

vineyardusa

Financial Stewardship Playbook

A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE

ABOUT THIS PLAYBOOK

At Vineyard USA, our approach to making disciples as it relates to financial discipline and health is guided by a deep theological conviction regarding stewardship and our passion to see every disciple thrive in this area. We know that a posture of generosity brings joy, and we seek to equip all ages and stages to live in the abundant life that flows from authentic biblical stewardship.

Jason George & The Development Team
Vineyard USA



CONTENTS

KINGDOM THEMES

3

Recognizing how Jesus viewed money

THE VINEYARD GIVING PATHWAY

30

Understanding the journey

OUR DEFINITIONS

14

Adopting Kingdom verbiage

BIBLICAL IDEALS

37

What a wise steward looks like and does

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES & IMPERATIVES

19

Acknowledging foundational truths

OUR STEWARDSHIP PRACTICE

48

How we partner with you

Kingdom Themes

RECOGNIZING HOW JESUS VIEWED MONEY



Money reveals our PRIORITIES & DESIRES

The Widow's Mite

“Jesus sat down.... and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.’” –Mark 12:41-44 (NIV)

The Rich Young Ruler

“A certain ruler asked him, ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ... [Jesus] said to him, ‘You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.” –Luke 18:18-23 (NIV)

Lay up your
TREASURE in HEAVEN



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” –Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”
–1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)



Stewardship is a
MATTER of the HEART

Serving two masters?

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

–Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

The Alabaster Jar

“While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, ‘Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.’ And they rebuked her harshly. ‘Leave her alone,’ said Jesus. ‘Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.’” –Mark 14:3-9 (NIV)

Giving is an
ACT of WORSHIP



A Living Sacrifice

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

–Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver... Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God... Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.” –2 Corinthians 9:6-13 (NIV)



MORE BLESSED TO GIVE
than to receive

The Servant King

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”
–Acts 20:35 (NIV)

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them... A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” –John 13:14-17, 34-35 (NIV)

Our Definitions

ADOPTING KINGDOM VERBIAGE

BIBLICAL STEWARD: OUR DEFINITION

A person who wisely and joyfully manages the Lord's resources—their time, talent, and treasure—so the Lord will be honored, others will be blessed, and they will be ready to give an account one day



“A steward’s primary goal is to be found faithful by the master as the steward uses the master’s resources to accomplish the tasks delegated to [them].” –Randy Alcorn



GENEROUS: OUR DEFINITION

“Showing a readiness to give more than is strictly necessary or expected, without expecting anything in return; open handed”

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

–2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)

Biblical Principles & Imperatives

ACKNOWLEDGING FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS



1. God is the CREATOR & OWNER of all things.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.” –Psalm 24:1-2 (NIV)



2. We are created in the IMAGE of God and MANDATED to bless others & care for the earth.

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number...’” –Genesis 1:27-28a (NIV)

“The Lord God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”
–Genesis 2:15 (NIV)



3. We are to POSTURE OUR HEARTS in submission to God's authority so that we can wisely manage the resources that He has entrusted to us.

“You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”
–Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (NIV)



4. God leverages our stewardship for His PURPOSE and MISSION

“‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.’” –Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

In Hebrew, the word “tithe” literally translates to “one tenth.”

“In the midst of a very severe trial, [the Macedonians'] overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.” –2 Corinthians 8:2-4 (NIV)



5. God evaluates our stewardship for His GLORY and our GOOD

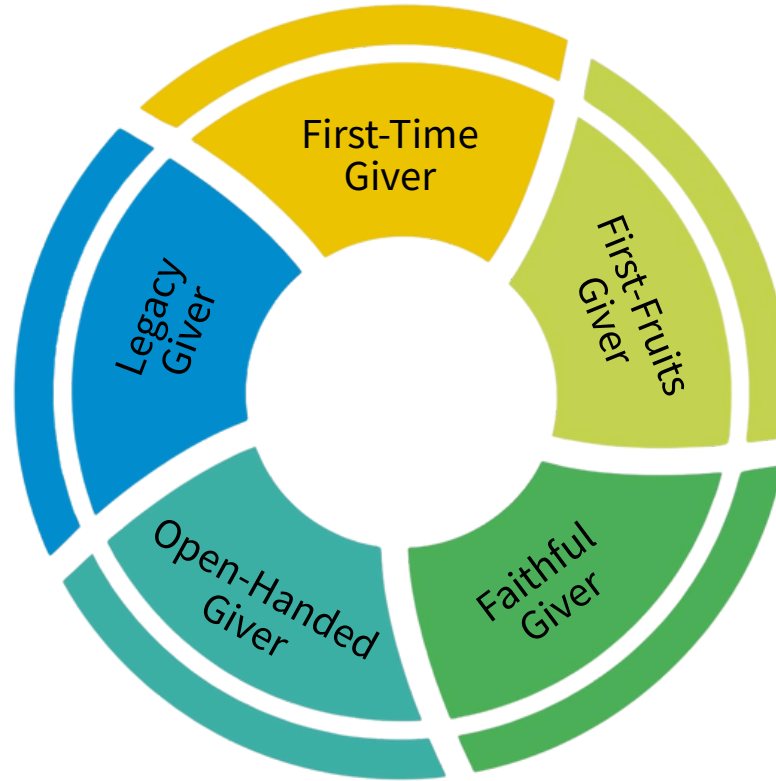
The Parable of the Talents

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ... ‘For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” –Matthew 25:21, 29 (NIV)

