

Speed the Light

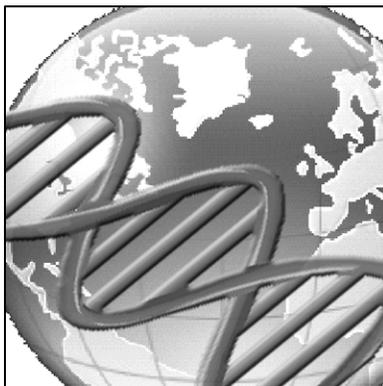
Changing the financial DNA of students

Classes, Events,
and Activities
to help affect
change.

by Mark Schaufler

Changing the Financial DNA of Students

Wiring them for Speed the Light and giving to missions



**Twelve classes, events, and activities
That will help you to achieve this change.**

By Mark Schaufler



Changing the Financial DNA of Students
Discipleship in the Area of Money
By Mark Schaufler

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Read This First

Money is one of the biggest stumbling blocks in the Kingdom of Heaven. Time and time again Jesus had to deal with the issue and often his parables revolved around the use of money because it is so engrained in cultures.

From the Rich Young Ruler who had to make some tough decisions (Matthew 19:16-30) to the parable of the buried treasure (Matthew 13:44-46) and ending with one of the final challenges of the Pharisees “whose inscription is on the money?” (Matthew 22:15-22); Christ Jesus used a frontal approach to deal with the issue.

It is a fact that the average student in your ministry will make over two million dollars in their lifetime (assuming no major changes in the culture or economy) once they leave your care. What they do with that three million (that’s right quick math says 200K to the church if they tithe) will be partially dependent on what they learn while they are in their youth ministry years. You must take some time to deal with this most sensitive subject in an open and honest manner.

The average student will make over three million dollars in their lifetime. Will they tithe, give to missions, etc?

Money also needs to be seen as God’s minor leagues, one of God’s ways of teaching us his truths. Using the tangible, countable, understandable realm of money, his intangible, uncountable, and sometimes difficult principles can be understood and practiced. The supernatural realms of faith, grace, reaping, and stewardship can all be taught utilizing the everyday cash we carry around in our pockets.

If we learn those lessons in cold, hard cash, our chances of living them in the rest of the areas of life go up dramatically. Unlearned in cash, they will be the stumbling blocks in a Christian’s life till the day they die. They probably won’t understand why life ends up being disappointing but an honest self-evaluation would lead us back to the unlearned lessons that finances could have provided.

Do not miss this opportunity and the unique time in life that a student represents. Help them in this key area of life before they can make the big mistakes with finances; like young-adults so often do.

Money also enables levels of involvement from teens that will help them to become participants in God’s Kingdom in very tangible ways. For some, this will unleash their gifts and talents in the areas of finances. For others, they will see how what they have can make a difference worldwide. Handling this correctly can help students to see money the way Christ saw it, as a tool to further the Kingdom and as a training tool for the subjects of the Kingdom.



Within the Assemblies of God, we have a unique way to be involved in worldwide missions. Speed the Light provides missionaries with up to 75% of their ministry capacity through the vehicles that take them and their workers everywhere, the sound systems that allow them to preach to large audiences, and the office equipment that enables them to produce literature that changes lives. Without Speed the Light, each missionary would have to spend a lot more time in the United States raising funds instead of working out on the mission field preaching the Gospel. It has been estimated that each dollar that is given to Speed the Light increases the missionaries reaching power so that 75% more people will hear the Gospel.

The challenge is that Speed the Light needs new funds every year to meet the ongoing needs of new missionaries and the growing equipment costs of established missionaries who are in need of additional equipment. Here in the Northwest District, we need almost \$1,000,000 every year (as of 2009). This amount will only grow as we continue to send out more missionaries and the costs for vehicles, computers, sound systems, visual technologies, and technical support go up.

Utilizing this curriculum will enable you to establish Speed the Light as one of the ways your students can obey Jesus and make an impact worldwide. What you establish from this curriculum will continue to provide students with a meaningful involvement in God's Kingdom.

This is a behind-the-scenes part of God's kingdom that we can all be a part of. Who makes the bats for Barry Bonds? Who makes the nuts for a Ferrari? Who does Jennifer Aniston's hair? Nobody knows but everyone knows the records, finished product, and look. We can help develop these kinds of opportunities for students who are looking for their "good works in Christ (Ephesians 2:10)."

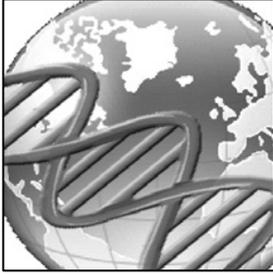
Your immediate results will be some money towards a Speed the Light fund as well as a growing understanding of missions and how students can be involved in it. Halfway through the project's first year you will have raised almost a thousand dollars for Speed the Light and your students will have a growing sense of success and purpose to their lives in the area of missions. After a year, missions giving and financial concepts will have become a part of their Christian lives. Some of them may find their calling in life as financial supporters of missions. All involved will have been a part of something bigger than themselves and the following years would have no reason not to grow in all these areas.

After the first year, you will probably have found some things that work very well for you, your students, and your congregation. Make those annual events. Good annual events are easier to do and there is a sense of anticipation and participation from students. They can almost self-advertise themselves.



You may also have found that certain things did not work as well as you would have hoped. Shop around for something else to take their place but do not stop the process just because there was one bad apple in your bag.





Advance Work

Before you begin you will need to gather some information from your students. Hand out the anonymous survey (enclosed) several weeks in advance, so you have some data to work with that is specific to your group. You will also need to calendar some of the events before you begin the

Speed the Light emphasis.

The calendar can be your best friend if you work with it instead of against it. You will need to do some research into your local, church, school, sports, and denominational calendars to make sure that you do not pick dates that will conflict with other events. If you decide on a Saturday event and that is your local parade and festival then you had better do something in cooperation with it. If not, you will not have anyone take part in your event, no matter how much effort and pleading you put into it.

There are also many free and helpful pieces of advertising and promotion that you can obtain about Speed the Light if you look ahead and order them. Here is all the contact information for your supplies.

Speed the Light www.speedthelight.ag.org The website has the history of STL, media resources, logo materials, a store with lots of free stuff on it, devotions, mission reports of current STL impacts and some fundraising ideas. Their phone number is 1-417-862-2781.

