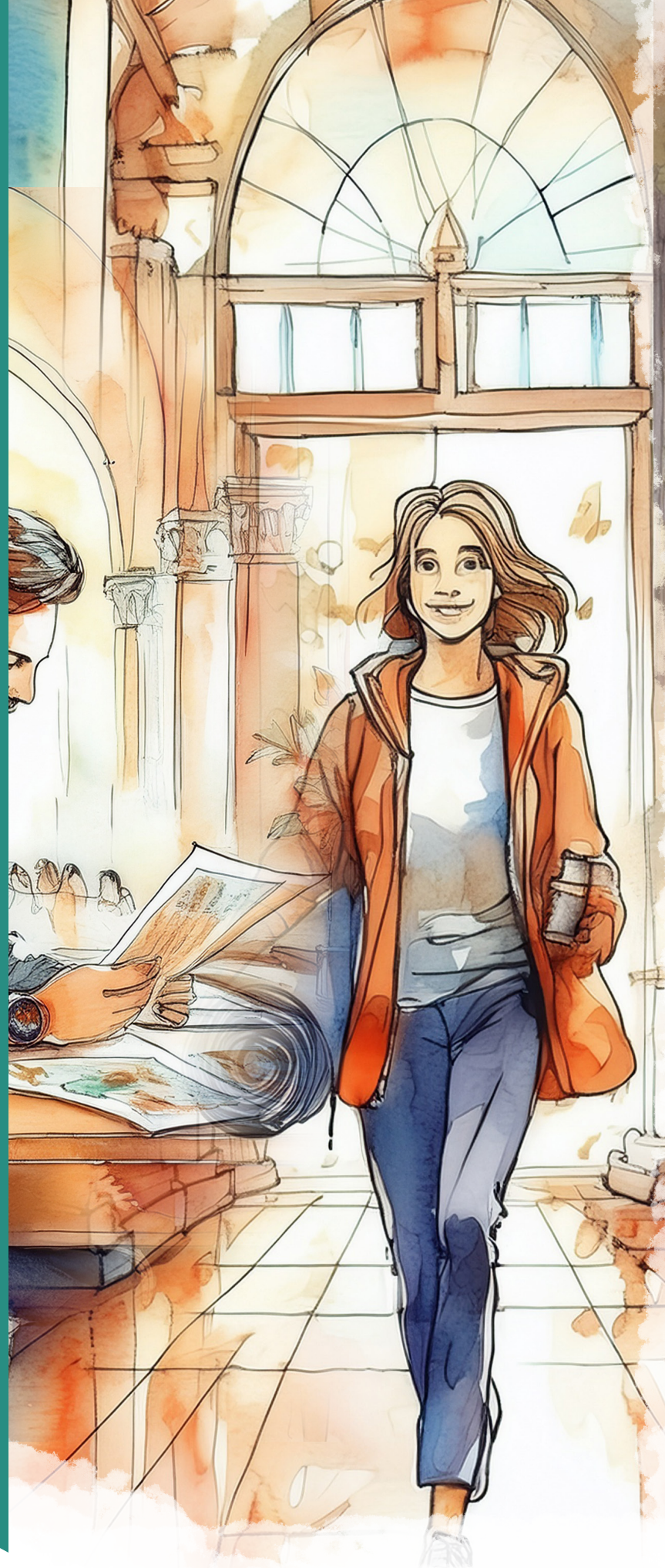
A well-meaning, but slightly forgetful church member who struggles with the idea of regular giving.

Sally

An enthusiastic and witty church volunteer who has a knack for making spiritual concepts relatable and humorous.

Key Words

Giving, systematic giving



SALLY (*cheerfully*) Hey, Jim! What’s got you looking so serious? Planning your next big workout routine?

JIM (*sighing*) Kind of. I’m trying to figure out how to be more generous with my giving to God, but it feels like signing up for a gym membership. You know, you sign up with all the best intentions, but then life happens!

SALLY (*laughing*) Oh boy, don’t I know it! You mean your gym becomes the most expensive place you never visit?

JIM Exactly! (*gesturing dramatically*) I had such high hopes! I thought I’d be there every day, lifting weights, running marathons! But instead, I just lift my remote control!

SALLY (*giggling*) And the only marathon you run is the one where you binge-watch your favorite series on Netflix!

JIM (*chuckling*) Guilty as charged! It’s like my giving – I really want to be faithful and generous, but then I forget, or I get busy, and suddenly it’s “Oh no! I haven’t given this month!”

SALLY (*playfully*) Well, think of it this way: Just like exercise, giving is about regular practice! The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 9:7, “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

JIM (*nodding*) Right! But sometimes I feel like I need to “train” for it first!

SALLY (*waving her yoga mat*) No training required! Just like a gym can be intimidating, so can giving. But the more you practice, the easier it gets!

JIM (*thoughtful*) So, if I give regularly, it’s like exercising my giving muscles?

SALLY Exactly! (*flexing her arm*) You want to build spiritual strength, not just “one-time wonder” muscles!

JIM (*laughing*) So, it’s about being spiritually fit? I guess I should start treating my giving like my gym membership – show up consistently!

SALLY (*grinning*) Yes! And trust me, the benefits are amazing! You’ll feel good knowing you’re contributing to God’s work, just like you feel good after a workout!

JIM (*enthusiastic*) Okay, I’m in! Let’s make a commitment: I’ll give regularly, just like I’d go to the gym!

SALLY (*cheering*) That’s the spirit! And remember, no matter how small, every bit counts! Just think of it as a spiritual workout!

JIM (*laughing*) Additionally, if only I could also find a way to combine my two passions – working out and giving!

SALLY (*smirking*) How about a “Run for Donations” marathon? You’ll run and give at the same time!

JIM (*pretending to write it down*) Brilliant! Now that’s a workout plan I can get behind!

4. The Grasshopper Gambit

Psalm 24:1

Theme

Everything we have belongs to God. We are simply stewards.

Summary

In “The Grasshopper Gambit,” Farmer Joe embraces the belief that everything belongs to God, viewing himself as a steward of his farm. Despite a grasshopper invasion, his unwavering faith and humor inspire skeptical neighbor Ned to reconsider his perspective on stewardship.

Key Text

Psalm 24:1 (NIV) – “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens on Farmer Joe’s farm. He is kneeling in prayer, his well-worn Bible beside him. The sun is shining, and the sound of chirping birds fills the air. Joe stands up and stretches, looking content.

Characters

Farmer Joe

A cheerful, easy-going farmer who has recently come to terms with the fact that God owns his farm. He is humorous, optimistic, and deeply faithful.

Ned

A skeptical and slightly cynical neighbor who doesn’t quite understand Joe’s newfound perspective. He often questions Joe’s faith and decisions.

Key Words

Steward, manager



FARMER JOE *(with a chuckle)* Well, another day managing God’s farm! *(looks up)* Thanks, Lord, for trusting me with this beautiful land.

NED Enter Ned, looking confused and skeptical.

(crossing his arms) Joe! What’s this I hear? You gave your farm back to God? Have you been out in the sun too long?

FARMER JOE *(grinning)* I was reading my Bible one day and came across Psalm 24:1 (NIV) – “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” It reminded me that God owns everything. Even my farm. I’m just the manager of what God has given to me.

So, I prayed, “I’m sorry, God. I thought I owned this farm. Now I see you really own it – I’m just the manager. So, I’m going to give it back to you. You’ll forgive me, because we do things a bit strange down here. You see, I’ll have to keep my name on the property deed; but you and I both know who really owns it!”

NED *(sarcastically)* Right. How’s it going for you?

FARMER JOE It takes the worry from my shoulders. “I just get down on my knees each morning and ask God to show me how He wants His farm run, and that’s the way that I run it – just as good as I can.”

NED *(sarcastically)* And I suppose the grasshoppers are part of your divine management plan too?

FARMER JOE *(laughs)* Well, actually, yes!

NED Speaking of grasshoppers, there looks like a swarm of grasshoppers coming this way now.

FARMER JOE *(watching the grasshoppers)* You’re right. Here they come!

NED *(panicking)* They’re eating everything! All your new crops. There’s nothing left. Are you really okay with this?

FARMER JOE *(calmly)* Of course! God owns the grasshoppers too. If He wants them to have a feast, then who am I to argue?

NED *(frustrated)* But what about your crops? Your livelihood? I’ll bet this changes your mind about God owning your farm.

FARMER JOE *(cheerfully)* It’s simple. God owns the farm and He owns the grasshoppers. If He wants to feed His grasshoppers on His farm, it’s all right by me! I trust God to provide! As I said before, Psalm 24:1 tells us, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” This is His farm, not mine. I’m just here to do my best!

NED Neighbor Ned stands speechless, then chuckles despite himself.



(grinning) I guess you’ve got a point there. But what happens when the grasshoppers eat everything?

FARMER JOE *(smiling brightly)* Then I’ll just pray for a new crop! I’m just being a good steward of what He gives me!

NED *(shaking his head)* You know, Joe, you’re a strange one. But I think I could learn a thing or two from you about giving it all to God and trusting Him.

FARMER JOE *(laughing)* Just remember, it’s all about faithful stewardship, my friend!

5. Yes, God Owns Everything

Psalms 24:1

Theme

Everything belongs to God. Yes, everything.

Summary

In this humorous drama, Ethan, a young businessman, struggles with the concept of generosity while fearing for his finances. With Sophie's witty guidance, he learns that true stewardship means recognizing that everything belongs to God and embracing the joy of giving.

Key Text

Psalms 24:1 (NIV) – “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in Ethan’s modern office, cluttered with financial reports and spreadsheets. Ethan is pacing back and forth, talking on the phone.

Characters

Ethan

A young, ambitious businessman in his late 20s, who is always worried about his finances and tends to hoard his resources. He fears that giving might hinder his success.

Sophie

Ethan’s savvy business mentor and friend in her early 30s, who believes in the importance of stewardship and generosity. She is confident, relatable, and encourages Ethan.

Key Words

Stewardship, manager, God’s ownership



ETHAN *(into the phone)* Yes, I understand our profits are up, but what if I give away too much? I mean, what will happen to my “Future Super Yacht Fund”? *(pauses)* No, seriously!

SOPHIE *Sophie enters, holding a box of donuts and a big smile.*

(cheerfully) Did someone say “Super Yacht Fund”? I hope that doesn’t involve sacrificing my favorite donuts!

ETHAN *(rolling his eyes)* Well, if I keep giving away money, I might end up living off those donuts!

SOPHIE *(laughing)* Don’t worry! You won’t end up as the “Donut Baron.” But seriously, Ethan, have you thought about how blessed you are?

ETHAN *(sighing)* I know, but Psalm 24:1 says, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” I can’t just give away all what’s mine!

SOPHIE *(smirking)* Ah, but that’s where you’re wrong! It’s all God’s! *(deliberately, then pause)* We’re just the temporary managers of His resources.

ETHAN *(scratching his head)* Temporary managers? So, I’m a manager or steward for God?

SOPHIE *(grinning)* Exactly! And good managers know that investing in others pays off. Ever heard of the “blessing boomerang”?

ETHAN *(perplexed)* Blessing boomerang? Is that like a new marketing strategy?

SOPHIE *(giggling)* No! It means when you give generously, those blessings come back to you – sometimes in unexpected ways!

ETHAN *(raising an eyebrow)* Like free donuts?

SOPHIE *(winking)* Absolutely! Or better yet, loyal customers who appreciate your generosity!

ETHAN *(thoughtfully)* So, you’re saying I should just start giving? What if I give too much and can’t pay my rent?

SOPHIE *(encouragingly)* You don’t have to give away your whole bank account! Start small. Maybe donate a percentage of your profits to your church and some to a local charity.

ETHAN *(nodding)* Okay, but what if I end up regretting it?

SOPHIE *(smiling)* Remember, it’s not about losing money; it’s about investing in people and causes. You’ll feel good knowing you’re making a difference!

ETHAN *(gaining confidence)* Alright, I’ll give that a try. I’ll return my tithe and then give let’s say...10 percent?

SOPHIE *(clapping her hands)* Yes! That’s a great start! Just think of the impact you could have in your community!



ETHAN *(enthusiastically)* And maybe I won’t need that yacht after all!

SOPHIE *(laughing)* Or you could just rent a yacht for a day and still give generously!

ETHAN *Ethan starts jotting down a giving plan with newfound enthusiasm.*

(excitedly) Here’s to being a generous temporary manager!

SOPHIE *(raising the donut box)* And here’s to the blessing boomerang! May it come back with sprinkles!

They both laugh, and the scene progresses with Ethan brainstorming ideas for his new giving strategy while Sophie offers support.

ETHAN *(with determination)* I’m ready to embrace stewardship and see how God blesses my business!

SOPHIE *(smiling)* And I can’t wait to see the joy that comes from your generosity!

Who Gets the First Slice?

Proverbs 3:9-10

Theme

It is important to prioritize giving to God.

Summary

In “Who Gets the First Slice?”, Tom eagerly eyes the last piece of pie, while Grace emphasizes the importance of prioritizing giving to God. Through humor and heartfelt dialogue, they discover that honoring God leads to greater joy and abundance in life.

Key Text

Proverbs 3:9-10 (ESV) – “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”

Matt 6:33 (NLT) – “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in the family kitchen. A large pie is sitting on the table, with several slices already cut out. Tom is eyeing the last slice, looking eager to dig in. Grace enters with a cheerful smile, noticing Tom’s anticipation.

Characters

Tom

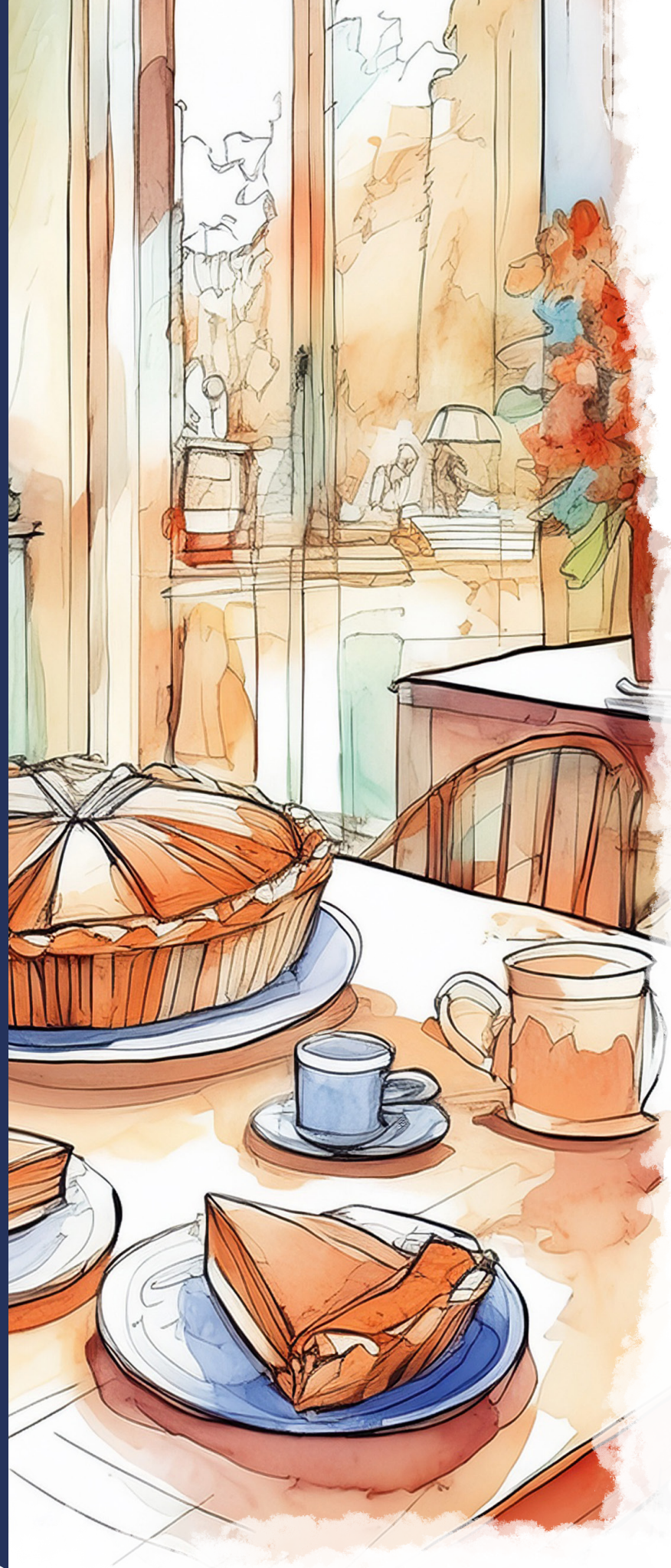
A friendly dad in his late 30s. Tom is juggling family finances, household responsibilities, and the demands of daily life. He uses humor to deal with stress and has a soft spot for pie.

Grace

Tom’s wise and cheerful wife in her mid-30s. Grace is organized and passionate about sharing the importance of including God in their financial decisions. With a positive outlook on life, she challenges Tom’s perspective on stewardship, always emphasizing the need to prioritize giving to God.

Key Words

First fruits, giving



TOM (*rubbing his hands together*) Ah, the last slice of the God Pie! Just what I need after a long week of bills and expenses. This God Pie is just the best.

GRACE (*playfully*) Whoa there, pie thief! Aren’t you forgetting something?

TOM (*confused*) Forgetting? I’m not forgetting anything! I’m just about to enjoy this last piece!

GRACE (*smirking*) No, no! Don’t you realize what you’re doing? You can’t take the last slice, especially when you haven’t given any of the pie to God!

TOM (*mockingly*) But it’s just pie! Can’t I have a little slice of happiness without making a big deal out of it?

GRACE (*laughs*) It’s not just pie, Tom! It’s a symbol of our priorities! When we don’t give God the first slice of our finances, it’s like saying He doesn’t matter.

TOM (*sighs*) But what about the mortgage, the kids’ education, groceries? All of those things are a piece of the pie too!

GRACE (*nodding*) Of course they are! But when we honor God first, everything else falls into place. It’s like Proverbs says: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and the first fruits of all your produce.”

TOM (*raising an eyebrow*) So you’re saying I should cut God the first slice before I even think about the bills?

GRACE (*smiling*) Exactly! When we prioritize God, we’re acknowledging that He is the source of all we have.

TOM (*leaning back*) Alright, but what if I run out of pie before I get to the bills?

GRACE (*grinning*) That’s the beauty of it! When you give God the first slice, He provides for the rest! It’s about trust.

TOM (*pondering*) So, if I give God a piece of pie, He’ll make sure I have enough for everything else?

GRACE (*enthusiastically*) Yes! It’s like saying, “God, I trust You with my finances.” Remember Matt 6:33 (NLT) that says, “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need”.

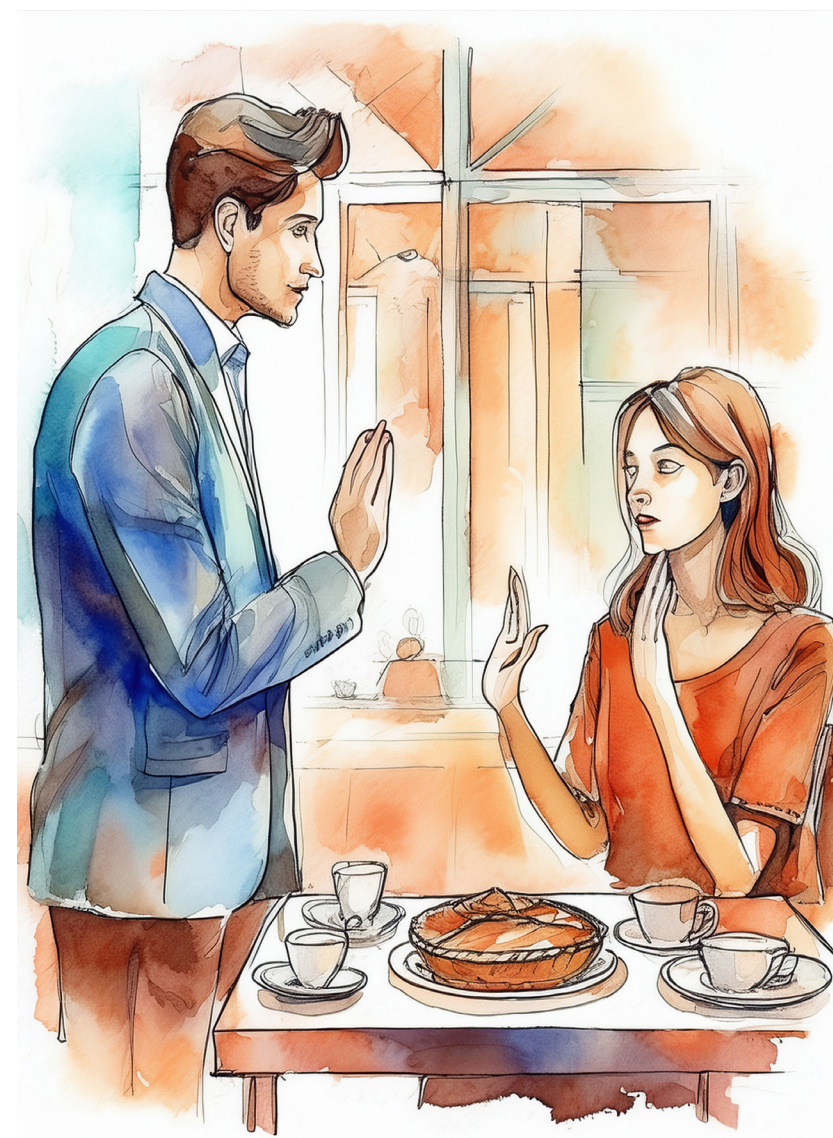
TOM (*smirking*) So really, I’m just trying to avoid a financial pie crisis by giving God the first slice?

GRACE (*laughing*) Exactly! And you won’t just avoid a crisis; you’ll find joy in knowing you’re honoring Him!

TOM (*grinning*) Fine! But I’m still going to enjoy this last piece!

GRACE (*playfully*) Sure! Just remember, it’s not really yours until God gets the first slice! Let’s start with this a new pie.

TOM *Tom theatrically pretends to cut the pie, but he pauses dramatically before serving God the first slice, looking a bit conflicted.*



(mock serious) To God, the original Pie Maker, I present the first slice!

GRACE (*cheerfully*) Now you’re getting it! And look, you still have plenty left for yourself!

TOM (*leaning in*) You know, I think I’ll start serving God the first slice of my pie from now on. Who knew pie could be so enlightening?

GRACE (*beaming*) See? Who wouldn’t want to share the joy of pie with the One who gives it?

TOM (*laughing*) Alright, I’m officially on board with the “God Pie” philosophy!

First Fruits Fiasco

Proverbs 3:9-10

Theme

Giving to God is our first priority.

Summary

In this comedic exchange, Ben grapples with the concept of giving his first fruits to God while Miriam encourages him to be obedient and to rely on God's faithfulness. Their humorous banter reveals the importance of trusting God and the blessings that come from honoring Him.

Key Text

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) – "Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines."

Story Line Setting

Scene opens on a small farm in biblical times. Ben is nervously inspecting the first heads of barley in his field. Miriam enters with a basket of freshly baked bread.

Characters

Ben

A nervous farmer who is overly cautious and struggles with the idea of giving away his first harvest.

Miriam

Ben's wise and lighthearted neighbor, full of faith and enthusiasm for honoring God through giving.

Key Words

First fruits, tithe



MIRIAM *(cheerfully)* Good morning, Ben! Looks like you've got a fine crop of barley this year!

BEN *(anxiously)* Morning, Miriam. Yeah, I guess. But, oh boy, the harvest is here, and I can't stop thinking about the first fruits!

MIRIAM *(excitedly)* Yes! Isn't it thrilling? You're going to honor God with your first harvest!

BEN *(fidgeting)* Thrilling? More like terrifying! What if I give Him the best, and then the rest of the crop doesn't come in? I mean, have you seen how unpredictable weather can be?

MIRIAM *(smiling)* But that's the point! You're showing trust in God's provision! Plus, Leviticus 27:30 says a tithe belongs to the Lord. In fact, it's holy and must be set apart for God.

BEN *(muttering)* A tithe...right. So, I'm supposed to give away my first head of barley...and then what? Hope that the rest of them don't go on strike?

MIRIAM *(laughing)* They're not union workers, Ben! It's about honoring God. When you give Him the first fruits, you're acknowledging that as the Creator, He's the source of all your many blessings!

BEN *(sighing)* But what if this is the only good head of barley I get? I'll be left with nothing but...*(dramatically)*...barley dust!

MIRIAM *(playfully rolling her eyes)* Oh, come on! It's just one head of barley! You have 10 acres! Surely you have more than just one!

BEN *(looking around)* Well, I did see a few more. But what if the rest are just...barley wannabes?

MIRIAM *(giggling)* Barley wannabes? Seriously, Ben, trust me! You give God the first fruits, and He'll fill your barns! It's like a divine guarantee!

BEN *(scratching his head)* Divine guarantee? Do you come with a warranty or something? What's the return policy on this?

MIRIAM *(smiling)* No returns, but plenty of blessings! Just think about it! If you don't give the first fruits, isn't that like saying you don't trust God?

BEN *(pausing)* Hmmm...So, if I give the first fruits from my barley harvest, I'm honoring God?

MIRIAM Exactly! And besides, it's a great way to show you appreciate all the hard work you did to grow that barley!

BEN *(chuckling)* You have a point there. Okay, I'll do it! I'll give Him the first head of barley. *(pauses)* But if I end up with barley dust, I'm blaming you!

MIRIAM *(laughing)* Deal! Now come on, let's celebrate the harvest together!

BEN *Ben reluctantly picks a head of barley and holds it up like it's a trophy.*

(grinning) Here's to first fruits and hoping they multiply like rabbits!

8. Generosity Google Maps

Proverbs 3:9-10

Theme

God continually reminds us to live a generous life.

Summary

In “Generosity Google Maps,” Sam learns about the importance of giving from his tech-savvy friend Gina, who humorously likens generosity to navigating with Google Maps. Together, they discover that sharing kindness leads to unexpected blessings and joy in their lives.

Key Text

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) – “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in a cozy living room. Sam is scrolling through his phone while Gina is fiddling with her GPS device, which has a comically large screen displaying a digital map.

Characters

Sam

A well-meaning, but somewhat distracted individual who struggles with generosity. Sam often gets sidetracked by life’s little distractions and needs a gentle nudge back on track.

Gina

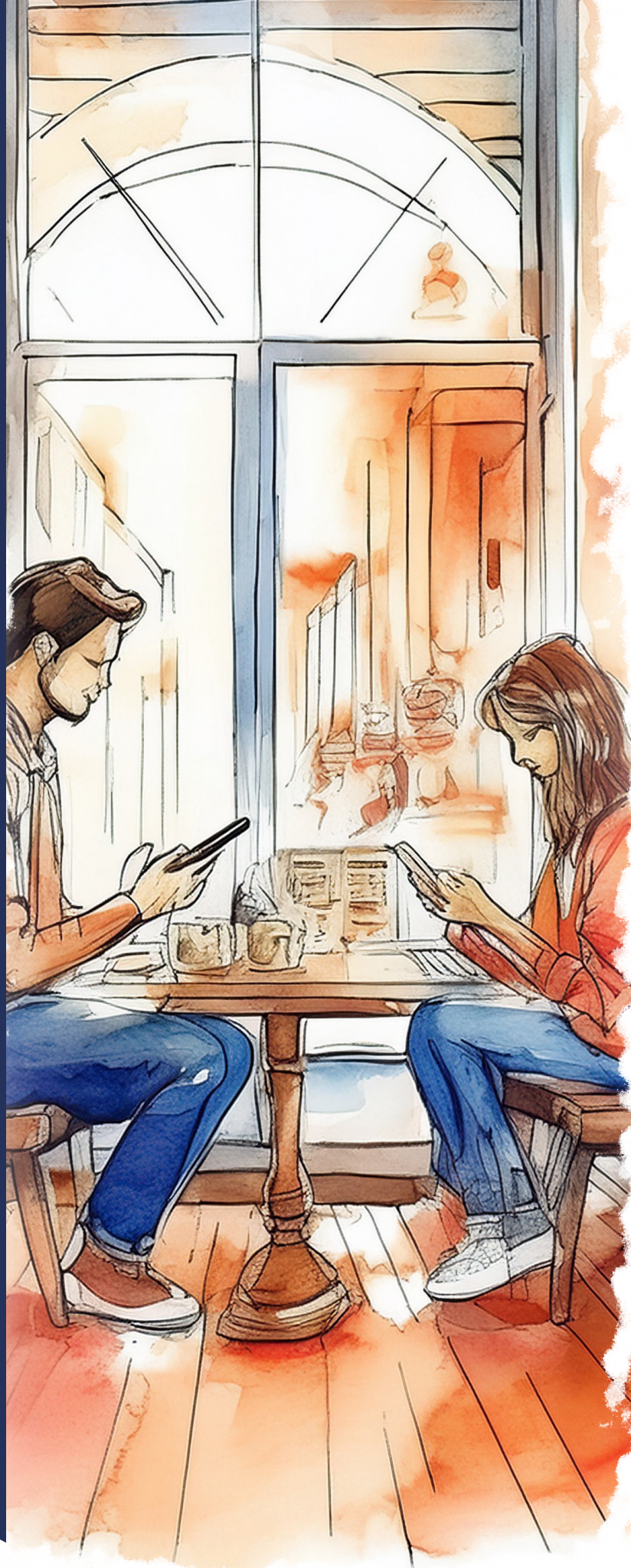
A cheerful, tech-savvy friend who loves to give and is always encouraging Sam to be more generous. She carries a quirky Google Maps device that she humorously treats as a spiritual guide.

Mrs. Jenkins

A warm-hearted neighbor known for her kindness and hospitality, often dropping by with delicious treats to spread joy and foster community spirit.

Key Words

Generosity



GINA (*excitedly*) Sam! Have you ever thought about how generosity is just like using Google Maps?

SAM (*still distracted*) Uh, sure...but I don’t remember the last time my Google Maps told me to give away my donuts.

GINA (*laughs*) Well, it should! Imagine this: you’re driving down the road of life, and Google Maps says, “Recalculating... turn left at generosity!”

SAM (*confused*) Wait, my Google Maps has never told me to turn left. It just says “recalculating” when I miss the exit.

GINA Exactly! God’s generosity is like Google Maps. You might miss a turn, but He’s always there to reroute you back. (*points to the Google Maps*) See? (*presses a button*) “In 200 feet, make a U-turn at selfishness and continue to generosity!”

SAM (*chuckles*) So, I’m supposed to take a U-turn from selfishness? Sounds easy enough, but I just bought a giant pizza for myself.

GINA (*playfully scolding*) That’s okay! Just remember Proverbs 3:9-10. Honor God with your wealth, and He’ll fill your barns! (*leans in*) That means share that pizza, Sam!

SAM (*groans*) But what if I want the whole pizza? Can’t I just have a small piece of generosity?

GINA (*grinning*) That’s like saying you only want a sprinkle of Google Maps directions! (pretends to speak to Google Maps) “Recalculating...give only a crumb of kindness!”

Gina activates Google Maps, and it humorously starts beeping and making recalculating sounds.

See! This is my ‘Generosity Google Maps’ reminding you to give more. When you stray, it recalibrates!

SAM (*laughing*) Okay, okay! So, if I give away some pizza, will my barn be overflowing, just like it says in Proverbs?

GINA (*giggling*) Well, not literally! But you’ll feel better! And who knows? Maybe you’ll get a surprise in return – like a whole new pizza!

SAM *Sam looks at the pizza, thinking, then nods with a grin.*

Alright, let’s do this! (*picks up a slice and offers it to Gina*) Here’s a slice of generosity!

GINA (*enthusiastically takes the slice*) Look at that! You just made a U-turn! (*pointing to Google Maps*) “Destination: Blessings, arriving shortly!”

Pause

Sam, there’s someone at the door. Could you please go and see who it is?

SAM It’s Mrs. Jenkins. Good to see you.

MRS. JENKINS (*smiling*) Hi, Sam! I was just in the neighborhood and thought I’d drop off some cookies. I saw you had a pizza party going on!

GINA (*grinning*) Look, Sam! That’s what happens when you’re generous! The blessings come back to you!

SAM (*staring in disbelief*) So, if I share my pizza, I get cookies in return?

MRS. JENKINS (*nodding enthusiastically*) Absolutely! And don’t forget, God loves a cheerful giver! (*winks*)

GINA (*turning to the Google Maps*) “Recalculating... turn right at blessings!”

SAM (*laughs*) This Google Maps is amazing! But what if I had said “No” to sharing?

GINA (*dramatically*) Then you would’ve missed out on cookies, my friend! Plus, your generosity would be stuck in traffic!

SAM *Sam chuckles, and they all sit down at the table, with Gina taking out plates.*

(serving the pizza) Okay, Gina, I’ll follow your Google Maps. I’m on the road to generosity!

GINA (*mock serious*) And remember, if you veer off course, Google Maps will be here to get you back on track. “In 100 feet, make a U-turn at selfishness!”

They all share a laugh and enjoy the pizza and cookies together.

MRS. JENKINS (*cheerfully*) You know, Sam, generosity doesn’t just bring blessings back to you. It creates a ripple effect! The more you give, the more others are encouraged to give too!

