



2020 EASTER ESSENTIALS

GIVING MOMENT SCRIPTS

Your Easter Giving Moment Scripts

The energy surrounding Easter is undeniable. As Easter Sunday nears, people become more attuned to the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for them, making the service itself one of the most attended of the year.

This dramatic increase in attendance presents ministries with a range of unique challenges—the offering being one of them. Giving is crucial to furthering your church’s vision, but can get lost in the mix as you’re pulled in different directions. Money is also a struggle for many church leaders to discuss with their congregation on a typical Sunday, let alone Easter when it’s packed with skeptical visitors!

To help, we’ve simplified the offering announcement by creating 6 Easter scripts (and a bonus script for the Sunday after Easter!).

- #1: Giving as an Act of Trust
- #2: Consumer to Contributor
- #3: Joy in Generosity
- #4: Much Has Been Given to You
- #5: God Loves a Cheerful Giver
- #6: Giving as an Expression of Gratitude
- #7: Summertime Stewardship (*Bonus Script*)

As you read through the scripts, notice that we guide people to give to the offering plate and on your church’s website. If your church doesn’t currently offer online giving, seriously consider implementing a solution before Easter. With so many new faces attending this special service, you can’t expect them all to remember cash or check.

In a [US Bank Survey](#), over 50% of respondents said they carry cash with them less than half the time. When they do carry cash, 76% have less than \$50 on them. By allowing givers to choose online giving, your church meets members and visitors where they are.

Make sure you have a reputable provider of online giving that builds products specifically for the Church. Online giving tools equip people to use their phone (a device they already carry with them!) to give via text, mobile app, or on your website. That way, you include everyone in the offering moment—not just those that remembered cash or check.

Script 1: Giving as an Act of Trust

Easter is the ideal time to remind your church to trust God because he is trustworthy. Use the script, "Giving as an Act of Trust," to help break down how giving is a reflection of that trust in God.

We'd like to take a moment at this part of our Easter service and take up today's offering. If you're new here, the offering is simply a chance to financially support what we're doing. It's also something God, our Heavenly Father, has called us to do as an act of trust in Him.

You may have never thought of giving as an act of trust, but it is! When you give, you're basically telling God, "I trust that You will provide for me, even as I give."

And the great part about that statement of trust is that it's true. God can be trusted to provide even while we give. God can be trusted to sustain you even though you have a little bit less. And I think that's one of the huge takeaways when we give. We learn to trust and lean on God to provide for our needs.

It's tempting to lean only on ourselves and trust only in our ability to generate financial security. But it's draining, isn't it?

Listen, God doesn't want you to feel that pressure. Anxiety is not a spiritual gift, believe me.

But often times it's not enough just to say, "Okay God, I trust you." Sure, we can sort of mentally believe that, but there's still something inside of us that wrestles with that statement.

That's why giving is so important. Giving helps us let go of our hold on money and the belief that we can provide for ourselves. Giving helps us release that anxiety and really place our trust in Him.

Matthew 6 says, "Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. (Matthew 6:32b-33 NLT)."

In just a second, we'll start passing the offering plates down the rows. If you'd like to participate in today's offering, you can put something in the bucket. You can also give online through our website, _____ .org.

As those buckets are passing by, ask yourself, "Am I trusting in God to provide or in my own ability to provide?"

Let's pray.

Script 2: Consumer to Contributor

It's easy for people to have a consumer's mentality when sharing opinions about the Church. This Easter, help new guests and regulars understand there's a big difference between being a consumer vs. a contributor with the script "Consumer to Contributor."

In just a few minutes, we're going to have what we call the offering. That simply means we have a time where we invite people to financially support the mission of our church. Some of you already give online—thank you so much for your generosity! If you'd like to give today, you can go ahead and get out your phones and visit our website, _____ . org.

We could probably all rant and rave about restaurants in our town. We brag on the ones we love and harp on the ones we hate: "Their tacos are the best in the world." "Their cheeseburgers are the worst I've ever had. Stay away!" "I wish their food was half as good as their service." "I'm sick and tired of their menu."

There's another place where we freely share our opinions—church. We reside as judge and jury over the style of music, method of preaching, age of the congregation, etc. Sometimes, in fact, it's hard to tell the difference between us talking about a local

Italian restaurant and going to church. And that's because we've bought into this idea that church is about us getting something.

