



# Faith Adventures Youth Resource



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: [www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR](http://www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR)

## Title: Psalm 96: 7–9

**Theme:** Personal offerings – within times together

### Contents:

<a href="#">Introduction</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Together</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Experience</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Explore</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Express</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Handouts</a> .....	9

### Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

As a noun, 'offering' mean a thing offered, especially as a gift or contribution.

What do you think of when you hear the word 'offering'? Maybe money, time, effort... the list is long and very personal.

Offering is about all of the above, our personal offering such as gifts, time, money, advice, love.

However, offering also involves a sacrifice of some description. To just give things away because it is the right thing to do, or because others do, isn't the correct way to offer. There needs to be more attached to it. Maybe you give something that means a lot to you, or holds a particular value, or maybe it is the last of something you have. This is where your offering holds so much more than just giving; it is cheerfully giving it away with generosity.

In the Bible we are called to offer ourselves back to God. In Romans 12:1, Paul speaks of being a living sacrifice. This means to do what we can for Jesus by being good believers.

This then lends itself to another question. Where do we diminish offering in life? Do we continue forever, stop, have a break, pause?

Another question may be why we do offerings. Who decides who to give the money to? Does it always have to be money? Can children and young people have a say with what happens to offerings? Maybe start a project using skills, time and effort as an offering.

We haven't forgotten that today is also Father's Day. Do search our resources for sessions on Father's Day. Please be aware that although this session doesn't focus on Father's Day, it is still an emotive day for some and so some may need extra support.

## Together – prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

*All mighty God,*

*Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.*

*Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.*

*Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.*

*Amen*

Alternatively, you may join with the widgeit prayer found in Faith Adventures: Children together, or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

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### Active game - Kingdom tag

Together we can build a Kingdom!

Choose one player to be the tagger. The other children avoid trying to be caught by the tagger. When tagged, that person links together by holding hands or linking arms with the person in front and they set off to tag the other players. The game continues until all children are a part of the chain.

You can adjust the game by:

Making it a walking rather than running game.

When the chain reaches four it splits in two, so there are more players tagging.

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## Quieter game – Money ping-pong

Often, in church, we are invited to make offerings of money via a collection. But where does this money go? What does it do? What should it be used for?

This game invites participants to try and choose the destination for the offertory collection.

*You will need:*

- table tennis balls
- empty jam jars (or similar)
- a long table

*What you do:*

Label the jam jars with some ideas of what the offertory collections could be used for (e.g. the church roof, biscuits, new hymn books, mission, church charity, etc.) and place them at one end of the table.

Participants stand at the other end of the table and take it in turns to bounce table tennis balls into the jars (the balls must bounce at least once).

Did participants aim for a particular jar? If so, why?

Alternative.

Label the jam jars with different types of offering (e.g. time, skills, money, prayer).

## Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to Psalm 96: 7–9 in the Good News Bible

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%2096%3A%207-9&version=GNT>

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)  
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord, all people on earth;  
praise his glory and might.

<sup>8</sup>Praise the Lord's glorious name;  
bring an offering and come into his Temple.

<sup>9</sup>Bow down before the Holy One when he appears;  
tremble before him, all the earth!

*Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition) © 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved. For more information about GNT, visit [www.bibles.com](http://www.bibles.com) and [www.gnt.bible](http://www.gnt.bible).*

**Watch:** The widow's mite, by Loop Show

[https://youtu.be/jSn1XWxvn\\_M?si=3zSjY0ZACGdQhOTV](https://youtu.be/jSn1XWxvn_M?si=3zSjY0ZACGdQhOTV)

### Questions for discussion

- What can the widow in the story teach us about offerings to God?
- I wonder whether we always have to sacrifice in our offerings, and what that looks like.

## Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

### A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Introductory Game – 'Would you rather?' run around game.

Using the list of ideas below (feel free to add your own) play a game of 'Would you rather?', with children running from one side of the room to the other to choose their option A or B each time. Try to keep the game quick and snappy; resist the urge to have a full discussion after each one.

Would you rather:

A – More pocket money and less free time, or B – more free time and less pocket money?

A – do all the chores at home but never have homework again, or B – never have to do chores again but have homework every day?

A – live in a fantasy world, or B – live in a gaming world like Minecraft?

A – Have 11 dogs, or B – have 11 cats?

A – Live by the seaside, or B – live in the mountains?

A – Live in Jesus' time, or B – live in the future?

A – Live as a rich person, or B – always have just enough?

A – Give to the poor, or B – help the poor to earn a living?

Explain that, in Psalm 96: 7-9, we hear how God's people are encouraged and invited to come into God's house and bring with them a thanksgiving offering. The passage is talking about a grain offering, but today we are going to think about the tradition of giving in our church services.

Ask the group: What do you see people giving here at church?

Why do you think we give this and what happens to it next? How is it used?

What can you bring to God as a thanksgiving offering?

