

# OFFERING TALK RESOURCE #2

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BY CHAD MOORE, LEAD PASTOR, SUN VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, PHOENIX, AZ

Sun Valley's lead pastor, Chad Moore, lays out two practical ideas for how to approach the offering in every weekend service:

## **Don't apologize for the offering.**

Moore thinks North American churches are past the need to excuse guests from giving in the worship service.

"When you say, 'If you're a guest here today, don't worry about giving,' subconsciously you're apologizing for that part of the service—which is unacceptable for us," Moore says. "We believe giving is a normal part of following Jesus, so we can be confident in teaching our people that.

"I'm not going to apologize for it. If a guest wants to give, great. If they don't want to give, that's between them and the Lord."

I would add that excusing guests from participating in giving would be similar to giving them an out on other parts of the service that are deemed important.

The pastor never says, "Hey, I'm about to spend 35 minutes teaching from an ancient book. But I know you're a visitor, so don't feel like you have to follow along." If we don't suggest other important elements aren't for the visitor, then why do so for the offering?

## **Take the opportunity to teach.**

Most importantly, Moore says Sun Valley uses the offering time to teach biblical principles of giving. Borrowing from Andy Stanley's "Give-Save-Live" formula (give to God first, build up savings next, and live on the rest), leaders can hit those principles in a short setup for the weekly offering.

It's a simple mantra that's repeated so often that most people at Sun Valley could finish the sentence. Moore says this is how it goes many weeks: "We're going to receive an offering this morning because here's what the Bible teaches about money: We're to give first, save second, and live on the rest. God gave first, so giving first honors God. Saving second builds wealth, and living on the rest teaches contentment."

In that short statement, they've communicated it's not what God wants from people as much as what he wants for people. And I believe that those teachable moments and that boldly receiving an offering are raising the temperature on generosity at churches around the country.

## **More than a transaction**

But there could be one downside that we need to address. If we're not careful with how the offering is handled, it can become transactional.