As you can see from the three potential calendar examples, there is a fair amount of preparation work to have them reach their potential. Make sure you assemble as many helpers as you can. It will be easier to recruit if you have a plan like this to show potential team members.

It would also be good to get a specific missionary and/or project that you can work towards. Ideally it would be a missionary that your church supports and that has a pre-existing relationship with.

If you and your group are ready and able, it would be good to find and make available a short term mission trip for you and your students. A mission trip helps make STL that much more tangible and real to the students.





Money Curriculum and Events

First Example:

lower economy, younger group, etc.

There are twelve settings (Events, Lessons, Days, or Combinations) to equip students with Money Management skills and opportunities for investments in the Speed the Light missions support effort. On the following pages will be more information on the events and activities.

August-Do your pre-work and planning ahead sheet or make sure that your key leader(s) are encouraged to do their pre-work for the events.

Here is what this might look like if you started in the fall with a group of fifteen students

	Running Total Low End
September: Sunday School or midweek classes 1-4	
October: Youth Convention Offering (\$15.) Complete Sunday School or midweek classes 5-6	\$15.
November: Weekly offerings at every gathering (\$30.) Scavenger Hunt Event (Raise \$300.)	\$345.
December: Special emphasis in STL as a gift (\$50.) Enough is Enough event	\$395.
January: Event One—special project or emphasis (\$300.)	\$695.
February: Start weekly offerings (\$50.) Serve at Valentines Banquet for the church for a donation (\$200.)	\$945.
March: Weekly offerings (\$50.) Event Four Reaping and Sowing	\$995.
April: Weekly offerings (\$50.) Easter Break Work Day (\$300.)	\$1345.
May: Weekly offerings (\$50.) Celebrate going past \$100.	\$1395..
June: Weekly offerings (\$50.)	\$1445.
July: Weekly offerings (\$50.) Event Six Celebrate	\$1495.
August: Weekly offerings (\$50.) Mission Trip Tax (\$100.)	\$1645.
September: Weekly offerings (\$50.)	\$1695.

Starts the new cycle with more mature students, probably more students and missions giving has started to become a part of the DNA of the group. You are now ready for another even better season with a STL success story under your belt. The sky is the limit.





The Strategy

These twelve events/classes can be completed in a short time period in the calendar world but it is also about the same duration of a sport season in the school calendar. Students are used to something lasting that long. Treat this experience like a season in their lives that will impact the

rest of their lives.

Realistically you will need another STL season every few years or after a big influx of new students, at that point you can utilize your trained students to help teach, using what they have seen and learned since they went through their first season's training.

As a part of this season, real money will be involved. They will begin to tithe and give in offerings and to specific projects. Some projects will be one-time offerings, others could be commitments to a long-term project. As a result of this, they will give and substantial amounts of money will be available for God's Kingdom.

The experience is based on the fact that you learn best through a real life experience.

Educators know that you remember:

- 10% of what you read
- 20% of what you hear
- 30% of what you see
- 50% of what you see and hear
- 70% of what you say
- 90% of what you do
- 100% when the Holy Spirit is involved. (John 14:26)

This is taken into account in the curriculum. You will also need to work through the learning curve that accompanies any new area of life. In Matthew 7:24-29 Jesus tells us that our stability comes as we "put Christ's teachings into practice." That requires us to work through the learning curve that life dictates for anything new.

<p>Expose Experimentation Experience Expertise</p>

First, you have to EXPOSE people to the new action/teaching. For instance, you can use the example of the Lord's Prayer or a teaching that you are currently working with the students on.

Then they need time for EXPERIMENTATION as they begin to understand and apply it. This phase can take a while



depending on how easy this new action/teaching is for someone. The best experimentation has someone there to debrief them and help them process what they learned.

Once the EXPERIMENTATION phase has produced some level of understanding, then one gains some EXPERIENCE.

Finally, based on their individual gifts and calling, they will attain a certain level of EXPERTISE. They can now practice it for themselves, and some will be able to pass their EXPERTISE on to others. At this point, it is in the DNA of students to give and make a difference through Speed the Light.

As you can see this will not happen at the same speed for everyone, but everyone can put it into practice and see the Kingdom of God grow because of their actions.





Leadership Keys

Whenever possible pray for and then train a volunteer in the church who will take the ultimate passion and leadership for Speed the Light.

If this becomes their passion, giving and participating in missions will continue even after you leave that particular church. Speed the Light

will be a part of the DNA of the students not just a decal pasted on their lives. That is very important for the overall support that the missionaries need to do their work. Rising and falling Speed the Light dollars make planning almost impossible. However, a steady flow from youth groups who give consistently over the years raises the base of support that can be counted on.

Too often Speed the Light giving is tied to how long the youth pastor has been there and his devotion to Speed the Light. The concept needs to be enlarged. A team can always do more than an individual. But every team needs a coach, and adult, who can keep things moving along. That doesn't mean youth can't be a key part of the team, they should. But there are very few students who can push the STL cart long enough to see it full of finances for missionaries.

**Pray for and train
a volunteer in the
church who will
take on
leadership**

You need to have STL be a part of a full calendar year before it will take root and become a part of the DNA. Then, when it is brought up again for the second cycle, you will be building on the first year and can see it grow and become more deeply ingrained.

You need to include any volunteer leaders in all aspects of this training season in the youth ministry. If they are capable enough, they can be in charge of the entire time and process. If not, use the process to train them. Remember that they will need to go through their own process of EXPOSE, EXPERIMENTATION, EXPERIENCE, and EXPERTISE. They need to be exposed to the missionaries, and STL information whenever possible. Feed their passion and increase their capacity to promote, plan, and fulfill a Speed the Light (STL) ministry within your setting.

Once STL is an established part of the youth ministry DNA, you will need a variety of giving opportunities. A typical year might look like the following yearlong examples; A, B, and C on the following pages.



YEAR "A"

(All year offerings at Sunday School or midweek services.)

January: New Year's Resolution Indoor Garage Sale: Collect the clutter from others who want to cut the clutter and garage sale or eBay the items

February: Serve at the church's Valentine's Banquet to raise STL money

March: Spring Clean-Up Work Day, proceeds going to STL

April: Spring Break Mission Trip with a STL tax

May: Focus Month of Extreme Offerings to help missionaries with the summer harvest

June: Alternative high school Graduation Party with STL tax. Community wide STL events raise money as an added tax.