You could get practical, using monopoly money.

Create a church budget, with piles of monopoly money to represent the church's annual budget.

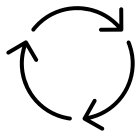
Then explain what the church spends its money on building, ministries, giving to charity, bills etc.

Invite the children to choose how much money they would put on each element. Encourage a conversation about what the church already does with the offerings of your members (money and time) and whether the children 'agree'. Their thoughts could be shared at the next AGM to increase the voice of the children in decision making.

You could invite the church treasurer to the session to join in this task, and the children could then ask them questions about the church's finances.

### Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.



*Pay it Forward* (2000) PG rating – 12-year-old Trevor McKinney is given an assignment which leads him to create a concept called 'Pay it forward'. As the film unfolds, he begins to realise the difference his small offering has made to lots of people's lives.

These two short clips work to explain how we can change the world:

Clip 1 explains 'The Philosophy of *Pay it Forward*' (by Hidden Liberty) and asks the question, 'What does the world expect of you?' and 'How can we change the world?'

<https://youtu.be/URwXr144hIl?si=91Nv6461z0TEumpS>

Clip 2 'Pay it Forward 2000' (by edfrtg1) explains how '*Pay it Forward*' works

[https://youtu.be/FHjE246iJ\\_0?si=uQL4m4j8Fx\\_GmbgU](https://youtu.be/FHjE246iJ_0?si=uQL4m4j8Fx_GmbgU)

- How can we change the world – what can we give – what is our offering?

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### Group discussion

- Put these in order of importance: praising the Lord; bringing an offering; entering the temple; bowing down to God
- Did you have to offer something to be allowed in the Temple?

### Personal reflection

- I wonder what hurts the most to give away
- I wonder what different types of offering there are. (Is there a difference between a thanksgiving offering and a sacrificial offering)?
- If we make an offering, are we expecting something back?
- If I have no money, what is it I can give?

## Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

### Praying together

**Prayers** Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively, use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively, light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

### Spoken Prayers

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of generosity. Show us ways that we can serve you through our time or money. Give us open hearts and minds to use your gifts for your kingdom. May our giving reflect your hope, love, joy and faithfulness. Amen.

### Offering plate prayers



Have some coloured pieces of paper or card. Write your prayers on them and add them to the offering plate as it is passed around the group or in church.

Alternatively, pass an offering bag or plate around the group. Each person in the group can either say the name of a place, person or subject they want to pray for, or simply hold the bag/plate and say a silent prayer to themselves.

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### Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

### Tithing and constitution of the church for mission and giving.

As a group can you identify from your church documents if the church has a policy on how much members should give? Are members expected to tithe (have a brief discussion about what the word means? Can you also discover the amount of money set aside by the church for mission and outreach? Do you agree with how your church spends its income? What changes would you recommend to your church? Can you write a recommendation for the next Elders meeting?

You might like to invite the treasurer into the group session to answer any questions.

**Mood board** around an initial project the group/ church could get behind – about offering their time/money.

This response is designed to enable the group as a whole to consider how it could give to the church or a mission project.

*You will need:*

- two large sheets of paper or back of wallpaper
- magazines
- scissors
- glue
- felt pens
- optional sticky notes in different colours



Ask the group what the session has made them think or feel today. Draw or write this onto sticky notes or use felt tips or pens to write directly onto the large piece of paper. Cut out and stick pictures on too.

Now ask the group to consider how they as a group could tithe or give. Ask for ideas to be added to the paper. N.B. This will be very contextual. A group may be able to plan to give water to a local park run as runners pass through, or the group may like to support a charity for something that affects someone in the group. The church may have a charity they support, or they might like to twin a toilet etc. Another option would be for the group to bring in their favourite food item and add it to the food bank collection.

Once you have collated ideas, come to a group decision on what the 'giving' will be.

Use the second piece of paper to create a poster or newsletter article so that the whole church can be invited to join in with the giving.

### Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today. If not, here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the 'conversation starter' questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **What's the hardest thing to give away.**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources ([jpit.uk](http://jpit.uk)) or *Commitment for Life* ([cforl.co.uk](http://cforl.co.uk))
- There are many YouTube clips and reels of people of 'paying it forward' – take a look at some and then see if you could do or offer something to 'pay it forward'.

Thank you for exploring the **psalm** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk](mailto:sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk) or by sharing it on [www.bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](http://www.bit.ly/FACT_FB)

  
The Lord's Prayer

 Our  Father,  who art  in  heaven,  hallowed be  thy  name.

 Thy  kingdom  come,  thy  will  be done





 on  earth  as it is  in  heaven.

 Give  us  this day  our  daily  bread

 and  forgive  us  our  sins  As  we  forgive  those  who  sin  against  us

 Lead  us  not  into  temptation  but  deliver  us  from  evil

 For  thine  is the  kingdom,  the  power  and  the  glory

 For ever  and  ever  Amen

