

JULY TOOL

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"Moving the kingdom forward in refreshing ways."

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BUILDING A BANK OF BIBLE GIVING HEROES

Everyone needs a hero. Someone they identify with and inspires them. For many, money can be a stressful topic with associated guilt or shame when it comes to giving. Others are actually passionate about giving yet they need a vision to call them forward in growth. This is where **Giving Heroes** become a helpful image for all.

Here are some thoughts as you begin this exercise:

- (1) As you read the Bible whether casually or in your study preparation time, take note of different Bible characters that display generosity. Begin creating an informal list.
- (2) Do not include principles or promises, like from Malachi 3 on tithing. You are looking for relatable people, stories, and experiences that help open new windows of inspiration and learning. The principles and promises can be used to support your Generosity Theology or in a sermon regarding one of these heroes. (FYI, *Abraham and Jacob tithed. They would represent sample **Giving Heroes** supported by the tithing principle in Malachi 3.*)
- (3) Make the list of **Giving Heroes** as long and varied as possible. Generous people are not limited to only the financial resources they donate.
- (4) Include all ages, types of givers, and income levels in your **Giving Heroes** list.

Here is a list of sample Giving Heroes to get you started: You can rename as you like and by all means add new ones to the list.

Beginning Giver	The Boy with the fishes and loaves (<i>John 6:1-14</i>)
Spontaneous Giver	The Good Samaritan (<i>Luke 10:25-37</i>)
Percentage Giver	Abraham and Jacob (<i>Genesis 14:20; Genesis 28:22</i>)
Faithful Giver	Cornelius (<i>Acts 10:1-2</i>)
Resourceful Giver	Barnabas (<i>Acts 4:34-36</i>)
Marketplace Giver	Zaccheus (<i>Luke 19:1-10</i>)
Extravagant Giver	The Widow (<i>Luke 21:1-4</i>)
Project Giver	David, the leaders, the people (<i>1 Chronicles 29</i>)

Cause Giver	The Women who supported Jesus (<i>Luke 8:1-3</i>)
Everyday Giver	Tabitha (<i>Acts 9:36</i>)
Gospel Giver	Mary of Bethany, anointing Jesus feet (<i>Matt. 26:6-13</i>)

Here are some applications for your Giving Heroes:

- (1) Create a sermon or small group series.
- (2) Create a family devotion with practical applications on how to explore and experiment with each type of Giving Hero.
- (3) Use them in an Offering Talk.
- (4) Create a fun list of applications and growth steps associated with each type of Giving Hero. Distribute to your people and let them create their own growth journey for the year.
- (5) Take a select few and use them on your webpage to inspire giving that transforms the giver, community, and world.
- (6) Combine them with your **Generosity Theology** matching a **Giving Hero** with a giving principle. This synergy can also become content on your website describing the **Types of Givers** in your church along with the pathway of growth and engagement.