SAM (*thoughtfully*) Wow, I never thought of it that way! It’s like a chain reaction of goodness and generosity!

GINA (*leaning in*) Exactly! And who knows? Maybe your next GPS prompt will lead you to start a pizza party for the whole neighborhood!

SAM *Sam looks excited, pondering the idea.*

(smiling) That sounds fantastic! And I’ll make sure to invite you, Gina, because you’re my generous Google Maps navigator!

The Tight-Fisted Squirrel

Proverbs 11:24

Theme

Generosity brings blessings.

Summary

In “The Tight-Fisted Squirrel,” Charlie compares his wealth to a squirrel hoarding acorns, while Tammy encourages him to embrace generosity. Through their playful banter, they explore the importance of sharing blessings instead of holding onto them tightly.

Key Text

Proverbs 11:24 (NIV) – “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in a church fellowship hall. Charlie is sitting at a table, surrounded by various snack items, meticulously organizing them into neat piles. Tammy enters with a bright smile, holding a small bag of nuts.

Characters

Charlie

A quirky and overly cautious church member who hoards his resources like a squirrel hoarding nuts.

Tammy

A cheerful and generous church volunteer who loves to inspire others to share their blessings.

Key Words

Generosity, blessing, hoarding



TAMMY (*cheerfully*) Hey, Charlie! What’s with all the snacks? Are you preparing for a feast?

CHARLIE (*seriously*) Feast? No, no! I’m storing these away like a squirrel in autumn! You know, just in case!

TAMMY (*laughing*) Storing them? You look like you’re about to open an acorn savings account!

CHARLIE (*nodding earnestly*) Exactly! You never know when you might have a snack emergency!

TAMMY (*smirking*) A snack emergency? You mean like when you’re watching TV and the chips run out?

CHARLIE (*defensively*) Hey, it’s a real concern! What if I run out during the big game?

TAMMY (*playfully*) But Charlie, have you ever seen a squirrel? They run around gathering all the acorns they can find when they’re preparing for winter!

CHARLIE (*proudly*) That’s right! I’m just being smart with my resources!

TAMMY (*leaning in*) But we can’t go through life like a tight-fisted squirrel, hoarding everything for ourselves!

CHARLIE (*confused*) Tight-fisted? I thought it was just being prepared!

TAMMY (*grinning*) Proverbs 11:24 says, “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.”

CHARLIE (*scratching his head*) So, you’re saying if I share my snacks or something else, I’ll get more?

TAMMY (*giggling*) Well, not exactly! But when you’re generous, you open yourself up to more blessings – like friendship, joy, and yes, even more snacks!

CHARLIE (*pondering*) So, if I share, I won’t end up like a squirrel with a stash of acorns no one sees?

TAMMY (*nodding*) Exactly! Instead of keeping everything to yourself, think of it as spreading joy!

CHARLIE (*pretending to be deep in thought*) Hmm...So, if I share, I’m actually investing in my happiness?

TAMMY (*enthusiastically*) Yes! You create an atmosphere of generosity! Plus, you might just find that sharing makes those snacks taste even better!

CHARLIE (*grinning*) Okay, I’ll give it a try! But you have to promise not to judge my “squirrely” snack hoarding tendencies!

TAMMY (*laughing*) Deal! Just remember, we’re all in this together – no more tight-fisted squirrel business!

CHARLIE (*playfully*) Right! From now on, I’ll be the open-handed chip distributor!



TAMMY (*clapping*) That’s the spirit! Let’s make sharing a new trend!

They both laugh, and Charlie begins to offer snacks to Tammy, who pretends to be overwhelmed with joy.

CHARLIE (*smiling*) Here you go! Just remember, I’m still saving some for the big game!

TAMMY (*winking*) Of course! But you’ll have to share during the game too, right?

CHARLIE (*grinning*) Alright, alright! No more being a tight-fisted squirrel!

10. The Generosity Boomerang

Proverbs 11:25

Theme

God's blessings come to us when we live generous lives.

Summary

In "The Generosity Boomerang," Jake struggles with generosity until Tina compares it to throwing a boomerang. Through laughter and shared experiences, they discover that giving brings unexpected blessings, encouraging Jake to embrace a spirit of generosity.

Key Text

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV) – "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in a sunny backyard where Jake is preparing to throw a boomerang. He is fumbling with it while Tina watches with a smirk.

Characters

Jake

A lighthearted, slightly clumsy friend who loves to try new things but often struggles with the concept of generosity. He's enthusiastic but tends to get distracted easily.

Tina

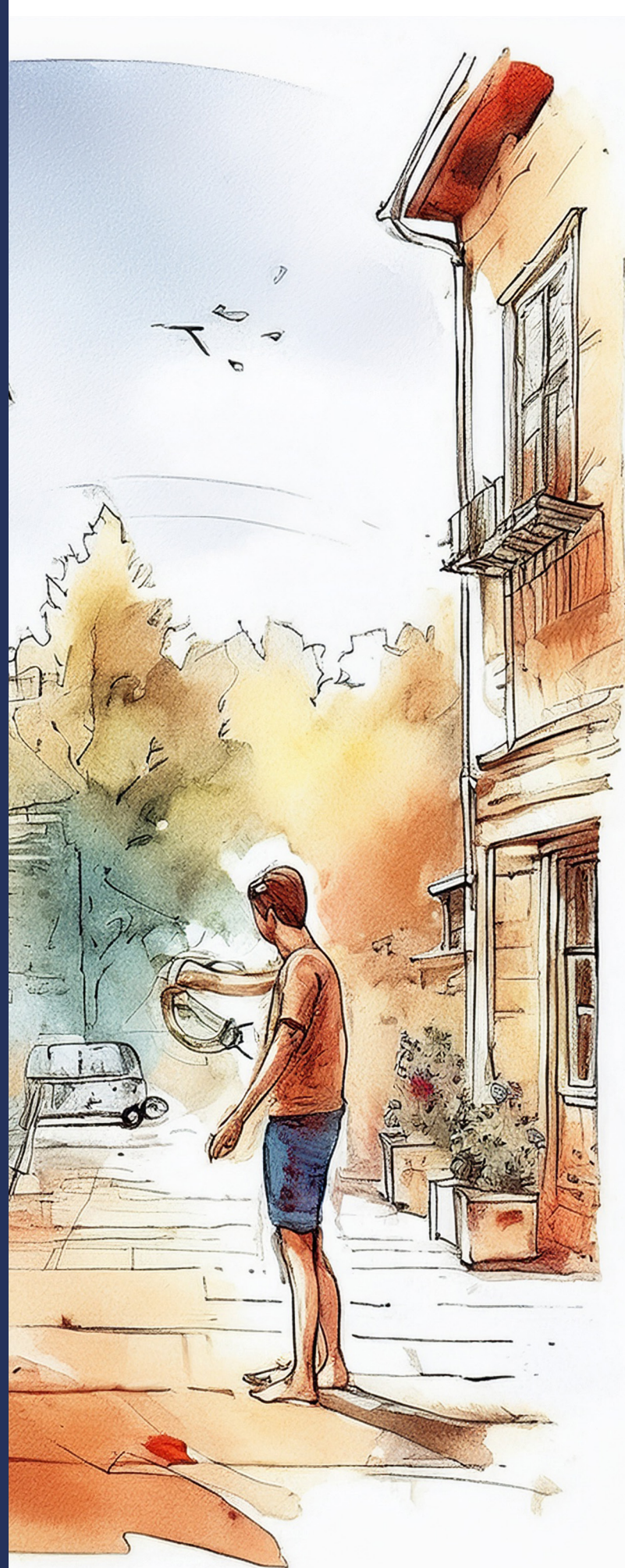
Jake's wise friend who enjoys sharing her insights about stewardship and generosity. She has a knack for using humor to teach serious lessons.

Mrs. Jenkins

A delightful and nurturing neighbor who embodies kindness and generosity, often sharing her home-baked treats to foster community spirit.

Key Words

Generosity, blessings



JAKE *(holding the boomerang)* Alright, Tina! Today's the day I perfect my boomerang skills! I'm going to throw it, and it's going to come right back to me!

TINA *(playfully)* Just like your generosity, right?

JAKE *(laughing)* Well, my generosity is a bit like my boomerang skills – sometimes it lands in the bushes!

TINA *(grinning)* Exactly! But here's the thing: When you throw out generosity, it's way more reliable than that boomerang.

JAKE *(confused)* Really? How so?

TINA *(leans in, as if sharing a secret)* Remember Proverbs 11:25? "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Toss out some generosity, and it'll come back to you, but this time, right on target!

JAKE *(nodding)* So, like a boomerang? I just have to aim it, right?

TINA *(smirking)* Yes! And instead of landing in the bushes, it'll come back with blessings!

JAKE *Jake takes a step back, preparing to throw the boomerang dramatically.*

(focused) Okay, watch this! I'm going to throw it like a pro! *(throws the boomerang, which wobbles and veers off course, landing in a bush)*

TINA *(laughing)* See? That's what I mean! Your boomerang skills are all over the place, just like your giving.

JAKE *(sighs, walking over to the bush)* Ugh, there it goes again! Maybe I should practice my aim!

TINA *(smirking)* Well, just like you need practice throwing that boomerang, you also need to practice giving!

JAKE *Jake pulls the boomerang out of the bush, covered in leaves.*

(grinning) I guess I'm just a little hesitant to let go! What if it doesn't come back?

TINA *(encouragingly)* But that's the beauty of generosity! You have to trust that it will come back, often in ways you least expect.

JAKE *(thoughtful)* Okay, so how do I start?

TINA *(gesturing grandly)* Start small! Give someone a compliment, help a neighbor, return your tithe, give your offerings or even share your pizza!

JAKE *(perking up)* Pizza? I can definitely do that!

Jake looks at the boomerang, then at Tina.



JAKE Alright, I'm going to give this a go! *(picks up a slice of pizza from a nearby table)* Here's a slice of my delicious pizza!

TINA *(laughing)* Now you're talking!

JAKE *Jake looks at Tina enjoying the slice of pizza.*

Look, Tina. Mrs. Jenkins is coming with a tray of cookies.

MRS. JENKINS *(cheerfully)* Hi, Jake and Tina! I just baked some cookies. Would you like one?

JAKE *(wide-eyed)* Wow, Mrs. Jenkins! You're here just in time! I was just practicing my generosity!

TINA *(playfully)* And he just threw out a slice of pizza!

MRS. JENKINS *(smiling)* Well, it sounds like your boomerang is already working! *(hands Jake a cookie)* Here's a cookie for your generosity!

JAKE *(grinning)* Whoa! This is amazing!

Jake takes the cookie and bites into it, looking thrilled.

(mouth full) This is the best cookie ever!

TINA *(laughing)* See? Just like Proverbs 11:25 says! You refresh others, and you get refreshed in return.

JAKE *(excitedly)* So, I'm on the right track! I should throw out more generosity!

TINA *(nodding)* Absolutely! And just think—next time, maybe you'll go bigger! A whole pizza party for the neighborhood!

JAKE *(beaming)* I'll be the boomerang king of generosity! *(throws the boomerang again, this time with more confidence)*

TINA What a smooth flight, Jake. It's coming right back to you. Right into your hands. *(cheering)* Yes! A perfect throw!

JAKE *(laughing)* It worked! Just like my generosity!

11. Leftovers for the Lord

Malachi 1:8

Theme

Giving to God should be our first priority.

Summary

In “Leftovers for the Lord,” Maggie, a well-meaning church volunteer, learns from witty elder Ron that God deserves her best, not just leftover food. Together, they decide to prepare a thoughtful feast, highlighting the importance of heartfelt generosity in service.

Key Text

Malachi 1:8 (NIV) – “When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the Lord Almighty.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV) – “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Story Line Setting

Maggie cheerfully cleans up the kitchen after a church potluck, overwhelmed but happy.

Characters

Maggie

An enthusiastic and somewhat scatter-brained church volunteer who loves to cook but often has a hard time prioritizing her time and resources. She has a big heart but tends to give God the scraps of her efforts.

Ron

A practical and witty church elder who is always ready to provide humorous insights. He often tries to encourage Maggie to see the value of giving her best instead of the leftovers.

Key Words

God first, leftovers



MAGGIE Oh boy, another church potluck down! Time to deal with all these leftovers! What to do with all this extra food? I mean, God knows I’m busy, right?

RON *Ron enters, wiping his hands on a kitchen towel and eyeing the leftovers.*

Looks like a feast fit for a king! Or perhaps a snack for the Lord?

MAGGIE *(grinning)* I’ve got some leftover green bean casserole, and oh, look! Some unidentifiable casserole that may or may not have been a hit. God loves leftovers, right?

RON *(chuckling)* “Well, I think we should offer Him a little more than what’s been sitting in the back of the fridge for a week! What if He prefers fresh offerings over last week’s mystery meal?”

MAGGIE *Maggie shrugs and continues packing food into containers, mixing and matching the leftovers.*

Come on, Ron! You know God can handle a little casserole chaos! He’ll take whatever I can give Him! It’s the thought that counts, right?

RON *(smirking)* Sure, but what if you’re giving Him your worst? Wouldn’t you want to serve Him something that reflects your appreciation and His amazing generosity?

MAGGIE *Maggie pulls out a burnt casserole dish, holding it up with mock seriousness.*

Well, this burnt casserole is definitely not going to make the cut, but...I could always give it to the Lord! ‘Here you go, God! A little charcoal for your blessings!’

RON *(laughing)* “I don’t think the Lord appreciates charred offerings, Maggie! Malachi 1:8 says He wants our best, not our leftovers!”

MAGGIE *Maggie pretends to present the burnt dish dramatically.*

Oh, Great Lord, we offer you this...um...sacrifice of charred casserole! It’s our own burnt offering. May it bring you joy and a good laugh!

RON *Ron chuckles, shaking his head.*

I think He might just laugh. But don’t you believe He deserves a little more thought behind our offerings and gifts? After all, we want to honor Him, not just go through the motions!

MAGGIE *Maggie pauses, considering Ron’s words, her expression shifting to one of reflection.*

You’re right. I should give Him my best! But how do I do that when I’m always running around trying to juggle everything?



RON *(nodding)* Colossians 3:23 reminds us to work at everything with all our heart, as if we’re doing it for the Lord. Maybe it’s time to plan ahead instead of just throwing Him the scraps! You could dedicate a day to cooking something special.

MAGGIE *Maggie looks thoughtful as she starts to gather the leftovers more mindfully.*

Okay! Maybe I can take some time this week to make a meal for the church instead of just using leftovers. Let’s make it a feast for God! Something that shows how much I care!

RON *(enthusiastically)* Now that’s the spirit! And I’ll help you! We can whip up something divine together! Imagine the joy of serving a delicious meal that truly reflects our gratitude.

MAGGIE *Maggie brightens at the thought.*

Yeah! No more mystery meals! We could make that famous lasagna everyone loves, and maybe some fresh bread!

RON Now you’re talking! And if we add a dessert, we might just create a heavenly spread! God deserves a banquet, not a buffet!

MAGGIE *(smirking)* Just promise me we won’t burn it this time! Remember last time? It took a fire extinguisher to save the kitchen!

RON *Ron grins, recalling the incident.*

No promises! But I’d rather serve Him our best than risk serving Him leftovers, even if it means we need to keep an eye on the oven this time!

MAGGIE *Maggie laughs, feeling motivated.*

Okay, I’m in! I’ll make sure to give God my best, not just the scraps. After all, if He can turn water into wine, I’m sure He can bless a little extra effort in the kitchen!

12. God's Divine Guarantee

Malachi 3:10

Theme

God challenges us to tithe and to prove that he will bless us.

Summary

In this drama, "God's Divine Guarantee," Lucy challenges Sam to test God's promise about tithing. As Sam navigates his doubts and fears, their humorous banter leads to unexpected revelations about faith, blessings, and the joy of giving.

Key Text

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) – "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in a cozy coffee shop. Sam is sitting at a table, sipping coffee while counting his money. Lucy enters, cheerful and animated.

Characters

Sam

A skeptical churchgoer who believes tithing is a waste of money and prefers to keep his earnings.

Lucy

An enthusiastic friend and fellow church member, who firmly believes in the blessings of tithing and challenges Sam to give it a try.

Key Words

Tithe, guarantee, trust



LUCY (*waving*) Hey, Sam! What are you doing? Counting your blessings?

SAM (*sighing*) More like counting my dollars. Tithing is just a way for the church to take my money!

LUCY (*laughing*) Oh come on! Have you read Malachi 3:10? God says to test Him on this!

SAM (*rolling his eyes*) Yeah, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse." But what if I bring my whole paycheck and end up broke?

LUCY (*grinning*) You won't! God promises to bless you! It's like a divine guarantee!

SAM (*smirking*) Divine guarantee? What's next? A money-back guarantee?

LUCY (*playfully*) Well, kind of! Just think of it as a "bless-back guarantee."

SAM (*laughing*) Okay, I'll bite! What do I do? Write a check for a million dollars?

LUCY (*giggling*) Not quite! Just start with a tenth of what you have. It's about faith and trust in God!

SAM (*leaning back*) You're telling me I should just hand over my hard-earned cash and trust that God's going to rain down blessings?

LUCY (*nodding vigorously*) Exactly! It's like planting a seed. You give a little, and God grows it into something amazing!

SAM (*smirking*) So, if I give ten bucks, I'll get a hundred back?

LUCY (*with a wink*) It doesn't always work like that, but you'll definitely experience a blessing!

SAM (*scratching his head*) Okay, but what if I give my tithe and then my car breaks down? That would be a real blessing killer!

LUCY (*laughing*) Well, you need to remember that blessings come in many forms. Maybe you'll get a great mechanic!

SAM (*pretending to consider*) Hmm... or maybe I'll just end up with a broken-down car and no money to fix it!

LUCY (*smiling*) Or maybe you'll find a way to fix it for free! You never know how God will work!

SAM (*grinning*) Alright, you've convinced me! I'll try it. But if I end up on the street, I'm blaming you!

LUCY (*mock-seriously*) Deal! Just remember, it's about obedience and trust, not just the money!

(*playfully*) Just think of it as an investment in your eternal future!

SAM (*pretending to ponder*) Hmm...I wonder if I can get a receipt for that?

LUCY (*winking*) No receipts, just blessings! Now, let's plan your first tithe!

13. Tithing Arithmetic

Malachi 3:10

Theme

10 percent means 10 percent.

Summary

In “Tithing Arithmetic,” Dad explains the concept of tithing to his child, only to find himself in a bind when his earnings and faithfulness in returning tithe are questioned. Through playful banter, they both learn an important lesson about stewardship and obedience to God’s commands.

Key Text

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in the living room. Dad is sitting on the couch, looking at some bills. Sam enters, holding a piggy bank.

Characters

Dad (Dave)

A well-meaning, but slightly flustered father who is trying to teach his child about tithing while managing his own financial honesty.

Child (Sam)

An inquisitive and clever child who is eager to understand the concept of tithing and isn’t afraid to ask tough questions.

Key Words

Tithe, faithfulness, obedience



SAM (*excitedly*) Dad! I learned about tithing today in Sabbath School! Could you tell me how you tithe?

DAD (*perking up*) Great question, Sam! Tithing is when we return 10 percent of what we earn back to God as an act of obedience and gratitude. I do it every week!

SAM (*curious*) Oh! How much did you give back last week?

DAD (*smiling*) I returned \$100 in tithe to our church.

SAM (*eyes wide*) Wow! So, if that’s 10 percent, you must have earned \$1,000!

DAD *Dad suddenly freezes, his face turning red.*

(stuttering) Well, um...you see...I actually earned... um...\$2,000 last week!

SAM (*giggling*) So, you’re telling me you only gave God \$100 on your \$2,000 income? That’s *(pauses to calculate)*... only 5 percent. I thought you said tithe was 10 percent.

DAD (*laughing nervously*) You’re right. Tithe on \$2,000 is \$200 but you know how it is – bills, groceries, ice cream...

SAM (*interrupting*) Ice cream?! That’s important too, but wouldn’t it be better to obey God?

DAD (*sheepishly*) You’re right...I should commit to being more faithful with my tithing.

SAM (*nodding*) Yeah! It’s like that verse in Malachi! God wants us to test Him and see if He’ll bless us!

DAD (*smiling*) You’re wise beyond your years, Sam! God has promised to open the floodgates of heaven if we are faithful in tithing. *(pauses)* Okay, I commit to returning my full tithe every week.

SAM (*raising the piggy bank*) And I’ll start returning a tithe on my \$10 allowance each week.

DAD (*leaning in*) You know, Sam, being obedient with our tithes is also about trusting God that He will provide for our needs. You caught me out and I set a bad example for you, but from now on, we’ll both be faithful in returning our tithes each week.

God's Crazy Math

Malachi 3:10

Theme

Trusting God and returning tithe unlocks unimaginable blessings.

Summary

Conrad is hesitant about returning \$200 in tithe due to his financial worries. With the help of Savannah and the quirky wisdom of Charles, he learns that God's mathematics defies logic.

Key Text

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a cozy church office. Conrad is fidgeting with two \$100 bills, looking nervous while sitting at a table. Savannah enters, full of energy and enthusiasm.

Characters

Conrad

A slightly anxious church member who's always worried about his finances and tends to hoard his resources.

Savannah

An optimistic and spirited church leader who believes wholeheartedly in the power of giving and God's promises.

Charles

A wise and humorous elder in the church, known for his quirky analogies and life experiences.

Key Words

Trust, blessings, faith, God's math



SAVANNAH *(cheerfully)* Hey, Conrad! What's with the serious face? You look like you just found out the church potluck is canceled!

CONRAD *(sighing)* Well, it's kind of the opposite of a potluck. I'm trying to decide if I should return my \$200 tithe this week. I earned \$2,000 this week and I'm still getting into the habit of tithing. But...what if I need the \$200 later?

SAVANNAH *(grinning)* Oh, Conrad! You're like a squirrel hoarding nuts for winter! You know God's math is crazy, right?

CONRAD *(raising an eyebrow)* Crazy? Like how? Last time I checked, my bank account doesn't grow on trees.

CHARLES *Charles, the wise church elder, enters with a cup of coffee in hand, overhearing the conversation.*

(with a chuckle) Did someone say "crazy"? I remember when I thought my savings would last forever. Turns out, my wallet was like a leaky bucket!

SAVANNAH *(laughing)* Exactly! Charles knows what I mean. Conrad, God can open the floodgates of heaven! Remember Malachi 3:10? "Test me in this," says the Lord.

CONRAD *(curiously)* God wants me to test him?

CHARLES *(emphatically)* That's right. Just as Savannah said, he promises to open the floodgates of heaven and pour blessings into our lives.

CONRAD *(nervously)* Floodgates? What if it's just a trick and I end up with nothing?

CHARLES *(winking)* Trust me, son. It's not a trick. It's a promise from God. I once gave away my last \$50 to a mission trip. I thought I'd be eating instant noodles for a month, but somehow, the fridge magically filled up!

CONRAD *(raising an eyebrow)* Instant noodles, huh? Sounds familiar.

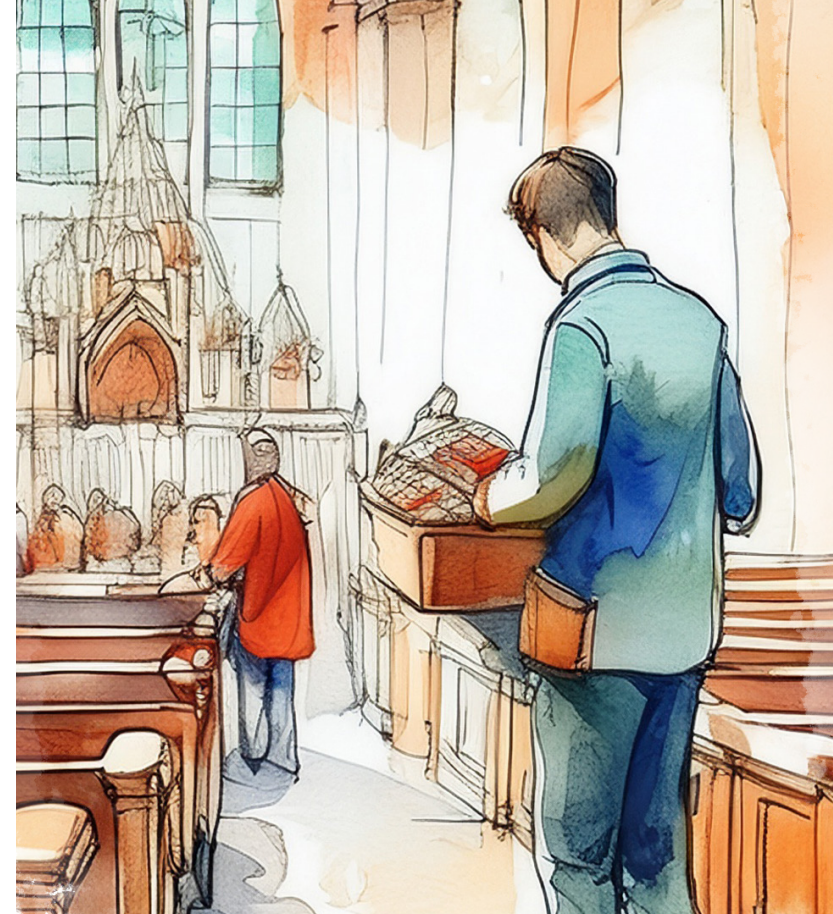
SAVANNAH *(leaning in)* See? It's about faith! It's like this: God can bless you in ways you can't even imagine. Ever seen those videos of people winning the lottery?

CONRAD *(smirking)* Yeah, but that's luck, not faith!

CHARLES *(grinning)* Ah, but here's the kicker – when you return your tithe, you're being obedient and investing in God's kingdom. It's not a gamble. The Bible says that you reap what you sow.

CONRAD *(thoughtful)* Seeds? I've never seen a seed grow into a money tree.

SAVANNAH *(playfully)* Well, maybe not a money tree, but a blessing tree! You might not see it immediately, but it'll grow. I promise you that. Well, God promises you that and he's much more reliable than I am.



CHARLES *(nodding)* You'll find that God's math doesn't add up like ours. It's more like multiplication. Give a little, and it comes back to you in ways you can't predict!

CONRAD *(nodding)* Okay, I see your point.

SAVANNAH *(enthusiastically)* So, are you ready to take the plunge and test God's crazy math?

CONRAD *(taking a deep breath)* Alright! Here goes nothing! (He places the two \$200 bill in Savannah's hands.)

CHARLES *(smiling)* That's right, Conrad! And remember, returning your tithe doesn't mean losing. Sure, you have less money. You started off with \$2,000 and after tithe you'll have \$1,800 left. But with God's crazy math you'll find that your \$1,800 goes further than the \$2,000 you started off with.

SAVANNAH *(beaming)* Welcome to the adventure in faith of tithing, my friend! Get ready for the blessings to flow!

CONRAD *(smiling)* You know what? I'm excited to see what happens!

CHARLES *(with a twinkle in his eye)* Just wait, my boy. You will end up with a flood of blessings – a new job, free coffee, who knows?

CONRAD *(laughing)* Free coffee would be nice. Just no instant noodles!

The three share a laugh, and the scene ends with Conrad feeling lighter and more optimistic about the future, leaving the audience with a humorous reminder of the joy and faith behind generous giving.

Hear the Blessings Dropping!

Malachi 3:10



Theme

God wants to pour blessings into our lives but is prevented from doing so by our reluctance to trust Him.

Summary

In “Hear the Blessings Dropping,” Ashley joyfully sings about God’s abundant blessings while Lisa questions their meaning. Through their conversation, they explore the importance of trusting God and tithing, realizing that faith opens the sluice gates for divine blessings in their lives.

Key Text

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Story Line Setting

The stage is set in a cozy living room. Ashley is humming a cheerful tune while preparing some snacks. She suddenly bursts into song.

Characters

Ashley

Ashley is full of joy and enthusiasm, often expressing herself through song. She believes in the abundance of blessings and shares her excitement with others.

Lisa

Lisa is practical and grounded, serving as the voice of reason for Ashley. With a thoughtful and analytical mindset, she asks questions to uncover deeper truths, challenging Ashley to consider the meaning of blessings and the importance of generosity.

Key Words

Tithe, blessings, windows of heaven, floodgates of heaven, abundance

ASHLEY (singing):
Hear the blessings dropping!
Listen while they fall;
Ev’ry one from Jesus,
He will give them all.

(Refrain:)

Dropping, dropping, dropping, dropping;
Hear the blessings fall!
Ev’ry one from Jesus,
He will give them all.
(to the tune of “Hear the Pennies Dropping”)

Lisa enters, looking puzzled.

LISA Ashley, what are you singing?

ASHLEY I’m singing “Hear the Blessings Dropping”! You remember that song from Sabbath School, right?

LISA Uh, I think you’ve got your wires crossed. It’s actually “Hear the Pennies Dropping!” (*exasperated, Lisa starts to sing the original song.*)

Hear the pennies dropping!
Listen while they fall.
Ev’ry one for Jesus,
He will get them all.

Remember now?

ASHLEY Well, you might be right, but I like my version better! God gives us so many blessings; it’s like they’re raining down from the sky! (*sings*)

Hear the blessings dropping! Listen while they fall.

LISA I’m still not convinced.

ASHLEY *Ashley sits down, excited to share her thoughts.*

There are so many verses in the Bible about blessings! One of my favorites is John 1:16: “From God’s abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.” Our God is a God of blessings – abundant blessings!

LISA What exactly is a blessing, Ashley?

ASHLEY A blessing is God’s favor! When God blesses us, He pours His favor into our lives.

LISA Do you think we play a role in how much blessing we receive from God?

ASHLEY That’s a great question! I believe we do. Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...”

LISA What’s a tithe?

ASHLEY God asks us to return 10 percent of our income to honor Him as the Creator and owner of everything. But wait, let me finish the verse!

LISA Okay, I’m listening.

ASHLEY Malachi 3:10 continues: “Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the Windows of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

LISA *Lisa looks intrigued.*

So, God is saying that if we faithfully return our tithes, He will open the Windows of Heaven and pour out blessings into our lives?

ASHLEY Exactly! God wants to give us blessings – blessings, blessings, blessings! (*sings*)

Hear the blessings dropping! Listen while they fall.

LISA Tell me more about these windows of heaven.

ASHLEY You’ll be impressed with my research! In the Old Testament, when the Bible talks about the “windows of heaven,” it actually refers to sluice gates.

LISA What’s a sluice gate?

ASHLEY You’re always asking questions! But it’s a good and important question. A sluice gate controls the flow of something, like water.

LISA Oh, I see! So, the sluice gate holds back water until it’s opened. Then, the water pours out!

ASHLEY Exactly! The amount of water depends on how many gates are opened and how big they are. It’s like God has an enormous reservoir of blessings behind those gates.

LISA *Lisa looks thoughtful.*

So, God has blessings piled up, ready to pour into our lives – just like all the water in a dam!

ASHLEY Yes! He desperately wants to pour blessings into our lives!

LISA Well, what’s stopping Him?

ASHLEY We are.

LISA What? Why would we stop God from giving us blessings? That doesn’t make sense!

ASHLEY (*frustrated*) But we do! We block God when we don’t trust Him to do what He says. Imagine I said to you, “Lisa, I’m going to pour blessings into your life!” What would you say?

LISA I’d be grateful but a little skeptical, since you don’t have much to give!

ASHLEY You’re right! I don’t have many assets. But remember Malachi 3:10 – God promises, “Put me to the test and see if I will not throw open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”



LISA So, God has so many blessings He wants to give us – spiritual blessings, love, compassion, and even a stress-free life! Blessings with my name on them?

ASHLEY Yes, that’s right. Blessings with your name on them. I could definitely use more of that stress-free life!

LISA God blesses us through our spiritual gifts, our health, and our jobs. What about blessings in our relationships?

ASHLEY You mean boys? (*giggles*)

BOTH Boys! (*they both laugh*)

ASHLEY God wants us to have happy relationships – not just with boyfriends but also with our parents and friends!

LISA (*Pause thoughtfully*) So it’s like the dam is holding back all the blessings God wants to pour into our lives!

ASHLEY And He’s eagerly waiting, ready to open the sluice gates!

LISA I want to trust God. I want to put Him to the test by returning my tithe and waiting for Him to pour out blessings into my life.

ASHLEY Me too! Let’s do it together!

Both sing joyfully.

BOTH Hear the blessings dropping!
Listen while they fall;
Ev’ry one from Jesus,
He will give them all.

(Refrain:)

Dropping, dropping, dropping, dropping;
Hear the blessings fall!
Ev’ry one from Jesus,
He will give them all.

BOTH Why don’t you all put God to the test by tithing faithfully? Then you can see how He pours out blessings into your life!

The Spiritual Bungee Jump

Malachi 3:10

Theme

Tithing is taking a leap of faith but with a guaranteed outcome.

Summary

In “The Spiritual Bungee Jump,” Ben grapples with the fear of tithing, likening it to bungee jumping. With Megan’s encouragement, he learns to take a leap of faith and discovers that trusting God with his resources leads to unexpected blessings.

Key Text

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens on a church stage decorated with colorful banners. Ben is standing near a makeshift bungee platform (a sturdy table), looking nervous. Megan enters, wearing a bungee cord around her waist and a big smile.

