

SYNOPSIS

As Grace Bombing provides opportunities to plan and prepare to be more generous. Generosity may be spontaneous as the Holy Spirit leads, but sustained generosity takes intentionality, good stewardship, and a Kingdom-first mindset. This message is intended to lay a groundwork for generosity in the life of a Grace Bomber. We first explore why we become generous through understanding **gratitude, identity, purpose, and provision**. Then we make the connection to stewardship, by understanding that God owns it all, and we are His managers. We look at the practical implications of directing our resources to the Kingdom first (give), our futures second (save), and our lives third (live). Ordering our lives this way is a counter-cultural posture of faith that allows us to see that our greatest gains are those with eternal impact.

BIG IDEA

Trusting God as His good stewards sets our course to grow in joyful generosity.

KEY TEXTS

Ephesians 1:3
Genesis 1:27
Genesis 12:2-3
2 Corinthians 9:6-8
Psalms 50:10-12
1 Corinthians 4:2
Proverbs 3:9-10

example Grace Bomb stories

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

A few fun stories of being generous from Grace Bombs dropped and received works great for an intro.

"I was waiting tables for lunch for my fourth double in a row. I was having the worst week when a sweet couple and their son sat down for lunch. Super sweet and super kind. They left me more than a generous gift. They restored my faith in humanity. Words can't begin to describe what their act of kindness meant to me." – Hannah

"Imagine a single mother's surprise when she goes to pay on her son's presents in layaway and the thought of him not being able to open them until they were paid for two weeks after Christmas. Then I go in and find they were paid for! Now imagine the tears and heart-warming devotion I have for whoever made our Christmas truly magical. If I could only hug the person whose kindness touched our lives." – Anonymous

Why do we give?

**We become generous when we have a changed heart...
 Gratitude for what we have received**

SLIDE 1

SLIDE 2

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places... Ephesians 1:3

- We have received the ultimate generous gift of salvation from Christ
- God has unleashed the fury of blessings on us in Christ
 - We are adopted, chosen, forgiven & redeemed, sealed, etc.
- This forms our true identity, and is a source of thankfulness and gratitude.

SLIDE 3

***We become generous when we have a changed heart...
Gratitude for what we have received
Remembering our identity***

SLIDE 4

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

- We are created in God's image and bear His characteristics as we become more like Him
- Our generosity is a reflection of His generous character – God is a giver!

SLIDE 5

***We become generous when we have a changed heart...
Gratitude for what we have received
Remembering our identity
Recognizing what we have has purpose***

SLIDE 6

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:2-3

- God blessed Abraham so that he could be a blessing to others
- We are blessed with our talents, finances and even time in order to use them to be a blessing to others

SLIDE 7

***We become generous when we have a changed heart...
Gratitude for what we have received
Remembering our identity
Recognizing what we have has purpose
Resting in God's provision***

SLIDE 8

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

- We can give with joy knowing that not only will we be blessing others, but also that God will resource the work He wants to do through us

SLIDE 9

God's work done God's way never lacks God's provision

- God will honor your bountiful sowing, and provide when you are putting Him first

SLIDE 10

In order to live a lifestyle of generous Grace Bombing, we have to be good stewards.

- Generosity is a heart posture of lavish giving.
- Stewardship is the management of our resources and responsibilities.

The first step toward managing our finances in a way that honors God is understanding who the owner is. The foundational idea of stewardship:

SLIDE 11

God owns it, I manage it.

- Everything that you and I have actually belongs to the Lord:

SLIDE 12

For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine. Psalm 50:10-12

We should be good stewards*:

SLIDE 13

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:2

- *The context here is stewardship of the gospel ministry, but the principle is common sense – do well with what you have been entrusted.
- We have the joy of managing the resources that are given to us; including our time, talent, and treasure.

How do we go about handling our resources in a way that honors the owner?

- Simply put:

SLIDE 14

GIVE, SAVE, LIVE

GIVING FIRST

SLIDE 15

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

- Giving God your first and best is a faith walk! This is “firstfruits” giving.
 - Our flesh wants the security of taking what we need or want.
 - We give God leftovers in many areas of life – time, talent and treasure

Question: How do we practically give to God first?

- By intentionally setting aside the first portion of our income to the local church, other ministries that are getting after the Great Commission, and even Grace Bombing your neighbor.

SAVING SECOND

- This can fall in the area of saving for future goals, investing in your education, investing for when you can’t work as much.
- 69 percent of Americans have less than \$1,000 in savings – not prepared for medical, car or home repair emergencies
- Putting money in savings can be a faith walk, because it involves delayed gratification.

LIVING OFF THE REST

- We should be able to enjoy our life now! And have fun with things we can buy as good gifts.
- Living now means living within your means.
 - The gift of living within your means in a world of bigger, better, faster is hard.

When it comes to giving, the amount is always between you and the Lord.

SLIDE 16

Good stewardship isn't about how much we have, but what we do with what we have

- The amount is secondary to your heart (widow's two coins)
- *(Your church might hold a particular giving philosophy that you can reiterate here)*

Closing Charge:

- Spending habits can be deeply rooted, and handling finances is no small topic - so acknowledge that here. (This is a great place to direct people to any resources your church may offer such as Financial Peace University, etc.)
- Perhaps your step of faith is to reprioritize where you are investing your time, treasure, or talents?
- Make a plan to set aside some of your resources next month to Grace Bomb a neighbor.