The Vineyard Giving Pathway

UNDERSTANDING THE JOURNEY

THE VINEYARD GIVING PATHWAY

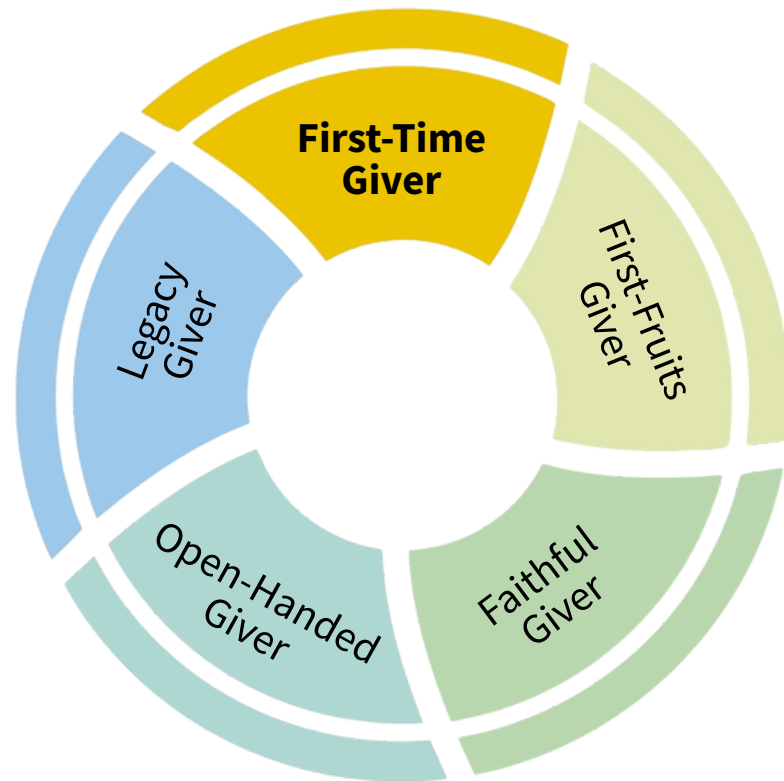


FIRST-TIME GIVER

I've never given to God at my local Vineyard church before, but I'm ready to take that first step.

ACTION

Give a gift to my local Vineyard church for the first time.



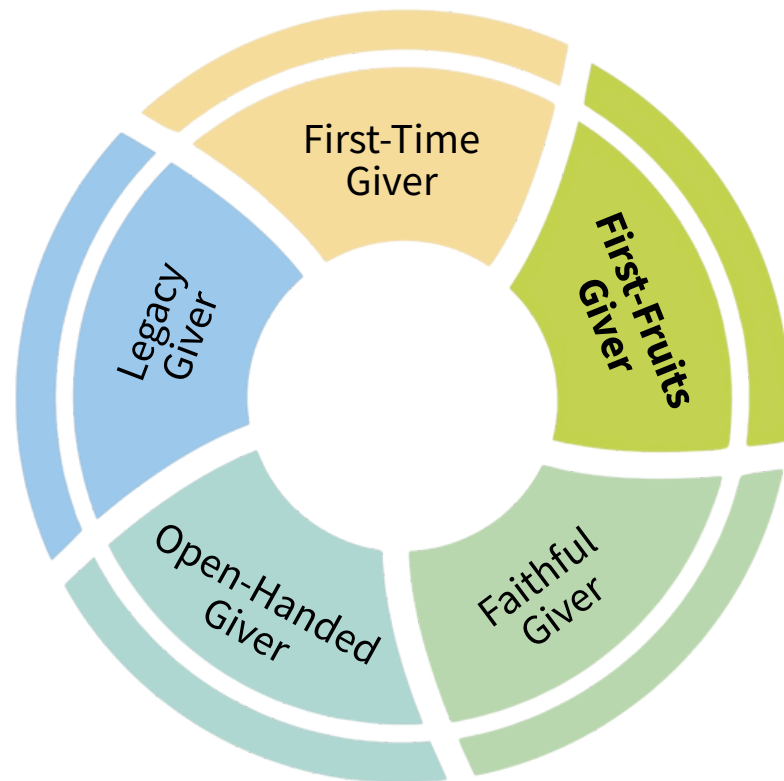
FIRST-FRUIT GIVER

I've given to God at my local Vineyard church in the past, but I want to intentionally give on a regular basis.