Characters

Ben

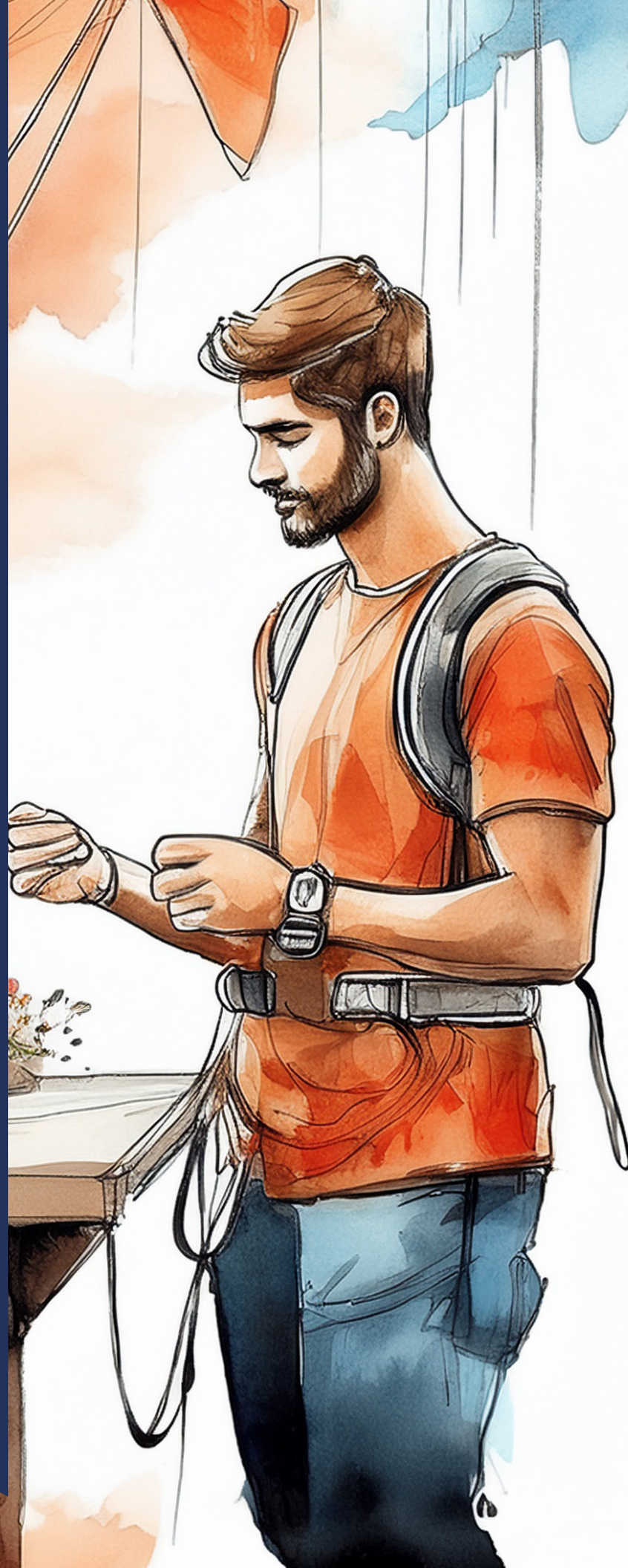
A cautious and slightly anxious church member who is hesitant about tithing and worries about the risk of returning 10 percent to God.

Megan

An adventurous and upbeat church volunteer who loves to encourage others to trust God and embrace tithing.

Key Words

Giving, tithe, faith, blessing



MEGAN (*cheerfully*) Hey, Ben! What’s with the serious face? You look like you’re about to jump off a cliff!

BEN (*gulping*) I might as well be! This tithing thing feels like standing on the edge of a bungee platform – my heart’s racing, I’m second-guessing everything, and I’m not sure the cord will hold!

MEGAN (*laughing*) Oh come on! It’s not that scary! Just think of it as a leap of faith!

BEN (*sighing*) A leap of faith? I don’t know, Megan. What if I jump and fall flat on my face?

MEGAN (*grinning*) That’s the beauty of it! In Malachi 3:10, God says, “Test me in this.” He’s inviting us to take the leap!

(*deliberately*) The leap of faith!

BEN (*raising an eyebrow*) Test Him? What if it turns out like my last attempt at cooking?

MEGAN (*chuckling*) Let’s just say the fire department was not impressed! But this is different! When you return your tithe, you don’t bounce back empty – you bounce back blessed!

BEN (*pondering*) Blessed, huh? But what if I jump and there’s no safety net?

MEGAN (*gently*) God is the safety net! Trust Him! The best part is, unlike bungee jumping, He promises an abundant return!

(*spreads arms wide*) He promises to open the floodgates of heaven.

BEN (*nervously*) But what if I can’t afford my snacks to live after I return my 10 percent?

MEGAN (*giggling*) Snacks? Ben, you’ll still have snacks! Think of it as investing in heavenly dividends!

BEN (*smirking*) Heavenly dividends? I like the sound of that... but what does that even look like?

MEGAN (*excitedly*) It’s like jumping off and realizing the cord stretches way higher than you thought! You’ll land on blessings you never imagined!

BEN (*taking a deep breath*) Okay, I’m gonna do it! I’ll take the leap! But if I end up broke eating three-minute noodles, you owe me a pizza!

MEGAN (*laughing*) Deal! Just remember, God’s got your back, and He loves a cheerful giver!

BEN (*climbing onto the table*) Here goes nothing! (*pretends to prepare for a jump*) I’m jumping into faith...and hopefully, not into three- minute noodles!

MEGAN (*cheering*) You got this! On the count of three – one, two, three!



BEN (*yelling*) Bungee jump for Jesus! (*jumps off the table, flailing dramatically*) Aaaahhh!

Ben lands safely on a soft mat placed below, and they both burst into laughter.

MEGAN (*clapping*) Look at you! You took the leap and didn’t bounce back empty!

BEN (*grinning*) I’m still here! And I feel...blessed!

MEGAN (*smiling*) See? Now you’re ready to jump into generosity!

BEN (*enthusiastically*) Who knew giving could feel this good? Next stop – heavenly dividends!



Life & Times of Jesus

17.

The Vaccine

Mathew 6: 19-21

Theme

Generosity is contagious.

Summary

In “The Vaccine,” Rebecca seeks to avoid the contagious spirit of generosity sweeping through Jericho, sparked by Zacchaeus’s transformation. Through humorous dialogue with her doctor, she learns to embrace generosity, realizing that true wealth lies in sharing God’s blessings with others.

Key Text

Matt 6: 19-21 (NIV) – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Story Line Setting

Rebecca, the main character, has seen people in Jericho succumbing to The Virus. She goes to the doctor and wants The Vaccine so that she can avoid catching The Virus.

The drama is an extension of the story of Zacchaeus.

Characters

Rebecca

A concerned and pragmatic woman, Rebecca is deeply invested in her family’s financial stability. She navigates the challenges of societal expectations and rivalries while grappling with her discomfort toward generosity.

Doctor

A compassionate and perceptive physician, the Doctor listens to Rebecca’s concerns. He balances professionalism with a touch of humor, providing insights into human behavior and generosity. His role is to guide Rebecca through her dilemmas while encouraging her to embrace a more generous mindset.

Key Words

Generosity, hoarding, selfishness

Rebecca enters the doctor’s surgery

DOCTOR Come in, Rebecca. It’s great to see you. What are you here for today?

REBECCA Can we speak confidentially?

DOCTOR Of course.

REBECCA *(speaking softly)* It’s about The Virus. *(pause)* Have you got a vaccine for The Virus?

DOCTOR Look before we get into medical things, how’s the family?

REBECCA My children, Isaac and Rachel, are really well. Mordecai is unhappy at the moment because its tax time and that scumbag Zacchaeus...oops, can I say that?

DOCTOR Scumbag is an appropriate medical term when it comes to describing that cheating traitor, Zacchaeus.

REBECCA Well, Zacchaeus came around about two weeks ago and was working out how much tax we had to pay. He asked Mordecai what the earnings were in our grocery emporium. So, Mordecai told him we earned 100 shekels in the last year.

Zacchaeus says, “Well the basic rate of tax is 40 percent – so that’ll be 50 shekels.”

DOCTOR Clearly, math isn’t his strong point!

REBECCA Mordecai looked bewildered and started trying to work it out on his fingers. But Zacchaeus kept talking “Then there’s your Employment Tax, Water Tax, Air Tax, Tin Tax. Then there’s Import Duty, Export Duty, Night Duty – that’s all another 30 percent”.

(pause)

Then he paused and pointed at me. “Is that your wife over there?” Zacchaeus sneered. Mordecai nodded.

Zacchaeus then says, “Well there’s another 10 percent for the Ugly Wife Tax. Altogether a total of 90 shekels’ tax so you have a whole 10 shekels for yourself to play with. Don’t spend it all at once, will you? *(laughs)*

DOCTOR *(emphatically)* How disgusting? He’s such a rogue and rip off merchant. And he works for the Romans. How could a Jew work for those oppressors?

REBECCA I just don’t know. Anyway, I don’t want to talk about that thief Zacchaeus. I came to talk to you about The Virus.

DOCTOR *(curiously)* The Virus? It’s not something that I’ve seen in my patients lately. Well, what are your symptoms?

REBECCA That’s the point. I don’t have it. I don’t have the Virus. Not yet anyway.

DOCTOR Well, why did you come to see me if you’re not sick?

REBECCA Everyone seems to be catching The Virus.

Even my best friend, Sapphira Jones.

We have this friendly rivalry. They get a new chariot; we get a new chariot. We renovate our house; they renovate their house and spend more than we do. Just last month my husband purchased a gold embroidered skull cap, so Ananias Jones goes and buys the same one.

It’s going to be hard keeping up with the Jones’, especially now that we have to pay all the tax to Zacchaeus.

DOCTOR I still don’t understand. What’s the problem?

REBECCA I just can’t understand her behavior. Sapphira has changed. All of a sudden.

Before, I knew exactly what she would do. Spend, spend, spend. Now...I just can’t explain it.

DOCTOR When did you notice her behavior change?

REBECCA About a week ago, I think.

DOCTOR *(pauses)* Let’s think...what happened around that time.

REBECCA Can’t think of anything significant. *(pause)* There was an article in the Jericho Morning Herald...

DOCTOR ...and Zacchaeus was on the front page? Something about him going mad? I only glanced at the article but it quoted him saying he was giving half his income to the poor and paying back four times the amount that he’d stolen from people.

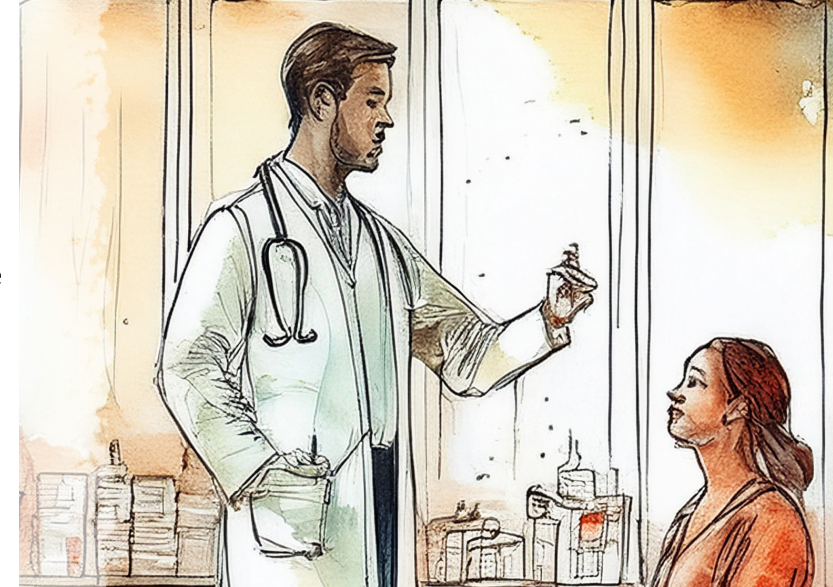
REBECCA Doesn’t sound like Zacchaeus to me. Maybe the journalist made the story up. But come to think of it, it was around the time that the article was published that Sapphira’s behavior started to change. And it wasn’t just her. Her husband started to behave differently, then their children. And another of our close friends. But it’s not just their family and friends. It’s people all over Jericho. They are all acting the same way.

DOCTOR What was so unusual about their behavior?

REBECCA Well, you remember the new hybrid Impreza chariot I told you that Ananias and Sapphira bought. They sold it. Sure, they had four other state-of-the art chariots, but this was their pride and joy. And then you’ll never believe what they did.

DOCTOR What did they do?

REBECCA They set up the Ananias and Sapphira Foundation for the Poor and Destitute Widows of Jericho. It’s so unlike them. Many of their friends have been influenced by their actions and are giving money as well. This benevolence stuff is like a virus. It so contagious and it’s like a tidal wave.



REBECCA But I don’t want to catch The Virus. I don’t want to be giving my money to the undeserving poor. We need to build our nest egg in case there’s another Global Financial Crisis.

DOCTOR Alright, let’s see if the symptoms you describe are in the Hypochondriacs Guide to Symptoms and Illness.

REBECCA The symptoms are a radical change in behavior, irrational and inexplicable giving, contented and happy disposition.

DOCTOR I found something which seems to fit.

REBECCA What’s the virus called?

DOCTOR Contagio Generoso. Contagio Generoso. (Con-tay-gio Gen-er-o-so).

It’s a virus that affects the person by having generosity as the center of their life; a life in which the person shares all he has as a demonstration of God’s love and a response to God’s grace. Put simply, it’s someone who has a God-inspired generous lifestyle.

REBECCA *(gets agitated)* But, but is there a vaccine for Contagio Generoso? I need the Vaccine.

DOCTOR No definitive antiviral remedies have as yet been discovered. The only thing that reduces the risk of infection is a regular dose of consumerism, followed by a reinforcing dose of materialism.

REBECCA I’m doomed.

(phone rings)

What, Mordecai? Zacchaeus is at our emporium and he want to give us back four times the amount of tax that he overcharged us! I just don’t understand.

Rebecca stands for a minute contemplating that Mordecai has told her.

If the Virus can change the behavior of the mean and greedy Zacchaeus, then maybe I don’t need the Vaccine after all. Let’s see who in our community needs some assistance.

18.

The Great Juice Bar Showdown

Matthew 6:20

Theme

God's loyalty program brings blessings.

Summary

In "The Great Juice Bar Showdown," Dave, a cheerful juice bar owner, discusses his loyalty program with Beth, a witty customer. Their playful conversation transforms into a meaningful dialogue about generosity, leading Dave to start a "pay it forward" initiative.

Key Text

Matthew 6:20 (NIV) – "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Story Line Setting

Dave is behind the counter of a vibrant juice bar, wearing a colorful apron and cheerfully blending fruits. He holds up a bright loyalty card.

Characters

Dave

An enthusiastic and cheerful juice bar owner, Dave is passionate about his business and loves engaging with customers. He embodies a lighthearted spirit and is eager to promote his loyalty program, but he is also open to deeper conversations about generosity and kindness.

Beth

A witty and insightful customer, Beth brings a playful yet earnest perspective to the conversation. Holding a Bible, she draws parallels between Dave's juice loyalty program and the concept of divine rewards, encouraging him to think beyond just sales and profit. Her character promotes themes of faith and the true value of giving.

Key Words

Loyalty, blessings, generosity



DAVE (*loudly*) Welcome to Juicy Delights! Have you signed up for our loyalty program yet? Buy 10 juices and get one free! It's like a refreshing treasure you can sip!

BETH Beth enters, holding a Bible in her hand, and approaches the counter.

A treasure, huh? Sounds like you're selling juice, not the Gospel!

DAVE (*grinning*) You'd be surprised! Everyone loves a good deal. Ten juices for a free one!

BETH (*raises an eyebrow, intrigued*) "You know, Dave, you might be onto something. It's like God has His own loyalty program – better than your juice scheme!"

DAVE (*confused*) God has a loyalty program? How does that work?

BETH (*playfully*) Well, every time you give, you're earning points in heaven! Imagine cashing in those points for eternal rewards instead of a free juice!

DAVE (*laughing*) So, like, every dollar I give is a juice point? What do I get? A golden blender?

BETH (*pulling out a paper cup and pretending to write on it*) Dear God, I'd like to redeem my points for...a lifetime supply of blessings!" she says. (*winking at Dave*)

DAVE And I want my juice to run over with extra mango!

BETH (*leaning in closer, her tone shifting to earnest*) But really, Dave, Matthew 6:20 says to 'store up treasures in heaven. Every act of kindness, every dollar given in love – those are the real heavenly treasures!

DAVE (*pauses while contemplating what Beth said*) So, it's like when I give someone my juice, I'm not just losing a cup; I'm earning heavenly points!

BETH (*emphatically*) Exactly! And trust me, those rewards are way better than a free juice!

DAVE (*enthusiastically*) Okay, I'm in! How do I sign up for this heavenly loyalty program? Do I get a card?

BETH No card needed. Just a heart willing to give!

DAVE *With a wink, Dave hands Beth a juice.*

Here's your juice on the house! Consider it my first point in the heavenly program!

BETH Awesome! Now let's see how many juices I can rack up before Sunday!

DAVE (*looking serious while leaning on the counter*) You know, Beth, I've been thinking. What if I start giving away more juice? Like, what if I just give a free cup to someone who looks like they need it?



BETH That's the spirit! Every cup you give is like a little treasure you're sending up to heaven. Plus, you never know how much that small act can brighten someone's day!"

DAVE You're right! I'll start a "pay it forward" juice day! For every 10 juices I sell, I'll give one away!

BETH Now that's what I'm talking about! You'll be racking up those heavenly points in no time!

DAVE And I'll make sure to tell everyone about the heavenly loyalty program! Who wouldn't want to earn rewards that last forever?

BETH Exactly! And remember, it's not just about the points; it's about the love behind the giving.

DAVE *Dave looks around the juice bar filled with customers.*

I guess we're all just trying to squeeze a little joy into this world, one juice at a time!

BETH And that's the best loyalty program of all!

The Celestial Retirement Plan

Matthew 6:20

Theme

Where are you storing your treasure?

Summary

In “The Celestial Retirement Plan,” characters explore the concept of eternal rewards versus earthly treasures. Through humorous exchanges, they learn that investing in acts of kindness and generosity builds a heavenly future, reminding them that true wealth lies in giving to others.

Key Text

Matthew 6:20 (NIV) – “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in Frank’s kitchen, cluttered with financial books and charts. Frank is excitedly calculating numbers on a large calculator. In his kitchen are baskets of produce from his garden.

Characters

Frank

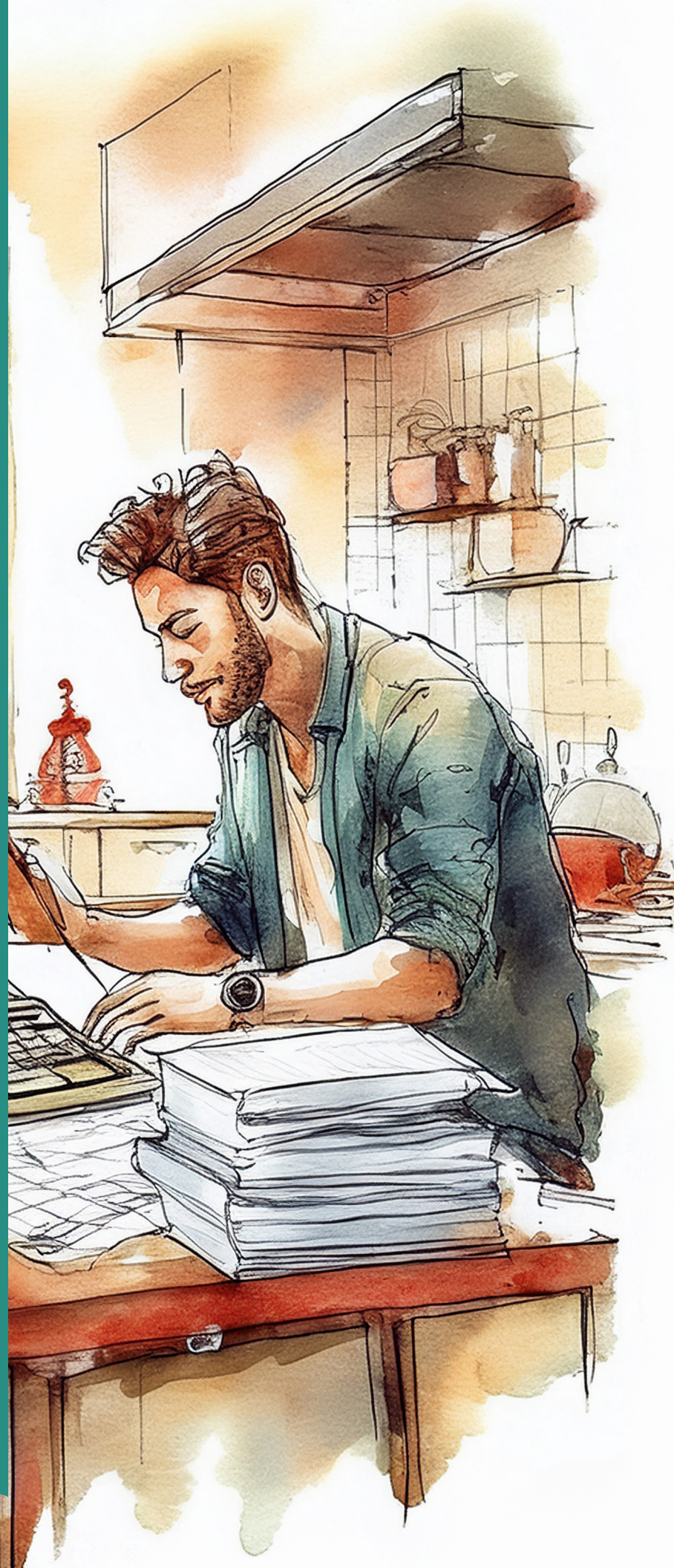
A jovial, middle-aged man who is obsessed with planning for retirement. He’s a bit of a financial guru in his own mind and loves to talk about investments, often with humorous exaggeration.

Beth

Frank’s neighbor, a wise and cheerful pensioner who believes in living generously. She enjoys Frank’s antics but often tries to steer him toward a more spiritual understanding of wealth and giving.

Key Words

Treasure in heaven



BETTY *(smiling)* Frank! What are you doing? Planning your escape to the Bahamas?

FRANK *(grinning)* Even better, Betty! Just like you told me, I’m setting up my retirement portfolio! I’ve got stocks, bonds, and I’m even thinking about cryptocurrency!

BETTY *(laughs)* Cryptocurrency? You do know that sounds like a fancy term for “money that might vanish into thin air,” right?

FRANK *(waving her off)* Pfft! It’s the future! But listen to this, Betty. I realized I need to double my investment if I want to retire in style!

BETTY *Betty takes a seat, intrigued.*

(curiously) And how do you plan to do that? More stocks?

FRANK *(leaning in)* No, no! I’ve come up with a brilliant idea! I’m going to treat every act of generosity like a “kingdom investment.” You know, like a celestial retirement plan!

BETTY *(raising an eyebrow)* A celestial retirement plan? That sounds...interesting.

FRANK *(excitedly)* Exactly! Just like saving for retirement, we need to store up treasures in heaven! *(gesturing dramatically)* Matthew 6:20 says, “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal!”

BETTY *(nodding)* That’s true! But how do you plan to do that?

FRANK *(enthusiastically)* Every time I give to the church or help someone in need, that’s like adding to my heavenly portfolio! I can just imagine the interest compounding up there!

BETTY Betty chuckles, trying to visualize Frank’s investment plan *(playfully)*. So, you’re saying that every gift you make is like putting money in your heavenly bank account?

FRANK *(nodding seriously)* Exactly! And if I give you two cabbages, I’ll be rich in heaven!

He takes a cabbage and pretends to deposit it into an imaginary bank.

BETTY *(laughing)* Just be careful, Frank. You might give away your profits before they mature!

FRANK *(grinning)* But think about it! Instead of worrying about the stock market crashing, I’m investing in something that never goes down!

BETTY *(smiling)* That’s a good point. Generosity is an investment that pays dividends...*(pause)* for eternity!

FRANK And I won’t even have to pay taxes on it!

Betty laughs heartily.



BETTY *(teasing)* Well, you better keep track of your heavenly dividends, because I hear the rewards are out of this world!

FRANK *(with a wink)* I’ll might be the richest guy in heaven! “Frank the Generous!”

BETTY *Betty claps her hands, pretending to be the audience at an award show.*

(cheerfully) And let’s not forget, “Betty the Blessed!”

They both laugh, and Frank starts to pretend he is giving a speech to an audience.

FRANK *(mocking a serious tone)* “Thank you, thank you! I couldn’t have done it without my wonderful neighbor, Betty! Remember, folks, generosity is the key to a fruitful retirement!”

Betty joins in, imitating the audience’s applause. (cheerfully)

They both laugh, enjoying the moment and the lesson of generosity.

FRANK *(smiling)* So, you’ll help me with my heavenly investments?

BETTY *(nodding)* Absolutely! Let’s make those “kingdom investments” together!

The Divine Investment Plan

Matthew 6:20

Theme

Giving is investing in God's Kingdom.

Summary

In this drama, Mark and Lucy discuss the concept of giving as a divine investment plan. Through humorous banter, they explore the benefits of investing in God's kingdom, highlighting the safety and returns of spiritual generosity.

Key Text

Matthew 6:20 (NIV) – “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in a church fellowship hall. Mark is sitting at a table, flipping through a financial magazine. Lucy enters, excitedly holding a colorful brochure labeled “Kingdom of Heaven Mutual Fund.”

Characters

Mark

A skeptical church member who is cautious about the idea of giving and investments.

Lucy

An enthusiastic and optimistic church volunteer who loves to share her insights about generosity and faith.

Key Words

Giving, heavenly returns



LUCY (*cheerfully*) Mark! Have you heard about the new investment plan everyone's talking about?

MARK (*raising an eyebrow*) Investment plan? You mean like stocks? Last I checked, I'm not ready to lose my shirt in the market!

LUCY (*giggling*) No, no! This is way better! Picture this: the “Kingdom of Heaven Mutual Fund.” The returns are out of this world!

MARK (*smirking*) Sounds like a sales pitch. What's the catch?

LUCY (*dramatically*) No catch! The CEO is God, and Jesus is your portfolio manager! There are no market crashes, and you can't lose your investment!

MARK (*sarcastically*) Oh great! So, my money is safe with heavenly dividends and no risk? What's next, unicorns?

LUCY (*laughing*) Well, not unicorns, but it is true! Remember Matthew 6:20? “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven!” This investment plan only grows!

MARK (*leaning in*) Okay, I'm listening. But how do I actually invest? Is there a form or something?

LUCY (*handing him the brochure*) Just start giving to God's work! It's like buying shares in joy, peace, and love!

MARK (*pretending to read the brochure*) “Invest today and get eternal returns!” (*pauses*) Sounds suspiciously like a late-night infomercial!

LUCY (*playfully*) Exactly! But this is the only infomercial where you won't regret your purchase!

MARK (*laughing*) So, if I give my money, I'm investing in heaven? I like the sound of that!

LUCY (*enthusiastically*) Yes! And think about it – no moths or thieves can steal your treasures! Unlike my old stock portfolio!

MARK (*nodding*) That's true. I lost a fortune in stocks last year. This sounds way safer!

LUCY (*grinning*) Exactly! And you'll be building up your spiritual portfolio with every act of giving!

MARK (*thoughtfully*) So, what's the minimum investment?

LUCY (*winking*) Oh, there's no minimum! Just give cheerfully! It doesn't matter if it's a little or a lot – what matters is your heart!

MARK (*chuckling*) Great! I'll start small, like investing in a pack of gum and calling it a “divine snack fund!”

LUCY (*giggling*) Every bit counts! And who knows? Maybe your “divine snack fund” will turn into a heavenly buffet!

MARK (*laughing*) Okay, I'm convinced! Sign me up for that heavenly investment plan!

LUCY (*clapping*) Welcome aboard! Let's make sure our investments are as rich as our faith!

The Porsche Predicament

Matthew 6:21

Theme

Where are you investing your treasure?

Summary

In “The Porsche Predicament,” car enthusiast Dave learns from his friend Sam that his obsession with his Porsche may distract him from what truly matters. Through humor and reflection, he decides to invest his treasure in generosity and faith, prioritizing God over materialism.

Key Text

Matthew 6:21 (NIV) – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV) – “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...”

Story Line Setting

A garage filled with car posters, tools, and, of course, Dave’s gleaming Porsche, which takes center stage. The atmosphere is lighthearted, with humorous undertones.

Characters

Dave

A self-absorbed car enthusiast in his 30s who is obsessed with his shiny red Porsche. He believes that owning the best car makes him superior and often neglects his spiritual life.

Sam

Dave’s wise and humorous friend in his late 20s, who often tries to remind Dave of the importance of faith and generosity. He uses humor to convey deep truths.

Key Words

Idolatry, generosity



Scene 1 - The Garage

DAVE *Dave is polishing his Porsche, speaking to it as if it's a beloved pet.*

(gazing lovingly at the car) Oh, my sweet Porsche, you're more than just a car. You're a symbol of success! People see you and think, “Wow, that Dave must have it all together!”

SAM *Sam enters, holding a cup of coffee, and raises an eyebrow at Dave's antics.*

(grinning) You do realize that car isn't going to help you when you're stuck in traffic on the way to church, right?

DAVE *(defensively)* Traffic? Pfft! This beauty can zoom past anything. Besides, who needs church when I have you, my shiny ride?

Scene 2: The Conversation

SAM *Sam shakes his head and approaches Dave, leaning against the car.*

You know, Dave, I get that you love your car, but what if it's taking your heart away from what really matters?

DAVE *(laughing)* Come on, Sam! It's just a car! It's not like I'm worshipping it!

SAM *(playfully)* Really? Because I've seen you spend more time with it than with God!

DAVE *Dave rolls his eyes, but a hint of guilt shows.*

Okay, maybe I do enjoy it a lot. But it makes me feel important!

SAM *(smirking)* Sure, but remember what it says in Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Your heart seems to be parked in this garage, buddy!

Scene 3: The Revelation

DAVE *Dave pauses, contemplating Sam's words. He looks at his car, then back at Sam.*

(sighing) You're right. I've been so focused on this car that I've been ignoring everything else, including God.

SAM *(encouragingly)* It's not too late, Dave! Why not use that treasure to help others? You could donate to a charity or even take a small group of us who don't have a means of transportation to church in style!

DAVE *(brightening)* You know, that could be fun! Imagine everyone's faces when I roll up in my Porsche!

SAM *Sam chuckles, imagining the scene.*

And you'd be spreading joy instead of keeping your treasure all to yourself!



Scene 4: The Decision

DAVE *Dave steps away from the car, looking determined.*

Alright, I'll do it! I'll take my friends to church in the Porsche, participate in tithe and offerings, and donate some money to help those in need!

SAM *(grinning)* Now that's the spirit! Just remember, it's about giving your best to God, not just to your car.

DAVE *(playfully)* So, what you're saying is, I should love God more than my Porsche?

SAM Exactly! And trust me, you'll feel a lot better sharing the love.

The Generous Engineer

Matthew 6:33

Theme

Put God first in everything.

Summary

In this humorous drama, Robert LeTourneau discusses his radical approach to generosity with his friend Frank, who questions his decision to give away 90 percent of his income. Through their banter, Robert illustrates the joy and blessings of stewardship.

Key Text

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) – “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in Robert LeTourneau’s workshop, filled with heavy machinery and blueprints. Robert is tinkering with a machine while Frank enters, looking puzzled.

Characters

Robert LeTourneau

A visionary businessman and inventor in his 40s, known for his innovative earthmoving machinery. He is deeply committed to his faith and believes in giving generously, often to the surprise of those around him.

Frank

Robert’s skeptical friend, a fellow businessman in his 40s, who questions Robert’s extreme generosity and worries about the financial implications of giving so much away.

Key Words

Generous giving, radical giving, Robert LeTourneau



FRANK (*scratching his head*) Robert, I just don’t get it. You’re making a fortune with this machinery business, and yet you’re giving away 90 percent of your income to God and other charitable causes? Are you trying to win the “Generous Guy of the Year” award?

ROBERT (*laughing*) Well, if there were such an award, I’d definitely be in the running! But seriously, Frank, it’s not about the award; it’s about honoring God with what I have and what he has given to me.

FRANK (*raising an eyebrow*) Honor God? You mean to tell me that you think giving away your money is going to help your business?

ROBERT (*smiling*) Absolutely! Matthew 6:33 says, “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”

FRANK (*skeptical*) So, you’re saying that by giving away your profits, you’ll somehow get more back? Sounds like a scam to me!

ROBERT (*chuckling*) Not quite! It’s more like a heavenly investment plan. When I give, I’m investing in God’s work. Plus, I can’t outgive God! I shovel money out, and God shovels it back...but God has a bigger shovel!

FRANK (*crossing his arms*) Okay, but what if that’s not the way things work out and you end up broke? You’ll be living in a cardboard box, eating beans for dinner!

ROBERT (*grinning*) Well, if that happens, I’ll just get a really nice cardboard box! But honestly, I trust that God will provide.

FRANK (*leaning in*) But what about your super yacht fund? You know, the one you keep talking about?

