

Generosity Jeopardy

Pat

Welcome to Church of the Good Shepherd Jeopardy.

Today we have with us Belinda, a Texas transplant who enjoys baking, crochet, and making pinatas.

Next, we have Grandpa Steve, who enjoys gardening and watching anime on YouTube.

Finally, we have Karen who's on her third Pumpkin Spice Latte of the day.

And I'm your host Pat.

Today's categories are Jesus things, generosity, social justice, potluck dishes, and church facts. Now contestants, remember that I will give you the answer. And you are to phrase your responses in the form of a question.

Belinda, you won the coin toss. Why don't you pick a category?

Belinda

Let's start off with church facts for 100.

Pat

This magnificent organist plays at Church of the Good Shepherd.

Grandpa Steve

Who is Dick Goins?

Pat

Correct.

Grandpa Steve

Why I don't take social justice projects for 200?

Pat

This event coming up on October 30 at 9:30 before church is one way to meet your neighbors and participate in some racial reconciliation.

Karen

What is Walks with Shawn?

Pat

Correct.

Karen

I'll take generosity for 100.

Pat

This is the best place to give money to make sure it meets the needs of the church.

Grandpa Steve

What is a special interest that I have myself like cutting down that tree that's been clogging up the gutters and causing leaks?

Pat

Incorrect.

Karen

The music fund? I do love the bell choir.

Pat

Were you listening? And no. Still incorrect.

Belinda

What is the General Fund?

Pat

Correct!

Karen

Is it wrong to give money to the Bell Choir?

Grandpa Steve

I'm also confused. What's wrong with giving to things that I love?

Pat

Pastor Sarah, can you come here for a second and clarify for our contestants?

Pastor Sarah

Sure, it is good to give two things that you love, including the music program at Church of the Good Shepherd, but the best way to do that is through the General Fund, with the exception of a couple of special offerings we do here and there. That's why we do that whole budgeting thing, so the congregation can vote on what matters to us. And if an emergency comes up, we have the money to spend on it. When you give to only a small part of the budget, the money gets tied up and it can't be spent on anything else like the electric bill, which is also super important to groups like the bell choir who practices at night.

Karen

I haven't thought of it that way.

Pat

Moving on. Belinda, the floor is yours.

Belinda

I'll take generosity for 500.

Pat

The answer is financial stability.

Belinda

Why do we want new members to join the church?

Pat

Incorrect

Grandpa Steve

What should be our number one priority as people who follow the teachings of Jesus?

Pat

Still wrong. Again, the answer is financial stability.

Karen

What is the generosity of our members paired with good budgeting and vibrant ministry that inspires people to give?

Pat

Correct.

Belinda

Okay, timeout.

Karen

There are no timeouts in jeopardy. Belinda.

Belinda

We're taping, right? They can just cut this out later.

Pat

She has a point. Go ahead, Belinda.

Belinda

Thank you. I just want to say I don't get it. Adding new members is a way to become financially stable

Grandpa Steve

If new members give money to the church and if existing members keep giving money to it.

Belinda

Okay, but I still answered right.

Pat

Can I get a referee in here? Pastor Sarah?

Pastor Sarah

Hi again. So Belinda, you phrased your question as "Why do we want new members to join the church?"

Belinda

And?!

Pastor Sarah

The answer's financial stability. Is that why you want people to come to the church?

Belinda

I mean, is that wrong? I want the church to survive.

Grandpa Steve

Maybe it's not to Jesus-y to be more concerned about making money than you are with doing ministry.

Belinda

But can't we do more if we have more money?

Pastor Sarah

Oh, totally.

Karen

But money's not the reason we want people to come here. We want to do all this great stuff for our members and the community. And we'd rather do it with more people and like with our friends.

Belinda

That makes sense, actually. if we tell people all the cool stuff we're up to, how we're participate in the healing of the world and caring for our members and building an authentic community where people can just, you know, be who they are. And we've got this great progressive theology, and everybody's welcome here. And we're giving back to the community and changing

lives... People are going to want to come, and they're going to want to give to the church because we're doing stuff worth giving to.

Pastor Sarah

I think you've got it.

Grandpa Steve

I just want to put it on the record that I invited my friend Sam to church, and I saw he only put three quarters in the offering plate, and I'm still glad he's here. You know, he's making friends that are up to something in the world and he's finding community and he loves that contemporary theology class. He loves the music—also that he can show up in flip flops, which I'm not sure why that's important to him, but it is.

Pastor Sarah

Noted. Pat, I think we can move on.

Pat

Karen, the board is yours.

Transcribed with support from <https://otter.ai>