ACTION

Determine the amount you would like to give (\$10, \$100, \$500) and how frequently you would like to give that amount (weekly, monthly, yearly).

Dependent upon where you are in your season of life, consider working your way up to a traditional tithe (10% of your income).

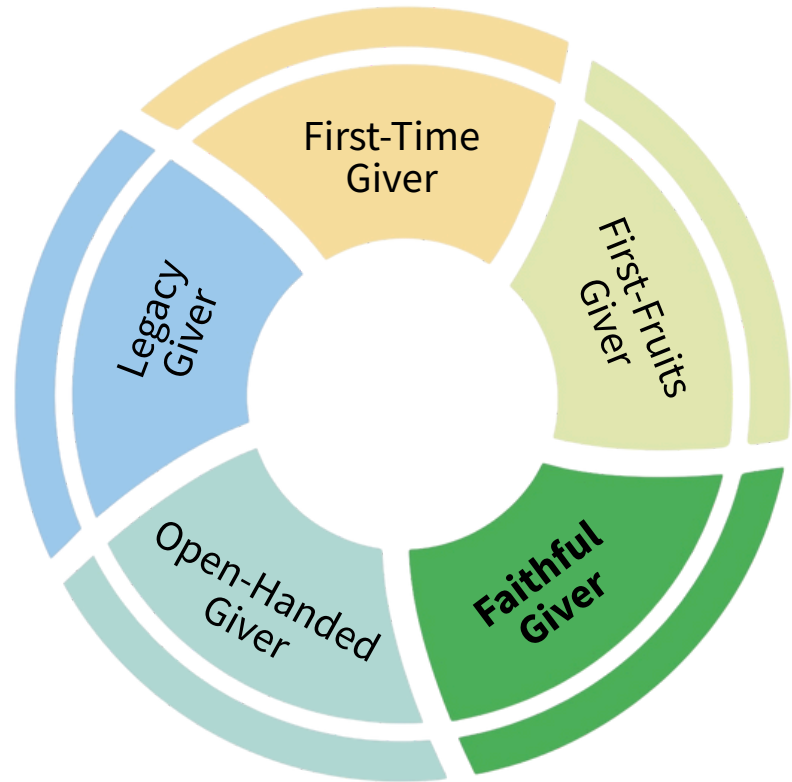


FAITHFUL GIVER

I want to begin giving 10% of my income to God at my local Vineyard church as a biblical tithe.

ACTION

Calculate what 10% of your monthly income is, then give that amount to your local church on a monthly basis. Many people find that bi-weekly giving (or each time they get paid) is easiest.

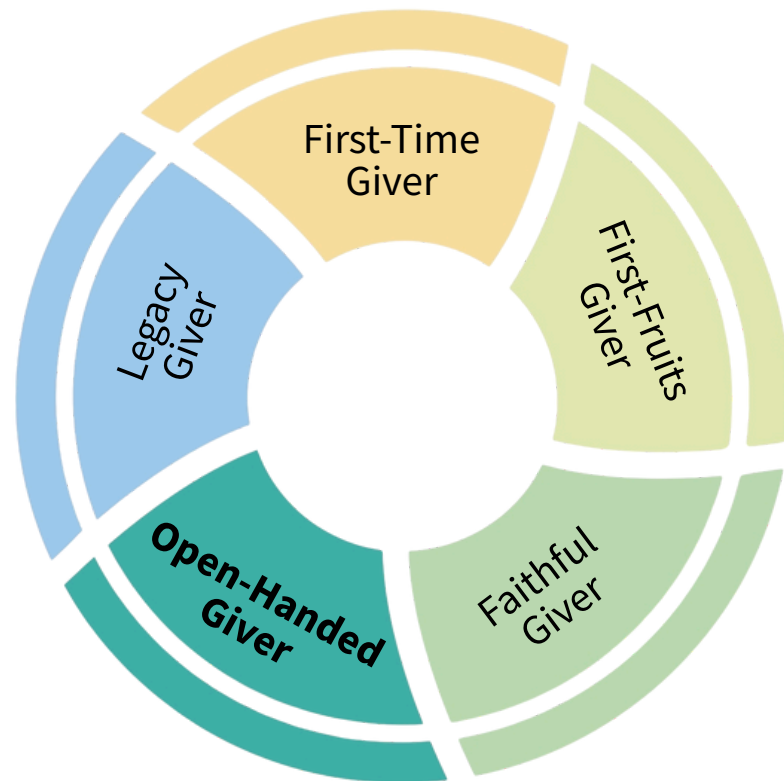


OPEN-HANDED GIVER

I've been tithing 10% of my income to my local church, but I want to stretch that percentage to a level that is outside of my comfort zone.