ROBERT (*laughing*) Ah, the yacht! I’ve realized that I don’t need a yacht to be happy. I’d rather see lives changed through my giving than sail around on a fancy boat!

FRANK (*smirking*) So, you’re saying you’d rather be a “Generous Engineer” than a “Super Yacht Owner”?

ROBERT (*nodding*) Exactly! Besides, I can always rent a yacht for a day if I really want to sail.

FRANK (*shaking his head*) You’re amazing, Robert. But I have to admit, your heart is in the right place.

ROBERT (*smiling warmly*) Thanks, Frank! It’s all about perspective. When I give, I’m not just giving money; I’m giving hope, education, and opportunities to others.

FRANK (*thoughtfully*) I guess I never looked at it that way. Maybe I should consider giving more too.

ROBERT (*encouragingly*) Absolutely! It doesn’t have to be 90 percent right away. Start small and see how it feels. You might just find joy in it!



FRANK (*grinning*) Alright, I’ll give it a shot. But if I end up living in a cardboard box, I’m blaming you!

ROBERT (*laughing*) Deal! Just remember, it’s all about seeking God first. The rest will follow!

They both laugh, and the scene progresses with Robert showing Frank some of his latest machinery designs, emphasizing the joy of giving and the blessings that come from it.

FRANK (*with determination*) Here’s to being generous engineers!

ROBERT (*raising an imaginary toast*) And here’s to trusting God with our resources!

Note:

This drama is loosely based on the life of Robert Letourneau.

A Heavenly Perspective: The Story of LeTourneau - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWISEioyTgw>

RG LeTourneau: Missionary generosity - <https://lightmagazine.ca/rg-letourneau-missionary-generosity/>

The Key Text was inscribed on Robert LeTourneau’s grave.

God blessed LeTourneau who held 299 patents throughout his life. These patents were primarily related to earthmoving equipment, manufacturing processes, and machine tools, showcasing his significant contributions to the construction and heavy equipment industries

Mover of Men and Mountains, book by R. G. LeTourneau

The One of the Least Challenge

Matthew 25:40

Theme

Generosity is love in action.

Summary

Tom is hesitant about giving to the church, focusing on his financial worries. Lisa challenges him to see the joy in generosity and reminds him that true giving comes from the heart, not just the wallet.

Key Text

Matthew 25:40 (NIV) – “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in at a church potluck lunch after a Saturday service. Tom is nervously fiddling with a \$100 bill in his hand, while Lisa fills her plate with snacks.

Characters

Tom

A slightly anxious church member who’s always worried about his finances.

Lisa

Tom’s spirited friend who believes in the power of generosity and is determined to help Tom overcome his fears about giving.

Key Words

Generosity, fear, heart, giving, faith



LISA (*noticing Tom*) Hey, Tom! What’s with the money in your hand? Planning to buy a new pair of shoes or something?

TOM (*sighing*) No, Lisa. I’m trying to figure out how much to give for the special offering for the needy this week. I know I should give, but... (*pauses*) I just don’t know if I can afford it.

LISA (*playfully*) But it’s just \$100! Remember what Matthew 25:40 says?

TOM (*looking puzzled*) What? That I should give my money to “the least of these”? I mean, what if I need it later?

LISA (*smirking*) Well, if you keep it, you might end up as one of the “least of these” when your bills come due!

TOM (*laughing nervously*) Very funny. But seriously, I worry that if I give too much, I’ll be broke and living off instant noodles!

LISA (*winking*) Instant noodles have their charm! But think about it this way: 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11 says God will bless us abundantly so we’ll be enriched in every way to live generous lives and that we should be generous on every occasion. It’s a God-ordained cycle!

TOM (*sighing*) A cycle? I’m not sure about that. Right now, it feels more like a rollercoaster of anxiety.

LISA (*encouragingly*) Okay, let’s think of it this way. What if you give this \$100? You’re not just giving it away; you’re investing in something bigger than yourself!

TOM (*hesitating*) Like what?

LISA (*gesturing grandly*) Like helping those in need! When you give, you’re doing it for God, not just the church. You’re feeding the hungry, providing for the least of these!

TOM (*pondering*) I guess that’s true. But what if my generosity goes unnoticed?

LISA (*smirking*) You mean like when you washed up the dishes for the potluck lunch last week? I think it went unnoticed! (*laughs*)

TOM (*chuckling*) Okay, okay! Point taken!

LISA (*leaning in*) Look, Tom. It’s not about being recognized; it’s about making a difference. Plus, you’ll feel good knowing you’re doing something meaningful!

TOM (*softening*) You really think so?

LISA (*nodding enthusiastically*) Absolutely! And think of the gratitude it’ll bring to those you help! Just imagine someone receiving your gift and saying, “Thank you, God, for people like Tom!”

TOM (*smiling*) Alright, you’ve convinced me. I’ll give the \$100.



LISA (*cheering*) Yes! And who knows? Maybe you’ll be inspired to give a bigger proportion of my income in the future!

TOM (*grinning*) I like the sound of that! But let’s not get ahead of ourselves. One step at a time, right?

LISA (*playfully*) One generous step at a time! Just remember, generosity is love in action.

TOM (*holding up the \$100*) Here goes nothing! (*pauses*)

The scene ends with Tom walking toward the offering basket, feeling empowered by Lisa’s encouragement, ready to embrace the joy of giving, while Lisa follows, playfully nudging him along.

The Rich Young Ruler Rethink

Mark 10:21

Theme

The Rich Young Ruler has a change of heart.

Summary

In this humorous drama, the Rich Young Ruler seeks advice from Jesus on eternal life. As he discusses his struggle to give up his wealth with his friend Nathan, they engage in a lighthearted conversation about priorities, generosity, and the true meaning of life.

Key Text

Mark 10:21 (NIV) – “Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a bustling marketplace, with the Rich Young Ruler standing proudly by a stall, admiring his luxurious robe. He is examining the fine fabric and jewelry, clearly pleased with his possessions. Nathan, his friend, approaches, looking amused.

Characters

Rich Young Ruler

A confident young man in his 30s, dressed in fine clothes, who is eager to learn from Jesus but struggles with the idea of letting go of his wealth and status.

Nathan

The ruler’s witty and down-to-earth friend in his 30s, who enjoys a simpler lifestyle and often challenges the ruler’s views on money and possessions.

Key Words

Generosity, treasure in heaven, mindset change



NATHAN (*grinning*) Well, well! If it isn’t the man of the hour! How does it feel to be rich and young? You must be the envy of everyone in town.

RICH YOUNG RULER (*smirking*) Feels great, Nathan! But I’m feeling a bit...unsettled, I guess. I just had a rather peculiar encounter with Jesus, and He said something that’s been rattling around in my head ever since.

NATHAN (*raising an eyebrow*) Jesus? The one who told you to “sell everything you have and give to the poor”? Did He also suggest you start a lemonade stand to make up for the lost income?

RICH YOUNG RULER (*rolling his eyes*) Very funny! But seriously, He told me I lack one thing. He said I should sell all my possessions and give to the poor, and then I would have treasure in heaven!

NATHAN (*laughing*) Well, that’s one way to lighten the load! But are you really considering it? I mean, you’ve worked so hard to accumulate all of your wealth and status.

RICH YOUNG RULER (*sighing*) I don’t know, Nathan. It’s not just about the money; it’s my identity, my way of life. I’ve always been the “rich young ruler,” you know?

NATHAN (*smirking*) Ah, the classic “identity crisis.” Is your identity tied to your bank account or your character?

RICH YOUNG RULER (*pondering*) I guess I thought they were one and the same. But Jesus made it sound like I should be more concerned about treasure in heaven than treasure on earth.

NATHAN (*nodding*) Smart guy, that Jesus! But let’s be real—how would you even start? What’s the plan for getting rid of all your possessions?

RICH YOUNG RULER (*shrugging*) I suppose I could sell my fancy V8 chariot, but I’d miss the compliments.

NATHAN (*grinning*) How about we sell it and upgrade to a donkey? You’ll still get the compliments, just with more “down-to-earth” flair!

RICH YOUNG RULER (*laughing*) A donkey? That’s a downgrade! I can’t imagine myself riding around on a humble donkey.

NATHAN (*playfully*) Think of it as a “humility upgrade.” Plus, think of all the people you could help if you sold your assets and gave the proceeds to the poor!

RICH YOUNG RULER (*frowning*) But what if I end up with nothing? I’d be poor and riding a donkey, with no status or wealth to my name.

NATHAN (*smirking*) Well, it’s better than being rich and lonely! Besides, who says you’ll end up with nothing? Jesus promised treasure in heaven!

RICH YOUNG RULER (*thoughtfully*) Treasure in heaven...That sounds appealing, but can you really take it with you when you go?

NATHAN (*grinning*) No, but you can send it ahead! Every act of kindness and generosity is like a deposit in your heavenly bank account!

RICH YOUNG RULER (*smiling*) You make it sound easy, but I can’t help but wonder if I’m just not cut out for this kind of radical lifestyle change.

NATHAN (*encouragingly*) It’s not about being perfect; it’s about taking the first step! Start small – give away some of your extra clothes, donate to the local charity or community services

RICH YOUNG RULER (*nodding*) I could do that, I suppose. Maybe it’s time to start rethinking what really matters in life.

NATHAN (*lightheartedly*) And if you ever find yourself in need of a good donkey, you know who to call! I’ll even throw in a free carrot or two.

They both laugh, and the scene progresses with the Rich Young Ruler feeling more determined to make a change, while Nathan playfully nudges him toward a more generous mindset.

RICH YOUNG RULER (*with newfound enthusiasm*) You know, Nathan, I think I’m going to take Jesus’ advice to heart. It’s time for me to re-evaluate my priorities and start living a life of true generosity.

NATHAN (*grinning*) That’s great to hear, my friend! I’m proud of you for being open to this challenge. It won’t be easy, but I know you’ve got what it takes to make a real difference.

RICH YOUNG RULER (*nodding*) It’s going to be a big adjustment, but I feel a sense of excitement and purpose. I want to use my wealth to bless others and store up treasure in heaven.

NATHAN (*enthusiastically*) That’s the spirit! And who knows, maybe you’ll even inspire others to follow in your footsteps. Imagine the ripple effect your generosity could have!

RICH YOUNG RULER (*smiling*) I’m ready to take that first step. Let’s start planning how I can start giving and making a real impact in our community.

NATHAN (*raising an imaginary toast*) Here’s to new priorities and giving generously! May your heart be filled with joy as you learn to let go of the earthly treasures.

RICH YOUNG RULER (*raising an imaginary glass*) And here’s to riding donkeys into the sunset of generosity! I can’t wait to see where this journey takes me.

The Widow's Wise Mite

Mark 12:43-44

Theme

True giving is from the heart.

Summary

In this humorous drama, Widow Mary and Simon engage in a lighthearted conversation about giving. As they discuss the story of the widow's mite, Mary teaches Simon that real generosity comes from the heart, not the size of the gift.

Key Text

Mark 12:43-44 (NIV) – “Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on.’”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a bustling church lobby after a service. Widow Mary, wearing a bright scarf and a big smile, is counting her meager coins in a small pouch. Simon enters, flaunting his new watch.

Characters

Widow Mary

A cheerful and wise widow in her 60s who embodies generosity despite her limited means. She has a knack for finding humor in life's challenges and a deep faith that guides her actions.

Simon

A skeptical churchgoer in his 30s, always boasting about his wealth and generosity, who becomes intrigued by Widow Mary's seemingly insignificant gift.

Key Words

Giving, intentionality



SIMON (*boasting*) Well, well, if it isn't Mary! How did you enjoy the worship service? I hope you saw me making a large donation again. My generosity is practically legendary!

WIDOW MARY (*chuckling*) Legendary, eh? Is that what they call it when you make a donation that's bigger than the budget of a small country?

SIMON (*grinning*) Touché! But seriously, I'm helping the church! What's a little extra donation when you've got a hefty bank account?

WIDOW MARY (*playfully*) It's not about the size of the donation, Simon. It's about what's in your heart.

SIMON (*smirking*) My heart is filled with generosity! I mean, look at my watch! It's practically gold!

WIDOW MARY (*giggling*) I'm not sure I understand. How does that help the poor? I think they'd prefer a warm meal over your shiny watch any day!

SIMON (*scoffing*) Come on, Mary! I give more than anyone else in this church! What could you possibly offer that's worth anything?

WIDOW MARY (*smiling warmly*) Well, I just put in my two mites into the treasury.

SIMON (*raising an eyebrow*) Two mites? What are those, some kind of bug?

WIDOW MARY (*laughing*) No, dear Simon! Mites are coins! They're small, but the value is in the intention!

SIMON (*confused*) Small coins? But that's barely enough for a cup of coffee!

WIDOW MARY (*nodding*) Exactly! But remember the story of the widow's mite? Jesus said that I gave more than the wealthy because I gave all I had.

SIMON (*skeptically*) So you're saying that your two little coins are worth more than my big donations?

WIDOW MARY (*playfully*) Well, when you give from your abundance, it's like tossing a pebble into the ocean. But when I give my last two coins, it's like dropping a whole bucket of faith!

SIMON (*scratching his head*) A bucket of faith? Now that's a new one!

WIDOW MARY (*grinning*) Yes! And you know what? God doesn't measure our gifts by their size, but by our willingness to give.

SIMON (*thoughtfully*) Hmm, I guess I never thought of it that way. I've always thought that God would be impressed by the size of my donation.

WIDOW MARY (*gently*) Exactly! It's not the size of the donation. It's about the heart behind the gift.



SIMON Alright, I'll give it a try. I want to find ways to give more meaningfully!

WIDOW MARY (*playfully*) Just make sure that whatever you give comes from the heart!

They both laugh, and the scene progresses with Mary playfully demonstrating how to give with joy, while Simon contemplates how to be more generous.

SIMON (*with determination*) Here's to giving with all our hearts!

WIDOW MARY (*raising an imaginary cup*) And here's to the power of the little things!

SIMON *Simon pauses, contemplating Mary's words.*

You know, I think I've been missing the point all along. It's not just about the money; it's about the impact we can make.

WIDOW MARY (*nodding*) That's right! Every little act of kindness adds up. Just think about how two small coins can represent so much love and sacrifice!

SIMON (*inspired*) I want to start looking for ways to give back, not just with money, but with my time and talents too.

WIDOW MARY (*beaming*) That's wonderful, Simon! Let's brainstorm some ideas!

SIMON (*enthusiastically*) How about we organize a meal drive for those in need? I can use my connections to gather resources!

WIDOW MARY (*clapping her hands*) Yes! And I can bake some treats to share!

They begin to plan, their excitement growing as they discuss how they can make a difference.

SIMON (*smiling broadly*) Who knew that a conversation about coins could lead to something so meaningful?

WIDOW MARY (*winking*) Sometimes it takes a little humor and a wise mite to spark a heart of generosity!

Scooped by God

Luke 6:38

Theme

God wants to pour blessings into our lives but is limited by the level of our generosity to God and others.

Summary

In “Scooped by God,” sisters Lisa and Ashley receive a mysterious box with Smarties and scoops, leading to a humorous discussion about generosity. Through playful banter and instructions, they learn that their blessings from God are tied to their willingness to give generously.

Key Text

Luke 6:38 (NIV) – “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Story Line Setting

The Scene takes place in a bright and cheerful kitchen or living room, where two sisters, Lisa and Ashley, stumble upon a mysterious package labelled “Special Delivery.”

Characters

Lisa

The cheerful and optimistic sister, Lisa exhibits a strong sense of generosity. She encourages Ashley to consider the implications of her actions and embodies the spirit of giving throughout the drama.

Ashley

The competitive and spirited sister, Ashley initially focuses on her own desires but learns the value of generosity. Through her interactions with Lisa, she discovers the deeper meaning of blessings and reciprocity in their relationship with God.

Key Words

Giving, measure

LISA Look Ashley, there’s a box here with our names on it.

ASHLEY It says, Special Delivery, “To Ashley and Lisa Campbell.”

LISA (*perplexed*) That’s so mysterious. Who would be sending us a present? I wonder what’s inside?

ASHLEY There’s no sender’s name on the parcel. Let’s open it.

LISA There’s two small bowls and a big bowl filled with Smarties. I love Smarties so much.

Lisa hands the two bowls to Ashley and holds up the big bowl of Smarties

ASHLEY *Ashley puts the bowls down and looks into the box.*

There’s also a big scoop (*holds up the big scoop*) and a small one as well (*holds up the small scoop*).

LISA This is a bit of a mystery, Ashley. Why would anyone send us these Smarties, bowls, and scoops?

ASHLEY I have no idea. Did you check and see if there’s anything else inside?

LISA *Lisa opens the lid of the box.*

Look. There are some pretty envelopes here (*holds up the bundle of envelopes and hands them to Ashley*)

ASHLEY All the envelopes are numbered. This is getting interesting.

LISA (*excitedly*) Let’s open the first one, Ashley?

ASHLEY Here’s the first envelope. It says First Instruction (*holds up the paper and reads*). You have received two bowls, two scoops – one large, one small - and a bowl of Smarties. You will each be entitled to three scoops of Smarties each. Yippee. I can’t wait to start eating my Smarties.

LISA *Lisa reaches out and grabs the largest scoop; Dances around, waving the big scoop.*

Guess who’s going to get the most Smarties? (*repeat*)

ASHLEY Oh, come on Lisa. I deserve the biggest scoop.

LISA Why do you deserve the biggest scoop? (*Lisa says this while waving the scoop in Ashley’s face*) Why do you deserve the biggest scoop, Ashley?

ASHLEY Well, I like Smarties more than you do?

LISA Says who? (*waves the big scoop in Ashley’s face again*) Says who?

ASHLEY I can eat a 180-gram packet of Smarties in 4.36 seconds? How fast can you eat a packet?

LISA Well, you beat me on that one. My fastest time is 5.2 seconds. But my, SMBI, my Smarties Body Mass Index ratio, is better than yours, if you remember correctly.

ASHLEY Yeah, you got me.

LISA (*picks up the envelopes*) We forgot about the envelopes. Here’s envelope No. 2.

ASHLEY Well, what does it say?

LISA Second Instruction If you are unable to agree who has each scoop, the oldest will get first choice of the scoop (*pause*). That’s not fair. (*holds up the largest scoop out of Ashley’s reach*)

ASHLEY Give it to me, Lisa, I’m older than you! (*Ashley demands the big scoop*) The instructions said that as I’m the eldest and smartest child that I can choose which scoop I want. And I choose the big scoop! Give me the big scoop now!

LISA Alright, Ashley. Here’s the scoop .

Lisa hands Ashley the big scoop and then sadly and reluctantly picks up the small scoop.

ASHLEY Why the sad face, Lisa?

LISA You know. I was hoping to get more Smarties than you. I just love Smarties so much.

ASHLEY (*Pause*) Seeing you like Smarties so much, how about I give you the big scoop?

LISA Would you do that for me, Ashley? You’re such a wonderful sister.

ASHLEY Here’s the big scoop, Lisa

Ashley hands Lisa the big scoop while Lisa hands over the small scoop

LISA There’s one more envelope. Let’s open it up and see what it says. Third Instruction Read Luke 6:38 NIV.

Lisa looks at the Bible on her phone and reads.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (*repeat*)

ASHLEY I wonder what that means? “For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (*repeat*)

LISA It seems to be a spiritual law. If we give generously then God will be generous in blessing us. But if we’re not generous to God, then we limit our blessings. It’s the law of Reciprocity.

ASHLEY What else do the instructions say?

LISA The instructions say, “Now that you’ve read Luke 6:38, swap the scoops.” What? Swap the scoops? (*pause*) Well, if that’s what the instruction says, there must be a good reason to do so.



Lisa reluctantly hands the big scoop to Ashley

ASHLEY Thanks, Lisa. (*holds up the big scoop, but not in a triumphant way*). I suppose I’d better get my three big scoops of Smarties now.

LISA I was just thinking about Luke 6:38. It says, “For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” That’s what happened here, Ash. You were so generous in giving me the big scoop and because of your generosity you will receive the biggest amount of Smarties.

ASHLEY That’s how it is with God too. So often when we give, we give God leftovers or use the little scoop, when we really should be using the big scoop. So, God blesses us using the same measure we use. He wants to use the big scoop and pour out so much blessing that we won’t have room to receive it, but so often we use the small scoop in giving to God and others. It’s the Law of Reciprocity.

LISA So, what you’re saying is that we limit how much God blesses us by not living generous lives. If we were more generous, then it would allow God to be more generous toward us.

ASHLEY That’s the way I see it. God wants to bless us so much, (*use expansive gesture*) but we limit him. God is a giver, an extraordinarily extravagant giver, and He wants us to be like him, but we let him down so many times.

LISA Wow, that’s crazy. So, we’re really robbing ourselves when we’re not generous toward God. I never thought of it that way before.

The Last-Minute Offering

Luke 6:38

Theme

Giving should be planned and intentional, not just last-minute.

Summary

Gary remembers at the last minute that he needs to give an offering but is unprepared.

Key Text

Luke 6:38 (NIV) – “Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a church lobby just before the service starts. Gary is anxiously checking his watch, looking around for Emma.

Characters

Gary

A procrastinator who always seems to forget about important commitments, especially when it comes to giving offerings.

Emma

Gary's supportive and organized friend and flatmate who believes in the importance of planning and intentional giving.

Key Words

Procrastination, giving, planning, intentionality, friendship



GARY (*muttering to himself*) I can't believe I forgot again! How does this keep happening? I'm going to miss giving to our annual "Thank You Jesus" offering again!

EMMA *Emma enters, holding a coffee cup and smiling.*
(*cheerfully*) Hey, Gary! Ready for the service?

GARY (*frantically*) No! I just realized I haven't prepared my "Thank You Jesus" offering! I thought I had more time!

EMMA (*playfully*) You mean you didn't plan ahead? It's like waiting until the last minute to study for a final exam!

GARY (*groans*) Don't remind me! It's like I'm doomed to be the King of Last-Minute Decisions.

EMMA (*laughing*) Well, what do you have?

GARY (*digging through his pockets*) I've got...(pulls out a crumpled \$20 note) this!

EMMA (*playfully*) A twenty? That's like bringing a spoon to a feast!

GARY (*defensively*) It's better than nothing!

EMMA (*smirking*) True, but remember, Luke 6:38 says that our giving should be generous. If you want to bless others, you have to plan for it!

GARY (*sighs*) I know, I know. But every time I say I'll set aside money for offerings, something comes up!

EMMA (*nodding*) I get it. Life can be unpredictable. But if you don't plan, you'll keep scrambling like this!

GARY (*rubbing his forehead*) I feel like I'm not being a faithful steward. What's your brilliant solution to help me plan my future offerings and giving?

EMMA (*enthusiastically*) How about we set a monthly offering goal together? We can even make it a fun challenge!

GARY (*intrigued*) A challenge?

EMMA (*grinning*) Yes! We can create a "Giving Jar" at home. Each week, we put in a percentage of our income. By the end of the month, we'll have something substantial to give!

GARY (*perking up*) That actually sounds doable!

EMMA (*encouragingly*) And it'll take the stress out of last-minute giving. You'll feel good knowing you've planned for it!

GARY (*nodding*) Okay, I'm in! But what if I forget again?

EMMA (*winking*) We'll create reminders! Maybe even set a calendar alert. "Don't be a last-minute Gary!"

GARY (*chuckling*) I guess I could use a little nudge.

EMMA (*playfully*) Plus, we can hold each other accountable. Imagine the joy of giving intentionally instead of rushing at the last second!



GARY (*laughing*) Alright! I'll be the organized Gary instead of Gary the procrastinator!

EMMA (*smiling*) That's the spirit! Let's make this a fun journey together, and who knows? We might inspire others to do the same!

GARY (*holding up the \$20 note*) Well, I guess I'll still put this in the "Thank You Jesus" offering today. It's not much of a thank you to Jesus, but it's something, right?

EMMA (*cheerfully*) Absolutely! It's all about the heart behind it. Maybe you could put some more in next week if you'd like to be more thankful. Just remember, next time you'll be ready!

The scene ends with Gary feeling relieved and excited about their new plan, as they walk into the service together, chatting about their future giving adventures.

The Divine Dollar Menu

Luke 6:38

Theme

God wants us to supersize our giving and our blessings.

Summary

In “The Divine Dollar Menu,” Sam compares giving to fast food choices, encouraging generous donations beyond the “spiritual dollar menu.” With playful banter, he highlights that God wants us to “supersize” our giving for eternal blessings and joy.

Key Text

Luke 6:38 (NIV) – “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in a cozy living room. Sam is lounging on the couch with a bag of fast food, munching on fries. Lisa enters with a puzzled look, holding a brochure about a charity event.

Characters

Sam

A quirky, lighthearted man who loves fast food and enjoys making analogies about life. He often uses food-related humor to convey deeper truths about generosity and stewardship.

Lisa

Sam’s more serious friend, who is thoughtful and sometimes skeptical of Sam’s humor. She believes in generosity but often struggles to see the connection between giving and receiving blessings.

Key Words

Generosity, blessings



LISA (*frowning*) Sam, why do you always have fast food? Don't you think it's time for something healthier?

SAM (*grinning*) Why be healthy when you can be happy?

LISA Really. So, you prefer happiness to your health? Fast food seems to dominate your life.

SAM Exactly. Fast food stimulates my thinking. I've got a new theory: giving is just like choosing from a fast food menu!

LISA (*raising an eyebrow*) A fast food menu? Here we go again...

SAM (*excitedly*) Think about it! You pull up to the drive-thru, and they ask, “Do you want to supersize that?” Well, God’s asking us the same thing about our giving!

Lisa looks intrigued but skeptical.

LISA (*curiously*) Go on...

SAM (*gesturing animatedly*) We're tempted to stick to the “spiritual dollar menu,” giving just a little – like a small fries and a drink! But God’s saying, “Why not supersize it?”

He pretends to hold a giant burger, mimicking the drive-thru experience.

SAM (*in a fake deep voice*) “Would you like to go for the deluxe combo, with extra blessings on the side?”

LISA (*chuckling*) Okay, I see your point. But what does that really mean?

SAM (*leaning closer*) Luke 6:38 says, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over...”

He pretends to shake a giant cup.

(enthusiastically) That’s like getting a large drink and they fill it to the brim – no, overflowing! God wants us to experience abundance, not just the bare minimum!

LISA (*smiling*) So, you’re saying if I give generously to God and others, I’ll get blessed back?

SAM (*nodding*) Exactly! Imagine God as the ultimate drive-thru manager saying, “You can have more than just a dollar menu item! Get the whole meal!”

LISA (*laughing*) I guess it’s time to stop being a “spiritual penny pincher” then!

SAM (*grinning*) That’s the spirit! Let’s “supersize” our giving! Think of it as a way to show love and kindness and see how God blesses us in return.

Lisa pretends to hold a giant check and waves it like a flag.

LISA (*playfully*) “I hereby declare that we shall bless others with the ‘deluxe combo’ of generosity!”



SAM (*joining in*) And let’s not forget to enjoy those blessings ourselves! Who knew being generous could be so delicious?

They both laugh, and Sam takes a big bite of his burger.

SAM (*mouth full*) Plus, think of the joy it brings! Every time you give, it’s like getting a surprise toy in the Happy Meal of life!

LISA (*smirking*) So, you’re saying I should be the one giving out Happy Meals now?

SAM (*with a wink*) Absolutely! And who knows, you might just find a “blessing” toy in there too!

The Generous Samaritan

Luke 10: 30-37

Theme

Love your neighbor through generosity.

Summary

In “The Generous Samaritan,” a modern retelling of the classic parable, a selfless individual defies societal norms to help a stranger in need. Through compassion and kindness, he inspires others to embrace generosity.

Key Text

Luke 10:27 27 (NIV) – “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.’”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in Farmer Joe’s barn. Joe is tending to some hay bales, humming a tune. Ned enters, looking flustered with papers in hand.

Characters

Farmer Joe

A kind-hearted farmer who loves to tell stories and share wisdom. He’s cheerful, a bit absent-minded, and often finds himself in humorous situations.

Ned

Joe’s skeptical neighbor, a lawyer who loves to debate and often plays the role of the “devil’s advocate.” He has a good heart but struggles with the concept of generosity, especially when it comes to helping others.

Key Words

Neighbor, generosity



NED *(sighing)* Joe! You won’t believe the case I’m working on. It’s about a neighbor who didn’t help another neighbor in need.

FARMER JOE *(grinning)* Sounds like a classic case of “not my problem,” huh?

Joe continues to stack hay bales while Ned paces around.

NED *(frustrated)* Exactly! But it got me thinking, “What does it really mean to be a neighbor?”

FARMER JOE *(pausing)* Well, I reckon it means you gotta be generous! You know, like that story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan!

NED *(raising an eyebrow)* Oh, here we go. What’s next? You gonna preach to me about kindness and generosity?

FARMER JOE *(chuckling)* I might just do that! Let me remind you. There was this guy traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. He got beat up and left for dead.

NED *(rolling his eyes)* I know the story. But the priest and the Levite walked right past him!

FARMER JOE *(nodding)* Exactly! They had their reasons, probably worried about getting dirty or late for a meeting. But then, a Samaritan came along.

NED *(smirking)* The Samaritan? That guy is practically a legend now for doing the right thing!

FARMER JOE *(laughs)* You bet! He saw the man, felt compassion, and jumped right in! Bandaged him up, put him on his donkey, and took him to an inn.

Ned crosses his arms, pretending to be unimpressed.

NED *(sarcastically)* And I suppose he also paid for the guy’s stay, right?

FARMER JOE *(enthusiastically)* He sure did! He gave the innkeeper two denarii and said, “Take care of him, and I’ll cover any extra costs when I get back.”

NED *(smirking)* That’s all well and good, Joe, but I’m not about to pay for someone else’s mess.

FARMER JOE *(grinning)* Really? What if that “someone” was your neighbor? Or a friend? Wouldn’t you help them?

Ned pauses, looking thoughtful for a moment.

NED *(finally)* I mean, I guess...but what if they’re just irresponsible?

FARMER JOE *(playfully)* Well, the Good Samaritan didn’t ask for a background check! He just acted!

Ned pretends to take notes, dramatically scribbling.

NED *(mockingly)* “Be like the Good Samaritan; don’t ask questions. Just throw money at the problem.”



FARMER JOE *(laughing)* Not just money, Ned! It’s about time, compassion, and generosity! It’s a lifestyle!

Ned chuckles, shaking his head.

NED *(smirking)* Okay, okay! I get it. But I’m still not quite sold on this whole “helping strangers” thing.

FARMER JOE *(with a twinkle in his eye)* Think of it this way: if you ignore your neighbor’s needs, you’re just an expensive lawyer with a fancy degree.

NED *Ned raises an eyebrow, feigning offense.*

(laughing) Touché, Farmer Joe! So, what are you saying? I should start a charity?

FARMER JOE *(grinning)* Or at least a neighborhood watch! But seriously, remember, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). Everyone is your neighbor, especially when they need help.

NED *Ned nods, a smile breaking through his skepticism.*

(playfully) Alright, I’ll think about it. But if I end up with a donkey and a bunch of bandages, you’re helping me out!

FARMER JOE *(laughing)* Deal! Just remember, being generous is the best kind of investment!

Generous Sam

(Luke 10: 30-37)

Theme

Generosity and compassion go hand in hand.

Summary

This engaging drama unfolds as Sam encounters an injured man on the road and demonstrates radical generosity. Leah, a traveler who witnesses the scene, initially questions Sam's actions but soon learns the profound impact of generosity and compassion.

Key Text

Luke 10:33-34 (NIV) – “But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens on a dusty road with the Injured Man lying on the side, groaning in pain. Sam enters from one side, humming a cheerful tune, while Leah approaches from the opposite direction, looking at her map.

Characters

Sam

A kind-hearted Samaritan in his 30s, known for his generosity and willingness to help others, regardless of their background. He believes in doing good deeds for those in need.

Leah

A skeptical traveler in her 20s, who initially judges Sam's actions but learns valuable lessons about kindness and generosity throughout the encounter.

