

## UNIT 2: THE CHURCH SERVES GOD

## Session 2: Joash and the People Gave

**BIBLE PASSAGE**

2 Chronicles 24:1-14

**LIFE POINT**

The church gives offerings to support the work of God.

**CHRIST FOCUS**

Jesus offered His life as the payment for sin.

**LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

In addition to money, offerings can include time, talents, and possessions.

**SUGGESTED USE DATE:** July 9

**BIBLE VERSE**

Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house.

Malachi 3:10 (CSB)

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house.

Malachi 3:10 (KJV)

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

Malachi 3:10 (ESV)

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house.

Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)

**SCHEDULE AND PROPS****Huddle Ups** (optional)

Supplies (for each small group):

- “How Many, How Much?” – 6 envelopes, coins, sheets of paper (1 per child), pencils (1 per child)
- “Offering Game” – sheets of paper (1 per child), marker, coins (real or pretend; 10 per child), die

**Countdown Video** (3 minutes)

Props: none

**Worship Song** (3 minutes)

Props: none

**Welcome and Prayer** (5 minutes)

Props: none

**True2Life Drama** (or *Mooseberry video*) (3-5 minutes)

Props: 2 chairs, table, assortment of craft supplies, 2 completed crafts (1 neat craft and 1 messy craft)

**Connection Point Game**

(10 minutes)

Props: 10 chairs, gift box, tape, wrapping paper, scissors, 10 slips of paper, marker

**Worship Song** (3 minutes)

Props: none

**Bible Story** (10 minutes)

Props: Bible, wrapped gift box

**Worship Song and Offering** (3 minutes)

Props: none

**Connection Point Bible Verse**

(5-8 minutes)

Props: coin

**Connection Point Missions**

(5-8 minutes)

Props: none

**Real Life Connections**

(3-5 minutes)

Props: none

**MUSIC AND MEDIA**

- **Countdown:**  
*Countdown video*
- **Worship Song:**  
“All”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**  
*Life Point and Bible Verse slides*
- **True2Life Drama:**  
*Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)*
- **Connection Point Game:**  
*Connection Point Game slide; Fun, upbeat music of your choice*
- **Worship Song:**  
“We Are Your Church”
- **Bible Story:**  
*Bible Story and Christ Focus slides; Notebook Bible Story video (optional)*
- **Worship Song and Offering:**  
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**  
*Connection Point Bible Verse and Bible Verse slides*
- **Connection Point Missions:**  
*Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides; “Amer and Victoria Safadi” missions video*
- **Real Life Connections:**  
*Real Life Connections, Real Life Questions, and Life Point slides*

## **HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)**

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies *(for each small group)*:
  - “How Many, How Much?”—6 envelopes, coins, sheets of paper *(1 per child)*, pencils *(1 per child)*
  - “Offering Game”—sheets of paper *(1 per child)*, marker, coins *(real or pretend; 10 per child)*, die

### **HUDDLE UP: PRE-SESSION**

#### **“HOW MANY, HOW MUCH?”**

*Prep: Number each envelope, 1–6. Place several different coins in each envelope. Seal the envelopes.*

- Direct kids to number a sheet of paper, 1–6.
- Invite kids to feel the envelopes and guess how many coins are in each one.
- Challenge older kids to differentiate between the coins and guess the actual amount of money in each envelope.
- Guide kids to write their guesses on their papers.
- Open each envelope.
- Lead kids to count the coins and the amount of money in each envelope.
- Mention that one way to worship at church is to give an offering.
- Talk about the ways your church uses the money that people give.
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.
- **Leader option for younger kids:** *Prepare an envelope for each child. Give each child an envelope and a crayon. Invite kids to color over the envelopes to determine the coins inside.*

### **HUDDLE UP: POST-SESSION**

#### **“OFFERING GAME”**

*Prep: Draw a large 2-by-3 grid on a sheet of paper. Number each square, 1–6. Make a copy for each child.*