ACTION

Determine a new percentage over and above 10% that you want to give, and move forward thoughtfully. Our Development Team can help craft a plan that will best support the work of your local church, Vineyard USA, and/or other charitable organizations.

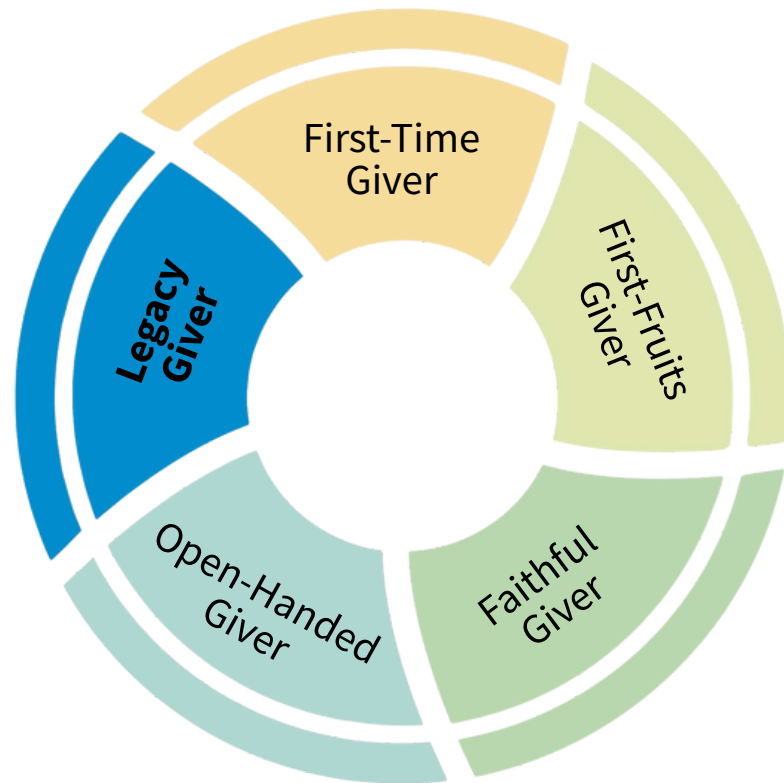


LEGACY GIVER

I already give above and beyond my tithe to God at my local Vineyard church and/or Vineyard USA, but I want to make a kingdom impact that will outlive me.

ACTION

Consider assets you own that could be leveraged to support the ministries of your local church, Vineyard USA, and/or other charitable organizations. Many families have set aside a planned or deferred gift in their will or trust as part of their estate design.



Biblical Ideals

WHAT A WISE STEWARD LOOKS LIKE & DOES

A WISE STEWARD

makes plans and lives according to them, so as not
to live as a debtor to others



“The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.” –Proverbs 21:5 (NIV)

“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.” –Proverbs 22:7 (NIV)

“The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down.” –Proverbs 21:20 (NIV)



A WISE STEWARD

honors the Lord with open-handed giving to and
through their local church

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” –Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

A WISE STEWARD

is diligent in their work and testimony



“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” –Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)



A WISE STEWARD

leaves a legacy that will last beyond their
life on this earth

“And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” –Acts 4:33b-37 (NIV)

Some Christian historians believe that Barnabas funded the first missionary journey with Paul out of his own resources.

A WISE STEWARD

is faithful in whole-life generosity



“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

–1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” –2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV)

Our Stewardship Practice

HOW WE PARTNER WITH YOU

Empowering Local Churches and Groups

Our Development Team can partner with local pastors & churches to creatively strategize how best to disciple your community toward faithful stewardship that transforms our world - through individual coaching, campaign consulting, providing teaching/sermon resources, etc.

Equipping Ages and Stages

Our Development Team can help local churches contextualize the teaching of our biblical principles & imperatives. We can do this through our resources and programming as they relate to seasons of an individual's or family's financial journey—commonly understood through the following spectrum:

Struggling —→ Stable —→ Secure —→ Surplus

Caring and Cultivating

We desire for every giver to be seen and valued. We do so by acknowledging First-Time Givers expressing our gratitude to our regular givers (First-Fruits and Faithful Givers). Additionally, we seek to engage non-givers and re-engage lapsed givers regularly (quarterly to annually). The Vineyard Giver's Pathway allows people to self-locate and aspire to move forward.

Storytelling and Reporting

We commit to transparency through our accounting, online storytelling, and our Annual Report to communicate and celebrate our shared impact story.

Shepherding Toward Whole Life Generosity

While the area of treasure (finances) receives particular attention, our storytelling and celebrating will include examples of time and talent as well.



*This resource draws inspiration from John Jones and the rest of our
friends in the Christian Stewardship Network*