

LAY STEWARDSHIP WITNESS OUTLINE

1. Brief Self Introduction

- a. Give name, occupation, church organizations, family members, how long you have been a member, etc. as you think appropriate.
- b. State whether you are a proportionate giver or a tither. If you are proportionate giver, do you have a time schedule for achieving a tithe?
- c. Share how you return time and talent to God through church and community.

2. The Heart of the Message

- a. Why is your stewardship commitment important to you? (Here it is ok to deal with both time and money.)
- b. How did you decide to become a tither or proportionate giver?
 - o Were there any relevant events in the past which influenced your decision?
 - o Was it difficult for you to make a significant commitment of your money to our Lord through the church?
 - o What encouragement or discouragement did you receive as you considered your decision? (from friends, scriptures, clergy, television, newspapers, etc.)
- c. What was the ultimate event that led to your decision?

3. Wrap-up

State conclusions, insights, final illustration based on what you discussed.

Your presentation should be 1-1½ minutes in length or approximately ¼ page, typed. You will be much more effective if you concentrate on WHY you give, not what you give.

Example

My name is _____ and I have been a member of (name of church) for 15 years. I'm currently serving on the Altar Guild and work with the outreach program. I have been giving a proportion of my income to my church for several years. I am increasing my giving percentage each year to get to a place where I will be tithing. I'm doing this because, for me, it's part of my commitment to my church and to my faith. It was when a friend told me that she tithed that I began to explore the idea. At first, I thought I couldn't do it, but as I have grown into this practice, I am also growing into a deeper and deeper trust of Jesus' grace and love. Giving back this way has given me such peace and has become one of the most important things I do.