



Gathering Guide Materials

C.H.R.I.S.T Discipleship Path Tour

WEEK 6 – October 26–November 1, 2025

The Discipleship Path is a roadmap for deepening your relationship with Christ.

BEGIN YOUR GROUP MEETING WITH AN OPENING PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, We come before You with grateful hearts, thankful for the many gifts You have given us—Teach us to be generous as You are generous, and to give not out of obligation, but out of love and trust in You. Open our hearts to understand what true tithing means: to return to You the first fruits of what we have received, and to do so with humility and joy. Help us to see our offerings as an act of faith, sign of our trust that You will always provide for our needs. May Your Spirit guide our conversation today, that we may grow as faithful disciples—learning from Jesus how to give with open hands and trusting hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Last week's journey took us through the "S" in CHRIST: Share! We reflected on the power of sharing our faith stories and how our witness can inspire and strengthen others.

This week, we turn our focus to tithing—a heartfelt response of gratitude, giving back to God from the many blessings He has entrusted to us.

As we continue to grow in living holy lives—in community, in retreat, in investing, and in sharing—we seek to learn Jesus' way of tithing: with humility, generosity, and a complete trust in God's providence.

VIEW THIS WEEK'S VIDEOS ON YOUR PARISH TOUR HOME PAGE

ST. JOHN VIANNEY

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CLICK HERE TO VIEW THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

T is for TITHE

A disciple gives back a portion of the financial blessings God has entrusted to them.

To tithe is to contribute a portion of one's income—traditionally 10%—to support God's Church on earth. To tithe properly as a true disciple of Christ, we must first understand Jesus' teachings on money.

Did you know that 15% of Jesus' words in the New Testament are about money? Clearly, He wanted His disciples (including us) to understand the importance of money and how to use it to serve God.

Once we understand what Jesus teaches us about money, we can begin to use our own money in ways that honor and serve God. But this is not always an easy task to do in our world today. We need to grow in our **Trust** in God, and we need help to understand and apply Jesus' teachings to our daily lives.

This week's Scripture readings give us guidance on this topic:

- Our second reading gives an example of this trust through St. Paul, who followed God's plan even unto death, trusting that God would always be with him and give him strength.
- Our Alleluia reminds us that God trusts us to share His message of love with the world. In trusting us, He also calls us to trust Him—in all things, including our money.
- Our Gospel teaches us that tithing with the wrong heart is no better than not tithing at all. This is a strong reminder that God cares not just about what we give, but how and why we give. Our attitude towards giving seems to be more important than the gift itself.

The key is to learn Jesus' way of tithing—with humility and trust in God.

A Disciple Knows Jesus...By TITHING With Trust In God

We are all disciples—followers of Jesus, always learning from Him.

And we grow as disciples when we tithe in accordance with Jesus' teachings about money.

Money is often a challenging topic for Catholics. We may cringe when it's brought up at church—it can make us feel uncomfortable or even guilty. It's something we might prefer not to think about. But if Jesus spent 15% of His earthly words discussing money, then we need to pay attention!

In this week's Gospel, we hear about the Pharisee and the tax collector. In Jesus' time, Pharisees were respected religious leaders—many of them devout—while tax collectors were often seen as dishonest, known for collecting more than what was owed and keeping the extra for themselves. Yet in this parable, Jesus shows us that He prefers the humble and repentant heart of the tax collector over the prideful attitude of the Pharisee.

We are called to trust that God will provide for us. And we must prayerfully discern how He wants us to use the gifts He gives us—especially our money. This reflection will help us to grow in trust, in generosity, and in relationship with God, becoming ever more faithful disciples.

Questions for Consideration and Dialog

Take some time to reflect on this week's message and discuss with your group:

- What is your reaction to the idea that Jesus spoke frequently about money and gave us clear direction on how to use it?
- What strikes you most about the parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee?
- The Tax Collector had the gift of humility. What does True Humility mean to you?
- How do you strive to live the virtue of humility?
- What are some examples of humility you've seen in others? Who in your life represents the virtue of humility to you?

Guidance from the Bible

The Bible is always a powerful source of spiritual nourishment and a guide for our lives. Here are some passages that speak to the importance of sharing our faith story for you to ponder.

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce;" **Proverbs 3:9**

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."
Mark 12:43-44

"In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" **Luke 20:35**

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Here are ideas for you as you seek to know Jesus by Sharing:

PRAY

Pray over your budget

- Ask God: How can I use this budget to glorify You?
- Reflect: Where do you already see God glorified in the way you spend your money?
- Consider: Where can you grow in financial responsibility?

ACT

Sign up for Electronic Giving

- To joyfully support your Catholic community in Walnut Creek

INSPIRE

Send a thank you note

- To someone who has **financially sacrificed** for you (e.g., parent, sibling, friend, teacher, coach).
- Reflect on **acts of generosity**: Has someone taken you to lunch? Bought you flowers?
- Remember: *Gifts come in many forms.*
- Be intentional: **Send a note of gratitude.**

Close your group meeting with:

- **Intersessions for the Group**: Take some time to pray together for the group members.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Loving Father,** we thank You for the many blessings You have poured into our lives. Help us recognize that all we have comes from You. Teach us to be faithful stewards, giving joyfully and generously in gratitude for Your goodness. May our tithing be a reflection of our trust in You and our desire to build up Your Kingdom. Let the flame of the Holy Spirit stir in our hearts a spirit of generosity and love, so that through our giving, others may come to know Your goodness. **Amen.