July: Mission Trip where you ride in a STL vehicle and see where STL monies go.

August: STL Baseball Marathon, pledges per hit, inning, etc. Youth versus adults?

September: Funds for Youth Convention offering

October: Youth Convention offerings, Alternative Halloween Event for Kids, Auction items for the parents while the kids participate.

November: Celebrate STL giving for the year. Grand Totals from over the year.. Invite a missionary to show your appreciation and take up an offering.

December: STL Gifts; car parts, computer parts, sound system parts.

After your first year, evaluate, grow, perfect, expand, drop!



YEAR "B"

January: Donate the pay from a day's work, youth and adults, to STL

February: Sell flowers near Valentine's Day, but pre-order.

March: Coin Drive; pennies, piles of pennies, competition between age groups

April: Spring Break STL Scavenger Hunt

May: STL Offering Emphasis

June: Cut/Split Firewood to sell in the Fall. Add a STL tax to the summer camp fee.

July: Paint a house for pay as a STL project. This also works for team building for your August mission trip.

August: Mission Trip with STL experiences

September: EBay emphasis; EBay all of last year's school clothes, electronics, etc. that were replaced with this year's items. Use towards your youth convention offering.

October: Sell candy and snacks for STL fundraiser and community outreach to kids for your church and any others in the area.

November: Celebrate STL giving for the year. Grand Totals from over the years. Invite a missionary to show your appreciation and take up an offering.

December: STL gifts: Encourage everyone to give a STL gift. It will be their offering wrapped and ready to give at one service/event where you can add it to the year's total for the Grand Total for the year.



YEAR "C"

January: STL Snow Removal work day

February: Basketball Tournament and Food Feed Fundraiser

March: LAN Party, STL fundraiser

April: Work Day

May: STL Auction

June: Scavenger Hunt for STL

July: Rest Stop fundraiser (cookies and coffee) or local festival/parade food both

August: mission trip with STL exposure

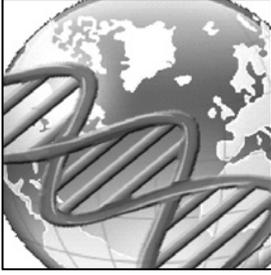
September: STL-a-thon of some sort

October: Youth Convention offering, 1-2-3-STL Day during normal church services, entire church donating towards the youth convention offering.

November: Celebrate

December: Spare Change month





Finances

Someone needs to be in charge of the money portion of this ministry. The teacher is not the best person to handle all the responsibility and extra work that this may generate but this can be done by a responsible adult or student. Do not put someone in this job that will be tempted with the money, but use it as a training ground for someone to grow in their Christian life.

Find out how the system works in your church and then be very faithful to it. Being able to be faithful with money is a huge step towards maturity in other areas of life. This person also needs to give regular and accurate reports on the Speed the Light giving. This will encourage your students, as their impact in this area of life is measurable.

Taking money every chance you get will always create giving opportunities that, if missed will not come back.

Some Speed the Light Strategies and Proven Ideas

Offerings

The best offerings are ones that are regular and consistent (every Sunday morning or Wednesday night for example).

The best offerings are well understood and announced in advance. You will have to reeducate your students about the opportunity and need for Speed the Light giving since you often have new students.

Contests

You can use the contest format to place a special focus and energy on offerings. You can divide teams by age, gender, school, leaders versus students, or a past record that needs to be beat. Examples include pennies, coins, bills, etc.

Work

A well-designed work opportunity can raise significant amounts of funds as well as teaching work and teamwork skills. For example, if you can find work for fifteen people for six hours at only six dollars an hour, you will have raised five hundred and forty dollars. Some examples of work projects include cutting and/or stacking firewood, yard work, property management, rest stops, etc.

If your students already have jobs then have them donate a day's pay. It will produce a similar income.



Scavenger Hunts

A well-designed scavenger hunt can also generate funds. The enthusiasm that is generated in this kind of event can be channeled into a fruitful fundraiser. There is an example in the back.

Sales

Garage Sales

Food Sales

Super Bowl Subways

Pre-made Pizzas

Christmas Trees

EBay Stuff

Candy

Cards

Calendars

Auctions

-A-thons

Golf

Baseball

Etc, the list of potential –a-thons is endless

Professional Sporting Events

Food Service

Clean Up

There are a number of financial pockets in every church that need to be explored. For example:

- Every event in the church for a year could add a \$1. STL tax
- You could have a competition between students and youth volunteers.
- The general congregation could be given opportunities to donate funds or resources for a garage sale.
- The church board could approve an annual or monthly amount or a percentage of the church budget.



- Local businesses sometimes need seasonal labor to deliver phonebooks, work in retail, staff an event, clean up after an activity, or paint a project. Contacting businesses can help generate funds outside the church pocket.
- Provide an EBay or Craig's List service that your team manages from donations with the funds raised going to STL in whole or in part.

*Fundraising Ideas Sell CD's for STL Money!
August 19, 2004*

When Chad Phillips was a youth pastor in Belgium, he did a \$5 CD exchange as a fundraiser. People in the church would donate used CD's (no making copies, just existing CD donations). The CD's would sell for \$5 in the foyer for one or two weeks. No cost, little work, pure profit. He sold 100 CD's and made \$500.

*The Apprentice
Raising money for STL
August 19, 2004*

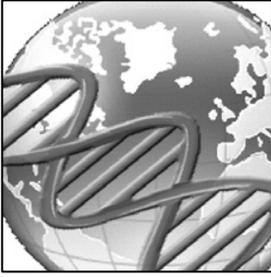
Oakbrook Community Church in Oakbrook Illinois came up with a new version Donald Trump's TV show designed to raise STL funds!

Here's the story: "We are going through the 40 Days of Purpose; we took the weekly titles and made them a little more relevant to Youth Culture. For the week on Discipleship (Formed To Be Like Christ) - we changed the title to "THE APPRENTICE" Two weeks ago we actually shot an episode of "the Apprentice" in our own style.

We Split seven teens into two teams and sent them out to make money for STL. We gave each team \$20 and said have at it. Two hours later, they came back and had made over \$550.00.

Not only a great "fundraiser" but it was a hilarious sermon illustration. Instead of Donald Trump, we had Daniel T. Rump. It was just an awesome time and great ministry took place as well.





