

Generosity Story Template

Thank you for taking the time to tell us your story. You may either type in your answers below or print this and write them in. You may either answer each question separately or tie them together in a story. Below is an example. Please include a picture of yourself smiling at the camera so we can see your eyes. Please return them to...

Question 1: What were you looking for when you came to our church?

Question 2: What is your first memory of feeling like our church was your church home?

Question 3: What do you appreciate most about the ministry of our church?

Question 4: Where did you learn generosity?

Question 4: Why do you choose to support our church with your financial gifts?

Question 5: What is your greatest hope for our church and the next generation that calls it *their* church home?

Sample Story and Title:

Without a Doubt

When my family moved to Prosperity, we were looking for a church where we could belong. We didn't know anyone in town. It was important to us that the people were welcoming and that there were opportunities for our children to learn the power of God's grace and love for the world. We were looking for preaching where God was the subject of the verb, and we found that at Church.

I remember the first time I had an emergency at work and my husband was out of town. I couldn't get home in time to pick up the children from school. I called Dana from church, and she brought my children to her house after school. She gave them a snack and they played all afternoon outside. She fed them dinner and helped them with their homework. When I picked up the children they said, "can we do this every day?" I knew they were comfortable and welcomed without a doubt that day.

I appreciate that Church spends time and resources on our children and youth. They make sure that every child gets to go to camp. They make sure every child has a positive experience with youth group and children's church. They clearly value children because they spend financial resources on ensuring they are forming their faith.

I learned to tithe from my father. He was a faithful tither and insisted on it. I always felt it was an obligation to tithe, and honestly there wasn't joy in it. Then during a Bible study one day at Church I learned that stewardship is everyone we do after we say yes to God. I learned that stewardship is recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and belongs to God. So that changed how I look at tithing. It stopped being a burden and instead became a way to "respond" to what God has first done for us.

I support Church because I want others in our community to know the love and grace of God the way I know it. I want other children to have a place they feel safe and welcomed. I want them to feel as cared for as my own children. When I give to Church, I know that my generosity is being used to provide the faith forming ministries we offer.

My hope for Church is that we won't get comfortable. My hope is that we continue to see the need for our messages of love, grace and belonging and that we will continue to go out and offer that to those who haven't yet heard it.