

Receiving the Offering

WHY?

Because the offering is an opportunity:

- » **For discipleship:** when we give we are sharing our God's generous character. It is a practice in trust and faith.
- » **To worship:** Through giving we are responding to God, acknowledging that every good thing we have comes from God by handing back a few tokens of what he has already given.
- » **To share stories:** The offering time is a chance to share the impact of giving to your congregation on the community. During this time first-hand accounts of transformed lives and deep relationships being built can be shared.



HOW?

Inspirational services are facilitated by the preaching of the good news of Christ, and clear entry points for participants to respond. The offering should have a designated time and space during the service. It should not be mixed in with the sermon, communion, or other distinct portions of the service. Before the offering is received, the reason for giving and how to give should be clearly communicated. If there is not one designated person to receive the offering the team who leads this part of worship should receive coaching and a schedule, so that they are prepared to facilitate this part of the service. It is also important to make sure envelopes are readily available for guests who would like to give.



Below is a sample script to clearly outline why and how to participate in the offering during your service.

WHAT TO SAY:

- » At this time, ushers will come forward to receive the offering. If you are new with us, please don't feel any obligation to give. We're just so glad you're here. If you are a member, you know why we give. We give out of obedience to God and gratitude for the ways he abundantly loves us. You can place your gift directly in the basket as it comes down your row, or online at gci.org/donate. By giving to the offering today you are helping us as we share Jesus' love with our community.
- » Then share a recent and specific story of a transformed life, recent outreach, or completed initiative.
- » Receive offering baskets and pray over what has been joyfully given.