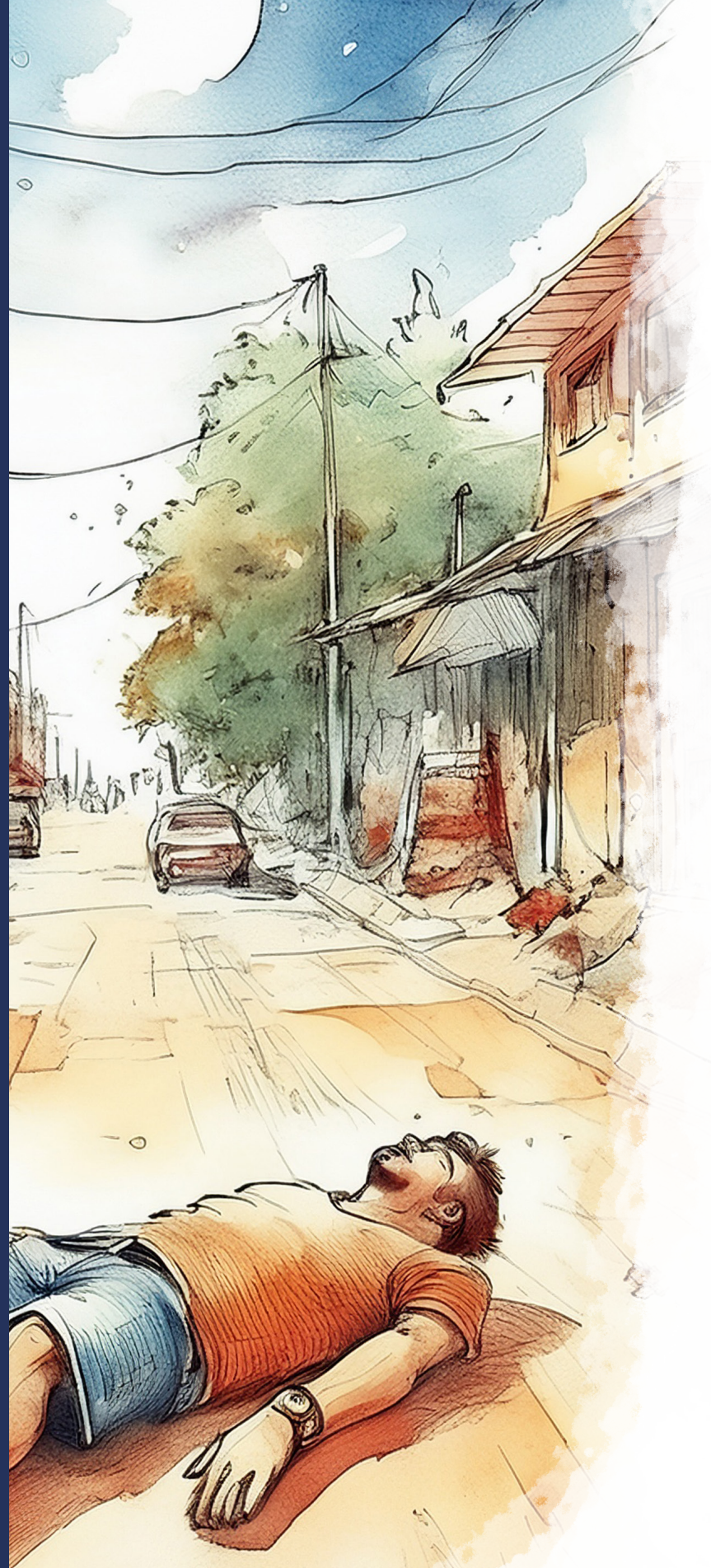
Injured Man

A character who symbolizes those in need, who has been beaten and left on the side of the road, requiring assistance from the passersby.

Innkeeper

Key Words

Generosity, compassion



LEAH (*muttering to herself*) Ugh, I can't believe I took this route. It's like a ghost town out here. I hope I find a place to rest soon.

As Leah walks past the Injured Man, she notices him but hesitates, unsure of what to do.

INJURED MAN (*weakly*) Help...please...I need help...

LEAH (*looking distressed*) Oh no...what happened to you? Are you okay?

INJURED MAN (*struggling*) I was attacked...they took everything...I can't move...

SAM *Sam approaches, noticing the commotion. He stops and takes in the scene.*

(concerned) Oh dear! What happened here?

LEAH (*pointing*) He's hurt! We should do something!

SAM (*nodding*) Absolutely! (*kneels by the Injured Man*) Don't worry, my friend. I'm here to help you.

INJURED MAN (*groaning*) Thank you...I don't know how I'll make it...

SAM (*gently*) Just breathe. I have some oil and wine to clean your wounds. (*begins to bandage the man's wounds*)

LEAH (*skeptically*) Sam, are you sure you want to help him? What if it's a trap? We don't know anything about him.

SAM (*smiling*) Generosity doesn't come with conditions, Leah. He needs help, and I'm here to give it.

LEAH (*crossing her arms*) I don't know, it seems risky. What if we end up in danger?

SAM (*looking at Leah*) Sometimes, the best thing we can do is be a light in someone's darkness. This is a chance to show kindness.

LEAH *Leah watches as Sam continues to care for the Injured Man, who looks increasingly grateful.*

INJURED MAN (*sincerely*) Thank you so much...I thought nobody would stop to help me.

SAM (*smiling warmly*) You're not alone. We all need help sometimes.

LEAH *Leah starts to soften, realizing the impact of Sam's actions.*

(hesitantly) So, what's the plan now? Are you going to take him somewhere?

SAM (*nodding*) Yes! I'll take him to the nearest inn where he can rest and recover. (*turns to the Injured Man*) Can you sit up?

INJURED MAN (*struggling but determined*) I'll try...just a little more help.

Sam gently helps him up and supports him as they walk slowly toward the inn.

LEAH (*sighing*) Okay, I'll help too. It's the least I can do.

SAM (*beaming*) That's the spirit! Together, we can make a difference!

As they walk, Leah begins to ask questions.

LEAH (*curious*) Sam, why do you care so much? You don't even know this man.

SAM (*thoughtfully*) Because everyone has value, Leah. Generosity is about recognizing that we're all part of one community.

LEAH (*pondering*) I guess I've always been focused on my own journey. Maybe I need to look beyond myself.

They reach the inn, and Sam helps the Injured Man inside.

INNKEEPER (*surprised*) What happened here?

SAM (*calmly*) He needs care. I'll cover the costs. Just make sure he gets the best treatment.

INNKEEPER (*nodding*) Of course! I'll give you a 10 percent discount on the accommodation because of your generosity to this man.

LEAH *Leah watches as Sam takes out his money, paying the innkeeper.*

(astonished) Wow, you're really serious about this.

SAM (*smiling*) Generosity isn't just about money; it's about being there for others, offering your time and support.

LEAH (*reflecting*) I've always been so guarded. Seeing this... it's inspiring.

SAM (*encouragingly*) It's never too late to start! Kindness can create ripples of change.

INJURED MAN *The Injured Man looks at Sam with gratitude.*

(with tears in his eyes) You've saved my life. Thank you.

SAM (*humbly*) It's my pleasure. Just remember to pay it forward when you can.

As Leah looks on, she smiles, feeling inspired to change her perspective.

LEAH (*determined*) You know what, Sam? I want to be more like you. I'll start helping others too.

LEAH AND SAM (*grinning*) That's the way! Together, we can change the world, one act of generosity at a time.

31. The Shopping Spree

(Luke 12:15)

Theme

God wants us to use what he has given to us to be “rich toward God.”

Summary

In “The Shopping Spree,” shopaholic Rachel is challenged by her practical friend Mark and witty cashier Nina to reconsider her spending habits. They encourage her to embrace generosity, emphasizing that true wealth comes from being rich toward God.

Key Text

Luke 12:15 (NIV) – “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a vibrant department store. Bright lights illuminate racks of clothes, shoes, and accessories. Rachel is excitedly loading her shopping cart, humming a tune, clearly enjoying her spree. Mark enters the store, looking concerned as he spots Rachel.

Characters

Rachel

A bubbly, carefree shopaholic in her early 20s. She has an eye for great deals and shopping is her passion. She forgets to save and thinks happiness can be bought. Her enthusiasm is infectious, but her lack of perspective sometimes leads her astray.

Mark

Rachel’s sensible friend in his late 20s. Mark has a practical approach to life and tries to steer Rachel toward making better financial decisions. With a dry sense of humor, he loves using biblical texts to emphasize his points and remind Rachel of what truly matters.

Nina

A cashier in her 40s who loves to chat with customers. She offers advice and has a unique outlook on life. Her interactions are memorable due to her mix of wisdom and humor, making her the perfect foil to both Rachel’s impulsiveness and Mark’s seriousness.

Key Words

Generosity, consumerism, shopping addiction



MARK (*approaching her*) Rachel! Are you serious? You’re buying all of this?

RACHEL (*giddy, holding up a dress*) Mark, look at this dress! And these shoes! They’re practically giving them away!

MARK (*sighs*) But at what cost? You know what the Bible says about covetousness and greed, right?

RACHEL (*dismissive*) Oh, come on! It’s just a little retail therapy. Besides, I’m treating myself!

MARK (*raising an eyebrow*) But what about your budget? You can’t just keep piling things into your cart.

NINA *Nina, the cashier, overhears and joins the conversation with a playful grin as she scans items at the register.*

(cheerfully) Does someone need therapy? Because I can prescribe a healthy dose of stewardship!

RACHEL (*laughs*) What? You think I need stewardship therapy for my shopping addiction?

NINA Exactly. Stewardship therapy will remind you that God is the Creator and that everything we have comes from God. (*pretending to write on a notepad*) “Patient presents with acute consumerism syndrome, otherwise known as shopping addiction. Symptoms include excessive cart loading and a wallet and credit card on life support.”

MARK (*chuckles*) Exactly! You’re treating your credit card like it’s a bottomless pit!

RACHEL (*pouting*) But everything is on sale! It’s practically a gift from God!

NINA (*raising an eyebrow*) Gifts from God are great, but they come with a receipt called stewardship! You know, like when you’re generous with what you have instead of hoarding it by buying things for yourself.

RACHEL (*pausing*) Generous? You mean like giving away my fabulous finds?

MARK (*nodding*) Yes! What if you took some of your money and gave it to someone in need or choose to increase your offerings? Remember Luke 12:15? Life isn’t about how much you have! (*needs emphasis*)

NINA (*jokingly*) Plus, think of it this way: When you give, it’s like you’re giving from God’s wallet! You’re not giving from your own wallet, as everything you have comes from God.

RACHEL (*giggling*) Okay, okay! Maybe I can buy this dress and donate a pair of shoes.

MARK (*smiling*) That’s a start! That’s the spirit!

NINA (*winking*) And if you need help with the donation, I’m accepting “pre-loved” items as I like to call them!

RACHEL (*laughs*) You’re hilarious, Nina!

NINA (*playfully*) Just remember, stewardship is the ultimate shopping spree!

MARK (*leaning in*) Rachel, think about it. What if you kept your spending in check and focused on being rich toward God, as it says in the Bible?

RACHEL (*confused*) Rich toward God? How do I do that when I’m trying to look fabulous?

MARK (*smirking*) It’s all about priorities. Instead of filling your cart with things that won’t last, what if you invested in experiences or helped those in need?

NINA (*nodding enthusiastically*) Exactly! Imagine how much joy you’d spread if you used your shopping skills for good!

RACHEL (*thoughtful*) Like buying school supplies for kids in need instead of another pair of shoes?

MARK (*encouraging*) Exactly! You could make a real difference in someone’s life!

RACHEL (*grinning*) Okay, I see your point! So, if I buy this dress, I can donate something else?

NINA (*clapping*) Yes! And think about how many people you could bless with what you save!

MARK (*smiling*) Plus, you’ll feel good knowing you’re not just accumulating stuff for yourself.

RACHEL (*snapping her fingers*) You’re right! I don’t need five pairs of shoes when I can help 20 kids with school supplies or supporting missionaries!

NINA *Nina pretends to take notes again.*

“Patient shows signs of recovery! Diagnosis: Generosity!”

RACHEL (*laughing*) Okay, I’ll get this dress, and let’s find some items to donate!

MARK (*nodding approvingly*) That’s the spirit!

NINA (*grinning*) And remember, the best bargains come from the heart!

RACHEL (*smiling*) You’re both right! I’m ready to be generous!

MARK (*playfully*) Just remember, don’t raid the clearance rack for yourself first!

RACHEL (*giggling*) I promise! After this shopping spree, I’ll be the “Queen of Generosity”!

NINA (*cheerfully*) And you’ll be rich toward God in the process!

The Generosity Blueprint

Luke 10: 30-37

Theme

Make a plan to give.

Summary

In this humorous yet insightful drama, Fred struggles with his finances and the idea of giving to God. With Maggie's encouragement, he learns the importance of planning for generosity and discovers the joy it brings, realizing that being intentional about giving can lead to unexpected blessings.

Key Text

Luke 14:28 (NIV) – “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in Fred's living room, cluttered with bills, a calculator, and a half-empty coffee cup. Fred is pacing back and forth, muttering to himself.

Characters

Fred

A slightly anxious church member in his late 30s who's always worried about his finances and tends to hoard his resources. He often overanalyzes his financial situation and struggles with the concept of giving.

Maggie

Fred's optimistic friend in her early 40s, who embodies a spirit of generosity and believes in the importance of giving to God and others. Practical yet lighthearted, she seeks to inspire those around her with humor and wisdom.

Key Words

Planned giving, intentional giving



FRED (*frustrated, speaking to himself*) So, if I cut back on milkshakes, skip lunch twice a week, and stop buying those fancy snacks... maybe I can save enough to give to the church this month. (*he stops and looks at the calculator*) But what if I end up starving?

MAGGIE Maggie enters, holding a bag filled with groceries and a big smile.

(*cheerfully*) Hey, Fred! What's with the math workout? You look like you're trying to solve an impossible equation!

FRED (*sighs dramatically*) Maggie, I'm just trying to figure out how to give to God without ending up eating instant noodles for the rest of the month!

MAGGIE (*laughing*) You know that's not how it works, right? Giving doesn't mean you have to starve!

FRED (*defensive*) I just don't want to end up broke! Last time I gave, I felt like I was giving away my kid's college fund!

MAGGIE (*smirking*) Well, how about you make a plan? You wouldn't build a house without a blueprint, right?

FRED (*raising an eyebrow*) A plan? You mean like budgeting?

MAGGIE Exactly! Just like in Luke 14:28, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower..." You need to sit down and estimate your costs – not only for your bills but for giving too!

FRED (*pondering*) Okay, but what if I don't have enough left for my essentials? I mean, I need my smashed avocado toast!

MAGGIE (*chuckling*) Fred, prioritize! Start small. What about committing to a percentage? You won't miss 15 percent as much if you plan for it. That's tithe plus 5 percent for offering.

FRED (*nervously*) 15 percent? What if I end up regretting it?

MAGGIE (*playfully*) If you give with a cheerful heart, you won't regret it! Besides, think about all the good your giving can do. It's not just about money; it's about making a difference!

FRED (*slowly nodding*) That's true...but it's hard to let go.

MAGGIE (*encouragingly*) Think of it this way: Every time you give, you're investing in something greater than yourself. It's like planting seeds for a future harvest.

FRED (*smirking*) So, I'm a farmer now?

MAGGIE (*laughing*) Exactly! You're growing a garden of generosity! And who knows? The fruits of your labor might surprise you!

FRED (*curiously*) What kind of fruit are we talking about?



MAGGIE (*enthusiastically*) Joy, peace, and maybe even some unexpected blessings! You might find that when you give, you also create connections with others.

FRED (*brightening*) That sounds nice...but I'm still worried about my big bar of chocolate!

MAGGIE (*playfully rolling her eyes*) Fred, chocolate is important, but it won't bring you fulfillment like giving can! It's about balance.

FRED (*scratching his head*) Alright, you've convinced me. I'll give it a shot.

MAGGIE (*grinning*) Deal! Just remember, it's all about being intentional. Create a budget that allows you to give generously while still enjoying life.

FRED Fred looks more relaxed, jotting down a new budget plan on a notepad, while Maggie picks up a piece of fruit from the table.

(*cheerfully*) Here's to a new blueprint for generosity!

MAGGIE (*raising the fruit as if toasting*) And here's to more blessings than you can count!

They both laugh, and as the scene progresses, Fred starts putting together a rough draft of his generosity plan.

FRED (*with a grin*) Alright, I'll aim for 15 percent. But if my avocado toast starts disappearing, I'm blaming you!

MAGGIE (*chuckling*) I'll take the heat! Just remember, the more you give, the more you'll see how blessed you truly are.

They both continue to laugh and talk about their plans, highlighting the joy of intentional giving.

FRED (*enthusiastically*) I'm ready to be a generous farmer!

MAGGIE Maggie smiles at Fred's newfound enthusiasm.

And I'm here to help you reap that harvest!

Zacchaeus Gets a Lift

Luke 10: 30-37

Theme

Zacchaeus is transformed.

Summary

In this humorous drama, Zacchaeus excitedly shares his transformative encounter with Jesus with his friend Levi. As they discuss his newfound commitment to generosity, Levi questions his drastic changes, leading to a lighthearted conversation about wealth and giving.

Key Text

Luke 19:8 (NIV) - “But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a bustling town square, with Zacchaeus perched on a low tree branch, looking excitedly at the crowd gathering. He is trying to get a better view of Jesus, who is approaching. Levi enters, spotting Zacchaeus.

Characters

Zacchaeus

A short, wealthy tax collector in his 40s who is curious about Jesus. Despite his past, he is full of enthusiasm and a desire to change his ways after their encounter.

Levi

Zacchaeus’ skeptical but humorous friend in his 40s, who enjoys his lifestyle of wealth and is initially doubtful about Zacchaeus’ intentions to change.

Jesus

Key Words

Generosity, changed mindset



LEVI (*shaking his head, amused*) Zacchaeus! What on earth are you doing up in that tree? Trying to get a better view of your bank account?

ZACCHAEUS (*grinning*) No, my friend! I’m trying to catch a glimpse of Jesus! He’s coming this way, and I just have to see Him!

LEVI (*scoffing*) Jesus? The one who dines with sinners and tax collectors? You’re a tax collector, Zacchaeus! What would you even want with Him?

ZACCHAEUS (*excitedly*) I want to change, Levi! I heard He’s bringing hope and forgiveness. I’ve taken so much from these people; it’s time I start giving back!

LEVI (*raising an eyebrow*) Giving back? You mean like giving back the money you’ve pocketed from all those poor folks you’ve taxed?

ZACCHAEUS (*nodding*) Exactly! If I see Jesus today, I’m going to tell Him that I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor and pay back anyone I’ve cheated four times the amount!

LEVI (*laughing*) Wow! And what do you think you’ll be left with? A pair of sandals and a couple of figs?

ZACCHAEUS (*smiling*) Maybe! But at least I’ll have a clear conscience and a new start.

LEVI (*skeptically*) A clear conscience? You do realize that’s not going to pay the bills, right?

ZACCHAEUS (*enthusiastically*) It’s not just about money! It’s about doing what’s right! Look, look there’s Jesus now. Looks like he’s coming toward us.

LEVI Zacchaeus, Jesus just called your name. He said, “Come down immediately! I must stay at your house today.”

ZACCHAEUS *Zacchaeus jumps out of the tree, startling Levi.*

LEVI (*gaping*) He just called you by name. What’s next? A royal invitation to a feast?

ZACCHAEUS (*beaming*) Yes! He wants to come to my house! This is my chance to truly change my life!

LEVI (*mockingly*) You’re going to impress Him with your “humble” abode? I can picture it now: “Welcome to my palace, Jesus! Complete with a tax collector’s lounge and a buffet of fine delicacies!”

ZACCHAEUS (*laughing*) It’s not about the house! It’s about the heart! I want to show Him I’m serious about this change!

LEVI (*skeptically*) So you’re telling me that one dinner with Jesus will make you a saint overnight?



ZACCHAEUS (*confidently*) It’s not just one dinner; it’s the start of a new life! When you encounter love and forgiveness, it changes you!

LEVI (*raising an eyebrow*) Alright, I’ll bite. But what happens if you give away all your money and end up broke?

ZACCHAEUS (*smiling brightly*) Then I’ll be rich in spirit! Besides, I have faith that if I seek God first, He’ll provide for me!

LEVI (*thoughtfully*) You really believe that, don’t you?

ZACCHAEUS (*nodding*) Absolutely! It’s about stewardship and being generous with what we have. If I share, I’ll find joy in helping others!

LEVI (*leaning closer*) You’ve got guts, Zacchaeus. Maybe there’s something to this “giving back” thing after all.

ZACCHAEUS *The crowd starts to disperse, and Zacchaeus looks at Levi with determination.*

(with enthusiasm) You know, Levi, I was thinking...how about you join me? We can go and find some people to help together!

LEVI (*smirking*) Me? Helping the poor? I’m more of a “take care of myself” kind of guy.

ZACCHAEUS (*playfully*) Come on! It’ll be fun! Plus, think of it as an adventure – like a treasure hunt, but instead of gold, we’re giving away kindness!

LEVI (*raising an eyebrow*) A treasure hunt for kindness? That’s a new one. But alright, you’ve piqued my interest. Just don’t expect me to climb any trees!

ZACCHAEUS (*laughing*) No trees required! Just open hearts!

They both laugh, and the scene progresses with Zacchaeus playfully demonstrating how to give with joy, while Levi contemplates how to be more generous.

ZACCHAEUS (*with determination*) Here’s to new beginnings and giving generously!

LEVI (*raising an imaginary toast*) And here’s to climbing trees for a better view of what really matters!

“It is more blessed to regift than to receive”

Acts 20:35

Theme

Everything we have has been given to us by God. Therefore, when we give, we’re *regifting* God’s gifts.

Summary

In “*It is more blessed to regift than to receive*,” Ashley confronts Lisa about regifting a birthday gift. Through their lively debate, they discover that regifting reflects God’s generosity, emphasizing that sharing blessings enriches both the giver and the receiver, fostering deeper connections.

Key Text

Acts 20:35 – “It is more blessed to *regift* than to receive” (adapted).

Story Line Setting

This story is based on the concept of regifting. Regifting is the practice of giving away a gift that you have previously received from someone else.

Characters

Ashley

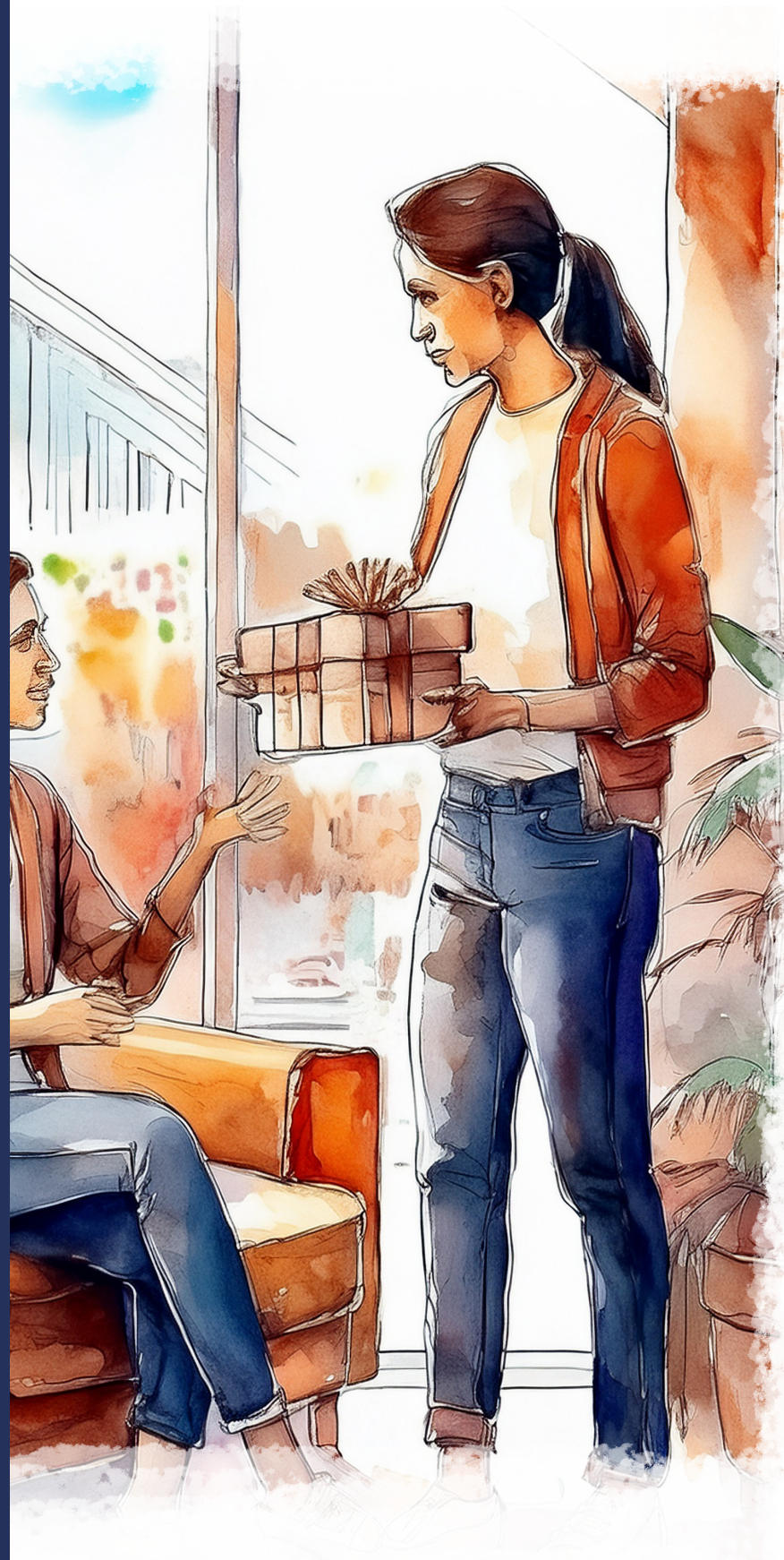
A spirited and enthusiastic young woman, Ashley is passionate about sharing her thoughts on generosity and blessings. With a flair for dramatics, she is quick to express her feelings, especially when it comes to her possessions.

Lisa

A practical and thoughtful friend, Lisa balances Ashley’s exuberance with a more grounded perspective. She is open to discussion and willing to explore new ideas, even if it means challenging her own beliefs. Lisa values generosity and seeks to understand the deeper meanings behind actions and gifts.

Key Words

Stewardship, blessings, regifting



ASHLEY Lisa, could I borrow the top I gave you for your birthday?

LISA *(hesitantly)* Well...umm...

ASHLEY It goes perfectly with the jeans I just bought. Please. Please. Please.

LISA *(pause)* Well...umm...

ASHLEY What’s going on Lisa?

LISA *(pause)* Well, I don’t have it anymore?

ASHLEY What do you mean you don’t have it anymore?

LISA I gave it away to Caitlyn. It was her birthday, and I couldn’t afford a present, so I gave her the top.

ASHLEY *(angrily)* Whattttt...you gave away the top I personally selected for you and paid with my hard-earned money. I can’t believe you gave it away. You regifted my gift.

LISA What’s regifting?

ASHLEY *(indignantly)* Regifting is soooooooo...wrong! It’s wrong! wrong! wrong! It’s when you give away something that someone has carefully selected for you and give it to some random person. Wrong! Wrong! Wrong!

LISA *(calmly)* Well, it’s a biblical concept. Regifting is in the Bible.

ASHLEY What! Are you crazy? Regifting is NOT in the Bible.

LISA Yes, it is. I know it is. I’m so confident that it’s in the Bible that I’ll pay for all of the gas for our car for a year if it’s not in the Bible.

ASHLEY Gas for a whole year. That would be good *(pulls out phone)*. I’m going to Google it. “Regifting in the Bible.” *(searches)* Look.

ASHLEY Ashley shows Lisa the Google search on her phone.

Look, no results. Zilch. Nothing. See, I told you regifting wasn’t in the Bible. Free gas. One year’s free gas. *(punches the air)*

LISA I’m sure there’s a text which talks about regifting. Let me see if I can remember what it says. *(pause)* I’ve got it. It’s Acts 20:35 that says, “It is more blessed to regift than to receive.” *(repeat)*

ASHLEY There’s no such text in the Bible, Lisa. You must have made it up. Whoopee, free gas.

LISA Lisa looks in her Bible searching for another text.

Ashley, here’s another text that talks about regifting. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT) that says, “And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need, and plenty left over to share with others.” God gives us money and other things so we can give them away.



ASHLEY Maybe you’re right, Lisa. God does talk about regifting in the Bible. The Bible promises us that God will generously provide everything we need. Anything above and beyond our basic needs is provided to us by God to share with others. That’s regifting.

LISA Paul spells it out even more directly when he says, “Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take these gifts to those who need them, they will thank God” (2 Corinthians 9:11). So regifting, shows people about God’s love for them.

ASHLEY Well, Lisa, I like this regifting idea so much I’m going to regift the new watch you gave me.

LISA Shrugs. *(holds up hands)*

The Wise Men's Gift Dilemma

Colossians 3:23

Theme

Give your best to God.

Summary

In “The Wise Men’s Gift Dilemma,” wise men Oliver and Sam prepare gifts for baby Jesus, navigating their anxieties and the spirit of giving. Through humor and camaraderie, they learn that the heart behind their gifts matters more than their material value.

Key Text

Colossians 3:23 (NIV) – “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a cozy room with a starry backdrop, representing the night sky. Oliver and Sam are preparing their gifts for baby Jesus. A large, beautifully decorated treasure chest sits in the center, filled with gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Characters

Oliver

A thoughtful and slightly anxious wise man who takes his responsibilities seriously. He is determined to bring the best gifts to honor the newborn king but tends to overthink every detail.

Sam

A lighthearted and fun-loving wise man who believes in the joy of giving. He often tries to lighten the mood and encourages Oliver to embrace the spirit of generosity without worrying too much.

Key Words

Giving, love



OLIVER *(checking a scroll nervously)* Okay, Sam, we have to bring the best gifts for the king, for baby Jesus! Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. No mistakes!

SAM *(grinning)* Relax, Oliver! We’re wise men! If we can follow a star across the desert, we can handle a few gifts.

OLIVER *Oliver looks unconvinced, adjusting his robes and pacing.*

(worriedly) But what if the gifts aren’t good enough? What if he doesn’t like myrrh? What is myrrh, anyway?

SAM *Sam chuckles, picking up a jar of myrrh and holding it up.*

(playfully) It’s like fancy perfume! You know, for when the baby Jesus wants to smell nice!

OLIVER *Oliver rolls his eyes but can’t help but smile at Sam’s antics.*

(sighing) I guess you’re right. But we have to make sure they’re presented well! What if we forget something important?

SAM *Sam walks over to the treasure chest and starts rearranging the gifts with exaggerated flair.*

(enthusiastically) Look! We can stack the gold on the bottom, put the frankincense in the middle, and myrrh on top. It’ll be like a pyramid of generosity!

OLIVER *(chuckling)* A pyramid of generosity? I like that! But what if the other wise men have more valuable gifts?

SAM *Sam places a hand on Oliver’s shoulder, trying to reassure him.*

(smiling) Oliver, it’s not about the quantity of the gifts. We’re giving from our hearts of love, and that’s what matters most.

OLIVER *Oliver nods, beginning to feel more confident.*

(thoughtfully) Right! It’s the spirit of giving that counts. But I still want to make a good impression!

SAM *(grinning)* And you will! The baby Jesus is going to love anything we bring him. He’s a baby! Babies love shiny things.

OLIVER *Oliver laughs, finally relaxing.*

(smiling) You’re right! He’ll be delighted with gold, and the smell of frankincense will be nice!

SAM *Sam picks up the gold and pretends to be a king, wearing it like a crown.*

(in a regal voice) Behold! The gold for the king! The king of kings!

OLIVER *Oliver joins in, pretending to bow down dramatically.*

(in a dramatic tone) And here we bring our humble gifts, fit for royalty!



They both laugh, enjoying the moment.

OLIVER *(grinning)* Okay, let’s do this! We’ll bring our best and present it with joy!

They gather around the treasure chest, preparing to leave.

SAM *(excitedly)* And remember, Oliver, it’s not just about what we bring but the love we share in giving.

OLIVER *(nodding)* Yes! Let’s show the world the joy of giving!

As they march off the stage, they hold the treasure chest high, laughing and joking about the adventure ahead.

SAM *(calling back)* And if anyone asks, just tell them we’re the best gift-givers in the land!

OLIVER *Oliver stops for a moment, turning back to Sam with a big grin.*

(playfully) And if they ask about the myrrh, I’ll just tell them it’s a surprise!

SAM *Sam laughs, shaking his head.*

(smirking) A surprise? You mean like, “surprise! Here’s something you didn’t know you needed!”



New Testament

36. Planning to Give

1 Corinthians 16:2

Theme

Giving to God should be planned and intentional.

Summary

Nervous Ned grapples with the idea of giving to God first as he worries about his finances. Joyful Sarah guides him in understanding the importance of prioritizing his giving, illustrating how intentional and first-fruits giving can bless both the giver and the community.

Key Text

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) – “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”

Story Line Setting

A church meeting room set up for a fundraising event. Ned is sitting at a table, looking over a notepad filled with calculations, visibly anxious. Sarah enters with a warm smile and a stack of pamphlets.

Characters

Ned

A slightly anxious church member who’s always worried about his finances and tends to hoard his resources.

Sarah

A thoughtful church member who embodies generosity and is dedicated to helping others understand the importance of prioritizing giving to God.

Key Words

Giving, planned giving, first fruits



SARAH (*cheerfully*) Hey, Ned! Are you ready to talk about our giving plans for the year?

NED (*sighs*) I guess. But honestly, I’m worried about how much I can give. What if I run out of money?

SARAH (*nodding*) I understand! But let’s start by thinking about giving to God first. It’s important to prioritize our giving in our budgets.

NED (*confused*) Prioritize? I thought I should just give what I have left over after everything else.

SARAH (*smiling*) That’s a common approach for many people but giving to God should be our first consideration. Remember 1 Corinthians 16:2? Paul encourages us to set aside a sum of money based on our income, right at the start of the week.

NED (*scratching his head*) So, you’re saying I should budget for giving to God first?

SARAH Exactly! Tithe comes out first. If you make giving to God a priority, it sets the tone for how you handle your finances. It’s about honoring Him with the first fruits of what you have.

