

## **PASS IT FORWARD**

**Purpose:** To help congregants actively look for and engage with individuals around them. This exercise will help people come face to face with those in need, rather than just giving to already established ministries, which at times can be easy and comfortable. This exercise helps show and spread the love of Christ to someone in need.

**Disclosure:** We affirm individuals giving to their local church and supporting other ministries on a regular basis. This emphasis is not to detract from regular church giving or take away from already established commitments, it is to simply provide additional avenues of giving and help bring added joy to giving, by allowing people to be an extension of the hands and feet of Jesus.

### **Instructions for Leader:**

You will give an envelope with money in it to one person/family, one Sunday a month (You may want to provide your congregation with the source of the original money). Usually, the first Sunday of the month works best, but feel free to do whatever works best for your Church. Once you distribute the envelope, the job of the participant becomes to find someone who is in need of the money. They will have one month to distribute the money, record how much was given, record the recipient's response, and record their response. The participant should also document what led to their decision and how they chose the person(s) they chose. Place a new response card in the envelope each time for the participant to record these responses.

After the participant has given the money in the envelope away, they will place however much money they want/can for the next person to give away (between \$5 - \$100). You, the leader, will then give the money to the next family for the next month and so on. You can continue to do this exercise for as long as you see fit for your Church. Keep a list of who has or hasn't received an envelope and listen for God's calling as to who will be the next participant.

We encourage you to anonymously insert quotes from the response cards into the Church bulletins as available to show how generosity can and is making a difference in your Church and/or community.

### **Instructions for Participant:**

One Sunday a month, one person/family will be given an envelope with money in it. Your job if/when you receive the envelope is to seek out someone who needs the money. You have one month to find someone in need, give the money to them, record how much was given, record the response of the recipient, and record your response. Please also include what led to your decision and how you chose who you chose. A response card is enclosed to record your responses. Once you have given the money in the envelope away, you will replenish the envelope with however much money you feel led to give (between \$5 - \$100). Give the envelope

with your money and response card to the leader so that they can distribute to the next person and keep a record of responses. The leader will be the only person to know how much money you gave, so please do not feel any pressure to give outside of your means.

You may decide to remain anonymous or share your identity with the recipient, but make it a priority to let them know that the money came from God and not you.

Be creative and allow the power of prayer to lead you throughout this exercise. Step outside of your comfort zone and allow yourself to share the love of Christ to others.

**Suggestions of Who to Give to:**

- Pay a month of someone's bill(s)
- Pay for someone's meal behind you in the drive-thru
- Pay someone's grocery bill
- Buy groceries or other necessities and place it on someone's doorstep
- \*God has someone exactly in mind. Be patient and allow him to reveal His heart of compassion through you. Spend time in prayer and follow as God leads you to the person He has in mind.

**Please do not give to the following:**

- Regular church offering and/or church projects and missionaries
- Organizations and already established ministries
- \*We want you to give directly to a person!