The Needs

Missionaries find that over 75% of what they are able to do is made possible by the tools they receive from Speed the Light. Simply stated if a missionary reaches 100,000 people in one year then 75,000 of them were reached because of Speed the Light equipment. Not only is this a significant impact but the needs worldwide are still staggering.

For every incredible story about the great things God is doing worldwide there are still places where the needs are desperate. Here are some of the hard facts on the existing mission needs. Without Speed the Light in these countries, the task could be impossible.

The African Continent *still has 13 countries where less than 1% of the people are followers of Christ.*

The Asian Continent *still has 27 countries where less than 1% of the people are followers of Christ.*

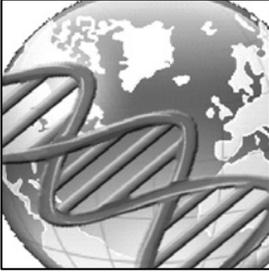
The European Continent *still has 23 countries where less than 1% of the people are followers of Christ.*

The Pacific Ocean Islands *still have four countries where less than 1% of the people are followers of Christ.*

For an in depth and country by country look at the needs worldwide you can read [Operation World](#), by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk in its most recent printing. This resource is formatted so you can pray for the entire world in a year and could be a good supplement to your work with students. You will also find excellent background material for any country you are going to pray for, work with, or study.

In addition to the needs of mass evangelism, a missionary's capacity to train and equip believers through the ministry of Speed the Light is greatly needed in every country of the world.





Overall Strategy

Pre-Work

- Recruit Leadership/team and help them become a working team
- Begin reading through this manual (all leadership levels and team)
- Survey your students
- Finish reading this manual
- Familiarize yourself with the official Speed the Light Resources
- Order Free Materials
- Purchase Materials

Class One: The Three Million Dollar Question

Class Two: The Three Dollar Question

Class Three: Faith and Trust's Testing Ground

Class Four: Sifting like Wheat

Class Five: Making Disciples of All Nations (Giving-Going-Praying)

Application fee due for a mission trip

Class Six: Meeting Needs and the Bigger Family

Event One: A Work Project or a Lazy Life

An additional work event to raise funds

Event Two: Enough is Enough

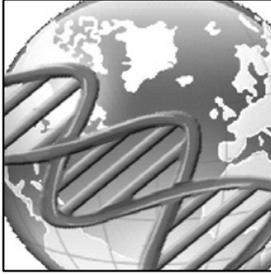
Event Three: The Scavenger Hunt-A Fun Event to Raise Money

Event Four: Sowing and Reaping

Event Five: The Great Race; finding God's will on funds

Event Six: A Look back at the damage done, celebrate, testify, and a projection of the damage done for a lifetime with this group.





Evaluation Tools

Before you start this season, have the students take the following anonymous survey to find out what you are working with so you can measure the change afterwards. Then spend some time looking at and tabulating the results. Have the students retake this survey after a year of STL involvement to see how it has affected their money decisions.

After you have administered the survey you can learn from the data and how you will use it later in the training season (Don't include this on the survey).

Question 1-: How much cash was in the room the day you gave out the survey?

Question 2: Where do they spend their money?

Make a top ten list and the most frequented place.

Question 3: Chart a weekly and monthly cash flow for the group. This will help you see one part of their ministry potential.

Question 4: Their answers here will tell a lot about what is important to them.

Question 5: This will help define how much of their cash is discretionary and already available for giving.





The Anonymous Survey

Money and what we do with it

Remember; don't write your name on this. Keep it anonymous and honest. Your answers are always important. Thanks for playing straight in this area of your life.

1. Take a moment to count how much money you have in your personal possession right now. That's just the cash you have right now. You can be approximate you don't have to pull it all out and count it in front of everyone.

Write that amount here: _____.

2. List the last five places you spent or gave money and about how much:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

3. How much money do you receive in a typical month from working, allowance, gifts, handouts, your website, etc?

Typical Month:

Really High Month:

Really Low Month:

4. If you found a \$20 bill on Monday how would you probably spend it?
A \$100?

\$20:

\$100:

5. What are you responsible for purchasing in your life? For example, clothes, insurance, sports costs, hobbies, entertainment, etc. List by percentage:

Clothing:

Insurance:

Sports:

Food:

Entertainment:

Other:



Class One



The Three Million Dollar Question

If you work for the next 45 years and you make an average wage you will make about three million dollars in your lifetime. If you aren't careful, you will finish that working career with very little to show for it and having made very little impact with the fortune that will have passed through your hands. Those who understand the Kingdom of God will have had an opportunity to be a change agent in a world that needs change.

Have each student figure out how they think they would spend the three million without any guidance. *(Note: Event two helps generate this information.)*

Then show them where the money will really go so they can compare their list to the real one.

Housing
Housing Interest

Vehicles
Vehicle Interest

Insurance Health
Insurance House
Insurance Vehicles

Food

Clothing

Utility Bills
Power
Water
Garbage
Telephone
Cable/Satellite

Entertainment
Regular
Vacations

Retirement

Education
Yours



Children

Tithe

Offerings

Low Range

High Range

Mission Support

Low Range

High Range

Low Range

High Range

Scripture on Goats and Sheep

Matthew 25:31-33

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Matthew 25:34-36

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Matthew 25:37-39

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

Matthew 25:40

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:41-43

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'



Matthew 25:44

They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

Matthew 25:45

He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Help them to see that without a plan it could all be gone without having any long-term impact.



Class Two



The Three Dollar Question

Three million dollars is a lot of money but three dollars is probably in almost every pocket in the room. How they spend their three dollars will determine ultimately how they spend their three million.

This next part is done with an anonymous form that you will give them (following this lesson).

How did they spend their money this week?

Have them do a chart of where their money went this last week. This will be based on all the forms when they are turned in. Total it up and get a grand total, with the percentage on food, clothing, gas, etc.

Take the amounts and multiple a few examples times 52 to represent a year and then by 45 to represent their working years. Maybe a fast food example would look like this.

\$23 for fast food X 52 weeks X 45 years = \$53,820

\$18 movies X 52 weeks X 45 years = \$42,120

\$7 offering and tithe X 52 weeks X 45 years = \$16,380

Read through the scripture Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew 25:14-30

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'



The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

is master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Key verse

"His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness." Matthew 25:23

Discussion and Interaction

Discussion and Interaction works best when people express themselves, but also arrive at the right answers and conclusions. Everyone's opinions and answers are valid, so write them all down but also make sure that the following issues come out as well.

