

Development Phase Selected: Exploring

You selected the statement, "I give some when I attend worship."

This is the starting point for most people as they begin to explore a commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. It appears that you are attending worship on an occasional basis and placing money in the collection plate during the offering.

This may be your practice due to 'peer pressure' as others are making an offering, and you don't want to stand out. Or it may be a response to God starting to work in your life and your discovery of the value of giving sacrificially to make a difference.

Whichever is the case, celebrate that you have taken an initial step into the realization that you can be part of something bigger than yourself. You can make a difference in people's lives due to your generosity.

What's Next?

As you continue to become more regular in your worship participation, make it a practice to become more regular in your giving. Instead of just placing whatever you happen to have in your wallet in the offering plate, you might consider beginning what is called 'proportional giving.' This is a commitment to give a percentage of our income to the work of God through the church. For example, you might decide that you could begin with a commitment of 1-2% of your income. As that becomes more comfortable, the amount could be increased.

Listen to the witness of those who have given generously and discover the difference that practice is making in individual lives and in the community. Many congregations include such a witness in preparation for receiving the offering.

Talk with friends or people you are getting to know in the church. Ask them about their giving practices.

Explore ways that this congregation is involved in the local community and beyond. It is helpful for us to understand that our giving really does make a difference in the world.

Suggested Resources

If you like to read or study for personal development, we suggest the following resources:

Following Jesus, by Carolyn Slaughter

The Disciple's Path, by Jim Harnish

Foundations, by Phil Maynard