



REACHING PEOPLE.
CHANGING LIVES.
WWW.MONTCLAIRTAB.ORG



STARTING POINT

SESSION 3

STARTING POINT 3 : GO

As we talk about contribution, please hear this. God isn't waiting until you have more skills, money, or influence to use you to make a difference. He is ready you use you right now. Whatever gift you have, God wants you to give it back to Him for His glory. Maybe you can write — serve God in our discipleship department. Maybe you have a gift for music — our worship team would love to have you. Maybe you have some free time — use that time to serve people. Whether it's a microphone, a sound board, a frisbee, or a smart phone, God will use your passion to pursue His purpose. Let's explore two key ways to contribute here — your time and your tithe.



BIG IDEA:
Giving helps you grow.



SMALL GROUP OBJECTIVE:
We will help everyone determine what gifts God has given them and how they could best use those gifts to serve.



SCRIPTURE USED:
Exodus 4:2-4
1 Corinthians 12

PART 1: CONTRIBUTING TO THE KINGDOM

- Welcome back! You did it! Welcome to the last session of Starting Point! So far, we have covered how to connect to our church and how to connect to a community, but there is one last central step for you. It's time to talk about contribution.
- At our church, we have groups and teams.
- Groups are a place to connect, whereas teams are a place to contribute.
- Both of these are crucial to your spiritual growth.
- This session we are going to rally around one central idea.

How do we contribute to all God is doing here at Montclair Tabernacle?

Let's look at the story of a man named Moses, who was called by God to set a nation free even though he was an unorthodox leader with a stuttering problem.

PART 2: BIBLE STUDY

READ: Exodus 4:2-4

Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the Lord said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand."

- This is one of the earliest glimpses we get of Moses — the leader who helped set Israel free from slavery in Egypt. The Empire saw themselves as god-like in their power and position in the world, so God knew that they would react to demonstrations of power.
- Strangely, God sent a stuttering homeless man named Moses to stand before their king with no training, no weapon, no six-step plan. God just said go.
- Then the unthinkable happened. God worked a miracle using a mere stick. God leveraged what Moses already had in his hand! God will always start with whatever you have in your hand too. He is never going to expect you to gain some new skill or change your personality before He does amazing stuff through you. He works with whatever you have and wherever you are right now. The ordinary becomes extraordinary when touched by God.

- It is our heart to see you realize that you are called to contribute to the Kingdom.
- Stop saying:
 - “God, I want to serve you, but I don’t know all the answers,”
 - “God, I want to tell people about you, but I am shy.”
 - “God, I am willing to serve you in about ten years, but not now.”
- Push past the excuses. The story of Moses proves that God can use you right where you are with whatever you have in your hands.
 - Maybe you can write — serve God in that capacity.
 - Maybe you have a gift for music — our worship team would love to have you.
 - Maybe you have some free time — use that time to serve people.
 - Whether it’s a microphone, a soundboard, a frisbee, or a smartphone, God will use your passion to pursue His purpose.
- As we talk about contribution, please hear this. God isn’t waiting until you have more skills, money, or influence to use you to make a difference. He is ready you use you right now.
 - What’s in your hand?
 - Whatever it is, God wants you to give it back to Him for His glory.

PART THREE: GIVING HELPS YOU GROW

- There are three things you can give to help you grow here.
 - **Your time**
 - **Your talent** (based on your purpose in the workbook.)
 - **Your tithe**
- This is a crucial truth. We don’t want something FROM you, we want something FOR you. We believe that giving grows you, develops you, and invites you into a greater life than you can imagine.

FIRST, WE CAN GIVE OUR TIME.

- Serving is the best way to discover your purpose, as you will see how God uses your special gifts and talents to make a difference. At our church, we have SERVE teams that you can get involved in.
 - Hospitality (Frontline)
 - Production Team (Media and Tech)
 - Worship (Band, Singers)
 - Small Groups (Various Types)
 - Guest Experience (Hospitality, Parking, Greeting)
 - Kids Ministry
 - Youth Ministry
 - Education

- Serving is not just good for the church, it's also good for you. Here are three ways that serving helps you.
 - **Serving makes us more like Jesus.** Serving God and loving God are impossible to separate. It actively helps us shift our perspective off ourselves and on to other people. And your mentality will change your reality.
 - **Serving allows us to discover our calling.** 1 Corinthians 12 compares the church to a human body. Every body part has a specific purpose that allows the body to move forward. When we serve, we get to develop our gifts and discover what we love. When you serve, you are joining people with different skills and personalities.
 - **Serving is healthy.** When God works THROUGH you, He ultimately works WITHIN you. There are hundreds of studies that show that serving your community is good for your emotional health. It makes you feel good, because you're living like God intended you to live. Being a part of something larger than yourself radically changes your outlook on life — for the better.

- We want to help you unlock your purpose in life, that's why everyone is leaving with a workbook designed to help you unlock your purpose. This is deeply personal and it will help you discover the ministry team that's perfect for you!

- Go through the “Finding Your Purpose” workbook this week. This is your homework that will help you put this message into motion.

SECOND, WE GIVE OUR TITHE

- The Bible says in Matthew 6:24 that the top competitor for our commitment to Jesus is money. Giving is a way of showing what is really important to you — your values are reflected in your budget.
- If this becomes your church home, please pray about tithing to our mission for the city.

4 PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

- This may be an opportunity to explain the tithe, but not directly ask for money here. This is often a major pain point in ministry as a whole, so be sure to handle it wisely.
- A generous life is a happy life. Here are three principles about our opportunity to contribute to the Kingdom.
 - **You only get to keep what you give.** That new boat, those new shoes, that fancy tractor — it will all end up in a landfill some day. When you give to the kingdom, it has an eternal impact. Every investment you make on earth gains interest in heaven.
 - **Generosity destroys greed.** If you’re not careful, you won’t own things — they will own you. Never get caught up in the cultural expectation that fights to have the most. Your possessions will quickly begin to possess you. Worshipping God by giving financially is the best way to prevent yourself from worshipping finances as a god. Wealth is an awful god anyway; it’s unreliable and unpredictable. Our God is the same today, yesterday, and forever.
 - **When you give, you actually gain.** When we give, God gives us much more. When we give of our time, things just fall into place. When we give of our tithe, God rewards us. When we select a life of generosity, God generously blesses us spiritually.