1. Why do you think money is such a big deal with God?

- It is something we understand, we can add it up, and learn from it.
- It represents time and effort.



2. If someone isn't good with money what does that probably say about his or her future?

- Have someone read verses Matthew 25:24-30
- Does anyone know someone who is always "broke" but has a job?

3. What kind of capacity do we have right now in this room? Give out slips of paper and have each person write down their sum of money. Then total these and announce the financial capacity in the room. Once that is done you can look at the capacity for good, bad, or mistakes, with money.

4. There are some things that influence how we deal with our money. Let us look at a few of them.

- How do you feel after a purchase
- How do you feel about an investment?

5. Have someone read Matthew 6:20-34. Then begin the discussion with these key questions.

- What does this scripture say about how our priorities should be arranged?
- How does our trust in Father apply to this scripture?
- What would someone be like if they spent all their time "running after" finances instead of fulfilling God's plan for their life?

6. Have someone read Ephesians 2:8-10. Then begin the discussion with these key questions?

- What does this scripture say about the purpose of our lives?
- How are we going to finance these "good works?"
- Who is really going to finance our "good works" and "food and clothing?"





Where did it all go? Survey

Do not write your name on this, that way we can share information with each other and not be too nosy.

As we learn about this thing called money, we will be experiencing a number of new ideas and concepts. To help with that let us track what happened to the money that passed through your hands this week. Go ahead see what you can remember.

Days of the week

1	2	3	4	5	6	Today
Food? Gas? Clothes? Movies? Etc?						

How much does that add up to?

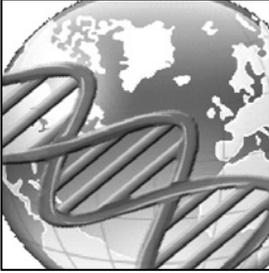
What was the most expensive day?

Does the total surprise you?

Is this a typical week?



Class Three



Faith and Trust's Testing Ground

Malachi 3:10
Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Matthew 14:22-31

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Read Matthew 14:22-31 aloud

- What was Peter struggling with? Ultimately fear overcame his faith and he sank.
- How does fear cripple us?

Get two volunteers from the group to try a faith walk. Using masking tape create a hazardous obstacle course on the floor. Create a landmine field that if they make it through they get a small prize but if they do not, they blow up everyone and all die.



Blindfold one person and have the other try to guide them through. This will create some teachable moments as Fear (explosion time) and Faith (can I trust this person and listen and obey) fight. If they are successful, they get the prize. If not, then they can try again (you can do this too even if they are successful) but this time with the rest of the class making noise.

Here are some questions that can help the students to understand one of the barriers that get in the way of obeying Christ in this area of life.

- Have you ever felt like you were guided, in the past by “something” other than yourself?
- Have you ever ignored that “guidance” and then had a negative experience because you did ignore it?

Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

John 16:12-13

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Have someone read Isaiah 30:21 and John 16:2. From these scriptures, we can see that the Holy Spirit is at least one of the guiding voices.

- In our exercise here, why did the guidance work?
- What would make following the Holy Spirit’s guidance easier?
- Do we all hear from the Holy Spirit? (Yes, we all feel guilty when we do something wrong).
- What are some of the distractions that we can have in our lives that make hearing the Holy Spirit difficult?

Now let us look at a challenge in scripture that many people are afraid of.

Read Malachi 3:10.

- If everyone tithed, what could a church do?

However, fear seems to affect many people. In a typical, church only twenty percent of the people tithe. That means that in the average church in America you do not have the capacity you should have because of fear.



- If you multiplied a church's income by five what are some things that churches could do that they don't do now?

Here is how the tithe works. If you earn 452.87 a month then the tithe would be 45.28. That amount of money goes straight into the church's general fund to cover the costs of staff salaries, building costs, maintenance, and normal ministries.

If you start tithing now in the course of your lifetime you will have given enough to pay the pastors salary for more than four years, make the building payments for a year, or pay for the Sunday School materials for all the kids until the day you retire.

That is a significant impact. If you put everyone's potential impact together, you will see that a fully-funded church can reach its full potential in ministry.

Now re-read Malachi 3:10 again.

- What does this scripture say happens when we do our part?
- What do you think that might look like in an experience we would understand?

This would be a good time to bring in someone who has a good tithing testimony or organize some of your own stories.

Have materials you can now give out to your students for their participation in your local church. If you, yourself, are not tithing then you need to begin the practice so you can see God provide as well.



Class Four



Sifting like Wheat

Any time you walk into new territories of growth, you will face spiritual resistance and the realities of the learning curve on any new aspect of growth.

Find someone who can juggle and teach volunteers in the class to juggle. As people struggle with the new challenge talk about how any new area of life has a learning curve that can be very challenging. (A dollar store can be a great place to buy your potential juggle objects. Just ask your juggling pro what kind of objects would work best.)

If you do not have a juggling person available, you can go online, download some instructions, and then try to learn with the class as a group. Either way it will produce the same teachable moments. A book I've used to help teach myself to juggle is [Klutz's Juggling for Idiots](#). The whole first chapter is called "the drop." They state that until we are comfortable dropping our juggling piece we won't stick with it long enough to learn how to juggle. You will drop the piece many times before you get comfortable and good at it.

- How many of you learned how to juggle in just the few minutes that we had to try?
- How many of you (IF you practiced an hour each day this week) think you could juggle by next week?
- How many areas in life have you failed just because you stopped or did not practice enough?

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

The area of money is no different. IF we can learn to live the Biblical lifestyle with money then we can make an even bigger impact with our lives. IF we do not get the money world figured out, we will lose out on specific things Father God has planned for us and others. Imagine what would happen to the church IF no one tithed.

Luke 22:31-32

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brother."

Sift some flour that you have contaminated with odd objects that will not show up right away (for example white rice or some white bread crumbs etc).



- What is the point of sifting? The point of sifting is to remove the impurities.
- Do you think sifting is fun if you are the flour?
- What areas of life could we be sifted in?
- What IF Satan can sift out the Tithe in our lives?
- What IF we keep doing "good" (in this area Tithing)?

Imagine the future of the church both ways.