NED (*thoughtfully*) But how do I decide how much to give to God before I plan for everything else?

SARAH Start by praying and reflecting on what God is calling you to give. Consider a percentage of your income that feels right for you. The key is to give with intention and joy.

NED (*nodding slowly*) So, it’s about making that commitment to God first, then planning the rest around that?

SARAH Yes! When you give God the first part, it helps you recognize that everything you have is from Him. It’s a way of expressing trust and gratitude.

NED (*smiling*) I can see how that would help me feel more secure in my finances.

SARAH Absolutely! And when we prioritize God in our giving, we create a culture of generosity in our church that can bless so many others.

NED (*considering*) So, it’s like putting God first helps me manage everything else better?

SARAH Exactly! And think about the impact your giving can have – supporting ministries, helping those in need, and spreading love in our community.

NED (*looking inspired*) Okay! I’ll take a closer look at my budget and figure out how to set aside my first fruits for God.

SARAH (*clapping*) That’s great, Ned! And remember, it’s a journey. You can adjust as you go along but start with giving God your best.

NED (*grinning*) Thanks, Sarah! I feel a lot more confident about this now.

SARAH (*smiling*) I’m glad! Let’s encourage others to plan and prioritize their giving to God as well. Together, we can make a difference!

The Family Giving Blueprint

1 Corinthians 16:2

Theme

Generosity is a family legacy.

Summary

Paul and Sarah, a family of four, wrestle with how to model intentional giving for their children. With the help of their friend Jessica, they discover the joy and blessings that come from trusting God with their finances and teaching their kids the importance of generosity.

Key Text

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) – “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in the living room of Paul and Sarah’s cozy home. Paul is sitting on the couch, reviewing some financial documents, while Sarah and their two children, Emma and Liam, are playing a board game on the floor. Jessica, Sarah’s best friend, enters with a warm smile.

Characters

Paul

A hardworking husband and father who sometimes struggles with letting go of his money and trusting God’s plan.

Sarah

Paul’s wife, an enthusiastic and faith-filled woman who loves to find creative ways to teach their children about generosity.

Jessica

Sarah’s best friend, a wise and encouraging figure who offers guidance and perspective on the family’s giving journey.

Liam and Emma

Paul and Sarah’s children

Key Words

Generosity, family, intentionality, faith, blessings, provision

JESSICA (*cheerfully*) Hey, you guys! What’s going on? Did I walk into a family game night?

SARAH (*smiling*) You sure did! We’re just taking a break from all the serious stuff. But Paul was just saying he’s trying to figure out our giving for the next year.

JESSICA (*glancing at Paul*) Everything okay, Paul? You look a little overwhelmed.

PAUL (*sighing*) Oh, you know, just trying to balance our budget and determine what percentage of our income we can give to the church this coming year. month. It’s a bit daunting.

SARAH (*excitedly*) That’s actually what we were just discussing! We want to start being more intentional about our giving, especially to set a good example for the kids.

EMMA (*looking up from the game*) Does that mean we get to give money to the church?

LIAM (*eagerly*) Can we give a lot? Like \$100?

PAUL (*chuckling*) Whoa, slow down, you two! We’re still figuring it out, but it’s great to see you so excited!

JESSICA (*playfully*) You know, kids, it’s not just about the amount. It’s about the heart behind it.

SARAH (*nodding*) Exactly! We want to teach you that giving is a regular part of our lives, not just something we do occasionally or when we feel like it.

EMMA (*tilting her head*) But how do we decide how much to give?

PAUL (*hesitantly*) That’s a great question, Em. I don’t know, what if we can’t afford it? I mean, with your activities, our bills, and everything else – it’s a lot to juggle.

JESSICA (*gently*) Paul, I understand your concerns, but remember, God promises to provide for us when we’re faithful in our giving.

EMMA (*curiously*) What does that mean, Aunt Jessica?

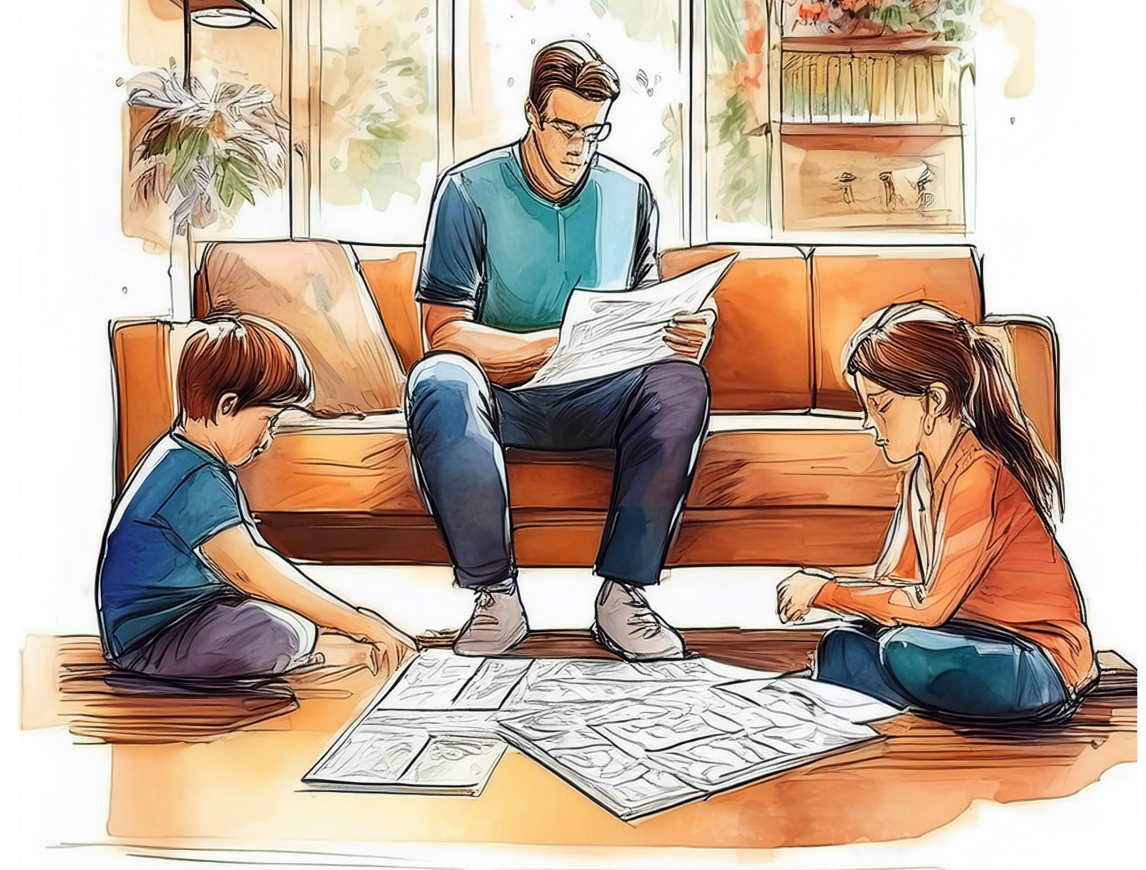
JESSICA (*smiling*) Well, sweetie, it means that when we trust God and return our tithes from what He’s blessed us with, He’ll take care of the rest. It’s about having faith.

LIAM (*excitedly*) So if we give money, God will give us more?

SARAH (*laughing*) Not exactly, Liam. But He’ll make sure we have what we need. It’s about being generous and trusting His provision.

PAUL (*thoughtfully*) I guess I just worry about not having enough. What if an unexpected expense comes up, like when the car broke down last month?

JESSICA (*placing a hand on Paul’s shoulder*) Paul, I know it’s not easy, but God’s math is different from ours. When we return our tithes and we’re generous with our offerings, He opens the floodgates of blessing.



SARAH (*nodding*) And you know, after we return our tithe and give our offerings, we could even make part of it a family activity! The kids could help us decide how much to give and where to send it.

EMMA (*eagerly*) Can we give to the animal shelter? I want to help the puppies!

LIAM (*jumping up*) And the food bank! We can help feed hungry people!

PAUL (*smiling*) Those are wonderful ideas! Alright, alright, we’ll definitely consider those options.

JESSICA (*grinning*) See, Paul? Generosity is contagious, especially when you get the whole family involved.

SARAH (*wrapping an arm around Paul*) We’re in this together, honey. Let’s make giving a priority and see how God blesses us.

PAUL (*taking a deep breath*) Okay, let’s do it. But let’s start small, okay? Let’s return our tithe and maybe we can give 5 percent as offerings this coming year and see how it feels.

EMMA AND LIAM (*cheering*) Yay! Giving money to help people!

JESSICA (*smiling*) That sounds like a great plan! And remember, it’s not all about the money. You can also give your time, like volunteering together as a family or serving at our church.

SARAH (*enthusiastically*) Yes! We could organize a family volunteer day at the local shelter. That way, we can teach the kids about giving back in different ways.

PAUL (*nodding*) I love that idea! It’ll show them that generosity isn’t just financial; it’s about being there for others.

LIAM (*grinning*) Can we bring snacks for the puppies when we go?

EMMA (*excitedly*) And maybe play with them, too!

JESSICA (*laughing*) Absolutely! You two are going to be the best little givers ever!

The family gathers around, excitedly discussing their giving plan and involving the children in the decision-making process. Jessica watches with a smile, feeling proud of her friends as they embrace this new journey of generosity together.

SARAH (*wrapping up*) So, we’ll return our tithe and give 5 percent as offerings this coming year, volunteer at the shelter, and keep our hearts open for more opportunities to give or serve.

PAUL (*with a sense of relief*) And who knows, maybe this will inspire us to give even more in the future!

EMMA (*cheerfully*) I can’t wait! Generosity sounds fun!

LIAM (*enthusiastically*) Yeah! Let’s be the coolest giving family ever!

The scene ends with the family sharing laughter and excitement, ready to embark on their journey of intentional giving, reinforcing the idea that generosity is not just a family value but a beautiful legacy.

The Stingy Farmer

2 Corinthians 9:6

Theme

When you sow generously, you reap generously.

Summary

In “The Stingy Farmer,” Farmer Fred struggles with generosity while preparing for a planting competition. Encouraged by his cheerful neighbor Betty and Pastor Pete, he learns that sowing generously leads to abundant blessings, realizing that true generosity is about sharing love and resources.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV) – “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

Story Line Setting

Characters

Farmer Fred

A humorous, somewhat stingy character who is skeptical about giving.

Betty

Fred’s cheerful neighbor, who is generous and always looking for ways to give.

Pastor Pete

The enthusiastic pastor who encourages the community to be generous.

Narrator

Provides context and transitions throughout the drama.

Key Words

Sowing, reaping, trusting God, faith, blessings



Scene 1

NARRATOR Welcome to Farmer Fred’s farm, where the crops are as sparse as his willingness to give! Today, Fred is contemplating the meaning of generosity.

FARMER FRED (*looking at his seeds*) Why do I need to sow more seeds? I’ve got just enough here to plant my tiny patch of corn. I mean, why give away what I could eat myself?

BETTY Good morning, Fred! What a beautiful day for planting! Are you ready to sow some seeds?

FARMER FRED (*sighs*) Oh, Betty, I don’t know. I’m thinking of saving these seeds for a rainy day. You know, just in case I need to make a tiny corn salad.

BETTY (*laughs*) Fred, you’ve got to remember 2 Corinthians 9:6! “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

FARMER FRED (*scratching his head*) But Betty, what if it rains too much and I have corn seed everywhere except where I planted it. I need to be practical here!

BETTY (*smiling*) Practical? More like stingy! You know, every time you hold back, you’re missing out on a blessing. God wants to shower us with goodness!

PASTOR PETE Hello, everyone! I’m here to announce the annual “Sow and Grow” competition! This year, the winner will receive the Golden Hoe Award!

FARMER FRED (*raising an eyebrow*) The Golden Hoe? What’s that, a fancy gardening tool? I bet it’s just a gold-painted rock with a handle!

PASTOR PETE (*laughing*) Not at all, Fred! It’s a real hoe – golden in spirit! Now, remember, the more you sow, the more you’ll grow! Who wants to join?

BETTY Count me in! I’ll plant a whole field of corn! I’m ready to make this the best harvest yet!

FARMER FRED (*frowning*) A whole field? Isn’t that a bit...excessive? What if the crows decide to throw a party and eat your corn?

PASTOR PETE (*grinning*) Excessive? No way! That’s generous! Fred, how about you? Are you ready to join the fun or are you going to sit on the sidelines again?

FARMER FRED (*shrugging*) I’ll just sprinkle a few seeds here and there...You know, keep it simple and manageable. I don’t want to get overwhelmed with corn!

BETTY (*playfully*) Simple? Last year you planted three seeds and called it a “corn patch”! What’s the plan this time, Fred?

FARMER FRED (*defensively*) Hey now! Those three seeds were the best three seeds! They had potential! I just need to nurture my “special” corn!

Scene 2

NARRATOR Days pass as Betty joyfully plants seeds in rows, while Fred begrudgingly tosses a few seeds in random spots.

BETTY (*singing while planting*) Oh, the more I sow, the more I’ll grow, blessings from above, just watch them flow!

FARMER FRED (*muttering*) Sure...I’m still not convinced that more seeds mean more blessings. What if it’s all just a myth?

BETTY (*turning to Fred*) What was that, Fred? Are you doubting the power of sowing?

FARMER FRED (*coughing*) Oh, nothing! Just wondering how many corn salads I can make...or if I’ll just end up with a corn bonanza!

Scene 3

PASTOR PETE (*excitedly entering*) It’s harvest time! Let’s see who wins the Golden Hoe Award!

BETTY (*holding up her basket*) Look at my harvest, Pastor! I couldn’t have done it without sowing generously! I can’t wait to share these blessings!

FARMER FRED (*looking at his meager pile*) Well, I got...something. It’s not much, but it’s mine! Maybe I can make a corn nugget...or just one corn kernel.

PASTOR PETE (*cheerfully*) Fred, remember, you sowed sparingly! Look at Betty’s harvest; she’s reaping generously because she sowed generously!

FARMER FRED (*sighing*) I guess I should’ve planted more seeds instead of counting my corn seeds...I mean, I could have had a corn feast!

BETTY (*cheerfully*) Don’t worry, Fred! You can still learn! Next year, let’s plant together, and I’ll share my secrets! It’ll be a corn party!

FARMER FRED (*having an eureka moment*) You know what? I think I’m beginning to understand! The more I sow, the more I’ll reap! It’s like a blessing boomerang!

PASTOR PETE (*grinning*) That’s the spirit, Fred! Generosity isn’t just about money or seeds; it’s about sharing God’s love and joy!

FARMER FRED (*enthusiastically*) Next year, I’m going all out! I’ll sow as generously as I can! Who knows, I might even share my corn salad recipes with the whole town!

BETTY (*laughing*) Now that’s the spirit! Let’s make next year’s harvest the best yet! We can have a corn festival and invite everyone!

NARRATOR And so, Farmer Fred learned that generosity is not just about the seeds we plant but the love we share. As we sow generously, we also reap generously – blessings from God that are bigger than we can imagine!

The Reluctant Giver

2 Corinthians 9:7

Theme

Generosity transforms reluctance into joy, revealing the true blessing in giving.

Summary

Daniel struggles with the concept of giving offerings, convinced he has better uses for his money. Through a humorous and enlightening conversation with Pastor Isabella, he learns that giving is a privilege, not a burden, and discovers the joy of intentional generosity.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) – “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in the church fellowship hall. Daniel is sitting at a table, counting coins and muttering to himself. Isabella enters, cheerful and holding a basket for offerings.

Characters

Daniel

A somewhat skeptical church member who is always looking for reasons to avoid giving offerings, preferring to spend his money on what he deems more important.

Isabella

The enthusiastic and wise pastor who passionately encourages her congregation to embrace the joy of giving and understands the importance of generosity.

Key Words

Reluctance, generosity, joy, giving, stewardship



ISABELLA (*brightly*) Good morning, Daniel! Are you ready to give your special offering for our church’s mega evangelism project cheerfully today?

DANIEL (*sighing*) Cheerfully? More like reluctantly! Do you know how much I could buy with this? (*holds up two \$100 notes*)

ISABELLA (*playfully*) Let me guess – three first release novels?

DANIEL (*chuckling*) Well, I was thinking more along the lines of a new sound system for my home. You can’t compete with crystal-clear audio, Isabella!

ISABELLA (*smiling*) But what about the spiritual impact? You know, sharing the message of hope and blessings with others?

DANIEL (*sarcastically*) Right, because nothing says “I love Jesus” like a new sound system for church events!

ISABELLA (*laughing*) Hey, that sound system could help spread the Gospel to many! Remember 2 Corinthians 9:7? “God loves a cheerful giver.”

DANIEL (*rolling his eyes*) Sure, but what if I give and then regret missing out on that sound system?

ISABELLA (*gently*) What if you give and find out that the joy of helping others far outweighs any material possession?

DANIEL (*pausing*) I guess I’ve never thought about it that way...

ISABELLA (*encouragingly*) Giving isn’t just about money; it’s about sharing what you have with others and trusting God to provide for you!

DANIEL (*sighing*) Trusting, huh? What if I give, and then I can’t afford those new sneakers?

ISABELLA (*gently*) Or what if you give and God blesses you with something even better? Maybe a pair of sneakers that can be used for sport as well!

DANIEL (*laughing*) Now I’m really intrigued!

ISABELLA (*smiling*) You see? Giving can open doors to unexpected blessings!

DANIEL (*thoughtful*) So, you’re saying that I’m missing out on joy because I’m too focused on what I want?

ISABELLA Exactly! Generosity is a privilege, Daniel. It’s about being part of something bigger than ourselves.

DANIEL (*nodding*) Alright, I’ll give it a try. But if I end up broke, I’m holding you accountable!

ISABELLA (*chuckling*) Deal! Just remember, it’s about what you decide in your heart.

DANIEL *Daniel takes a deep breath, reaches into his pocket, and pulls out two \$100 notes, smiling as he places them in the offering basket.*

(grinning) Who knew giving could feel this good?

ISABELLA (*beaming*) Welcome to the cheerful giver’s club!

DANIEL (*laughing*) I might just start a trend – Daniel the Generous instead of Daniel the Reluctant!

ISABELLA (*playfully*) Now that’s a title I can get behind!

Scene ends with both of them laughing, and the audience is left with a lighthearted reminder about the joy and privilege of giving.

40. Cheerful Givers Anonymous

2 Corinthians 9:7

Theme

Giving cheerfully is a joyful act of worship that reflects trust in God.

Summary

Gary hosts a fictional “support group” for people struggling to give cheerfully. Emma shares her hilarious excuses for avoiding offerings, from “saving for emergencies” to “supporting local coffee shops.” Through Gary’s witty retorts and biblical truths, Emma learns the joy of giving freely.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) – “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a church fellowship hall. Gary, the leader of “Cheerful Givers Anonymous,” is sitting at a table, sipping coffee. Emma, a young professional, enters and joins him.

Characters

Gary

A charismatic yet slightly sarcastic leader of a fictional “support group,” who loves pointing out the humorous side of giving excuses.

Emma

A passionate and enthusiastic participant, quick to defend her actions but open to learning.

Key Words

Cheerful, giving, trust, joy, stewardship, worship, generosity



GARY *(with a grin)* Welcome to Cheerful Givers Anonymous, Emma. Glad you could make it. Step one is admitting you have a problem. So, tell me, what’s stopping you from giving?

EMMA *(sipping coffee)* Problem? Oh, no problem at all! I just prefer...indirect giving or support.

GARY *(raises an eyebrow)* Indirect? Let me guess – you’re single-handedly keeping the local coffee shops in business?

EMMA *(mock defensive)* Hey! Supporting small businesses is basically community service.

GARY *(leans in)* Sure, but when was the last time your latte built a church, fed the hungry, or sent someone on a mission trip?

EMMA *(pauses)* Okay, fair point. But I’ve got student loans, rent, car payments – I’m practically living on a budget tighter than my skinny jeans!

GARY *(chuckles)* Funny, because I’ve seen you order premium lattes made from imported beans. Twice.

EMMA *(laughs)* It’s just...what difference can I make? I’m not exactly rolling in cash.

GARY *(grins)* Emma, let me drop some Scripture on you. 2 Corinthians 9:7 – “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Notice it doesn’t say “a rich giver.”

EMMA *(tilts head)* Cheerful, huh? I mean, I could try smiling while I give...

GARY *(shakes head)* Cheerful isn’t just about smiling. It’s about trusting God and finding joy in being part of something bigger. You’re not just handing over cash – you’re partnering with Him in ministry or church evangelism!

EMMA *(thoughtfully)* So, giving isn’t losing – it’s investing for eternal impact?

GARY *(nods)* Exactly. Plus, you’ll find that God’s math is wild. Give, and somehow, you still end up with enough.

EMMA *(pauses, then a small smile forms)* You know, I’ve always loved how the church supports local evangelism and sends people on mission trips. Maybe I could start there, even if it’s just a little bit at a time.

GARY *(beaming)* That’s the spirit! Every bit counts when it’s given with a cheerful heart. Who knows? You might even find that the joy of giving becomes addictive.

EMMA *(laughing)* Cheerful Givers Anonymous, huh? I think I’m ready to join the club.

GARY *(grins)* Welcome aboard! Now, let’s start planning some fun ways to encourage our church family to give with joy.

The two continue their conversation, their laughter and enthusiasm filling the room as they explore creative ideas to promote generosity within the community.

41. The Stewardship Olympics

2 Corinthians 9:7

Theme

Our giving to God needs to be intentional.

Summary

In “The Stewardship Olympics,” contestants compete in generosity events, showcasing different giving styles. From the quick, but fleeting efforts of One-Time Giver Gary to the joyful consistency of Cheerful Giver Cindy, the drama highlights that true champions are those who give cheerfully and consistently.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) – “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in a mock Olympic arena set up with banners and a podium. Announcer Andy stands at a podium with a microphone, wearing a referee shirt and a whistle. Cheerful music plays in the background.

Characters

Andy

An enthusiastic and humorous commentator who is excited to introduce the contestants and provide commentary throughout the competition. He loves to exaggerate and make puns related to giving.

Gary

A spirited, but easily fatigued contestant who shows up ready to give big but quickly runs out of steam. He has a competitive spirit but tends to burn out after his initial burst of energy.

Cindy

A consistently joyful competitor who embodies the spirit of cheerful giving. She trains every day and is always ready to help, encouraging others to do the same.

Lisa

A fun-loving, easy-going character who enjoys helping others but often waits for the right moment to give, preferring spontaneity over consistency. With a cheerful demeanor and a laid-back attitude, she embodies the idea that while generosity is important, true stewardship requires more intentional commitment.

Key Words

Generosity



ANDY (*excitedly*) Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the first-ever Stewardship Olympics! Today, we'll witness the thrilling showdown of generosity!

(*leaning in*) In lane one, we have the “One-Time Giver” – Gary! He's ready to sprint in with a big donation, but let's see how long he can keep it up!

GARY Gary enters with a big smile, waving, but is already panting as he takes his place.

(*enthusiastically*) I'm ready to make a big splash! Watch out, world!

ANDY (*grinning*) And in lane two, we have the “Casual Giver!” Give it up for Lisa! She's here for a good time but only jumps in when it feels right!

LISA Lisa strolls in casually, sipping from a drink, and waves nonchalantly.

(*nonchalantly*) Yeah, I'll give when I feel like it. No pressure, right?

ANDY (*playfully*) And finally, in lane three, we have the “Cheerful Giver” – Cindy! She's been training every day with a smile and is ready to show us what consistent giving looks like!

CINDY Cindy bounces in with a huge grin, waving her arms enthusiastically.

(*cheerfully*) Let's do this! Giving is the best part of the day!

ANDY (*gesturing to the audience*) Today's competition will consist of three thrilling events: the Sprint of Generosity, the Relay of Resources, and the Marathon of Commitment!

ANDY Contestants, please take your places on the starting line. (*blowing the whistle*) On your marks...get set...go!

The contestants take off. Gary sprints ahead but quickly slows down.

ANDY (*commentating*) And there goes Gary, giving it his all! Look at him go! But wait – oh no! He's already running out of steam!

GARY Gary starts to walk, panting.

(*exhausted*) I thought I could keep this up forever!

LISA Lisa jogs past him slowly with a shrug.

(*casually*) I mean, I'll jump in when I feel like it, but this is too much effort!

CINDY Cindy runs past both of them with a huge smile, high-fiving the audience.

(*cheerfully*) Remember, every little bit counts! Let's make giving fun!

GARY Gary sits down on the ground, looking defeated.



GARY (*sighing*) I thought I could give big and be done!

LISA Lisa stops next to him, sipping her drink.

(*smirking*) See, that's why I don't commit. Less stress!

Announcer Andy steps in, shaking his head.

ANDY (*addressing the audience*) And there you have it, folks! It looks like Gary is out of the race already, and Lisa is – well, just casually enjoying the show!

CINDY Cindy runs back to encourage them both.

(*gently*) Come on, you two! It's not about how much you give at once; it's about how we can keep giving over time!

GARY Gary looks up, intrigued.

(*curious*) Really? You think I can still win?

CINDY (*smiling*) Absolutely! Just start where you are and keep going!

Announcer Andy jumps in with enthusiasm.

ANDY (*excitedly*) And that's the spirit, folks! Remember, as 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, “God loves a cheerful giver!”

The contestants get up, and they all run together, smiling and encouraging each other.

ANDY (*cheering*) And it looks like we have a team effort! Who knew generosity could be so much fun?

They all cross the finish line together, laughing and celebrating.

CINDY (*raising her hands*) We all win when we give with joy!

The Generosity Challenge

2 Corinthians 9:7

Theme

Generosity is a lifestyle, not a once off event

Summary

In “The Generosity Challenge,” Tim and Lisa engage in a friendly competition to explore true generosity. Through humorous mishaps and insightful conversations, Tim realizes that generosity is a lifestyle of giving love and support, not just occasional monetary donations.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) - “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) - “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Story Line Setting

A cozy living room filled with mismatched furniture, a coffee table loaded with various items (books, a guitar, board games), and a large poster on the wall that reads, “Generosity is the New Black.”

Characters

Tim

A well-meaning but slightly oblivious young man in his early 20s who believes he’s generous because he occasionally donates money. He is humorous and often misinterprets situations.

Lisa

Tim’s spirited and practical friend in her late 20s who embodies the true spirit of generosity. She is wise, encouraging, and loves to challenge Tim’s misconceptions about giving.

Key Words

Generosity, lifestyle



LISA *Lisa enters carrying a box of items.*

(cheerfully) Hey Tim! I just finished cleaning out my closet. I found a ton of stuff to donate! Want to help me?

TIM *(without looking up)* Sure but I already donated a few bucks to the “Help Those in Need” fund last week. I think I’m good on the generosity scale.

LISA ...but generosity is more than just one-time donations my friend! It’s about living a life of giving!

TIM *(confused)* So you mean like giving randomly once in a while is not generosity?

LISA *Lisa rolls her eyes, then suddenly gets an idea.*

How about a little challenge? For one week, let’s see who can be more generous. You can count your money donation, but I’ll show you how to give beyond that!

TIM *(raising an eyebrow)* A challenge? You’re on! I’ll just donate money for every pizza I eat.

LISA *(playfully)* Good luck with that! Remember, it’s about time, talent, and gifts too. Let’s see what you can come up with!

One Week Later

LISA Hi Tim. One week has gone by. I’m keen to see how you did with the Generosity Challenge but you’re looking a little disheveled. Why are you holding a half-empty pizza box?

TIM *(sighing)* Okay, Lisa, this generosity thing is harder than I thought. I tried to help an old lady cross the street, but she just told me to get out of her way!

LISA *(laughing)* Well, at least you tried! What else did you do?

TIM *(proudly)* I offered to help my neighbor fix his car. But I don’t know anything about cars, so I ended up making it worse...and he had to call a mechanic.

LISA *Lisa pats Tim on the back, trying to hold back laughter.*

(smiling) It’s not about being perfect. Generosity is about the heart! What else did you do this week?

TIM *(thoughtfully)* Well, I did give my last slice of pizza to the mailman. Does that count?

LISA *(genuinely)* Absolutely! But you can also share your time and talents. Like playing guitar at the nursing home or volunteering at the food bank.

TIM *(brightening)* I could do that! I do have a pretty good rendition of “Kumbaya.”



Another Week Later

TIM Another week has gone by Lisa. I can see how you live a generous life. You’re an inspiration to me.

LISA *(encouragingly)* Generosity is about making a difference in people’s lives, no matter how big or small. It’s about being a cheerful giver, as it says in 2 Corinthians 9:7.

TIM *(enthusiastically)* You know what? I’m in! I’ll challenge myself to be generous every day, not just with money but with my time and talents.

LISA *(smiling)* That’s the spirit! Remember, it’s a lifestyle, not a one-off event.

TIM Very true. I’ve learned that true generosity is about living a life that reflects God’s love. Whether it’s giving time, sharing talents, or simply being there for others, it’s all part of the wonderful adventure of stewardship.

The Stewardship Showdown

1 Peter 4:10

Theme

Stewardship is not a competition; it's a calling to serve with heart.

Summary

Dave and Tim engage in a friendly rivalry over who can be the best steward of their resources through their church offerings. In a humorous yet insightful exchange, they learn that true stewardship is about heart and intention rather than competition.

Key Text

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) – “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a church hallway. Dave is pacing back and forth, holding three \$100 notes in his hand, while Tim leans casually against the wall, sipping coffee. Dave’s energy and enthusiasm are palpable as he approaches Tim.

Characters

Dave

A competitive church member who believes that outdoing others in giving is the best way to show his faith.

Tim

Dave’s laid-back friend who values genuine generosity and understands that stewardship is about the heart rather than the amount.

Key Words

Stewardship, generosity, heart, competition, service



DAVE (*with enthusiasm*) Tim! I’ve got a plan that’s going to blow your mind! I’m about to become the ultimate steward of our church. Just wait until you hear this!

TIM (*smirking*) Ultimate steward, huh? Sounds like you’re about to enter the Stewardship Olympics. What’s your game plan, Dave? I’m all ears.

DAVE (*grinning*) I’m going to give these three \$100 notes as my offering this Saturday, and I’m going to make sure everyone knows it! I’ll be the hero of generosity, the champion of the offering plate!

TIM (*chuckling*) Wow, that’s quite the strategy! But why do you want the spotlight, Dave? Isn’t the point of giving to worship God and help others, not to win a trophy?

DAVE (*confidently*) It’s not about the trophy, Tim. It’s about being the best! I’m thinking maybe a full-page ad in the church bulletin: “Dave, the Generosity King!” That’ll really get people’s attention.

TIM (*laughing*) Generosity King? What’s next, a crown? I can see it now: “All hail King Dave, slayer of scarcity and conqueror of the offering plate!”

DAVE (*rolling his eyes*) You’re missing the point! It’s about inspiring others to give more. If they see how much I’m giving, they’ll want to step up their game.

TIM (*smirking*) Sure, if by “inspiring” you mean making everyone else feel like they need to compete with you. What if they can’t give as much as you? Are you going to make them feel guilty?

DAVE (*defensively*) Well, they should try harder! I’m just leading by example. Isn’t that what a good steward is supposed to do?

TIM (*raising an eyebrow*) You know, Dave, 1 Peter 4:10 says we should use our gifts to serve one another, not to outshine each other. It’s not about who gives more; it’s about sharing what we’ve been given.

DAVE (*pausing*) Okay, but if I give more, doesn’t that mean I’m helping more people? Isn’t that the whole point of being a good steward?

TIM (*smiling*) Not necessarily, my friend. What if someone gives less \$50 but does it with a heart full of love and intention? That’s what matters in God’s eyes, not the dollar amount. Just like the story of the widow’s mite.

DAVE (*frowning*) I guess I hadn’t thought of it that way. But I still want to be recognized for my generosity! It’s not just about the giving; it’s about the status, too.

TIM (*nodding*) Recognition is nice, but what if instead of competing, we worked together? We could challenge each other to find creative ways to give what truly make a difference in our community.

DAVE (*perking up*) Like what? I’m listening.



TIM (*enthusiastically*) How about we both give, but instead of focusing on who gives more, we all partner to support mission? That way, we’re working as a team, not against each other.

