



# Finding Ways to Give

The ideas listed on this handout provide suggestions for individuals or families who would like to increase their giving but do not know how they can accomplish it. Many times, we are unaware of the potential resources that may be within our grasp. All that is needed is a little creativity, a willingness to adjust our lifestyle in certain areas, and the power of God through prayer. You will be surprised at the extent of your potential giving if you seriously implement just a few of the following suggestions.

## Uncover Hidden Assets

**Adjust Your Tax Withholdings** – If you regularly get tax refunds, adjust your withholding so that less money is deducted from each check. In doing so, your giving capacity increases NOW instead of waiting for the refund.

**Cash in Unneeded Life Insurance or Draw on Its Cash Value** – If you have a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for your financial planning purposes or if you have a policy that has excess cash value, consider giving some or all of this cash value. In some cases, it may be possible to do this and keep your policy in force.

**Give Your Tax Refunds** - If you typically receive one, give your federal and state tax refunds each year. These refunds are often great sources of "unbudgeted" income.

**Sell Your Tangible Property** - Jewelry, antiques, coins, and other collectables can be sold, and the proceeds can be added to your giving. Be sure to use a reputable buyer and research the value of what you are selling.

## Increase Income

**Give Your Bonuses and Raises** - Commit to live at your current lifestyle for the next several years and to give any additional income that you earn.

**Perform Acts of Service** - Include your kids! Lawn mowing, snow shoveling, dog walking, etc. Do not be shy to market your availability and let others know that you plan to give your earnings.

**Request Overtime** - If you are fortunate enough to have a job where overtime is possible, consider taking advantage of it.

**Utilize Online Resources** - Valuables, "in-demand" items, and home-made crafts/artisries can be sold online through eBay, Facebook Marketplace, Etsy, or another reliable site.

**Utilize Personal Assistant Apps** - Food delivery apps such as GrubHub and DoorDash or dog walking apps like Wag allow anyone to be able to make extra money on the side.



## **Reduce Expenses**

**Avoid Impulse Buying** – Write a list of items you want to buy that exceed a certain dollar limit (i.e. \$50 or \$100). Wait 30 days before purchasing anything on the list. After the wait, you will discover that many wants are no longer needs.

**Decrease Phone, Internet, or Cable Bills** – Look into how what you are currently paying for plays into what you are actually using. Are there changes that could be made to reduce or eliminate your monthly payments for these items?

**Extend the Life of a Big-Ticket Item** – Consider keeping your phone or your car for one more year rather than trading it in.

**Know Where Your Money Goes and Create a Budget** – The first step in reducing expenses is to track how you spend your money. For 30 days, keep track of every dollar you spend and put your expenses into categories. After tracking your expenses, use the information to create a budget. Pay close attention to groceries, entertainment, restaurants, and other budget-busters. Make tithing and giving a priority in your budget.

**Plan Out Shopping Trips** – Before grocery shopping, make a list at home of your needs so that you are less likely to impulse buy. See how much you save each month!

**Scale Back on TV** – Home entertainment is no longer “one-size-fits-all.” Numerous streaming options provide creative ways to save on your monthly television and cable costs.

**Skip a Specialty Drink** – Giving up 3 specialty drinks such as a Starbucks or an Energy Drink each week for 3 years could range from \$250 to nearly \$1,800!

**Strategic Gift Giving** – Purchasing Christmas, birthday, and other gifts in advance enables you to take advantage of sale prices. For the creative type, make your own presents and cards.

**Subtract a Subscription** – Reduce the number of digital media services that you subscribe to. For the apps that you keep, consider subscribing annually rather than monthly to save 8% or more. If you still have a magazine or newspaper delivered to your home, cancel the subscription, and find hardcopies at the library or digital versions online.

**Take Advantage of Rewards Programs** – Many grocery stores, restaurants, and retail stores have rewards programs that customers can take advantage of in order to get discounts and free products.

**Use Coupons** – Food is one of the largest household expenses each month. Taking time to clip coupons can save \$10-\$20 a week, which over 3 years, can add up to more than \$3,000. Additionally, many vendors provide digital coupons. Get out your smartphone... no scissors needed. Google “coupons” for options.

**Visit the Library** – Free entertainment that is educational too! Borrow books, magazines, DVDs, video games and e-books.