There's just one problem. Church isn't a restaurant. Jesus said some things that should perhaps forever change the way we attend, think about, and participate in church. To paraphrase, He simply stated: Church isn't about getting something. It's about being something. Swapping one word makes all the difference.

In His most famous sermon, Jesus looked at the crowd and said: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14). You are. What an incredible thing for Jesus to say. He doesn't say, "I am the light of the world." He says, "You are."

That's why the decision to give is such a big deal— it moves you from spectator to participant. You shift from consumer to contributor. You join with other believers to make church a compelling force in this town and around the world.

Today, I want to invite you to "be the church" and consistently support our vision. The best way to ensure consistency is through recurring online donations. Your automatic contributions will enable us to be the church and help more people.

(Provide instructions on how people can give online)

Let's pray.

Script 3: Joy in Generosity

Just as Easter is a joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection, so too is the act of generosity. Use the script "Joy in Generosity" to share with visitors and regular attendees how contributing to the Church actually gives back to them emotionally and spiritually.

Remember that old song "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and the Waves? (Yes, that was the actual name of the band). If you don't recall it, get online today and listen to it. It'll be stuck in your head the rest of the day. You can thank (or blame) me later!

It's a feel-good song about a feel-good moment. Why am I bringing it up? Because you need more feel-good in your life, and there's no better time to add some than Easter!

I also bring it up because that song represents how I felt the first time I gave money to help someone else. At the time, I didn't understand why handing over my hard-earned cash felt so good.

But now I know why—because God wired me that way. It's what Luke mentioned when he remembered the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

In this instance, I think "more blessed" means better. It doesn't mean morally superior or holier than the people around you. God won't love you more. It's just better. On the balance sheet of life with its scales of gain and loss, your experience increases when you give. Something inside of you comes to life when you're generous.

Question: Have you ever met an unhappy generous person?

This is my invitation to you on Easter Sunday. Will you go digital with your giving and help us reach more people? Will you set up monthly, recurring donations? Sure, you'll notice each month or each week when those funds are deducted. But, you'll also notice a change in your heart and in your view of money.

And that change will be for the good.

If you go to our website, _____ .org, you can click on the _____ button and set up your gift easy and fast.

Thanks so much! Let's pray together.

Script 4: Much Has Been Given to You

Many people that attend church (especially only on Easter) forget just how much they've been given. During the offering, read the script "Much Has Been Given to You" to show them that they can work hard and live humbly, and still be blessed with more opportunities than others.

30 years ago, Vinh Chung and his family left Vietnam in a fishing boat with 83 other refugees. After drifting on the South China Sea for 5 days, they were about to give up hope when they were rescued by a World Vision aid ship.

A few months later, they began their life in America. They worked like crazy to make a good future for themselves. One day, Chung read Luke 12:48, where Jesus says, "When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required."

In 2002, when he was in medical school, Chung went back to Vietnam to visit extended family. He was shocked by what he saw. The walls of their shacks were plastered over with newspapers. They slept on the floor. Everything was a struggle. He realized how different his life could have been.

He says, "Then I understood. Jesus meant me. I worked hard to get where I am today, but the humbling truth is that my hard work was possible because of a blessing I did nothing to deserve. Whether you arrived in this country by boat or by birth, much has been given to you."

In the Bible, 15% of everything Jesus said relates to money or possessions. That's more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined. Why? Because our approach to money and possessions isn't just important—it's central to our spiritual lives.

Giving is more about the state of the heart than the state of your pocketbook. When we choose to give, it's about more than money. It's deciding whether we believe Jesus when He said, "Don't worry about what you eat or drink or what you put on; your Heavenly Father knows that you need these things" (Matthew 6:31-32).

I want to invite you to give on this Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The best way to give consistently is through recurring, monthly online donations. It's safe and easy to use, and your automatic contributions will ensure that you make this spiritual decision an ongoing priority.

(Provide instructions on how people can give online.)

Let's pray

Script 5: God Loves a Cheerful Giver

During the offering, use the script “God Loves a Cheerful Giver” to discuss why giving on Easter shouldn’t be about feeling guilty or pressured, but instead should bring feelings of joy and happiness.

At this point in our Easter service, we’d like to pause and invite you to support the mission of this church by giving financially. If you’ve already given online, we so appreciate your generosity! If you haven’t given yet but would like to, you can give through our website, _____ .org, or put something in the bucket as it passes by.