Now look at the yellow pages in a phone book (have a lot of them in the room, say one for every three students). IF the church had enough money, what are some of the things listed in a phone book that the church could and probably should provide?

If these services were provided free by the church, what problems wouldn't exist in our society?

Matthew 10:8b

Freely you have received, freely give.

- What additional areas would be impacted by a church fully-funded and available to the community?



Class Five



Making Disciples of All Nations (Giving--Going--Praying)

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Being a disciple is always begun from a platform of doubt. Providing opportunities for students to fulfill that commission and address the doubt is an important part of a disciple's growth. Students need to find outlets for obedience. Being involved in Missions can take on three tangible roles; giving, praying, and going.

Giving: Since you are trying to instill giving as a part of your student's lives, take up an offering after you have specifically defined for them how the money from this offering will be used by **Speed the Light** to impact the world. Every time you give them a chance to give, remind them of the impact they are having around the world. This is significant because for most of them, they have not been around the world but their finances can go for them until they are ready to go themselves.

Praying: Operation World is a key book that you can use to teach students how to pray and affect the world through prayer. Here are some samples you can use but we suggest you get the book or visit their web site so that you can fuel specific prayer opportunities for your students. They need an outlet for obedience in this area.

- France: 80% of the people of France have never handled a Bible.
- Poland: Of the 38 million people, less than 1% of them are evangelical believers. Thousand of towns and villages remain without an evangelical witness.
- Sudan: The human tragedy of Sudan was long ignored, until it was revealed that the Islamic government had sanctioned the re-institution of slavery.
- Italy: Of the 55 million people, less than 1% of them are evangelical believers.



- Paraguay: Of the over 6 million people, less than 5% of the people are evangelical believers.
- Australia: On an average Sunday, only 10% of the Australians are in a church
- India: No other part of the world has such a concentration of unevangelized people.
- China: Elimination of all religious groups has always been the ultimate aim of the Marxist government.

Prayer changes things. Here are some examples of how countries have changed because people have prayed.

- Korea: Since the split of the country into the North and South, the opportunity for missions work and prayer in the South has changed that country to one where over 15% of the people are followers of Christ and over 10,000 missionaries have gone all over the world whereas in North Korea less than 2% of the people are followers of Christ and there are no missionaries working around the world.
- El Salvador: In 1960, 2% of the population was evangelical believers. By 2000, the percentage was over 22%.
- Argentina: In Argentina, the rate of believers has grown from a total of less than a million in 1980 to more than three million today.

Going: As a part of your preparation work, you selected a mission opportunity for your students. Now give them all the information and begin to collect the money and prepare them for that adventure of obedience. You can use the application fee as the first step of faith.

Now let us just say you make these three areas apart of your life.

Giving, Praying and Going

Tithing ... your three million ... equals \$300,000 ... your support of orphans could raise three kids all the way up to college age.

Praying ... fifteen minutes a day for fifty years equals almost ten weeks of forty-hour a week prayer.

Going ... once a year for the next fifty years could radically change one country or affect every continent many times.



Class Six



Meeting Needs and the Bigger Family of God

- What do you call people who draw attention to themselves?
- Are they easy people to get along with?
- Why are they that way? (insecure)
- Do we have any reason to be insecure (if we understand who our Heavenly Father is)?
- If we are insecure, why is that?

Matthew 6:2

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have their reward in full."

Equality

(do an anonymous survey of how much money is in the room) Have people write down on a small scrap of paper and then announce the total. Take that number and divide it by the number in the room.

- Is anyone in the room facing a real need right now?
- How would it feel to have that need met?

2 Corinthians 8:13-15

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. They there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little." (Exodus 16:18)

Now we are going to play the reality show GENEROSITY.

Break your group into three basically equal sized groups.

Beggars need to have some kind of obvious deformity (like the rest of the world really) they will beg from everyone who goes by. For those that give them something they will have a piece of paper or token that they give to the giver and they will say give that to the market people when they buy and bargain. If they do not receive any handouts then the market people will charge them more. If they do give the beggars a little, then they will get a small discount but if they give generously then they will get an even bigger discount from the market people.



Shoppers; with lots of money. Give them thousands in fake money but only let them head out to shop and go past the beggars one at a time. Do not let them see the other shoppers as they go past the beggars. Once they have all past the beggars, debrief them like a talk show host about the experience and ask them if they are looking forward to the shopping phase. Then cut them all loose to shop at the same time.

While you are interviewing the shoppers; have the beggars become the shop owners or helpers who advise the shop owners. Thus the shoppers will all have a different experience based on how generous they were with the beggars. Thus a generous person will get great deals while the stingy people will find prices doubled, and almost everything very hard to get.

Market People who sell almost anything that your people would want to buy i.e. food, cds, dvds, etc... However, they will not even talk to the shoppers until they see the tokens or lack of tokens as far as how well they treated the beggars in level one. They have to make sure they stick to the rules no matter how well the shoppers bargain. However, for those that were generous they can go very low and for those that did not, they can go very high in their price even if another shopper is watching.

Give the shopping level a limited amount of time so that they feel some pressure to get the shopping done.

Now you can debrief each person of each group.

- How was their experience?
- What made it positive or frustrating?
- Did they connect the fact that how they treated the beggars determined how the market people treated them?

Now do the scripture reading.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now 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. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

- Is this principle limited to this example that you just participated in?



- Where else does this apply in life?
- Is it easy to see the relationship of your actions and the real life that you receive?



Event One



A Work Project or a Lazy Life

This is the teaching that you will go through BEFORE a work project. Use the funds raised from this work to go towards your **Speed the Light** giving. In this way, you will hit two targets at the same time and give your students a real life growing opportunity.

“Procrastination” is a word you may hear from time to time. Alternatively, maybe there is a different word that you hear, “Lazy.”

Time is one of the things in life that is issued in limited amounts. Everyone has the same amount of time; everyone has sixty minutes in their hour. However, not everyone accomplishes the same thing or looks at time the same way. IF we are excited about things, feel like we can get something done, and that our contribution to life is important, then we probably will not be called lazy or be accused of procrastination.

So how do we use our time? It falls into four basic areas.

Moving Forward: These are the things we do that accomplish new things or prepare us for new things. These would be things like school and its requirements, devotions, work, physical conditioning, practicing, etc.

Maintenance: These are the things we need to do to just keep going such as: eating, brushing our teeth, sleeping, etc.

