

Compare God's principles for giving (as written under the Bible verses) with the ideas shared by each family member earlier. Ask: "Has our study changed anyone's mind about giving?"

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Ask family members to talk about the sacrifices that they would be willing to make over the next three years in order to give to God through the Embracing Our Tomorrow building program. List the ideas below. Be sure to include each family member so that everyone has the opportunity to experience the joy of giving to God sacrificially.

Pray

Let each family member pray sentence prayers:

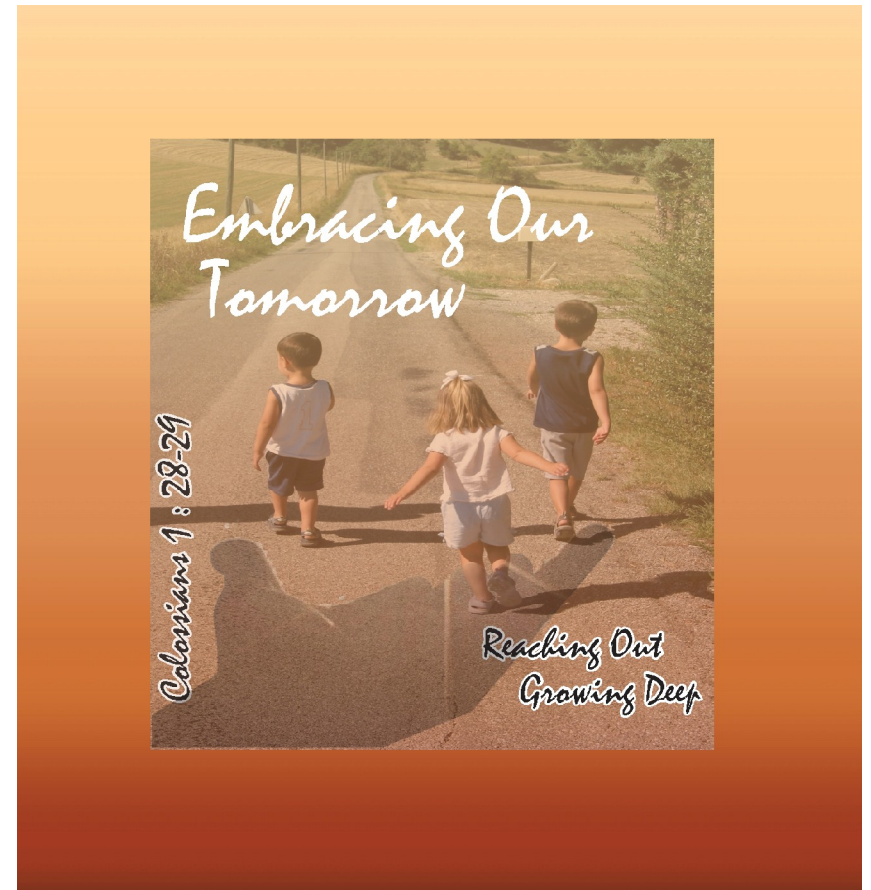
1. Thanking and praising God for His many blessings.
2. Asking God for direction and help in making family decisions according to His will.

Participate

Decide as a family what you will give and write down the amount on the Embracing Our Tomorrow commitment card. Close the family conference with prayer of commitment, asking God to provide for your family as you step out in faith. Ask Him to help you find the joy inherent in biblical giving. And thank God that through your participation in the Embracing Our Tomorrow project, lives will be changed for His glory.

Postlude

Now that you've completed your family conference and filled out your Embracing Our Tomorrow commitment card, don't forget to turn it in on Sunday, December 2nd. If you are unable to turn your commitment card in at that time, please drop it off at the church office or send it in the mail.



Family Conference Guide

Holding a Family Conference

Purpose

During this time, your family will pray, study, and communicate with one another as you seek to discern God's will concerning your commitment to the Embracing Our Tomorrow building project. All family members should be present, with leadership provided by the head of your household. If you are a single adult, we encourage you to use this guide as well. You'll find each step is easily adapted to an individual perspective.

Preparation

1. Each member of the family should prepare spiritually by spending time in study and prayer during their individual daily devotionals. Consider a period of fasting if you are physically able. This is a time to ask God what He would have you sacrificially give as part of the Embracing Our Tomorrow building program.
2. Set aside an hour for your family conference. Select a date sometime before December 2nd, so that you will be prepared when Embracing Our Tomorrow commitment cards are collected on Celebration Sunday, December 2nd.



Process

Open the family conference in prayer, inviting God's presence and direction. Also, pray that a spirit of love, unity, and selflessness will permeate this time together.

Ask each family member to respond to the following questions: "What do you think is the most important thing about giving?" Write down the various responses.

Read and discuss the following Bible passages related to giving.

Be sure to include everyone in the discussion. Write principles for giving that you draw from the verses in the space provided.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (To whom do we give?):

1 Corinthians 16:2 (What principles govern the amount we give?):