

“Not Equal Gifts, But Equal Sacrifices” sounds great, unless you are in a season where there seems to be nothing left to sacrifice. There doesn’t even seem to be enough to live on as is. While you would love to be a part of Immeasurably More, it just doesn’t feel realistic. We understand and empathize, so we created a list of creative ways to give that you may not have considered if God is leading you to do so. Each one requires sacrifice on your part, but as King David said, “I will not offer up to the Lord anything that costs me nothing!” Find an option that works for your situation, combine several options, or come up with creative ideas of your own!

1 **START COUPONING**

Food is one of the largest expenses we face and could total up to \$300.00 (more in cases where there are 4 or more people in the home) per month. Reports show strategic shoppers can save as much as \$75 off weekly shopping. If you typically spend \$300 on groceries and can reduce that amount by ½ through planned shopping, you will have saved \$1800 in a year. This would result in a \$5400 giving commitment for the 3-year campaign.

2 **SKIP LUNCH**

This is not as bad as it sounds. Some polls indicate that Americans average \$5 - \$10 per day on lunch (that’s \$150 - \$300 per month). Over 3 years, you can easily spend \$10,800 just on lunch. Try skipping lunch 2 days a week. Consider healthy, cost-effective alternatives or choose to fast during your lunch and use the time for prayer. By following this plan 2 days a week, you could save \$1040 per year which equates to \$3120 over 3 years.

3 **GIVE UP A HABIT**

It’s easier said than done, but instead of purchasing gourmet coffee every day, make coffee at home or the office. At a minimum, this would save you \$1095 per year.

4 **CONDUCT A HOME AUDIT**

Complete a home audit or profit & loss statement (templates can be found online) to manage your home expenses. These strategies compare income to outgoing expenses and give an accurate picture of your money management. Example: If your total monthly income (after taxes) is \$3000, you would subtract all of your expenses to include tithes, utilities, food, auto, emergency/savings acct., gas, etc. Let’s say your monthly expenses, in this example, total \$2800; that would leave you \$200 of disposable income per month. Use that toward your giving commitment and you would give \$7200 over 3 years.

5 **COMMIT RAISES**

Commit any estimated raises in salary to the Lord for the next three years.

6 **ADJUST YOUR VACATIONS**

For one or more years, do something close to home and inexpensive such as day hikes, picnics, or a three-day vacation instead of a week. Using this strategy, you can save on airfare and hotel costs. This can save approximately \$2500.

7 **DRINK WATER**

Commit to drinking only water when dining at a restaurant. One person could save \$5 a week or more. That's a minimum saving of \$780 over three years - just for drinking water.

8 **3-A-DAY FAMILY PLAN**

This IS as easy as it sounds. Every member of the household simply gives \$3 a day towards the family's commitment (be creative in ways to get the children involved like sharing their allowance, offering services for babysitting, or cutting back on movies, clothes, etc.) If a household of 3 commits to this plan, their total to the three-year campaign would be \$9855.

9 **WAIT ON BIG PURCHASES**

Put off a discretionary major purchase and redirect the money to the campaign.

10 **COLLECT POCKET CHANGE**

Paste the Immeasurably More logo on an empty jar or can, place the container in a spot everyone in the home passes, and drop all pocket change in it each day.

11 **CONTINUE A BILL PAYMENT**

If you will be paying off a car or school loan in the next year, commit to continue to "pay the bill" by redirecting that money to the campaign after the bill is paid off. A \$100 payment per month over three years is \$3,600.

12 **A DOLLAR INCREASE PER WEEK**

This is a great idea for those who have never given or do not see a way to increase current giving. Start by giving one dollar the first week, then two, then three, etc., praying all along that the Lord would show you a way to add that next dollar and increase each week. If you were to keep this up for three years, you would give \$12,000!