- Review the Life Point: **The church gives offerings to support the work of God.**
- Give each child a paper grid and 10 coins.
- Explain that the object of the game is to put all 10 coins in the “offering” *(the grid)*.
- Invite a child to roll the die and observe the number on which it lands.
- Lead the child to place a coin in the corresponding square on her grid.
- Explain that squares one through five may only have one coin each, but there is no limit to the number of coins a child may put in square six.
- Alternate turns between kids.
  - If a child rolls number one through five, place a coin in the corresponding square. If there is already a coin on the number, her turn is over.
  - If a child rolls a number six, she may place a coin in square six. There is no limit to the number of coins a child may add to square six.
- Play until a child places all of her coins on her grid.
- Clear the grids and play again as time allows.
- Remind kids that people give offerings to support the work of God.
- Lead kids to discuss various ways they can earn and save money to give at church.
- Mention projects or missionaries that kids can support by giving offerings.
- **Leader note for older kids:** *Make the game more difficult. If there is already a coin on the number a child rolls, require the player to remove all of his coins from squares one through five. (Allow him to keep any coins that are in square six.)*

## **COUNTDOWN VIDEO**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown* video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

*(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)*

## **WORSHIP SONG**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “All” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

### **WORSHIP LEADER**

I am so excited to be here to worship God! It’s special when the church gathers to worship and praise God. Let’s stand and sing, “All.”

*(Show the music video.)*

*(Kids stand to sing.)*

## **WELCOME AND PRAYER**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

### **BIBLE STUDY LEADER**

Hi, kids! Welcome to church. It’s great to see you this morning *(afternoon/evening)*.

Do any of you get an allowance for doing chores or other jobs? What do you do with your money? *(Allow for responses.)*

Some of you like to save your money until you have a whole lot! Others of you like to spend your money on things you want or need. Did you know that some people give money to the church? The money that

people give at church is called a *tithe* or an *offering*. The church uses the money that people give to do work for God. They send some of the money to support missionaries and help people here in our community. Part of the money buys things we need at church.

*(Show Life Point slide.)*

**The church gives offerings to support the work of God.** Say that with me: **“The church gives offerings to support the work of God.”**

Earlier, I mentioned that people can give tithes and offerings. An *offering* is “a gift that people give to God.” We usually think of giving money as an offering. In addition to money, offerings can include time, talents, and possessions. A *tithe* is different from an offering. A *tithe* is “one-tenth of the money you earn.” For example, if you earn ten dollars for washing the car, one-tenth would be one dollar. God expects people to give their tithes and offerings to support His work in the church. Let’s say together Malachi 3:10.

*(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)*

*(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)*

### **BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):**

- Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Malachi 3:10 *(CSB)*
- Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house. Malachi 3:10 *(KJV)*
- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Malachi 3:10 *(NIV)*
- Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Malachi 3:10 *(ESV)*
- Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house. Malachi 3:10 *(NKJV)*

The Bible says that God loves when people give cheerfully. We should want to give money to the church so that others can hear the gospel and learn how to live as believers in Jesus. Let’s pray and ask God to make us cheerful givers. After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team *(or the Mooseberry kids)*.

*God, thank You for all of the ways that You care for us. Please help us obey Your command to give our tithes and offerings. Help us be cheerful givers! Please use the money we give at church to spread the gospel to people all around the world. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

## **TRUE2LIFE DRAMA**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Application* video (optional)
- ➔ People:
  - Ron (*a church kid who is learning about God*)
  - Lucy (*Ron's church friend*)
- ➔ Props: 2 chairs, table, assortment of craft supplies, 2 completed crafts (*1 neat craft and 1 messy craft*)
- ➔ Prep: Place the table at center stage. Scatter craft supplies on the table. Set 2 chairs at the table, facing the audience.

*Ron and Lucy sit at the table. Lucy works on a neat, well-made craft. Ron works on a messy craft.*

**Ron:** (*looking at project*) Does this look right to you?

**Lucy:** Hmm ... maybe add some gold sequins.

**Ron:** That's a good idea. I'll try that.

**Lucy:** What did you think of Pastor Mason's sermon this morning?

**Ron:** I really liked the story he told about the family he invited to church. It kind of reminded me of my friend Dave. I asked him to come to church.