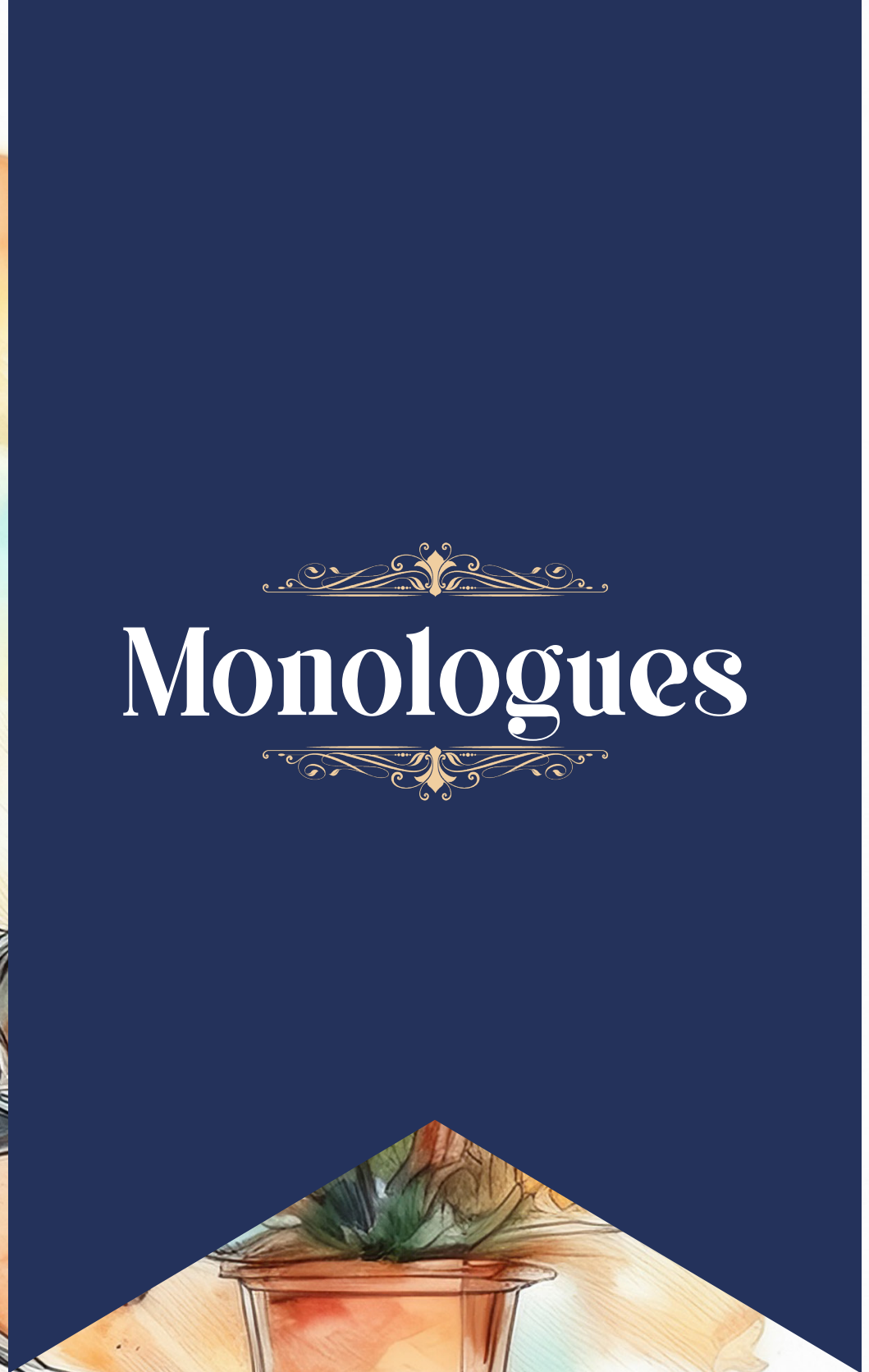
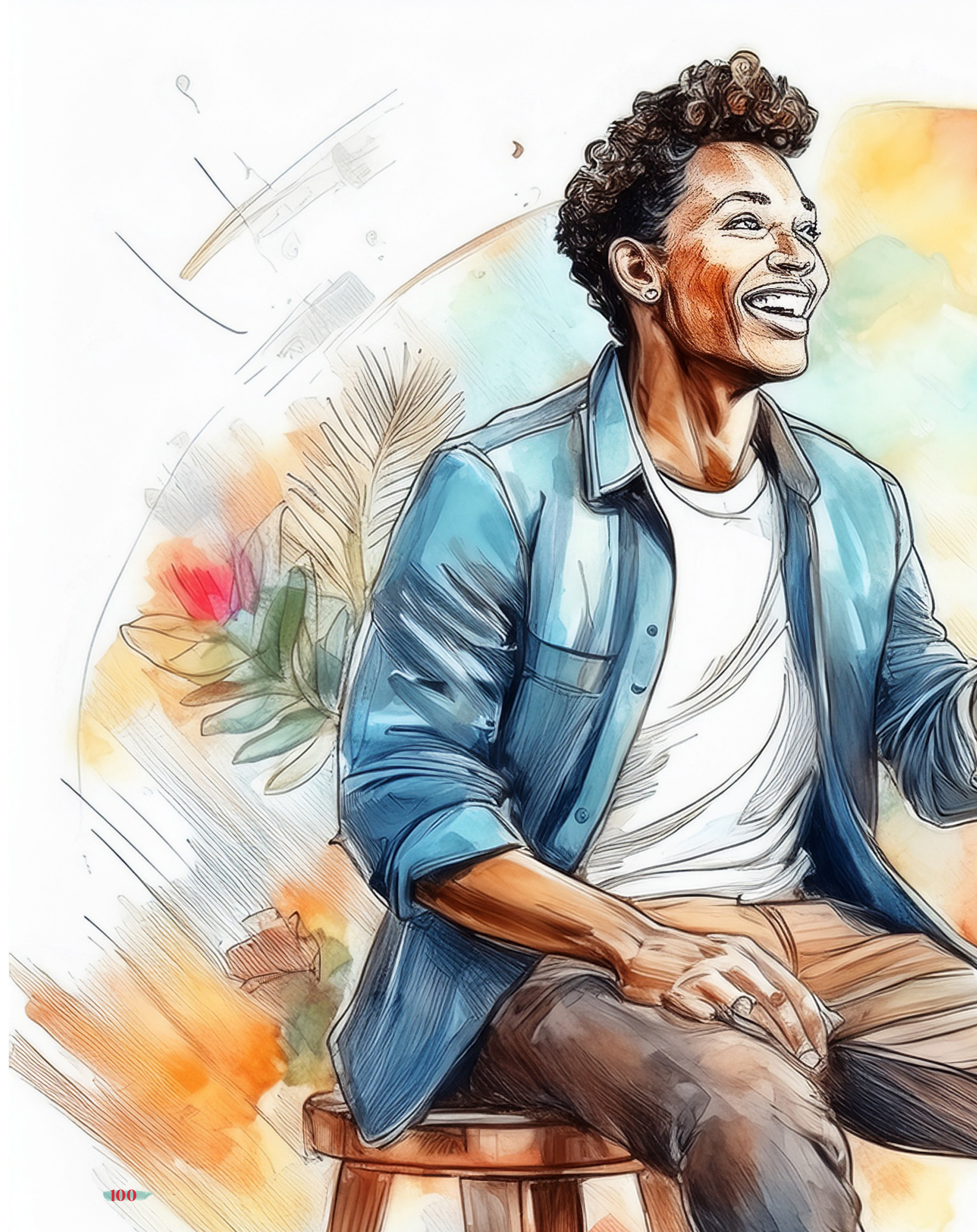
DAVE (*considering*) That could be fun! We’d be collaborating instead of trying to one-up each other. And it would be a lot more rewarding.

TIM (*grinning*) Exactly! And we can encourage others to join in without turning it into a showdown. It’s about true stewardship, not a competition.

DAVE (*smiling*) I like that! It’s way more fulfilling to use our resources to serve others, not to stroke our own egos. God told Abraham: You are blessed to be a blessing. That’s what true stewardship is about.

TIM (*raising his coffee cup*) Here’s to teamwork and genuine stewardship!

The two friends share a laugh, and the scene ends with them discussing their plans for community outreach, embracing the true meaning of stewardship through collaboration and genuine generosity, leaving behind the idea of competition in favor of a shared mission to serve and bless others.



Hear the Blessings Dropping!

Malachi 3:10

Theme

Trust in God's faithfulness when we return our tithes and offerings.

Summary

In "Hear the Blessings Dropping!", Ashley passionately shares the message of Malachi 3:10, encouraging the audience to trust God by returning their tithes. She emphasizes that generous giving opens the floodgates of heaven, bringing abundant blessings into their lives.

Key Text

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) - "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Story Line Setting

Ashley speaks about Malachi 3:10 and putting God to the test when we give and waiting for God to reward our faith by pouring abundant blessings into our lives.

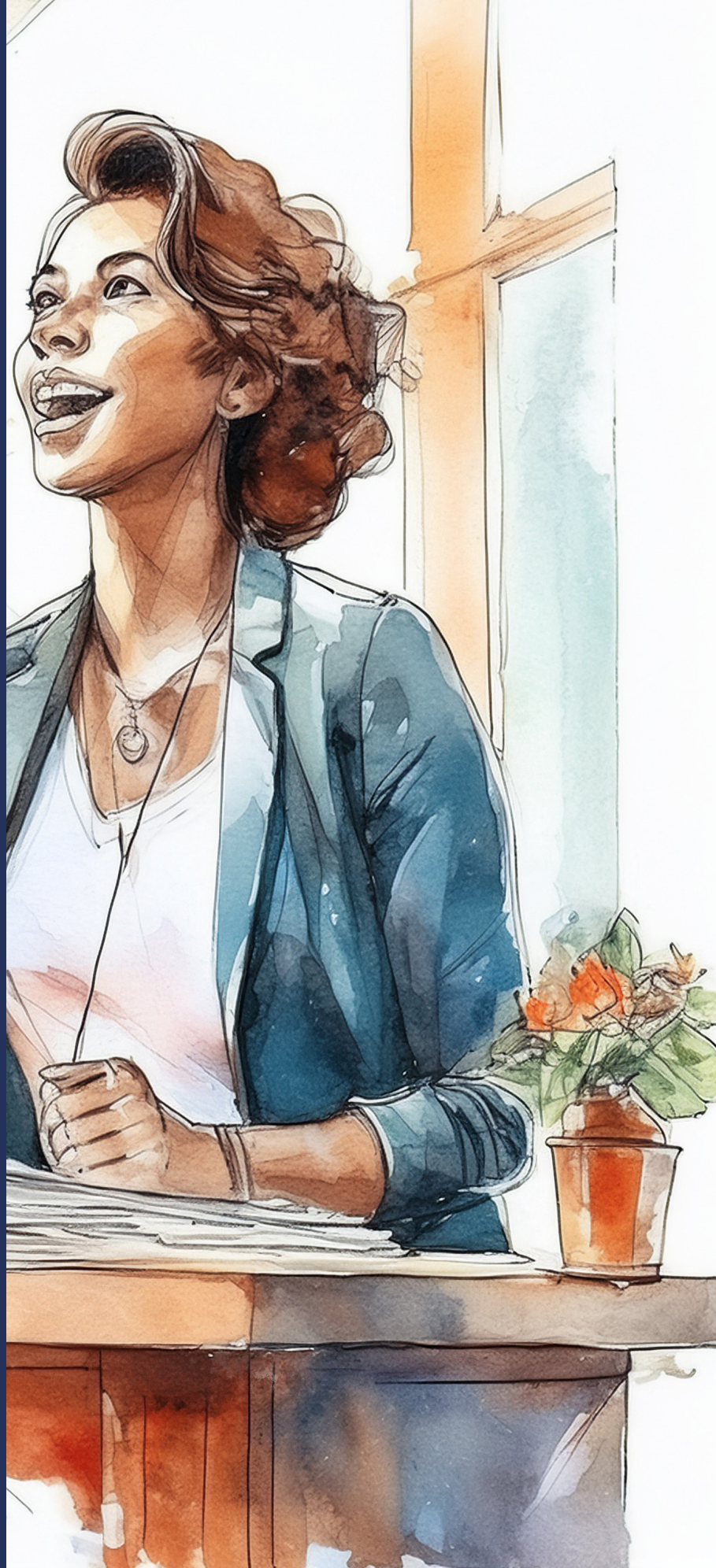
Characters

Ashley

An exuberant and optimistic woman who believes in the abundance of blessings from God. Her cheerful demeanor and infectious enthusiasm shine through her songs, as she passionately encourages others to embrace generosity and trust in divine provision.

Key Words

Tithe, blessings, trust



Ashley stands center stage, radiating excitement and enthusiasm. She gestures animatedly as she speaks.

ASHLEY Oh, my friends, have you ever felt like blessings are just falling from the sky? I mean, I can almost hear them – Hear the blessings dropping! *(She sings a line cheerfully to the tune of "Hear the Pennies Dropping")* Listen while they fall!

You see, I've been thinking a lot about blessings lately. It's like every little thing we receive, every bit of joy in our lives, comes straight from Jesus! And that's why I like to sing: Every one from Jesus, He will give them all!

(leaning in, as if sharing a secret) But let me tell you, there's this verse in the Bible that really gets me fired up! It's from Malachi 3:10 – it says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Can you believe that? The windows of heaven! It's like God has this enormous reservoir of blessings with my name on them just waiting to be released! And all we have to do is trust Him – just trust Him! *(pauses for effect)*

Now, I know what you're thinking. "What's a tithe, Ashley?" Well, my friends, it's simple! God asks us to return 10 percent of our income to Him. Why? To honor Him as the Creator and owner of everything! It's like saying, "Hey God, I trust you with my life!"

(excitedly) And here's the kicker: When we give, when we bring our whole tithe into the storehouse, God says, "Test me in this!" Can you imagine? He's practically daring us to see how generous he can be!

(with a twinkle in her eye) Now, just picture it! The floodgates of heaven opening up, blessings pouring down like rain! I can almost see it – blessings overflowing, filling every corner of our lives! It's not just about money; it's about love, joy, peace – everything good that comes from God!

(with conviction) You know, I've seen it happen! When I've taken that step to give, I've felt the difference in my life. It's like planting seeds in a garden. The more I sow, the more I reap! And trust me, there's nothing like seeing the fruits of your generosity blossom into something beautiful!

(spreading her arms wide) So, let's embrace this blessing! Let's not hold back! Let's be generous with our time, our love, and yes, our resources! Because when we do, we're not just giving; we're opening up our lives to receive even more from God!

(with a bright smile) So, let's sing it together, shall we? Hear the blessings dropping! Listen while they fall!



(clapping her hands) Ev'ry one from Jesus, He will give them all! You see, friends, it's all about faith, trust, and that beautiful, abundant love that God has for each one of us.

So, why don't we put Him to the test? Let's give generously and watch those blessings flow! Because I promise you, when we sow generously, we're going to reap generously!

(with enthusiasm) So, let's go out there and hear those blessings dropping, falling all around us – blessings from our amazing God!

Ashley bows with a joyful grin, her spirit infectious as the lights dim.

45.

The Spiritual Bungee Jump

Malachi 3:10

Theme

Tithing is taking a leap of faith but with a guaranteed outcome.

Summary

In “The Spiritual Bungee Jump,” Chene grapples with the fear of tithing, likening it to bungee jumping. He learns to take a leap of faith and discovers that trusting God with his resources leads to unexpected blessings.

Key Text

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens with Chene standing nervously next to a makeshift bungee platform (a sturdy table), looking out at the audience.

Characters

Chene

A cautious and slightly anxious church member in his early 30s, who struggles with the fear of tithing due to his tendency to overthink finances yet possesses a playful spirit and a genuine desire to trust God with his resources.

Key Words

Tithe, blessings, trust



CHENE *(gulping)* Here I am, standing on the edge of this...this bungee platform. My heart's racing, my palms are sweaty, and I feel like I'm about to jump off a cliff! *(looks down at the floor)* It's terrifying! *(pauses)* I mean, what if I jump and fall flat on my face? *(sighs dramatically)*

You know, tithing feels a lot like this moment. It's like God says, “Test me in this,” but I'm standing here thinking, “What if this bungee cord doesn't hold? What if I give my tithe and end up broke with nothing but instant noodles for dinner?” *(raises an eyebrow)* I can already hear my stomach grumbling! *(gesturing with hands)*. But wait! What if this whole tithing thing is actually a leap of faith? *(pauses and looks contemplative)*

Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse.” It's like God is saying, “Trust me! Take that jump!” *(leans forward, whispering conspiratorially)* And here's the kicker: He promises to open the floodgates of heaven! *(throws arms wide)* Floodgates! That sounds like God has a dam full of blessings ready to pour down into my life! *(shifts nervously)*

But what if I jump and there's no safety net? *(pauses, looking serious)*

Nope! *(shakes head)*. That's not how it works! God is the safety net! He's there to catch me, to hold me up, to bless me abundantly! *(pacing a little)*

Okay, deep breath. *(takes a deep breath)* I can do this! But what if I really can't afford to live after I return my 10 percent? *(laughs nervously)* Snacks? Will I be able to afford snacks? *(grinning)*. I just love Smarties! *(draw it out)*. I just love Kit Kats!

Oh, come on! Of course, I'll still have snacks! I mean, this is about investing in heavenly dividends, right? *(smirking)* Heavenly dividends! I love the sound of that! *(gesturing emphatically)*. It's like jumping off and realizing the bungee cord stretches way higher than I thought! I could land on blessings I never even imagined! *(taking another deep breath)* Alright, alright! *(climbs onto the table)* Here goes nothing! *(pretends to prepare for a jump)*

I'm jumping into faith...and hopefully, not into instant noodles! *(raising arms)*

On the count of three – *(yelling dramatically)*. Bungee jump for Jesus! *(pretends to jump off the table, flailing dramatically)* Aaaahhh! *(lands safely on an imaginary mat below, looking exhilarated)* I'm still here! *(grinning widely)*. And I feel...blessed! *(raises hands in victory)*

See? I took the leap and didn't bounce back empty! *(enthusiastically)* Who knew giving could feel this good? *(looking up with a smile)* Next stop – heavenly dividends! *(gesturing as if to embrace the audience)* So, who's ready to take the leap with me? Let's trust God and watch the blessings flow!

Scene ends with Chene standing confidently, looking invigorated and ready to embrace a life of obedience and faith.

The Vaccine

Matthew 6:19–21

Theme

Generosity is contagious.

Summary

In “The Vaccine,” Rebecca grapples with the overwhelming spirit of generosity spreading through Jericho, inspired by Zacchaeus’s transformation. Initially seeking a way to protect her possessions, she ultimately embraces the contagious nature of generosity, choosing love and compassion over hoarding.

Key Text

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Story Line Setting

Rebecca, the main character, has seen people in Jericho succumbing to The Virus. She goes to the doctor and wants The Vaccine so that she can avoid catching The Virus.

The drama is an extension of the story Zacchaeus.

Characters

Rebecca

A cautious and introspective woman grappling with the transformative power of generosity. Initially seeking to protect her material wealth, she experiences an awakening, ultimately embracing a life of compassion and selflessness as she confronts her fears.

Key Words

Generosity, hoarding, selfishness



Rebecca stands center stage, her expression a mixture of contemplation and realization. She addresses the audience directly, her voice steady but filled with emotion.

REBECCA When I entered the doctor’s surgery, I was filled with a sense of urgency. I had heard whispers of The Virus sweeping through Jericho – this strange virus of generosity that seemed to infect everyone around me. I thought I could avoid it, shield myself from its reach. “Doctor,” I said, “Have you got a vaccine for The Virus?” I was desperate, clinging to the illusion of control.

But as I sat there, I thought about the infamous Zacchaeus. About two weeks ago Zacchaeus, the tax collector, came to our emporium and was working out how much tax we had to pay. He asked my husband, Mordecai, what the earnings were in our grocery emporium. So, Mordecai told him we earned 100 shekels in the last year.

Zacchaeus says, “Well the basic rate of tax is 40 percent – so that’ll be 50 shekels.” Mordecai looked bewildered and started trying to work it out on his fingers. But Zacchaeus kept talking “Then there’s your Employment Tax, Water Tax, Air Tax, Tin Tax. Then there’s Import Duty, Export Duty, Night Duty – that’s all another 30 percent”.

Then he paused and pointed at me. “Is that your wife over there?” Zacchaeus sneered. Mordecai nodded. Zacchaeus then says, “Well there’s another 10 percent for the Ugly Wife Tax. Altogether a total of 90 shekels’ tax so you have a whole 10 shekels for yourself to play with. Don’t spend it all at once, will you?

But Zacchaeus – a man who once epitomized greed – had turned his life around, declaring his intent to give half his income to the poor and repay those he had cheated. It didn’t sound like him at all. It sounded like madness. And yet, here was a man transformed, caught in the grips of this contagious spirit of generosity.

What struck me was not just Zacchaeus’s change but the ripple effect it had on those around me. My best friend, Sapphira, and her husband, Ananias, were not keeping up with the latest trends anymore; they were giving away their beloved possessions and started a foundation – the Ananias and Sapphira Foundation for the Poor and Destitute Widows of Jericho. It was as if they had caught a virus that made them see beyond their own desires.

I couldn’t wrap my mind around it. I thought, “What has happened to them? Why would they choose this radical path of giving?” But as I spoke to the doctor, I began to understand that this was not a madness but a divine transformation that was reshaping their lives.

So, I found myself wrestling with my own fears. I had spent years accumulating treasures on this earth, convinced that security lay in what I possessed. The thought of giving away what little I had, felt terrifying. “We need to build our nest egg,” I told myself, especially with the looming threat of another financial crisis. But in that moment, I realized the futility of my fears.

The doctor spoke of Contagio Generoso – a virus that shifts one’s focus from self to others, where generosity becomes the very center of life. I found myself agitated, pleading for a vaccine, terrified of what it would mean to embrace this new way of living.

But then I received a phone call from Mordecai. He was in shock. Zacchaeus came to our emporium and wanted to return four times the amount of taxes he had overcharged us. Can you believe that? Four times.

If Zacchaeus could change, if he could break free from the chains of greed, then perhaps I was not so hopeless after all. Perhaps I didn’t need a vaccine to protect me from The Virus; perhaps I needed to embrace it.

What if I, too, could become a vessel of generosity? What if I could open my heart to those in need? If the Virus could change the heart of the most unlikely person, then maybe it could transform me as well.

I stand at a crossroads now. I could retreat into the safety of my possessions, or I could reach out and see who in our community needs assistance. I want to be part of this tidal wave of generosity. I want to share, to love, and to create a legacy that transcends material wealth.

She takes a deep breath, her voice growing stronger.

Imagine a world where generosity is contagious, where love overflows and kindness becomes the norm. It starts with one person. Am I ready to be that person? I think I am. If generosity can change Zacchaeus, then perhaps it can change me too. I’ll chose to share; I’ll chose to love. And in doing so, I’ll find treasures that last – treasures that no thief can take, no moth can destroy. So, here I am, ready to catch this Virus – ready to let it seep into my heart and soul. I will no longer fear it. Instead, I will let it guide me toward a life rich in purpose and compassion.

Rebecca’s face lights up with hope and determination.

Let us all be infected with Contagio Generoso. Let us build treasures in heaven, where our hearts can rest, free from the burdens of this world.

Push Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

Theme

Trust in God, even in tough times.

Summary

In “Push Out Into the Deep,” frustrated fisherman Peter contemplates giving up after a bad night. He learns to trust God and steps out in faith, ultimately discovering unexpected blessings through his efforts.

Key Text

Luke 5:4 (Phillips) – “When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Push out into deep water, and let down your nets for a catch.’”

Story Line Setting

Sitting on the shore, Peter looks out at the water, frustration evident on his face as he mends his empty nets.

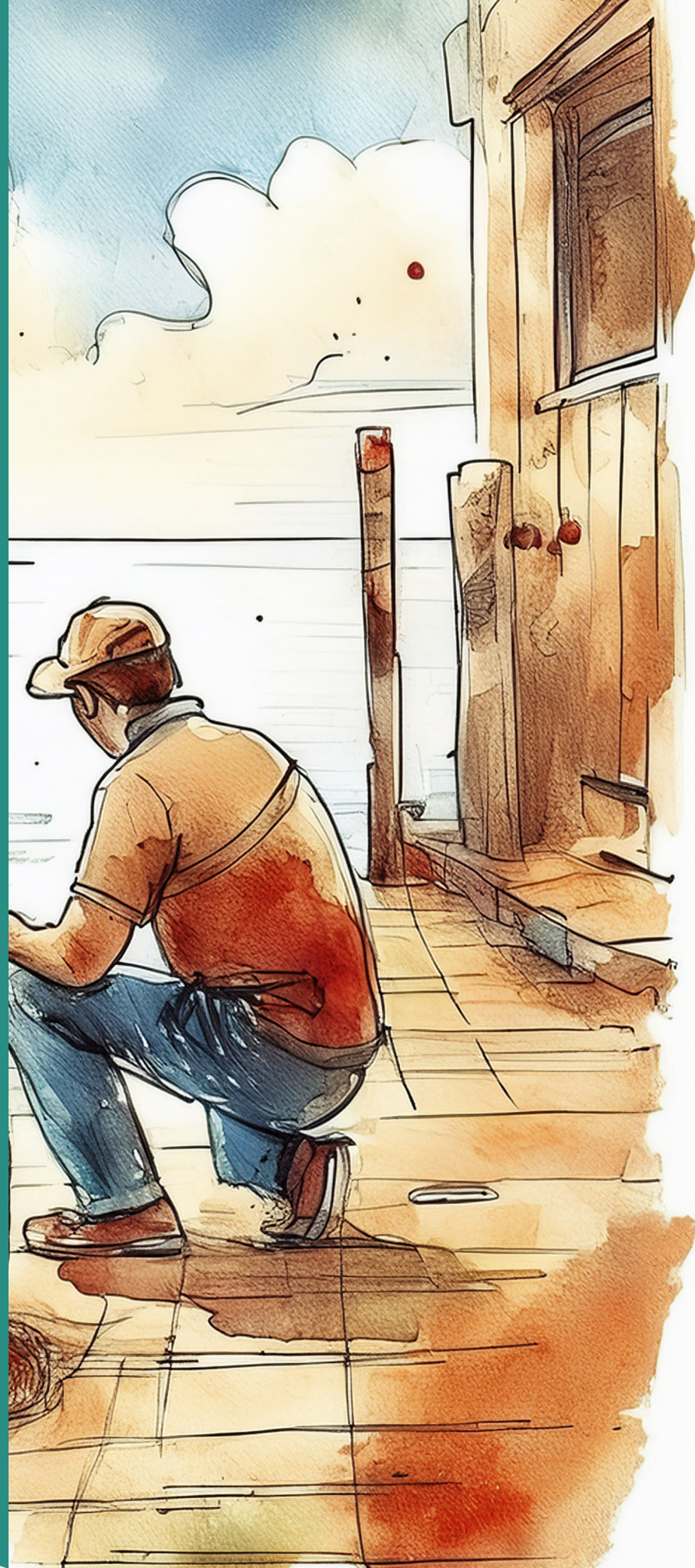
Characters

Peter

A seasoned fisherman in his 30s, Peter is tired and frustrated after a night of unsuccessful fishing. He grapples with practical concerns and struggles to trust God, especially during challenging times.

Key Words

Faith, God’s provision



PETER Another day, another empty net. Last night was nothing short of a disaster. I’m Simon Peter, a fisherman. Here I am, staring at these fishing nets, feeling like a complete failure. I prepared my nets with such hope, dragging them through the water under the cover of darkness, believing that the fish would be plentiful. But instead, I pulled up...nothing. Net zero.

Imagine how I felt. Picture yourself in my shoes – what if you’re a writer, and the words just won’t come? Or an electrician who can’t get the lights to turn on? That’s the weight I’m carrying. I’m a fisherman, and right now, I feel like a failure.

The shoreline is alive with the sounds of my fellow fishermen, their faces weary and worn, just like mine, after another long night of fruitless labor. It’s disheartening, you know? I’m supposed to be good at this. I know these waters like the back of my hand, but somehow, I’ve come back with empty hands.

As we tended our nets, a crowd began to gather, drawn by the presence of a man who spoke with an authority unlike any they had heard before. This was Jesus of Nazareth, the rabbi who had begun to captivate the hearts and minds of many. He made his way toward my boat, his eyes full of a calm power.

Without hesitation, Jesus stepped into my boat and asked me to push out a little from the shore. Though tired, I obeyed, watching as Jesus sat down and began to teach the crowd from the boat. His words flowed powerfully from his lips, each one sinking deep into the hearts of those who listened.

When Jesus had finished speaking, he turned to me and said: “Push out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch.” My face tightened. We had already fished all night and caught nothing. The thought of going back out seemed pointless, particularly as we don’t fish during the day. And I would have to clean and mend the nets again. Going fishing again was pointless and futile.

Yet, there was something in Jesus’ voice, something that stirred a faint hope within me. “Master,” I replied, “we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.” I was hoping that Jesus would say, “I understand, Peter. Don’t worry about it then.” But Jesus didn’t say anything. So I continued: “But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

This moment was pivotal, not only for me but for all of us. It reflects the call to step out of our comfort zone and into depths of faith and generosity. Jesus’ request to venture into deep waters symbolises the challenges and uncertainties we often face when asked to give of ourselves – be it our time, resources, or talents.

The choice is between logic and faith: between independence, doing it my way, or dependence, doing it God’s way. That was the choice I faced.



In our lives, we may find ourselves in similar situations. We might feel like we have nothing left to give or that our efforts will go unnoticed. When God say, “Return a faithful tithe, 10 percent of your increase, and give generously to your church and those in need,” it’s open to us to say “God, you are just like our politicians who don’t realise we’re in a cost of living crisis. Times are tough. We can’t afford to return our tithe or give anything.” That’s what logic would suggest we should say.

Yet, God often calls us to give from a place of vulnerability, where we must rely on him, depend on him, rather than our own understanding, capabilities or situation. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

When we push out into the deep, we surrender our fears and doubts, trusting that God will provide. My friend Sarah always reminds me of Matthew 6:33. It says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added onto you.” Sarah says that God promises to supply our food shelter and clothing if we put him first and even in a cost of living crisis.

As I cast my fishing nets, yes, in the daylight hours, I experienced a miraculous catch – so much so that the nets began to break. This overflow was as a beautiful reminder that when we step out in faith God rewards our efforts beyond what we can imagine.

What does it mean for you to “push out into the deep”? Maybe it’s taking a leap of faith by giving generously, committing to a new ministry or reaching out to someone in need. It could involve giving more than what feels comfortable or sharing your skills to uplift others.

As we reflect on God’s call to push out into the deep let us remember that true giving is an act of faith. It’s about trusting God with our resources, believing that He can do more with our offerings than we can do on our own.

48.

Farmer Fred's Revelation

2 Corinthians 9:6

Theme

When you sow generously, you reap generously.

Summary

In “Farmer Fred’s Revelation,” Fred grapples with the idea of generosity while observing his neighbor, Betty, who sows abundantly. Realizing that sharing his seeds could lead to unexpected blessings, he resolves to embrace a generous attitude and plant with an open heart.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV) – “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

Story Line Setting

Farmer Fred stands in his sparse field, torn between the urge to hoard his few seeds and the inspiring example of his neighbor, Betty, who v. Realizing that generosity could yield unexpected blessings, he resolves to plant with an open heart.

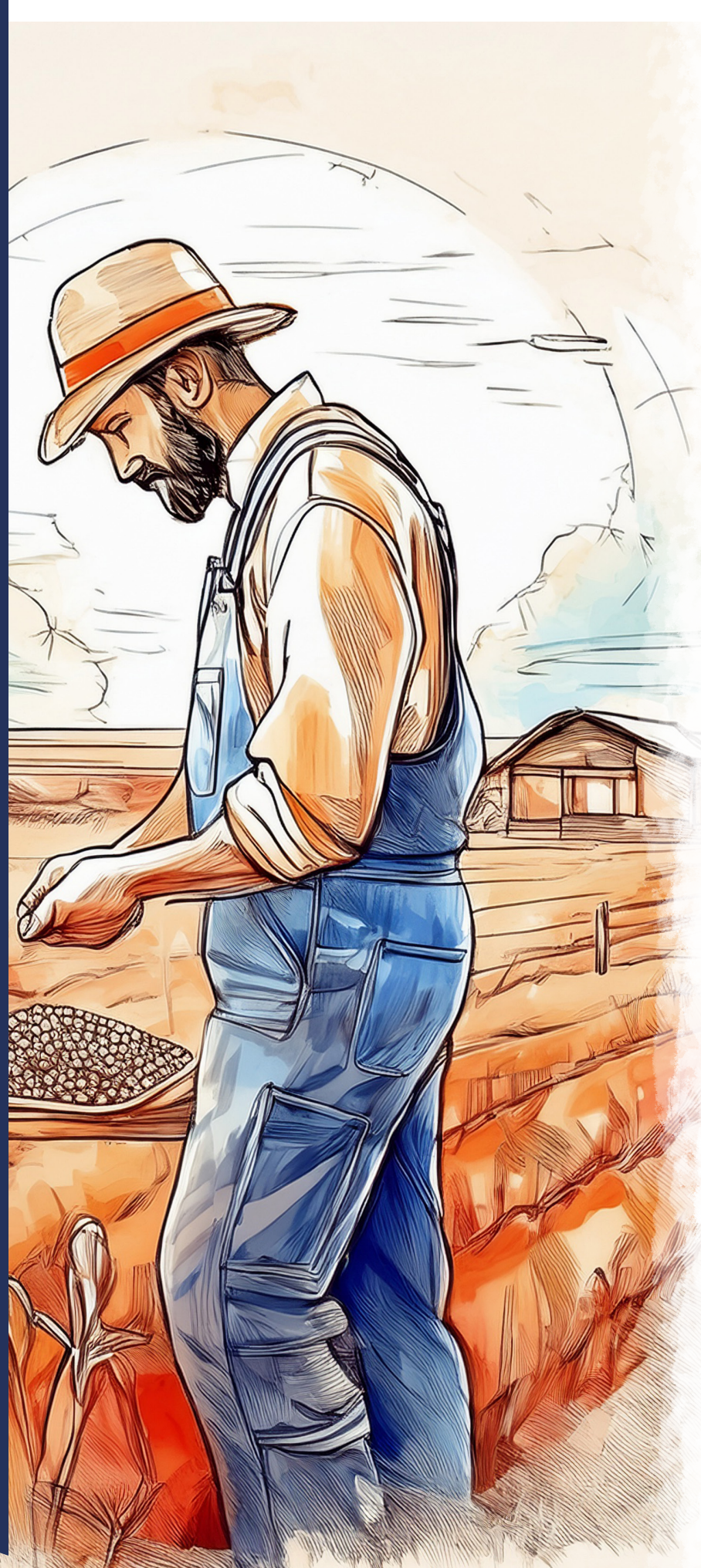
Characters

Farmer Fred

A humorous, somewhat stingy character who is skeptical about giving.