Messes Cleaned Up: Life has its share of mistakes, as we will find when we are moving forward to meet the new challenges and the people involved. We must clean up these messes if we hope to have a future. If we do not clean up our messes, we end up living in the past because each mess blocks a future path we should be taking. These can be physical messes, relational messes, or broken promises. They need to be corrected before we are free to move forward in the path Jesus has for us.

Meaningless: This is the stuff we do just to fill time, “kill time” as we say. Unfortunately, that is exactly what we do with it: it is dead and never comes back. This would be mindless watching of media, sleeping just to avoid life, projects that do not refresh you or count as moving forward. That could include things like a day in front of the media where you do not even remember what it

Procrastination:
to postpone doing something

Lazy:
not wanting to work, slow, conducive to idleness



was you watched, a book you read just to escape real life, or endless staring at the new, good-looking neighbor.

Hand out a simple survey where students can guess the percentages of how their time is used.

Most of the time we would be very happy doing great things but we either have not found what it is we are supposed to do or it intimidates us. However, we can practice with the things that are in front of us right now.

For example

Ephesians 5:15-16

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Here is a list of potential opportunities you may face every week. Make a list of ten specific ways you could do something significant in each location.

- School
- Chores
- Sports
- Church

Titus 3:8

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Have additional work events to raise funds

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor 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. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you brothers, never tire of doing what is right.



Time Management Survey

In the last week, what percentage of time did you spend each day on the following areas?

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Moving Forward %						
Maintenance %						
Messes cleaned up %						
Meaningless %						

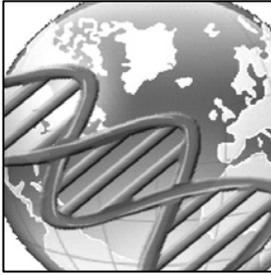
Note: remember that the totals for each day need to equal 100%

What are your totals for the week? (add all the percentages for each category for the entire week.)

Moving Forward %
Maintenance %
Messes cleaned up %
Meaningless %



Event Two



Enough is Enough and Contentment

In this event, you will start the process of helping students to understand the issue of contentment. This is not something that the American culture understands. Our whole economy is driven by the need to get more in almost every area of life. If someone is drawn into that life-style, it does not matter how much you earn in life it will never be enough and you will never be a major contributor to the Kingdom of God. Instead your personal kingdom will get all the attention.

Once your group has gathered, make sure you have some calculators, clipboards, and pens to record your information. You can even use digital cameras to help jog memories. If necessary, you could also do with utilizing laptops and internet connection to research.

Head off to furniture stores, appliance stores, etc. so you can find out what it takes to fill a house with all the basic stuff. As you are doing it, have three levels of finances you can use to accomplish your goal. It should be for a three-bedroom house that will have a family with mom and dad and three kids.

First level is to fill the house with things that will take care of the basic need at the lowest cost (not necessarily cheapest).

Next step up to a level that is a bit nicer, let's call it fancy.

Then the final step would be the fantasy level. This is the no limit home.

Once you have done the homework, do the math, and see the differences that exist. You will also use this information when you come to some of your classes so make sure you don't lose it. (*Note: You can use this information when you figure out how much it costs to live in class one.*)

Philippians 4:10-13

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

1 Timothy 6:6-10



But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Hebrews 13:5-6

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you;

never will I forsake you."

So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?"



Event Three



The Scavenger Hunt

A Fun Event to Raise Money

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Scavenger Hunt

1. Earn \$10. per person on your team (You can have jobs you arrange or let them find work themselves)
2. Change jars
3. Aluminum Cans for recycling
4. Sell something that has no risk (On a hot day sell something cold, sell something hot on a cold day)
5. Coin per person on their birth year (penny, nickel, dime, quarter)
6. Stack of nickels a foot high
7. Take something to a pawnshop
8. 1 hour with a sign, "will work for money."
9. Impromptu Car Wash
10. Golf Balls (find and sell)

Winning Team Plaque ... Speed the Light Hall of Fame



Event Four



Sowing and Reaping with a Canned Food Drive

This event that will help your students in their lifelong process of making good decisions. Advertise an event where part of the event is to bring five cans of food for a canned food drive. The event needs to be long enough to require a meal to be served while the students are there.

The teaching part of the event will happen when the meal that you will eat is chosen from the cans that the students have brought. From the five cans divide them into five sets to simulate the five meals that could be eaten from the donations they brought. Now randomly pick one of the five sets and prepare it for a meal. It could be the worst set or one picked by drawing lots. However, either way, make sure you eat it and imagine what life would be like for the next four meals if this was all we had to look forward to. You can eat after the collection is done or part way through if you are using most of the day for the event.

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Have them look at the five meals that they have created. Interview them about how they feel about what they have done. To prevent these kinds of experiences in the future they should adopt a scriptural principle.

2 Corinthians 9:10

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

- How could they have treated the can food drive?
- What other areas of life are impacted by how we do our part?

Matthew 7:12

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

- If we did this, how would that change the world around us and the world we are a part of creating?

For the actual event, you can work like this. Visit neighborhoods as you share that you are doing a canned food drive to help stock a local food bank. Take any donations that people might want to give right away but also let them know that another group will come by in fifteen minutes IF they would like to donate.



You will have your first crew put a brightly colored flagging tape around the doorknob of the homes that your next crew will visit some fifteen minutes later. Tell the people they can put the cans on the porch if they would like. Then just make sure the pickup crew also takes the flagging off the doorknob.

In this way, you can cover as large or small of an area as you like. Just make sure your second crew can keep track of your work and not miss anyone who wanted to donate. You can also leave a thank you of some kind behind for those that donate. It could include an appropriate scripture like;

Matthew 25:34-36

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Matthew 25:37-39

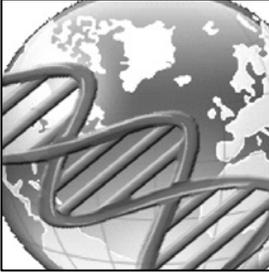
Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

Matthew 25:40

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'



Event Five



The Great Race: finding God's will on funds

After you have completed The Great Race, you will have a time to sit and talk about hearing God's voice or you can take time during a break. Either way this platform will help them to understand following directions and hearing God's voice in all areas of life including finances.

Hearing God's voice is a constant part of the Christian life. Learning to hear it in the area finances is important too.