**Lucy:** Do you think Dave will ever come to church?

**Ron:** Maybe. I wish he would.

**Lucy:** The pastor's story made me sad. It sounds like that family has some big problems.

**Ron:** Most families do.

**Lucy:** Yeah. My family isn't perfect, but it sounded like the family Pastor Mason talked about really needs help.

**Ron:** (*Holding up craft*) Speaking of needing help, I'm still not sure this is working out the way it's supposed to. Do you have any suggestions?

**Lucy:** Maybe it needs more glue? Anyway, I wish there was some way I could help that family.

**Ron:** You know, if we thought about it, we could probably come up with some ways to help. Maybe we could take up an offering to give to them.

**Lucy:** I only have three dollars and fifteen cents. That won't help much.

**Ron:** No, but as a church, maybe we could give an offering that **WOULD** help. That's one of the jobs of the church. The church gives offerings to support the work of God.

**Lucy:** I also think an offering can be more than just money. I think we also could use our time, talents, and abilities as an offering to God.

**Ron:** I have way more time than money. Maybe I could help that family by mowing their lawn or something.

**Lucy:** That's a great idea! We can ask Pastor Mason about the family's needs, and maybe we can think of some ways to help.

**Ron:** Let's do it! Maybe we could make them something!

**Lucy:** (*Looks at Ron's craft.*) If that's the case, I should probably be the one to head up that project.

**Ron:** What? Does this not look right?

**Lucy:** I'm not sure. What is it?

**Ron:** Good point. I have no idea!

*(Both laugh.)*

**Lucy:** Let's clean up this mess and go talk to Pastor Mason.

*(Ron and Lucy gather some items from the table and exit.)*

*(END SCENE)*

## **CONNECTION POINT GAME**

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ Music: fun, upbeat music of your choice
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 10 kids
- ➔ Props: 10 chairs, gift box, wrapping paper, tape, scissors, 10 slips of paper, marker

### **GAME INSTRUCTIONS:**

- *Wrap a box. (Wrap the box and lid separately.)*
- *Set 10 chairs in a large circle. Position the chairs to face outside the circle.*
- *Choose 10 kids.*
- *Write each player's name on a slip of paper.*
- *Fold the papers and put them inside the gift box.*
- *Place the gift box underneath a chair.*
- *Explain that kids will play a game similar to "Musical Chairs."*
- *Tell players they should walk around the outside of the circle of chairs as music plays. Comment that every person should quickly find a chair when the music stops.*
- *Mention that the object of the game is to sit in the chair with the gift box underneath. Explain that the player sitting in that chair is "safe" and cannot be eliminated during the round.*
- *Begin the music, stop it randomly, and lead players to quickly sit in the chairs.*
- *Open the gift box and pull out a name.*
- *Announce the name and dismiss the player. (Note: The "safe" player cannot be eliminated. If you pull his name from the box, return the paper and draw another name.)*
- *Remove 1 chair and place the gift box under a new seat. (There should always be the same number of chairs as players.)*
- *Play additional rounds, removing a chair and player each time.*
- *Play until only 1 player remains.*

## **CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

*(Show Connection Point Game slide.)*

I like that we are learning about giving gifts to God! Do you remember what gifts we give to God are called? *(Allow for responses.)* That's right! They are called *offerings*.

Of course, I knew we had to play a game with gifts today! Who would like to play? *(Choose 10 kids.)*

I will place the gift underneath a chair. While music plays, all of you will walk around the outside of the circle of chairs. When you hear the music stop, quickly find a chair and sit in it. If your chair has the gift underneath it, you are "safe" and cannot be eliminated from the game. I'll pull a player's name from the gift box. If I pull your name, you are "out."

We will play until only one person remains in the game. Do all of you understand how to play? *(Answer any questions and play the game.)*

Nice game, everyone! It was great for the person who grabbed the seat with the gift box underneath!

Have you ever thought about the tithes and offerings you give to God as being a gift? Giving tithes and offerings are special ways to honor God and worship Him. In just a moment we will hear about people who gave offerings to God. First, let's invite our worship team to lead us to sing another song.

## **WORSHIP SONG**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: "We Are Your Church" *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

## **WORSHIP LEADER**

Second Corinthians 9:7 says that God loves a cheerful giver. God doesn't want you to give because you "have to" or because you feel guilty not to give. God wants you to give because you love Him.

Let's stand and sing, "We Are Your Church." After we sing, we will hear more about giving to support the work of God.

*(Show the music video.)*

*(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)*

## **BIBLE STORY**

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus and Bible Story* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, wrapped gift box (*reuse from Connection Point game*)

**Option 1:** Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story.

**Option 2:** Play the Notebook Bible Story video.

**Option 3:** Tell the Optional Bible Story available on the DVD-ROM. This session's optional Bible story: "Help for the Jerusalem Church," Acts 11:19-29.

### **BIBLE STUDY LEADER**

*(Show Bible Story slide.)*

*(Show the gift.)* Which do you like best: giving or receiving gifts? *(Allow for responses.)* It's lots of fun to receive gifts, but giving gifts is my favorite.

I need someone to help me. *(Invite a child to join you and introduce her to the group.)* *(Name of child)*, let's pretend that it's your birthday, and I have a gift for you. *(Excitedly, give the gift to the child. Tell her how much you hope she likes it and how much fun you had picking it out for her.)* *(Name of child)*, would you be excited to open my gift? *(Allow for response.)*

*(Take the gift back from the child.)* Now, let's try again. *(Toss the gift on the floor in front of the child. Act very grumpy. Tell her how you wasted time at the store trying to find something and only bought her a gift because you had to.)* *(Name of child)*, would you be excited to open my gift? *(Allow for response.)*

Why was *(name of child)* not as excited to open the gift the second time? *(Allow for responses.)* I was a grumpy giver! I told her that I was only giving her a gift because I had to.

How do you think we should give offerings to God? *(Allow for responses.)* We should give happily! It should make us joyful to give gifts to God. Let's hear a Bible story about a group of people who gave offerings.

*(Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 24.)*

Joash (*JOH-ash*) became king when he was only 7 years old! That's the same age as some of you! Joash reigned as king for 40 years. He obeyed God's commands and did what was right. While Joash was king, Jehoiada (*jih-HOY-uh-duh*) served as the high priest.

After Joash grew up, he decided it was time to repair the temple. He gathered all of the priests and the Levites (*the religious leaders*) and told them to go to every city in Judah and collect money to repair the temple. Joash told the men to go quickly, but they disobeyed the king. They did not hurry, so Joash made a new plan.

*(Read 2 Chronicles 24:8-10.)*

**At the king's command a chest was made and placed outside the gate of the LORD's temple. Then a proclamation was issued in Judah and Jerusalem that the tax God's servant Moses imposed on Israel in the wilderness be brought to the LORD. All the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought the tax, and put it in the chest until it was full.**

Instead of waiting for the priests and Levites to collect the money, Joash had a chest placed just outside the temple gates. He announced that the people should give money to repair the temple.

The people were so happy! They were excited to give their offerings! Each day people came by and dropped their offerings into the chest. The people brought so many offerings that the chest had to be emptied every day. Each day the king's secretary and the high priest emptied the chest and put it back by the temple gate. Each day the people filled the chest again!

*(Read 2 Chronicles 24:12.)*

**Then the king and Jehoiada gave [the money] to those in charge of the labor on the LORD's temple, who were hiring stonecutters and carpenters to renovate the LORD's temple, also blacksmiths and coppersmiths to repair the LORD's temple.**

When the workers completed their jobs, King Joash and Jehoiada used the money to make silver and gold bowls, ladles, and other items the priests needed to serve in the temple.

The temple was beautiful again because the people brought their offerings. It was ready for the people to come and worship God. For the rest of Jehoiada's life the people used the temple to give offerings and to worship God.