Key Words

Sowing, reaping, trusting God, faith, blessings



Farmer Fred stands center stage, looking at his sparse crops with a mix of skepticism and determination.

FARMER FRED Well, here I am, Farmer Fred, standing in my not-so-bountiful field, pondering the meaning of generosity.

(looks at his small bag of seeds) You see, I’ve got just enough seeds to plant a small patch of corn. But why should I plant what I could eat myself? I mean, what if I sow too much and end up with corn everywhere?

He scratches his head, looking conflicted.

And then there’s Betty, my cheerful neighbor. Every time I see her, she’s out there singing, “Oh, the more I sow, the more I’ll grow!” She’s all about planting a whole field of seeds. *(rolls his eyes)* A whole field? Isn’t that a bit excessive? Last year, I planted three seeds and called it a “corn patch.” I mean, those three seeds were the best three seeds! They had potential!

Sighs dramatically.

But Betty? No, she’s out there sowing seeds like she’s throwing confetti at a parade! She keeps telling me about 2 Corinthians 9:6 – “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

(pauses for effect) Generously, huh? What if I sow too much and it rains too much? Then I’ll have corn seed everywhere but not where I planted it.

He begins pacing, getting more animated.

And here comes Pastor Pete, all enthusiastic about the annual “Sow and Grow” competition. *(Imitating Pastor Pete)* “Hello, everyone! This year, the winner will receive the Golden Hoe Award!” Golden Hoe? What’s that? A fancy gardening tool? I bet it’s just a gold-painted rock with a handle! *(Laughs)*

But you know, as much as I joke, I can’t shake the thought that maybe I’m missing something. Maybe every time I hold back, I’m missing out on a blessing. God wants to shower me with blessings, but here I am, clutching my seeds like they’re the last cookies in a jar!

He stops and looks out into the audience.

So, I think to myself, “Fred, what’s the plan this time? Are you going to sprinkle a few seeds here and there and call it a day?” *(pauses for effect)* Last year, I thought I was being practical. But practical turned into meager and sad! I ended up with a tiny pile of corn!

He throws his hands up in frustration.

And when harvest time came, I looked at Betty with her bountiful harvest, and I thought, “What have I done?” I could’ve had a corn bonanza, but instead, I’m left with a just a few cobs of corn! *(shakes his head)*



But you know what? I’m starting to see the light here. *(brightens up)* Maybe the more I give, the more I’ll receive! It’s like a blessing boomerang! The more I sow, the more blessings come back to me! Next year, I’m going all out! I’ll plant seeds like there’s no tomorrow!

He gestures grandly.

Imagine a corn festival with all my neighbors, sharing recipes and laughter! I’ll share my corn salad recipes with the whole town! *(pauses, smiling)* And who knows? Maybe I’ll even throw in some corn muffins for good measure!

He takes a deep breath and looks determined.

So here’s the deal, folks! I’m done being stingy! I’m ready to sow generously, and I invite you all to join me! Let’s watch the blessings flow together! Because when we give, we not only plant seeds in the ground; we plant seeds of love, joy, and community in our hearts!

He smiles wide, arms open.

Remember, friends: Sow generously, and watch the blessings come pouring in!



Children's Dramas



The Tithe Fish Tale

Proverbs 3:9-10

Theme

Giving to God is our first priority.

Summary

In “The Tithe Fish Tale,” Robert brings his first catch to Elder Solomon as a tithe, only to reveal he’s just getting started. Their banter showcases the joy of stewardship and the importance of giving to God first.

Key Text

Proverbs 3:9-10 (The Living Bible) – “Honour the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens on a beautiful South Pacific beach. Robert enters, dragging a large fish behind him, beaming with pride. Elder Solomon is sitting on a log, watching the waves.

Characters

Robert

A spirited 13-year-old boy, proud of his fishing skills and eager to honor God with his catch.

Elder Solomon

A wise and humorous local elder of the church, who enjoys mentoring the youth and has a knack for storytelling.

Key Words

First fruits, tithe



ROBERT (*excitedly*) Elder Solomon! Elder Solomon! Look what I caught! This is my tithe!

ELDER SOLOMON (*raising an eyebrow*) That’s quite the fish, Robert! Where did you find such a treasure?

ROBERT (*grinning*) The biggest one in the ocean! I’m here to give it to God, just like it says in Proverbs!

ELDER SOLOMON (*nodding*) Ah, yes! “Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income.” You’re on the right track, my boy!

ROBERT (*confidently*) Exactly! So, what do I do with it? Do I just throw it in the offering basket or put it in the tithe house?

ELDER SOLOMON (*chuckling*) Not quite! First, we need to clean it, then sell it so that the money can be contributed to our church.

ROBERT (*frowning*) Clean it? But it’s my tithe! I thought it was supposed to be a feast!

ELDER SOLOMON (*smirking*) No, a tithe is for God’s purposes. Not our own.

ROBERT (*scratching his head*) Okay, but this is just the first one. I still have nine more out there in the ocean!

ELDER SOLOMON (*surprised*) Nine more? You caught 10 fish?

ROBERT (*enthusiastically*) No! This fish was just the beginning! I’m heading back out for the rest!

ELDER SOLOMON (*laughing*) So let me get this straight. You brought the first fish as your tithe, and you’re planning to go catch the rest after this?

ROBERT (*nodding*) Exactly! Gotta honor God first, right?

ELDER SOLOMON (*grinning*) You’re going to need a bigger basket then! But tell me, what if the other fish are bigger?

ROBERT (*thinking*) Well...I guess it’s putting God first that matters! I want to honor him in the way he asked us to.

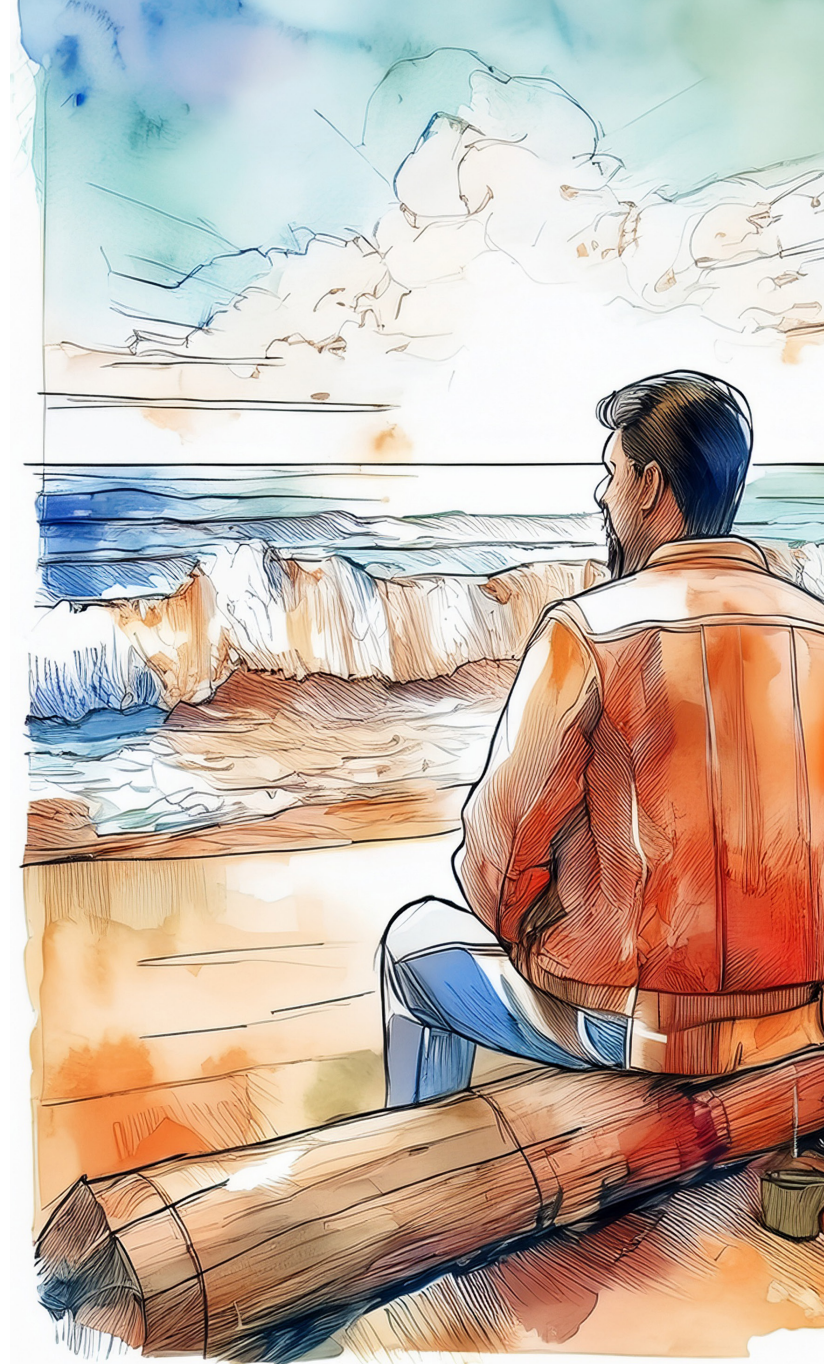
ELDER SOLOMON (*with a twinkle in his eye*) That’s right Robert, that first fish is a sign of your faith! You give that one, and God will bless the rest!

ROBERT (*feeling inspired*) So, if I give this fish, the others will come swimming in like they’re lining up for a parade?

ELDER SOLOMON (*laughing*) If only it were that easy! But yes, God loves a cheerful giver!

ROBERT (*holding the fish proudly*) Then it’s settled! I’ll clean this fish, and who knows? Maybe I’ll come back with a whole school of fish!

ELDER SOLOMON (*smiling*) Now that’s the spirit! Off you go, then! And remember, the ocean is waiting for you!



ROBERT Here, Elder Solomon. I’ll leave the fish with you to clean and sell.

Robert then runs off, excitedly, to catch more fish. Elder Solomon shakes his head, chuckling to himself.

ELDER SOLOMON (*to the audience*) Ah, the youth! They catch the first fish and head back for more. If only we all had that kind of faith in our giving!

Note:

In the South Pacific, a tithe house is a structure built by local communities where members bring their tithes, typically in the form of agricultural produce or other goods. This practice reflects the biblical principle of tithing, where individuals give a portion (usually one-tenth) of their income or harvest back to God.

Tithe houses serve as a communal space for the collection of tithes and offerings, which are then used to support the church and its activities. These structures are often located near churches and symbolize the community’s dedication to honoring God through their resources. They also provide a practical solution for managing and distributing the tithes collected from the local population.

Allowance Arithmetic

Malachi 3:10

Theme

Tithing is simple enough for children to understand and apply. God's arithmetic is different to ours. 90 percent > 100 percent

Summary

In this lighthearted drama, Dad gives Sam his weekly allowance and teaches him about tithing. Sam decides to return his tithe, leading to a humorous yet insightful conversation about generosity and stewardship.

Key Text

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Story Line Setting

Scene opens in the living room. Dad is sitting at a table with a few dollars in front of him. Sam enters, bouncing with excitement.

Characters

Dad (Dave)

A caring father who is trying to teach his child the importance of tithing while navigating his own understanding of generosity.

Child (Sam)

A bright and curious child eager to learn about money, stewardship, and the concept of tithing.

Key Words

Tithe, faithfulness



SAM (*enthusiastically*) Hey, Dad! Is it allowance day?

DAD (*smiling*) You bet it is! Here's your allowance for the week—\$10!

*Dad hands Sam ten \$1 bills.
Sam looks at it with wide eyes.*

SAM Wow! Thanks, Dad! This is awesome!

DAD (*leaning in*) Now remember, Sam, a part of that money should go back to God as your tithe.

SAM Tithe? What's that again?

DAD (*explaining*) Tithing means giving 10 percent of what you earn back to God. So, if you got \$10, that means you should return \$1.

SAM (*counting on fingers*) But if I return \$1, I only have...
(*pauses*) \$9 left!

DAD That's right, Sam.

SAM (*thoughtfully*) So, if I give \$1, that means I'm trusting God with my money, right?

DAD Exactly! Tithing is a way to recognise that God is our Creator and that we are dependent upon him for everything we have. Also, God promises that if we are faithful in returning our tithe then he will bless us.

SAM So with God \$9 is better than \$10 if we return our tithe.

DAD (*nodding*) Absolutely! It's about being obedient and putting God first and being confident that God will keep his promise and bless us.

SAM (*determined*) You know what? I want to give my tithe now!

Sam takes a dollar from the \$10 and holds it up proudly.

Here's my \$1 for God!

DAD (*grinning*) That's great, Sam! I'm proud of you for wanting to return your tithe to God!

SAM (*giggling*) So now I have \$9 left! That means I can get a toy and maybe some candy!

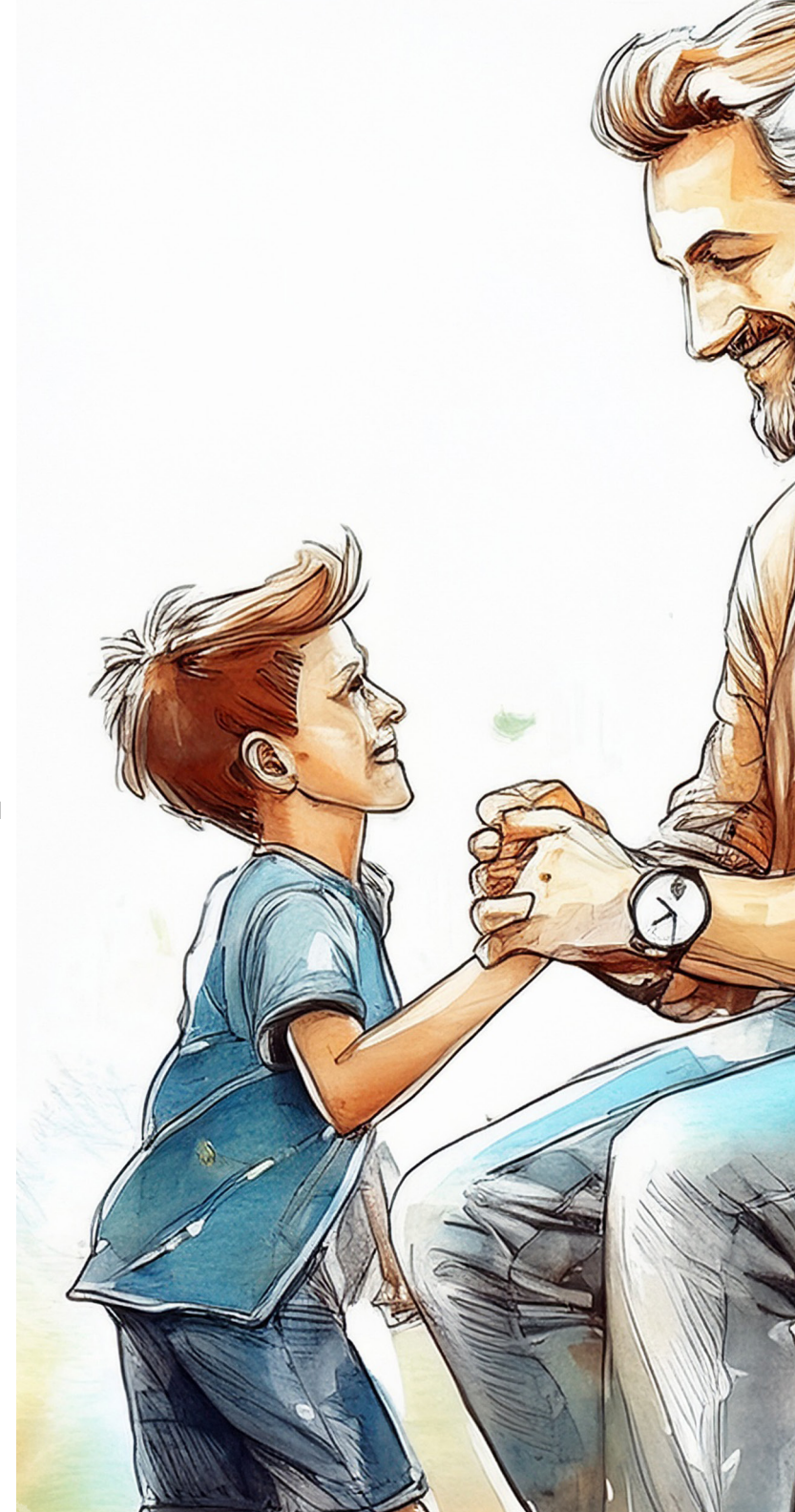
DAD (*Playfully*) Just remember to save a little for next week, too!

SAM (*nodding*) I will! And maybe I can save up to give an offering as well next time!

DAD (*encouragingly*) That's the spirit! The more you give, the more you grow in generosity.

SAM (*smiling*) And who knows? Maybe God will bless us both with extra surprises!

DAD *Dad raises an eyebrow curiously.*



Like ice cream?

SAM (*jumping*) Yes! Ice cream for being generous!

DAD (*laughing*) Well, if you keep giving, we might just have to celebrate with some!

They both laugh, and Sam looks at his dollar.

SAM (*playfully*) I'm off to give this to God! Who knows what blessings are coming our way!

As Sam runs off, Dad shakes his head with a smile, proud of his son's heart.

The Wise Men's Gift Mix-Up

Matthew 2:11

Theme

Give our best to God.

Summary

In “The Wise Men’s Gift Mix-Up,” wise men Jake and Ethan prepare gifts for baby Jesus but face a comedic mix-up when Jake includes a rubber chicken. Ultimately, they realize that giving their best, regardless of the form, is what truly matters.

Key Text

Matthew 2:11 (NIV) – “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens with Jake and Ethan in a cozy room filled with exotic decorations, maps, and treasure chests. They are preparing their gifts for baby Jesus, excited about their journey. The stage is set with colorful tapestries and a large, ornate treasure chest in the center.

Characters

Jake

A cheerful and somewhat scatterbrained wise man, always excited to give but often forgetful about the details. He loves telling stories and makes every situation lighthearted.

Ethan

A serious and organized wise man who values preparation above all else. He often tries to keep Jake focused and is the voice of reason, though he can’t help but chuckle at Jake’s antics.

Key Words

Wise men, giving best to God



JAKE (*bouncing with enthusiasm*) Alright, Ethan! Are we ready to bring our best gifts to the baby king Jesus?

ETHAN I can’t wait to see his tiny face light up!

JAKE (*checking a scroll with a furrowed brow*) Yes, but let’s make sure we have everything. We need gold, frankincense, and... (*he looks around*) where’s my myrrh?

Jake starts rummaging through a treasure chest, pulling out random items with exaggerated movements.

(*holding up a rubber chicken triumphantly*) I found this! It’s definitely a treasure.

ETHAN (*face palming*) A rubber chicken? Really, Jake? We’re supposed to bring valuable gifts, not a gag gift for a clown!

JAKE *Jake laughs, realizing his mistake and making a funny face.*

(*grinning*) Well, it might make baby Jesus giggle!

ETHAN *Ethan shakes his head but can’t help but smile at Jake’s crazy spirit.*

(*sighing but amused*) We need the real gifts.

(*He looks in his own box.*) I have gold here. (*He lifts a shiny gold coin.*) But I could have sworn I packed myrrh!

JAKE (*thinking aloud*) Maybe you left it at the last party we visited? Remember the one with the dancing camels?

ETHAN (*chuckling*) Yes, and I remember you trying to teach a camel to dance! The poor thing just stood there, confused!

They both laugh, but then Ethan’s face turns serious again as he looks at the empty treasure chest.

ETHAN (*frustrated*) Jake, this is serious! We need to prepare the best gifts for Jesus.

JAKE *Jake suddenly perks up, looking inspired as he gets a brilliant idea.*

(*excitedly*) Wait! What if we combine our gifts? We could make a “treasure chest” of our best ideas!

ETHAN (*confused but intrigued*) How do we combine gold, frankincense, and a rubber chicken?

JAKE *Jake starts tossing items into a larger treasure chest with exaggerated flair.*

(*enthusiastically*) We can put in the gold, some frankincense, and my rubber chicken for fun! It’ll be the funniest treasure box ever!

ETHAN *Ethan bursts into laughter, shaking his head in disbelief.*

(*smiling*) That’s one way to make a memorable gift, I suppose! But I don’t think that’s what the baby needs.



As they continue to fill the box, Jake has a serious moment and looks thoughtful.

JAKE (*reflectively*) You know, Ethan, in the end, it’s not just about the gifts. It’s about bringing our best, whatever that looks like.

ETHAN (*nodding*) Exactly! It’s about the love and intention behind it. It’s not only about what we give but how we give it.

They both stop and reflect for a moment, looking at each other with understanding.

JAKE (*grinning*) So, shall we bring our best gifts to the king? Even if one of them is a rubber chicken?

ETHAN (*laughing*) Definitely! Let’s go show the baby Jesus that we are wise men with big hearts! Remember, it’s the thought that counts!

They high-five each other and start to march off stage dramatically, holding their treasure chest high, with Jake swinging the rubber chicken around for comedic effect.

JAKE (*calling out as they exit*) And if he giggles, we’ll know we did it right!

Max's Cookie Adventure

2 Corinthians 9:7

Theme

Sharing cheerfully is important.

Summary

In “Max’s Cookie Adventure,” Max initially hesitates to share his delicious cookies, but with encouragement from his friend Lily and Mr. Thompson, he learns the joy of giving. Together, they create a cookie plate to spread cheer throughout their neighborhood.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) – “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Story Line Setting

The scene opens in a cozy kitchen filled with the delicious aroma of freshly baked cookies. Max is at the counter, proudly icing his cookies, while Lily enters with a cheerful smile, holding a basket.

Characters

Max

A fun-loving, slightly mischievous 12-year-old who loves cookies more than anything else. He struggles with sharing, especially when it comes to his famous cookies.

Lily

Max’s best friend, a kind-hearted and generous 11-year-old who believes in sharing and helping others. She loves baking and is always trying to encourage Max to share.

Mr. Thompson

The friendly neighborhood baker (in his 40s) who loves to tell stories and share life lessons with the kids. He’s wise but has a knack for humor, making him a favorite among the children.

Key Words

Sharing, generosity



Lily (*excitedly*) Max! Those cookies smell amazing! What are you going to do with them?

Max (*grinning*) I’m going to eat them all myself! They’re my special cookies, and no one else gets any!

Lily Lily rolls her eyes playfully, pretending to be shocked.

(*teasingly*) Come on, Max! You know it’s more fun to share! Remember what we learned in Sabbath School? God loves a cheerful giver!

Max (*scrunching his nose*) But what if I want to keep them all? What if I share and then I don’t have any left for myself?

Lily Lily walks over to Max, picks up a cookie, and takes a big bite, savoring the flavor.

Mmm! These are too good not to share! Plus, think about Mr. Thompson! He always shares his delicious pastries with us.

Mr. Thompson Just then, Mr. Thompson enters, wearing an apron and holding a tray of goodies, a wide smile on his face.

Mr. Thompson: (*cheerfully*) Speaking of sharing! I brought some of my famous blueberry muffins! Who wants one?

Max Max’s eyes widen, and he quickly puts down the cookie he was holding, forgetting his earlier intentions.

(*enthusiastically*) Me! Me! I love your blueberry muffins!

Mr. Thompson Mr. Thompson hands him a muffin, and Max starts eating, his face lighting up with delight.

(*laughing*) You know, Max, every time I bake, I make sure to share with my neighbors. It brings me joy to see them happy.

Max Max looks thoughtful, wiping muffin crumbs from his mouth.

(*curiously and thoughtfully*) But what if they don’t like my cookies? What if they don’t want to share my special cookies?

Mr. Thompson Mr. Thompson leans against the counter, his eyes twinkling with wisdom.

(*smiling knowingly*) Well, that’s the beauty of giving! You don’t give to receive something back. You give because it makes you and others happy. Just like 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, “God loves a cheerful giver!”

Lily Lily nods in agreement, her eyes sparkling with enthusiasm.

(*encouragingly*) Exactly! And think of all the smiles you could create! What if your cookies make someone’s day? Imagine their faces lighting up when they get a delicious treat!

Max Max’s expression shifts from doubt to excitement as he imagines the joy of sharing.

(*sighing dramatically*) Okay, okay! I guess I can share...a few.

Mr. Thompson Mr. Thompson raises an eyebrow, grinning widely.

(*playfully*) A few? How many is a few, Max?

Max Max straightens up, a mischievous glint in his eye.

(*smirking*) How about I share one cookie with everyone... and keep the rest for myself?

Lily Lily and Mr. Thompson burst into laughter, shaking their heads in disbelief.

(*giggling*) Well, that’s a start! But what if we made a cookie plate for everyone in the neighborhood?

Max Max’s eyes light up with the idea, his enthusiasm growing.

(*excitedly*) Ooh! That sounds fun! I could decorate the plate like a treasure map, with a big “X” marking the spot for the best cookies!

Mr. Thompson Mr. Thompson chuckles, clearly enjoying Max’s imaginative spirit.

(*enthusiastically*) Now that’s the spirit! Sharing is like a treasure, Max! The more you give, the richer you feel in your heart. And who knows, you might just inspire others to share too!

Max Max begins to gather the cookies, grinning ear to ear, feeling a newfound sense of excitement.

(*cheerfully*) Alright! Let’s make the biggest cookie plate ever! I can’t wait to see everyone’s faces!

Lily claps her hands in joy, while Mr. Thompson watches with a proud smile, knowing that Max has finally embraced the joy of generosity.

Mr. Thompson (*smiling*) Remember, Max, it’s not just about the cookies. It’s about the joy and love you’re sharing with others. And you’ll find that giving makes you feel good inside!

As the scene wraps up, the three of them happily work together, creating a beautiful cookie plate filled with Max’s treats, laughter echoing in the kitchen. They decorate the plate with colorful sprinkles and a big sign that says, “Happy Sharing Day!”

Lily (*with a grin*) Let’s take this out to the neighborhood and spread some cheer!

Max Max nods vigorously, filled with excitement.

(*with determination*) Yes! I can’t wait to see the smiles on everyone’s faces!

The Boy Who Shared His Lunch

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

Theme

Sharing can have amazing outcomes.

Summary

In “The Boy Who Shared His Lunch,” Timmy, a young boy, learns the power of sharing when he offers his small lunch of five loaves and two fish to Jesus. This act of generosity leads to a miraculous feast for thousands, demonstrating that sharing can yield amazing outcomes.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) – “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Story Line Setting

A sunny hillside where a crowd of about 5,000 people is gathered, eager to hear Jesus speak. Timmy is sitting on the grass with his small lunch—a basket containing five loaves of bread and two fish. Disciple Andrew approaches him with excitement.

Characters

Timmy

A cheerful and imaginative boy, around 10 years old. He has a big heart and is excited about the idea of sharing, but he also faces doubts about whether his small lunch can make a difference.

Disciple Andrew

A friendly and slightly goofy disciple of Jesus, in his 30s. He’s enthusiastic and often gets a bit carried away with his words. He believes wholeheartedly in sharing and encourages Timmy to take the leap of faith.

Jesus

Narrator

Key Words

Generosity, sharing



NARRATOR A sunny hillside where a crowd of about 5,000 people is gathered, eager to hear Jesus speak. Timmy is sitting on the grass with his small lunch—a basket containing five loaves of bread and two fish. Disciple Andrew approaches him with excitement.

DISCIPLE ANDREW (*waving enthusiastically*) Hey there, little buddy! What do you have in that basket?

TIMMY (*proudly*) It’s my lunch! Five loaves and two fish, but it’s only enough for me. I was just about to eat it. I should have eaten it before as it’s now late in the day but I just had to listen to Jesus.

(*pauses; looks worried*) But I don’t think my lunch can help anyone else.

DISCIPLE ANDREW (*grinning*) Well, you’d be surprised! You see, Jesus can do amazing things with even the smallest gifts.

TIMMY (*scratching his head*) Really? But there are thousands of people here! What can my lunch do?

DISCIPLE ANDREW (*leaning closer*) Let me tell you a secret! When we share what we have, it’s like planting a seed. You never know how much it can grow, especially when Jesus is involved!

TIMMY (*thoughtful*) A seed, huh? (*pauses then says incredulously*) So, if I give my lunch, it might help feed everyone?

DISCIPLE ANDREW (*nodding vigorously*) Exactly! Let’s see what happens! You could be part of a miracle!

TIMMY (*hesitant*) Okay...I’ll give it a try. (*stands up, takes a deep breath*) Here goes nothing!

Timmy walks over to the disciples, holding out his basket.

(*nervously*) Um, excuse me! I have five loaves and two fish. Can I share it with everyone?

DISCIPLE ANDREW *Disciple Andrew jumps in with excitement.*

(*clapping his hands*) Fantastic! Thanks for giving us your lunch. You’re going to be a hero today! (*pauses then very loudly and dramatically*) Ladies and gentlemen! We have a brave young man here who’s willing to share his lunch! (*turning to Timmy he whispers in his ear*) Can you hear the crowd cheering for you Timmy?

JESUS *Suddenly, Jesus approaches, smiling warmly.*

(*gently*) Thank you, young man! Let’s see what God can do with this!

NARRATOR Jesus takes the loaves and fish, blesses them, and begins to break them. As He breaks the first loaf, Timmy watches in awe, his eyes widening. Miraculously, the pieces don’t diminish but seem to multiply in Jesus’ hands! The crowd begins to murmur in excitement.

TIMMY (*eyes wide with disbelief*) Wow! Look at that! It’s like a magic show!

DISCIPLE ANDREW (*laughing*) It’s not magic, Timmy! It’s a miracle!

NARRATOR As Jesus continues to break the bread and fish, the food is handed to the disciples, who start distributing it among the crowd. Timmy can hardly contain his excitement as he watches the crowd eagerly accept the food, their faces lighting up with joy. The sound of laughter and delight fills the air

TIMMY (*jumping up and down*) Look at everyone eating! They’re so happy!

DISCIPLE ANDREW *Disciple Andrew nudges Timmy, encouraging him to pay attention.*

(*with a grin*) And it’s all because of you! Your small lunch is feeding thousands!

NARRATOR Timmy looks back at Jesus, who is smiling at him as He continues to bless and break more bread. The miracle unfolds before Timmy’s eyes, and he feels a sense of pride and wonder.

TIMMY (*in awe*) I can’t believe it! My lunch is making a difference!

NARRATOR As the crowd continues to enjoy their meal, Timmy notices several disciples collecting the leftovers in baskets. His eyes widen even more.

TIMMY (*tugging Disciple Andrew’s hand and pointing*) Look! There are 12 baskets left over!

Disciple Andrew jumps in excitement, clapping his hands.

DISCIPLE ANDREW (*excitedly*) See? Your small lunch turned into a feast! You shared, and God multiplied it!

NARRATOR Timmy watches as the disciples fill the baskets, and the realization hits him: his act of sharing has created something incredible. He looks at the crowd, now full and satisfied, and his heart swells with joy.

TIMMY (*grinning*) I can’t believe it! All I did was share my lunch and look what happened!

DISCIPLE ANDREW *Disciple Andrew puts an arm around Timmy’s shoulders, beaming with pride.*

(*happily*) That’s the power of generosity, Timmy! When we give from our hearts, God can do amazing things!

NARRATOR Timmy beams with pride as he watches the crowd enjoying their meal, feeling a sense of belonging and purpose. He turns to Andrew with excitement.

TIMMY (*energetically*) I want to share again! I want to see more miracles!



About the Author

Dr. Ken Long is a stewardship champion and activist who educates people about stewardship from a biblical perspective. He is a consultant who provides advice to help businesses improve their competitiveness and profitability. He has broad industry experience having started his business career as a lawyer before holding senior management positions in the de-regulating electricity and gas markets and IT commercialisation. Ken has also been involved as a senior consultant in developing leadership and management skills with a particular emphasis on business acumen. His business skills include business strategy development, business development, sales and marketing management.

In addition to his business expertise, Dr. Long is an international Christian author of three books. The first, *The Giving Equation* is available on Amazon. *The Giving Equation* provides a fresh way of thinking about stewardship, explaining two different mindsets toward our personal finances: the G-economy and the Me-economy. Far from causing us to lose out, giving offers us ways that lead to an abundant life—now and for eternity.

The Model Steward Canvas was published in collaboration with the General Conference Stewardship Department is designed to assist aspiring entrepreneurs to develop a business model with a Kingdom purpose. It is supported by the Model Steward Canvas Workbook. Both books can be downloaded for free at <https://stewardship.adventist.org/model-steward-canvas-by-dr.ken-long>.

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GENEROUS ACTS

BY DR. KEN LONG



GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES