

The work of growing local giving, biblically speaking, is about growing stewards. Not all stewards are alike. Help people find themselves in biblical giving stories.

1. People of influence: "Model the way" (David, 1 Chronicles 29:14)
2. Stewards of assets: "Open the storehouses" (Joseph, Genesis 41:56-57)
3. Skilled workers: "Share your wares" (Tabitha, Acts 9:36-37a, 39b)
4. Individuals with portfolios: "Give an asset" (Barnabas, Acts 4:34-37)
5. Everyone: "Give sacrificially" (Widow, Mark 12:41-44)

Four Lessons from Paul for building trust and forming faithful stewards:

1. Paul gave consistent directions to all God's people about giving to grow faithful stewards. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; the same biblical directions were to be shared widely)
2. Paul directed local groups to have credentialed workers handle God's money (1 Corinthians 16:3-4; the careful handling of funds by trustworthy, skilled people grows trust)
3. Paul set standards with financial controls to preserve God's honor and to prevent corruption (2 Corinthians 8:16-21, Paul sets standards so God's workers would do what was right before God and man in financial management)
4. Paul affixed a seal to build confidence and trust for people to give generously to God's work (Romans 15:22-29, seals grow trust and bear witness to compliance to standards before a watching world)

Consistent directions, credentialed workers, financial controls, seals and trust

1 Corinthians 3:1-9: Prepare yourselves. Growing givers is spiritual work (1-3), understand your part in the bigger Kingdom picture (4-5), acknowledge God is the source of provision (6), fulfill one's purpose as God's steward (7-9)