*(Close Bible.)*

What was the attitude of the people who gave? Were they cheerful givers or grumpy givers? *(Allow for responses.)* The Bible says that the people rejoiced and brought their money to help repair the temple.

*(Show Christ Focus slide.)*

People should give to God with joy and thankfulness. We could never repay Him for all that He's given us. In fact, that's the whole reason that God sent Jesus! Jesus offered His life as the payment for sin. That is something we could never do on our own. It is only through Jesus' death and resurrection that people can have a relationship with God and forgiveness of their sin.

God is so good to us, and we can thank Him by giving tithes and offerings. God doesn't need our money, but He does want our obedience. Giving to God is an act of worship that shows our love for God.

### **WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

#### **WORSHIP LEADER**

Everyone has something to give. You may not have money to give, but offerings can include time, talents, and possessions, too! You can give your time to sit with a friend who's lonely, or you can give your talent by playing an instrument at church. Let's pray and ask God to show us how we can give our best offerings to Him.

*God, thank You for Your love and care. We are thankful for Your goodness toward us. Please help us obey Your command to give. Show us how to use our money, time, talents, and possessions to worship You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

#### **Optional Giving Segment:**

It's time to give an offering. Giving an offering is a way to worship and obey God. If you would like to give an offering today, ...

*(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)*

### **CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: coin

#### **ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:**

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Designate 1 side of the room as "heads" and the other as "tails."*
- *Lead kids to choose heads or tails and move to the appropriate side of the room.*
- *Flip a coin.*
- *Announce if the coin landed on heads or tails.*
- *Lead the corresponding group to say aloud the Bible verse.*
- *Guide kids to choose again and move to the appropriate side of the room.*
- *Flip the coin and lead the group to say the verse.*
- *Continue as your time allows.*

#### **BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):**

- Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Malachi 3:10 *(CSB)*
- Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house. Malachi 3:10 *(KJV)*

- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Malachi 3:10 (NIV)
- Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Malachi 3:10 (ESV)
- Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house. Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)

### CONNECTION POINT LEADER

Let's review today's Bible verse. Everyone, read with me Malachi 3:10.

*(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)*

*(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)*

The verse says to give a tithe. Remember, a *tithe* is one-tenth. What is one-tenth of a dollar? *(Allow for responses.)* One-tenth of a dollar is ten cents. A tithe is giving ten cents for every dollar that you earn. So if you earn five dollars *(hold up five fingers)*, the tithe would be *(count by tens, pointing to each finger)* ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty cents!

*(Lead the activity.)*

### CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides; “Amer and Victoria Safadi” missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

### CONNECTION POINT LEADER

*(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)*

God led Amer and Victoria Safadi to start a church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Let's watch a video about the Safadis and see how God is using them.

*(Show the video: “Amer and Victoria Safadi”)*

*(Show Connect to Missions slide.)*

Pray for the Safadis as they tell people in Cincinnati about Jesus. Pray that the Arabic-speaking people will believe in Jesus and accept Him as their Savior.

*(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)*

*God, thank You for sending the Safadis to Cincinnati. We pray for the Arabic-speaking people who need to know about Jesus. Please give the Safadis opportunities to talk to the people and tell them that Jesus is the Savior. We pray that their church continues to grow and more people accept Jesus as Savior. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

### REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

*Lead a conversation with your kids about today's Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.*

### BIBLE STUDY LEADER

*(Show Real Life Questions slides.)*

Today you heard that **the church gives offerings to support the work of God**. Let's talk about how and why you should give offerings to God.

- How can you earn money to give as an offering?
- Why should you give offerings to God?
- What should your attitude be when you give an offering? Why
- How does your offering help do work for God?

*(Show Life Point slide.)*

**The church gives offerings to support the work of God.** Say that with me: **“The church gives offerings to support the work of God.”**

Giving tithes and giving offerings are ways to worship God. The church collects offerings to help people, to provide missionaries with supplies, and to keep our church building ready for worship.

I'm glad you came to worship today! Invite a friend and join us again next time.

**Leader note:** *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*