

Giving as a Family

Learn to become a team



In working with families over the years, we've seen the power of transformational generosity in bringing the family together around a common cause. It is a necessary and intentional conversation that opens the door for other important conversations.

Why is family giving so essential?

1. First, family giving provides a common ground for all because most families admittedly don't have all the answers for where to give, how to give, and how to get results.
2. Second, because of this common ground, there is a shared conversation that allows families to learn together.
3. Third, in the process of the shared conversation, there is an opportunity to: (a) increase communication, (b) talk about values, (c) work through disagreements (d) build trust, and (e) grow in accountability.

Ultimately, family giving is the platform for helping a family become a "team" around a shared set of values and mission. All will own it, and all can communicate it to subsequent generations.

But where to start? Here are some topics to consider as you start the conversation:

1. Ownership or stewardship

What is the difference between being an owner of your possessions and being a steward? How do you see yourself currently—owner or steward—and what difference does it make?

2. How much to give

For many, the idea of giving 10% is seen as a destination point. What does scripture actually teach on this point, and perhaps is there a new or different level of generosity that you should consider in view of Christ's sacrifice for you?

3. Your family's values

Is there a mission you want to support or a problem you hope to solve with your giving? Does your family's history suggest causes or organizations you want to give to?

4. Giving style

Regular support? A few organizations in a big way? A lot of organizations to bless many? Big "investment-style" gifts? Anonymous? Am I willing to influence others with my giving?
