

\$10 Stewardship Story

Each year during stewardship season we tell the parable of the talents and talk about giving back to God. The children are each given a \$10 bill. Their instructions are to take this money and use it to create more of God's kingdom here on earth or to use it to show God's love. We talk about this during the children's sermon for about 4 weeks and then on dedication Sunday the children tell us what they chose to do with their money.



Some of the children use it to buy food for the food bank, or personal need items or school supplies or toys for an area shelter we often serve. A few years ago several children went together and bought cookie and brownie making ingredients and did a bake sale at our fall craft show and called "Baking a Difference". They made several hundred dollars. One young girl took her money to the quilting ladies and asked them to use her money for fabric and to make a quilt that she in turn sold raffle tickets for. She made nearly \$250 from her \$10. Some children I know give their money to their mom for groceries and this too is indeed fulfilling the assignment of showing God's love. Some children have commissioned a piece of stained glass to be created (by their grandma) and sold that and gave the money to the mission committee. One little girl gave her mom the money to buy gas and then asked her mom drive her around to church members homes where they picked up pop bottles and returned them for the deposit refund. She turned her \$10 into \$78.

This tradition has become epic in our congregation. The children think long and hard how they will share their "talent" their \$10. During the 5 years we have done this our congregational giving has increased each year by 4-10%