Read Peters account of learning to hear from God in Matthew 16:13-23.

Matthew 16:13-23

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

In this account we see in verse 17 that Peter hears God's voice. Jesus confirms that fact. However, in verse 23 we see that Peter is not hearing God's voice. As



harsh a lesson as that can seem like, Jesus never rejects Peter for his mistake. He only corrects him.

We will all make a few mistakes as we begin this life-long process of hearing God's voice. Fortunately, we are already experts in at least one area.

John 16:7-11

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

We also have written directions with us. The Bible is full of things that are for all of us to do and be.

- How well do we pay attention to those things?
- How well did we pay attention to the clues we got for our great race event?
- How well do we pay attention to the Life's Race Clues Jesus gave us?

The Great Race Activity:

Break your group into teams of 4-6. Make sure you have an adult driver for each group if you are driving or elect a leader for each group if you do not require a driver.

Each group should have their first clue take them to a different location so that they won't be able to follow anyone but must solve the clues themselves. After the first two then you can have them all arrive at the same point and all be going to the same place at the same time from the same clues.

Here is an example of one that you could use indoors for most churches. If some of these clues do not work for you then make sure you adjust them to fit your building. An outdoor example follows the indoor one.

Basic Rules

1. You cannot destroy, alter, or remove another team's clues.
2. You cannot break any laws or warnings to complete any part of the race.



Indoors:

- Clue one "Rub a dub, dub three men in a tub" (The baptismal)
- Clue two "Show me the money" (An offering bag or plate)
- Clue three "Stinky diaper" (Nursery)
- Clue four "Key" (Taped to the back of a door somewhere)
- Clue five "Spider Web" (Corner of a room, on the roof)
- Clue six "Wash those dishes and then you can go out" (sink somewhere)
- Clue seven "And then there was light" (under a lamp)
- Clue eight "I'm no doormat!" (Under a rug/doormat)
- Clue nine "You could lose some weight, you're killing my back!" (Under a chair)
- Clue ten "Knock before you come in!" (in a restroom)

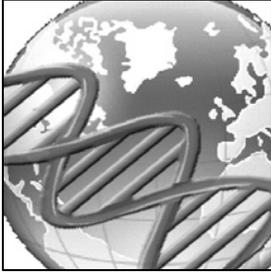
Your groups would each start out with a different first clue but once they found their envelope they could all end up on the same path. By sending them to different places they have to learn for themselves and not just copy someone.

Outdoors: (I do not live in your town so you may have to make adjustments here.)

- Clue one "Did you pass your test?" (Drivers license location)
- Clue two "Scream and Yell and Stamp Your Feet" (Football Stadium)
- Clue three "Double-Grande-Fat Free-Mocha" (Coffee Stand)
- Clue four "I'll give you a quarter for it kid" (Pawn Shop)
- Clue five "Have it your way" (Burger King)
- Clue six "Snore, Snore, Snore" (Bed store)
- Clue seven "A little off around the ears" (Hair Cut Location)
- Clue eight "You won't believe what I paid for it!" (Ross or other discount clothing store)
- Clue nine "Double cheese" (Pizza Place)
- Clue ten "Steam rising from the radiator" (Under the hood of the car or truck)



Event Six



A Look Back at all the damage done, celebrate, testify and a projection of the damage done for a life time with this group.

Luke 15:7

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15:10

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:31

*'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But **we had to celebrate** and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'* (emphasis mine)

Read Luke 15:7, 10 and 32. You will see that these scriptures focus on the fact that there is GREAT CELEBRATING in Heaven over just one sinner who repents. Your giving to Speed the Light has undoubtedly meant that more people have come to Christ than if you had not given. Sinners were able to repent because they heard the Gospel through Speed the Light sound systems that were transported to the site in Speed the Light vehicles.

Have a great meal prepared and make sure the students will like it. Adult food and student food are two different things. Depending upon your group, making it a semi-formal or a themed event may make it more special.

Celebrate the totals given to Speed the Light.

- Show some more mission footage of how Speed the Light is used.
- Show what could be done with a future of giving to Speed the Light with this group.
- Show what a full year of giving can look like.
- Two years of giving.
- Three years of giving.
- What would happen if we found even more ways to give?

Pray at the conclusion for the new converts and those who will be hearing the Gospel this day because of the Speed the Light support you gave.



MONEY RUNNING TOTALS during the Curriculum

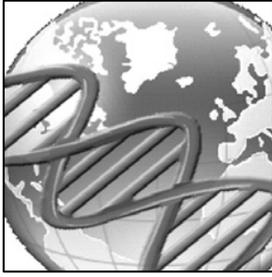
Giving Opportunity	Money Received	Running Total	Final Total	Notes to Remember
Class: The Three Million Dollar Question				
Class: The Three Dollar Question				
Class: Faith and Trust's testing ground				
Class: Sifting like Wheat				
Class: Making Disciples of Nations				
Class: Meeting Needs				
Event: A work project or a lazy life				
Event: Enough is enough and Contentment				
Event: The Scavenger Hunt				
Event: Sowing and Reaping				
Event: Celebrating the STL Totals				



MONEY RUNNING TOTALS for the First Giving Year

Giving Opportunity	Money Received	Running Total	Final Total	Notes to Remember
Curriculum Giving				
October Youth Convention				
December Special Emphasis				
January Special Emphasis				
February Work Project at Valentine's Day				
January to December Regular Offerings				
April Work Day				
Speed the Light Scavenger Hunt June				
August Mission Trip with Speed the Light Tax				
October Youth Convention STL Offering				
December Latin American Child Care				





From The National STL Office

What is Speed the Light?

Speed the Light (STL) is the student-initiated ministry that provides transportation and communications equipment to missionaries across the nation and in over 150 countries around the world.

STL has its humble beginnings in 1944 when Ralph W. Harris (then head of the NYD), prayed for a way to give A/G youth the opportunity to help missionaries in their work.

Today, STL is one of the most effective missions programs in the church world. Assemblies of God students have accepted a great responsibility to voluntarily raise funds to purchase the equipment. Since its inception, STL has raised a total of \$185,258,255.02 for missionary equipment around the world.

Speed the Light has one guiding principle: All assistance must go to purchase equipment directly related to evangelism ("evangelism" is defined as propagating the gospel and instructing converts). STL equipment has not been nor is presently given for promotion, solicitation, or normal administrative funds.

