

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
GIVING EVENT

- Fellowship Meal
- Temple Talks
- Response Sunday

The entire congregation meets for a meal, fellowship, and a stewardship presentation.

Everyone is asked to reflect on their personal stewardship behaviors.

Weekly support is shared during a 4 week time of discernment.

Disciples are asked to make a commitment at a final worship service devoted to stewardship.

BE EVER MINDFUL...

Keep the conversation and goals rooted in the strengthening of disciples and supporting God's mission.

This event is more about raising disciples than it is about raising money.

The rate of response is impacted directly by the number of participants at the meal.

Good communication and personal invitations maximize participation.

Temple talks by mature stewards are essential to provide perspective and encouragement to participants.

Recruit and train and equip table hosts

Thank you and follow-up must be immediate.



Buckets and Blessings



AT A GLANCE

APPROACH

Offers the opportunity to combine fellowship with education, prayerful discernment and lifestyle adjustment into a comfortable fellowship setting with sustained support.

- Provides opportunity for stewardship education and personal integration.
- Requires minimal volunteer time, training, and commitment.

WORKS BEST IN

Small to mid-size congregations who have a tradition of fellowship meals.

BENEFITS

- Organizing and attending a meal is something common to most congregations.
- Large group events build morale, unity, and momentum.
- Commitments are gathered at a time when the congregation is naturally assembled.



BUCKET BASICS

This event is based on the concepts of first fruit percentage giving. A first fruits orientation places God at the forefront of money activity and leads us to rely on the 10-10-80 model which challenges us to share 10%, save 10% and spend 80% of our income. During challenging economic environments, it might appear difficult to make the lifestyle adjustments necessary to grow into the 10-10-80 model.

The presenter in the Buckets and Blessing event will want to ask disciples to divide their "spending" into two buckets..."Providing" and "Consuming". Our culture has raised us to be consumers and therefore, it is difficult for us to tell the difference between what we

want (consuming) and need (providing). The presenter will ask participants at the meal to keep their receipts for every purchase for the next two weeks. The receipts will be divided into one of two buckets: Providing and Consuming. We want to affirm our disciplined and intentional efforts to provide for our household. We will also want to scrutinize the consuming bucket. While no one should be asked to remove the "consumer" bucket from their life, it is out of this bucket that sacrifices in our lifestyle might be made in order to better order our life using the 10-10-80 rule.

TIMELINE

8 weeks

PLAN

(7 weeks before Response Sunday)

- Plan the meal
- Plan the program
- Recruit volunteers
- Prepare stewardship stories
- Prepare communication plan
- Mailings and invitations

MEAL

(4 weeks before Response Sunday)

- Table Hosts follow written invitations with phone calls.
- Hosts lead dinner conversation

EDUCATION AND DECISIONS

(3 weeks before Response Sunday)

- Temple Talks every Sunday
 - Buckets and Budgets
 - Consuming & Providing
 - The Changes I will make
- Table Hosts send personal notes.
- Mail Estimate of Giving Cards

RESPONSE SUNDAY

- Share commitments at worship
- Tally results

FOLLOW-UP

- (1 week after Response Sunday)
- Re-contact all persons who were not able to participate on Response Sunday
- Thank all participants and workers.

PEOPLE

RESPONSE LEADER

The response leader has two tasks: make dinner arrangements and recruit and train the Event Team

When planning the dinner, make this meal as simple as possible so that you can avoid distracting your audience with the business of being in the kitchen. Seating around tables of 8 is ideal.

Coordinate with worship planners for details surrounding Response Sunday that may include a guest preacher, and the receiving of Estimates of Giving.

TABLE HOSTS

Before the dinner the table hosts may be helpful in making phone calls and extending invitations to the event.

At the dinner, hosts will demonstrate hospitality to persons seated at the table with them. Hosts will want to gather contact information for each of the households at their table and also lead a brief and focused conversation responding to no more than two mission related questions. (i.e. What is the ministry, activity, or characteristic at this congregation that has impacted your life? What should you be doing in God's name?)

Table hosts will write a note to the households at their table along with an estimate of giving card 10 days before Response Sunday.

PRESENTERS

Use mature and respected stewards to present the Bucket Basics appeal at the dinner.

Recruit three additional presenters to deliver temple talks on the three consecutive Sunday's leading up to Response Sunday.

At the first Temple talk, tell how the 4 buckets (Share, Save, Consuming, Providing) define our money allocations. Invite people to save receipts and distribute them into the consuming and providing buckets for the next two week. Give two "buckets" (large paper or cardboard containers) to every household

In the second Temple Talk the presenter will share what they have learned about how money is spent in their household. And they can ask others to reflect on their experience.

The third Temple Talk presenter will reflect on their own discernment about how they might change their lifestyle, spending patterns and behaviors to move closer to the 10-10-80 model of Christian Stewardship

COMMUNICATION LEADER

Coordinates regular publicity and creates sample correspondence for invitations, asking for estimates of giving on Response Sunday, follow-up correspondence, and thank-you to participants and workers.

A PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE MEAL

- Guests Arrive
- Welcome and Prayer
- Meal
- Questions and Faith Conversation led by Hosts
- Dessert
- Presentation
- Closing Remarks, Thank you, Prayer

Buckets and Blessings

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