



OFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE GIVING TALK

At the conclusion of the service, we participate in a time of giving. We do not “take the offering”, we encourage people to give. Giving is an act of worship (Hebrews 13:15-16, Romans 12:1-2). We do not give because God *needs* our money; we give out of obedience, out of trust, and as an act of worship. The time of giving is not a commercial break in our services, or a way to pay the bills in our organization. It is an opportunity for people to respond to the blessings of God in their lives.

Helping people understand this, and connecting the time of giving to what is happening in our services is the job of the person doing the giving talk. Here’s three steps to making a successful giving talk.

STEP ONE: Let people know what is coming.

- *We are about to participate in a time of giving. This is an opportunity for you to support the mission and vision of Oak Leaf Church with your tithes and offerings.*
- *That was a great time of worship, and we’re going to continue worshipping God through this time of giving.*

STEP TWO: Make the connection.

Connect the giving to the vision of the church by letting people know what the money is used for and how their contributions help us accomplish the mission. In addition to an explanation from a pastor, we could tell a story via video or have someone tell their giving story live.

Sample Vision Moments

- *In a few weeks, we’re going to launch a service for middle and high school students called Fuel. We believe that reaching that generation is one of the most important things we can do. We’re not going to ask students to have bake sales and car washes in order to have their service, we are going to invest in it. When you give to Oak Leaf Church, you make that happen.*
- *This week, we got an incredible e-mail that I wanted to share. A woman writes, “I could never get my husband to go to church, and one Sunday, he decided to come to Oak Leaf with me and the kids. He actually enjoyed it! I couldn’t believe it when the next week he wanted to come back. I am so excited that I am a part of the church that ministers to my whole family.” We love hearing stories like that, because that’s why we started this church. When you give, you help us reach people and lead them from where they are to where God wants them to be.*

You might also choose to connect the giving to a Biblical truth. Be careful not to preach another sermon, but you can allude to a verse or principle as a way to set up the time of giving.

Sample Teaching Moment

- *Jesus said in Matthew 5 that our treasure would follow our heart. In other words, Jesus knows that how we leverage our finances is a clue to what is really important to us.*

- *Proverbs challenges us to bring our “first fruits” to God. In other words, God is not impressed when we bring him our leftovers...He deserves our best. See, here at Oak Leaf Church, we believe that God deserves our best, not our leftovers. So in a moment, when we pass the buckets, I want to challenge you to bring God your best.*
- *Giving is really a matter of trust. Even when times are tough, when we give, we’re saying in a very tangible way that we trust God. We’re literally building our faith.*
- *Principle: Generosity is the only antidote to selfishness.*
- *Other verses on giving that you could read and quickly explain are 2 Corinthians 8:7, Proverbs 23:4-5, Hebrews 13:5-6, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, Philippians 4:19, 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Finally, you might choose to highlight what we offer in the way of helping people with their finances.

Sample Informational Moments

- *Here at Oak Leaf Church, we take God’s Word seriously when it comes to giving. The Bible is clear that we are to bring the first 10%, or the tithe, to God. But we also believe God is interested in how you manage the other 90%. So we want to do everything we can to help you with your finances. We have trained financial counselors who will meet with you and help you create a budget, come up with a spending plan, and offer Biblical financial advice.*
- *Because so many of you faithfully give, last week we were able to send a gift to Church at the Ridge, a 2-year-old church plant in Paulding County. Here’s a picture of their recent baptism service. They are seeing lives changed but are going through a tough time financially. Because you give faithfully, our church was able to help that church. You aren’t just making a difference here in Cartersville, but in other churches in our area. Way to go Oak Leaf Church!*

STEP THREE: Ask people to drop their offerings in the buckets.

After you have explained what is happening and connected the time of giving to something else, then call the ushers forward. You could say something like:

- *As the ushers come forward and get in position, I’m going to invite you to drop your tithes and offerings into the bucket. While they are passing the buckets, watch this video.*

REVIEW

Every giving talk includes FOUR elements:

- 1. Let people know what is coming**
- 2. Make the connection (Vision, Teaching, or Information Moment)**
- 3. Ask people to drop their tithes and offerings in the buckets.**