



DISCIPLESHIP



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Embracing the Practices of a Disciple

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A Resource of Freedom Church of Philadelphia

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The Mission of the Church

The final words of Jesus recorded in the gospel of Matthew summarize the mission Jesus has given to the church.

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus delivered these instructions to his disciples. The mission of the church, then, is to make disciples who will make disciples. At Freedom Church, we divide this objective into three overlapping pursuits: Leading people to Jesus Christ, establishing the core practices of discipleship, and equipping men and women for leadership. This booklet focuses on the second of these steps.

What are the characteristics of a disciple?

If our mission involves making disciples, it is important that we have a clear understanding of what a disciple is. According to the New Testament, disciples exhibit three broad characteristics.

1. A disciple exhibits a radical commitment to Jesus Christ.

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:26

³⁴Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Mark 8:34-35

2. A disciple exhibits sacrificial love for others.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

John 13:12-15

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Acts 4:32-35

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

Colossians 1:24

3. A disciple exhibits a Spirit-empowered witness to God's kingdom.

¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him.

Mark 1:16-18

⁷[Jesus] said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:7-8

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." ¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:14-16

What are some concrete ways these characteristics might be displayed in your life? What is the significance of the qualifying words "radical," "sacrificial," and "Spirit-empowered?"

Six Practices of a Disciple

Although the characteristics we have identified above have numerous implications for our lives, at Freedom Church, we have identified six key practices that we want all of our members to commit to. These practices are:

- Attend Sunday services
- Read the Bible and pray every day

Discipleship

- Commit to a Small Group
- Serve on a Volunteer Team
- Pray every day for three friends who do not know Christ
- Give a percentage of your income to the church

The following chapters will address these six practices in more detail.

Practice #1: Attend Sunday Services

Disciples in the early church loved to gather together in large groups, and the biblical evidence suggests that they did so whenever it was possible.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

Acts 2:42, 46

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 5:42

In the ministry strategy we have adopted at Freedom Church, weekend services are:

- Our main context for presenting biblical teaching from a pastor or ministry leader;
- Our primary opportunity to worship together;
- A great environment into which we can invite friends who are not yet Christ-followers.

Gathering together on a weekly basis is one of the primary means by which we grow together in unity, receive encouragement in our faith, and introduce others to the good news of Jesus Christ. In the Scriptures, defining moments and catalytic experiences often resulted when large groups of men and women met together to celebrate, to hear God's word, and to worship.¹

These benefits and goals of gathering together are summarized for us in one simple purpose statement for our Sunday services: *To inspire everyone in attendance to take a step closer to Jesus.*

How to Go to Church

²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Do we really need instructions on how to go to church?! Although we may be inclined to think not, our church attendance can be significantly more fruitful if we take a few moments to prepare for this strategic time of the week.²

1. **Before we go to church.** Each week we have an opportunity to invite someone to join us for a church service. Pray and ask God whom you might invite to go with you. On Sunday morning, pray that God would meet you during the service and that he would give you opportunities to encourage and help others.
2. **In the lobby.** Look up. Whom can you meet, listen to, pray for, or introduce to another person? Whom would it be helpful to sit with? Did you meet someone last week with whom you can follow up? How can you help someone else get connected?
3. **During the service.** Engage with the worship. Sing the songs. Pray. Listen closely to the message. Identify one thing you want to remember from the service. Determine one action you want to take the following week.
4. **After the service.** Is there someone you can take to lunch? Whom can you encourage with what you heard or experienced during the service? Whom can you text during the week? What do you want to read more about in the Bible later?

Do you regularly attend Sunday services? What are some ways you can improve “how you go to church”?

¹ See, for example, Exodus 19:9 - 20:21; 1 Kings 8:1-11; Mark 6:34-44; Acts 2:1-41.

Attend Sunday Services

² These suggestions are inspired by Tony Payne's helpful little book *How to Walk Into Church*.

Practice #2: Read and Pray Daily

Jesus was once asked which of the many commands in the Old Testament was the most important.

²⁹"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"

Mark 12:29-30

This command is the centerpiece of the life of a disciple and has many implications. One of the more obvious is that we should pursue a personal relationship with God. Reading the Scriptures and praying daily are two of the main ways we develop this personal relationship. A commitment to the Scriptures and prayer is emphasized throughout the Bible.

Reading the Bible

In the first century, most disciples did not have their own copy of the Scriptures. So, Paul gave Timothy these instructions.

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture...

1 Timothy 4:13

Many in ancient Israel memorized portions of Scripture so they could think about God's word throughout the day.

*¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.*

*¹²Praise be to you, Lord;
teach me your decrees.*

*¹³With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.*

¹⁴I rejoice in following your statutes

as one rejoices in great riches.

¹⁵*I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.*

¹⁶*delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.*

Psalm 119:11-16

When Moses reiterated God's instructions to the Israelites shortly before his death, he concluded his teaching with the following words.

⁴⁶ ... *"Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. ⁴⁷They are not just idle words for you—they are your life...."*

Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Having a Bible reading plan is very helpful for maintaining consistency in daily reading. You can download the YouVersion Bible app on your phone now and select a reading plan to begin. For help understanding what you read, purchase a Bible with commentary such as the ESV Study Bible or the NIV Zondervan Study Bible. Each of these can also be purchased in an ebook format and read on your smartphone, computer, or e-reader. They are very helpful tools.

Prayer

Jesus modeled a life of prayer for his disciples. Even though he frequently traveled and often had very long days of ministry, Jesus consistently spent time with his Father. Luke notes:

...Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5:16

On some occasions, Jesus' times of prayer were extended.

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Luke 6:12

Jesus' closeness with the Father and effectiveness in ministry prompted the disciples to ask Jesus for direction in prayer.

¹One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

*"Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.*

³Give us each day our daily bread.

*⁴Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation."*

Luke 11:1-4

This simple prayer provides us with a helpful outline for our times of prayer.

1. **"Father, hallowed be your name."** Begin by putting your focus on God, reminding yourself who he is, and expressing your desire that you and those around you would rightly honor and worship him.
2. **"Your kingdom come."** Ask God to bring his life-giving reign to your life, to the lives of your friends and family, and to the world around you as you embrace a hopeful expectation of a future new heavens and new earth.¹
3. **"Give us each day our daily bread."** Ask God to provide everything you, your family, and your community need to do his will.

4. **"Forgive us our sins."** Confess and turn from any wrong behaviors and attitudes, and freshly put your hope in the forgiveness God offers us through Jesus' death on the cross.²
5. **"For we also forgive everyone who sins against us."** Forgive those who have hurt you in some way, and ask God to work in their lives. Pray for your enemies. Pray that those far from God would come to know him.
6. **"And lead us not into temptation."** Ask God to protect you from temptation and the influence of demonic spirits. Pray that God would strengthen you to serve him faithfully each day.

Do you have a Bible reading plan? Do you have resources that help you understand the Bible? How often do you pray? Describe your times of prayer. How would you like to see your prayer life grow?

¹ See Revelation 21:1-4; 22:20-21.

² See 1 John 2:1-2.

Practice #3: Commit to a Group

Believers in the early church regularly met together not just in large, public venues, but also in smaller gatherings in each other's homes.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42, 46-47

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 5:42

In addition, Jesus gathered a small group of men for the purpose of training them in ministry.

¹³Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and to have authority to drive out demons.

Mark 3:13-15

Both large, public gatherings and smaller, private gatherings play an important role in our lives as disciples. At Freedom Church, we meet together in Small Groups for four primary purposes.

1. **Growth.** Gathering in a small group provides a context for discussing the Scriptures, sharing ideas, asking questions, and interacting with material from the Sunday sermon. In addition, in a small group setting,

there is ample opportunity to minister to one another through prayer, encouragement, and the giving of counsel. This level of life-on-life engagement is essential for personal growth.

2. **Relationships.** Gathering in a small group creates a context in which genuine friendships can be discovered and built. The consistency of meeting together provides the necessary time for getting to know the others in the group. As the group members regularly talk, pray, and laugh together, trust is built and friendships are formed.
3. **Accountability.** It is relatively easy to slip in and out of Sunday services unnoticed. But among a small group of people, it is difficult to hide. The other group members will typically take note when we are absent, when something is different about our attitude, or when something we are communicating suggests cause for concern. We benefit when we open up our lives to others and allow them to both challenge us and encourage us.
4. **Mission.** Jesus' basic unit for accomplishing his mission was a small group of men. Jesus trained these men as they traveled together, prayed together, and ministered together. Our small groups can similarly become great training grounds and teams for mission.

Do you have any close friends at Freedom Church? What benefits do you expect to receive from participating in a small group? What benefits do you think you can bring to others by participating in a small group?

Practice #4: Serve on a Team

At Freedom Church we have formed a wide variety of volunteer and ministry teams to help fulfill our mission. These teams include such groups as the worship team, the prayer team, the ushering team, the connection team, the children's ministry team, and many others. It takes the whole body of Christ to fulfill the mission of Christ.

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:11-13, 16

Jesus supplies leaders to the church to equip all the parts of the body for service so that, together, we can see the entire church be built up. As Paul emphasizes in the following passage, every part of the body has an important role to play.

¹⁵Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them

to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

1 Corinthians 12:15-20

We have created an acronym from the word SERVICE to communicate the attitude we want members of our volunteer and ministry teams to embrace.

1. **Serve like Christ.** Jesus sacrificed his life for our salvation. We want to have a “whatever it takes” attitude toward helping others experience life in Christ.

²⁵Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:25-28

2. **Exceed expectations.** We want to surprise those we serve with excellence.

³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

2 Corinthians 8:3-5

3. **Respect every role.** Everything matters. There are no small jobs.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

²³and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.

1 Corinthians 12:21-23

4. **Value every person.** Every human being has value in God's sight. Therefore, everyone who comes to Freedom Church should feel valued and loved.

¹²"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 18:12-14

5. **Improve always.** We want to commit to getting better in every area we serve.

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

1 Timothy 4:15

6. **Communicate effectively.** To serve others well, we need to communicate clearly and regularly within our teams, with those on other teams, and with those whom we are serving.

*A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Proverbs 15:1

*Plans fail for lack of counsel,
but with many advisers they succeed.*

Proverbs 15:22

7. **Expand the team.** It will take more of us to accomplish all that God has called us to do.

Discipleship

³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38

Are you currently serving on a ministry or volunteer team? How do you think your skills could be employed in the church?

Practice #5: Pray for Three

While Jesus was passing through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem, a wealthy (and despised) tax collector named Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a tree to try to catch a glimpse of him. As Jesus approached the spot and saw Zacchaeus looking on, he recognized that God was working in Zacchaeus' life. Jesus stopped what he was doing and helped Zacchaeus experience the life of God's kingdom. When those in the crowd began muttering about Jesus' interaction with this "sinful" person, Jesus offered the following explanation.

⁹ ... "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:9-10

One of the great joys of being a disciple is joining Jesus in this mission of reaching out to those who do not yet know God. In a letter to the church in Corinth, Paul writes about the "ministry of reconciliation" he received from God.

¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal

through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Although God employs a variety of means to draw men and women to himself, one of the most common is the influence of a friend or family member. Paul provides a few practical instructions in his letter to the Colossians.

²Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:2-6

1. **Pray.** Paul instructed the Colossians to pray with alertness and gratitude, and asked them to pray that doors would open up for the gospel message. He also asked them to pray that the message would be communicated clearly once the opportunity arrived. We can take the practical step of praying every day for three of our friends who are not disciples of Jesus Christ. We should pray that doors for the gospel message would open in their lives, and that we would be able to communicate the message clearly when these doors open.
2. **Be wise and make the most of every opportunity.** If we will regularly invest in the lives of other people, we will eventually have the opportunity to invite them to a church service, or to share our own story of salvation, or to explain the gospel message to them. We need to keep our eyes open and actively look for the opportunities God brings our way.
3. **Let your conversation be always full of grace.** For most people, life is challenging. Below the surface, men and women are often struggling with questions of identity, hope, and purpose. If we

consistently communicate with love and grace, we will eventually have an opportunity to give a reason for the hope that we have.¹

There are many helpful tools available to help you share the gospel with others. Two that we recommend are *The God Test* and *Two Ways to Live*. Both of these are available as apps for your smartphone.

Who are three people you can begin praying for on a daily basis? Do you think any of these three would be open to attending a Sunday service?

¹ See 1 Peter 3:15.

Practice #6: Give to the Church

The Old and New Testament Scriptures and Jesus himself address the topic of money a considerable number of times. Given the significant role money plays in our daily lives, this is not surprising. In our culture, just as in ancient contexts, money can provide some measure of identity, security, and power. Therefore, the temptation to put our confidence in money rather than God is always present. Jesus offers us an implicit warning in this regard.

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Matthew 6:24

Instead of allowing money to function like a god in our lives, the Scriptures encourage us to use our money for the purposes of God with the joyful expectation that God will reward us with eternal "riches."

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And

if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Luke 16:9-11

(Note: Jesus is not suggesting here that we use money to manipulate people, but rather that we use our money to invest in people according to God's purposes.)

¹⁰Now 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. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

What should we do with our money?

The Scriptures outline four important ways we should use our money.

1. We should pay for our own food, clothes, and housing so others will not have to.

⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

2. We should provide for our families.

³Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.

⁴But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ... ⁸Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8

3. We should support ministers of the gospel and pastors.

¹³Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? ¹⁴In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:13-14

¹⁷The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

1 Timothy 5:17-18

4. We should help those who for various reasons cannot support themselves and have no family to help them.

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Ephesians 4:28

So what does this mean practically when it comes to giving to one's local church? The New Testament does not provide many specific directives. This is probably because differing political and economic circumstances

across the centuries and in different nations affect what is realistic for believers to do. What if a nation's tax rate was 90%?!

We do, however, find a very helpful example in the case of ancient Israel under the Law of Moses. In ancient Israel, God himself provided laws that directed nearly every area of life. Under these laws, the Israelites were instructed to set apart 10% of their crops and livestock (the basic equivalent of their income) as holy to the Lord. This was then given to the Levites (who served full-time in a "religious" capacity) so their needs and the needs of their families would be met.

³⁰“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. ...

³²Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod—will be holy to the Lord.

Leviticus 27:30, 32

²¹“I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting. ...

²³ ... They will receive no inheritance among the Israelites.

²⁴Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the Lord.

Numbers 18:21, 23-24

Because of this example and others in the Old Testament, many Christians have committed to give 10% of their income to the local church in which they are involved. Others, motivated by remarkable examples of generosity in the New Testament¹, give much more.

Whatever your current financial condition, we encourage you to choose a percentage of your income to give to Freedom Church. Make a commitment, and set apart this portion of your income as "holy to the Lord." Then give it each week, month, or pay period as an act of faith and worship.

Why should a person regularly give to his or her local church? Do you give regularly to Freedom Church? Do you have a particular giving goal, or is your giving sporadic?

¹ See Acts 4:32-37; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4.

Notes