

# Teaching Sacrificial Giving

Students learn more through Sacrificial Giving than through projects. They are also more likely to keep giving if they have learned the reason for giving.

## Leaders & Ministry Teams:

A good way to start teaching and modeling Sacrificial giving is with your leadership. Once they get the idea they can lead by example and challenge their ministry teams and small groups to do the same. One example could be setting a goal of personal giving and having each leader set one as well.



## Give Something Up:

Have students give something up and give that money to missions is a good way to help students see how much they really have.



- Have it be a true sacrifice, letting go of the thing they like most. Maybe that thing is a Starbucks trip a week, or a movie or CD a month.
- Chris Stanley gave up golfing for one month and put that money towards the missions goal. Not only was it a true sacrifice, but he helped to lead his students to give so others can go.
- As a helpful reminder give the students a Starbucks cup to keep in their car or on their dresser at home so that each time they spend money at Starbucks they can put the same amount in the cup.

Accountability: Teach your students about your goal, about stewardship, and hold them accountable to the commitments they have made.

- The University of Houston puts the goal out there for the students to see and tells them, "Hey, we have to reach our goal!" This has carried over to them giving sacrificially.
- Brazosport teaches their students the importance of stewardship by starting with tithing then teaching the importance of giving above that to missions. That this is not just a one time thing, but an ongoing part of your Christian life.
- Brazosport started with the leaders and then it passed from the leaders to the other students, so it was not the director teaching students, but students teaching students. Students were the motivating force in encouraging the BSM to meet their goal. Students teaching students so that students can send students. It is a beautiful picture.
- When a student commits to give monthly, by pledge card, or just a certain amount, they need to be held accountable for that giving. Keep them in check with calls,

Give to Go: There are several ways BSMs get students to give.

- Some have continued 10 for 10 where students give \$10 a month for 10 months.
- Others have had leaders or other students write down a goal or a pledge to give over a certain amount of time.
- Take the average cost to send a missionary and how much they would spend on necessary items like deodorant, plane tickets, bus tokens, laundry mat, food, etc. and auction one item a week. Can your students raise the cost of a plane ticket?
- West Texas A&M has a special offering called the Open Hands Offering. They give the students a months notice and tell them what the offering is for. They use two verses to go along with this offering which are listed below. Deut. 16:16-17, "**...No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.**" Mark 12:44 "**They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.**"



## Get in on the Action:



A major part of teaching your students to give sacrificially is to be a part of it. Model it as a staff by giving sacrificially. Students need to know that we are all in this together. One way Shawn Shannon does this is by price matching. A couple times a year with different groups, she will offer to match what the students will give sacrificially. This helps them to see that she is right there with them, sacrificing just as much as they are. What will you do this year to show your students that you are in on the action?

**Special Programming:** Do something specially designed around teaching sacrificial giving.

- At Texas State they have one special **worship** service that includes a time to give sacrificially. For a month prior to this special worship service they talk about Go Now, explain the BSM goal, and the importance of sacrificial giving. Students usually give around \$1500 in one night.
- Do you have more than one **lunch** a week? Have one lunch dedicated especially to missions. Have testimonies, videos, prayer times, or visiting missionaries come to this lunch.
- Have a special week when you put the world in the face of everyone that comes to the BSM by having cheap **blow up globes** all over the floor so that the students have to “step over” the world to get anywhere, like the Tarleton BSM did. Or put up a **map of the world** with **flags** of all the countries where your students have served or will be serving. Where can you get items like this?  
[www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)
- Take a month for your BSM to go through the **Count Your Blessings** Calendar. (This is located on this resource CD.) Have your students give the amount of money they came up with from the calendar to mission at the end of the month.



### **Use of a ministry:**

Many BSMs use ministries they already have running to emphasize Sacrificial giving.



What ministry do you already have to use?

- Corpus Christi used the week of prayer to emphasize the importance of Sacrificial giving.
- One BSM encourages students to give as much as they think they have saved by eating at the BSM.
- During a worship service hang a piece of paper for each of the places students will serve this summer. On that sheet of paper have listed the location and number of students needed and list the amount of money it takes to send a student to that location. Have students stand under a sign to pray for that location and have students give \$10 toward sending that missionary.
- Another puts cups on each table with the cut out of pig taped to the cup (like a piggy bank). It also has a short explanation on the cup for what the money will be used for. These are put on the tables every Wednesday so that the students can give whatever they have. Some students use this as a time to give more than spare change.