Our hope is that as you consider giving today, you don’t feel pressure or guilt or shame to give in this moment, because that’s definitely not the point. God doesn’t ask us to give because He’s trying to guilt trip us into something. And God’s not going to love us more if we give or love us less if we don’t. It’s nothing like that at all.

The truth is, God asks us to give because it’s in our best interest. Think about it. Isn’t it true that when you give it does something inside of you? I don’t think that’s an accident. I think that’s the

way God designed us—to be generous, like He is. And by giving consistently, we’re cultivating that part of us.

2 Corinthians says that you must each decide in your heart how much to give, not reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT).”

You know, if God really only cared about your money, He would’ve just said, “God loves a person who gives.” But He didn’t. Instead He says, “God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” Now why would God say that? Because God wants to do something in you, not just get something from you.

He wants to turn you into a generous person, not a person who gives unwillingly or out of guilt.

So as the offering plate passes by this morning, we hope you won’t just see it as an opportunity to give financially. We hope you’ll see it as a chance to practice giving with the right frame of mind and the right spirit. Not out of guilt or shame, but out of joy and gratefulness with a cheerful heart.

Let’s pray.

Script 6: Giving as an Expression of Gratitude

Read the script "Giving as an Expression of Gratitude" to remind your church on Easter that giving shows gratitude to God and frees them from greed.

In just a few minutes during our Easter service, we're going to have what we call the offering. That simply means we have a time where we invite people from all walks of life to financially support the mission and vision of this church. We believe that God has generously blessed us with the resources we have. And giving back is one of the ways we express our gratitude to God.

We believe that God will provide for our needs. He will help us no matter what we face. When we give, we defeat greed and show God that we trust Him. Our faith grows while our attachment to "stuff" shrinks. The result is incredible freedom.

If you're new to this church on Easter, thank you for being here! Please know that we don't put pressure on people to give. It's totally up to you. We do, however, work hard to be responsible and effective with the money that's given, and we utilize it to help

and reach as many people as we can. In short, a weekly offering is part of how we worship God and propel His mission throughout the local church.

At this church, we want to make it easier for people to give and help us engage more people with the life-changing truth of Jesus Christ. That's why we no longer just have plates and buckets for people to put in cash and checks. We also have a button people can click. If you go to our website, _____ .org, you can click on the _____ button and set up online, recurring donations. It's easy, fast, and secure to set up.

When your gift is automated, it means you can know with total confidence that it will be put to good use. You will experience the benefits of participating in generosity, even when you're out of town or forget your checkbook. And this church will have more resources to help more people.

So, will you please join us online with your generosity? If you've never given before, would you be courageous and move from a spectator to a participant today? Get out your phone, go to our website, _____ .org, click on the _____ button, and set up your tithe to be automatically deducted on a regular basis. Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks so much! Let's pray together and ask for God's blessing and wisdom over these offerings on Easter.

Script 7: Summer-time Stewardship

Use the bonus script, "Summertime Stewardship," with your congregation after Easter to encourage recurring giving, before kids get out of school and families are distracted with summer activities that keep them from regularly attending church.

In just a few minutes, we're going to have what we call the offering. Every Sunday, we take a couple of minutes and invite people to financially support the mission of this church. The reason why we do it is not to put pressure on people. It's to encourage people to move from spectators to participants in the vision. We are SO GRATEFUL for all the things your gifts allow us to do!

As we approach summer, our kids are getting more and more excited. Why? Because they no longer have to sit in classroom and learn for several hours a day. Who can blame them?

As you'd expect, this also causes some of their learning to go backwards. Here's a fun fact. According to onlinecollege.org, "On average, students lose about 2.6 months worth of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills during their summer break."

So, for all you parents out there, you should be multiplying fractions with your kids on the way to Grandma's house in July!

I'm kidding, of course. But just like kids' Math skills go down in the summer, so does church giving. And it's not because anybody actually says to themselves, "I just don't feel like supporting the mission of the church this summer!" It's because people forget. They're out of town. There's a lot of other stuff going on.

As a church, we have a lot of exciting things we want to accomplish this summer. But they also take money and resources. That's why your decision to continue giving is such a big deal. Your recurring gift allows us to have more resources to help more people, and helps allow ministry to happen even when you're out of town.

So I want to invite you to give today. But I also want to invite you to continue giving this summer as we offer VBS and youth camps. We will work diligently to be good stewards of your donations. Know they go a long way towards helping us reach people for Jesus.

Thank you so much for your faith in this area, and for supporting this church!

Let's pray together.