

The Solution: Use Money to Worship God

~ Part 2

(Suitable for use within a group over approximately one hour, or for an individual's personal Bible reading)

In the previous study we reflected on **SOLUTION 1** of 3 solutions to help us use our money to worship God. Here in this study we will examine **SOLUTION 2**.

SOLUTION 1, *contentment*, was the antidote to the 'grabbing' dimension of greed.

SOLUTION 2 is *generosity* – the antidote to the 'keeping' dimension of greed.

SOLUTION 2: LEARN GENEROSITY

1. When Paul wrote 2 Corinthians, he was raising money for the Judean Christians who were in need. His plea to the Corinthians to give their money teaches us lots about giving. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 and 9:6-15, and from these passages consider:
 - a. Under what conditions do the Macedonian Christians give (1 Corinthians 3:2)?
 - b. Why should we give? From the passage give 5 reasons.
 - c. How much should we give?
 - d. Should our giving be planned or spontaneous?
 - e. What effects can our giving have?
 - f. As a group consider what barriers exist to stop you acting with generosity as a student.
2. Read James 1:27 and 2:14-26.
How might James' words be relevant for you as a healthcare student with limited financial resources over the next 2 months?
3. It has been said that a money shortage in a church is not a money problem, it's a spiritual problem. Discuss.
4. This table sets out the household expenditure of Australian households earning \$100,000 per year.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
charitable giving	\$344.00
pets	\$445.00
confectionery	\$627.00
beer and wine	\$1,488.00
restaurant and takeaway meals	\$3,329.00

If you are going to use your finances with eternity in mind, there will be differences in the way you spend your money compared to the cultural norm (the cultural norm is represented in the table above).

In light of the prospect of soon earning a salary that may be similar to \$100,000, and also in light of eternity, think of 3 ways you could commit to using your money post graduation that will make you distinctive as a follower of Jesus amongst your colleagues.

5. 'The offertory time in a church meeting usually seems routine or peripheral or irrelevant to the worship'. Discuss.
6. To keep thinking about giving, see: Luke 12:33; Luke 16:1-15; Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37, 1 Corinthians 7:30-1; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 13:2.

Who can I give to? Some ideas...

The bible encourages us to use our money to help the poor, to proclaim the Good News and to be hospitable. There are many good organisations. Here are some. If you want to give to them, go to their website and find out how.

- **InterServe** (sends working professionals to witness for Christ around the world) www.interserve.org.au
- **Pioneers** (sends Christians out into the world to proclaim the Good News to those who have not yet heard) www.pioneers.org.au
- **Wycliffe** (sends Christians to translate the bible for people groups that don't yet have the bible in their own language) www.wycliffe.org.au
- **Compassion** (focuses on alleviating poverty and sharing the Good News amongst the world's poor children) www.compassion.com.au
- **TEAR fund** (a Christian organization which focuses on responding to the needs of poor communities around the world – has great gift ideas) www.tear.org.au
- **your church**

Bible Bites

(Suitable to be completed over approximately 20-25 minutes)

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