**A story or verse:** A number of BSMs have used stories or verses to help students see the need to give sacrificially. What story or verse can you share with your students that will help them understand the importance of giving?

- At Texas Woman's it was a story of a little girl who gave this year to a student missionary. This student needed to raise \$3500 and this little girl wanted to help. She gave 30 cents. It might not seem like much, but it was all she had.
- A verse that UMHB has used is 2 Corinthians 9:8-10, **“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: ‘They have scattered abroad their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.’ 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.”**
- WTAMU used Mark 12:44 and Deuteronomy 16:16-17 in their Open Hands Offering which you can read about under ‘Give to Go.’
- McClennan has the 411 from Philippians 4:11, **“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”** David Dover asks that his students give \$4.11 each month of the school year. This amount is about the cost of a #1 at McDonalds. The idea is that we are all poor college students, but we can still give.
- At the Tarleton BSM Darrell Samuelson used two different Green Bay Packers illustrations. These stories are continued on the next page for you to enjoy.





## **What about your Christmas, Spring, and Summer breaks?**



The Green Bay Packers' fans are some of the most fanatical in the world of sports! Season tickets are pretty hard to find. In fact, there are 61,000 people on the waiting list! If you sign up for season tickets today you will never see a game in your life. Your children will also never see a game. Your grandchildren might see a game if enough people die!

Each year thousands of mission requests go unfilled. In other words, the needs are there but no Christians are taking the challenge to go! We are incredibly blessed. Why do most Christians in America choose our own little comfort zones? Why aren't there 61,000 Christians waiting to help meet the needs of a lost world? Why are the Packers' fans so committed to a team that only provides aluminum bleachers for its most devoted fans? Maybe if our churches or BSMs had aluminum bleachers we would get the point that it's our turn to be a part of the Great Commission starting here and NOW!

My prayer for you today is that we would realize that we are blessed to be a blessing! Look for daily opportunities to meet needs and for those special "calls" to places where God desires to strengthen and stretch your faith in Him. Put your "yes" on the altar and allow Him to fill in the details.

Darrell Samuelson, BSM Director

## **The Jet Stream and the Green Bay Packers!**

The jet stream effects everything! Every weather pattern on the planet is ultimately caused by this river of air several hundred miles above the earth. The jet stream is incredibly small in comparison to the size of the earth, yet its power is unmatched and felt all around the globe. Ignore the jet stream and you will miss the big picture of global weather patterns. Like the jet stream, the Great Commission is very small...only a few words in comparison to the Bible as a whole. Ignore the Great Commission and you will miss the great adventure of the Christian life and the bigger picture of what God is accomplishing around the globe as He draws all the nations to Himself. Isn't it interesting that the last words of Jesus were not some discourse clearing up some theological issue? No, the last words of Jesus were words of mission and action! Even when Jesus gave the Great Commission, the Scripture says that some worshiped and some doubted! There will always be doubters, but they should never effect our obedience to the Great Commission!

Now...the Green Bay Packers. Their fans are some of the most passionate fans on the planet. In fact, there's a little bit of a line for season tickets...at last count 63,000! What great luxuries do they offer these passionate fans? None. In fact, most of them are satisfied with aluminum bleachers. Sub-freezing temperatures and aluminum bleachers...that's commitment! We live in an incredibly blessed country. There are Bibles in Wal-Mart...Christian bookstores, radio stations, television, etc... If we are so richly blessed, why aren't there 63,000 Christians "in line" to fulfill the Great Commission? Is it possible that our faith has somehow turned inward instead of outward? Maybe we should replace our soft, comfortable pews with aluminum bleachers. Maybe we aren't really hearing some of the last words of our Lord!



The Tarleton BSM is committed to pushing students into the jet stream of the Great Commission! BSM students and staff have traveled to 78 countries and states to help fulfill the Great Commission. Our prayer is that God will continue to use this generation to reach the nations for His glory!

