



## Milestone 6: Giving & Serving (Age 9)

**Teach your child the purpose and blessing of giving and serving.**

God has blessed every person with gifts, talents, and abilities. He desires for us to use these blessings for the benefit of His kingdom. This is a great time in life to teach your child to use these blessings to serve God and others. God has also asked that we trust Him with our resources. He desires for us to give to His church and to the needs of others. Children need to learn about the gift of giving.

### **Giving...**

In the Bible, we find example after example of God's people giving back to the Lord portions of what He has given them. Giving shows God that we are dependent on Him. It shows that we trust Him. Giving also shows our obedience. The first Christians gave of their money and possessions to help those who were in need. They helped those inside and outside the church. Giving is an opportunity for us to show God our love for Him, and to show others that we care about their needs.

### **Model It...**

Put into practice of giving into your own life. Let your children see you giving your money first to the church. Show them your paycheck and let them see the money that you set aside for the Lord and His kingdom. Do this with a cheerful heart. Also, include them when you give to others outside of the church. Let them see you give of your time, your possessions, your talents, and your skills to others.

### **Teach It...**

If your child receives money from an allowance or jobs, help him/her to give off of the top to the Lord. Get some envelopes or jars and give 10% for the Lord and His church, 10% for savings, and 80% for spending on their own activities and items. Help your child to find joy in this. If they see your joy, and also see how God blesses us because of our giving, they will develop that same heart of joy when they give. Teach your child ways that they can use their gifts, talents, and possessions to bless others when opportunities arise.

## **Serving...**

Start by reading 1 Corinthians 12 with your child. God has given each of us gifts, talents, and abilities as He sees fit. *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men”* (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). Help your child discover their unique gifts, and explore how they might use those gifts to glorify God.

1. What does your child like to do? Visit with them and make a list of all the things that they like to do and feel they are good at doing. Talents, skills, interests, activities, characteristics, etc.
2. What are some ways your child can use their talents to serve God and others? Discuss all of the opportunities for service within our church family and its ministries. Ask them to come up with some other ways, on their own, that they can serve.
3. Try new things. If you aren't sure where to start, or your child doesn't seem interested in some of the previously mentioned ideas, try a few random things and see if there is interest there.
4. Talk about what to expect. Be real with your child about the joys and challenges involved with serving. It will require work, patience, time, and effort. It may be challenging at first to use a new skill or work with other people you are helping, but keep the goal in mind. Loving God and loving others - that is the purpose.
5. Serve together. Find projects that you can do together, as a family. It can be a lot of fun to grow and serve together, whether teaching a class or raking a yard. Serving together on a project is one of the best ways to bring unity, communication, and joy to your family.
6. Talk about it afterward. When you are finished with a project, talk about it. “What kind of difference did we make?” “Why was this an important thing to do?” “How did this impact the people we served?” “How did it impact you?”
7. Pray. Thank God for the opportunity to serve. Pray for God to bless those you are serving. Pray for you to have joy. Pray for God to bless you and guide you as you serve.

## **Next Steps in Your Faith @ Home Journey...**

- Pray daily for and with your child.
- Bless your child daily.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- Schedule and have regular family times.
- Schedule monthly times of family service.
- Help your child develop the discipline of giving.

**Recommended Readings...**

77 Ways Your Family Can Make a Difference (by Penny A. Zeller)

Your Kids Can Master Their Money (by Ron and Judy Blue, Jeremy White)

Financial Peace Junior (by Dave Ramsey)