

**Tzedekah:
the ladder for
justice and righteousness**



Which of the following statements do you agree with?

Step 1	Money is a gift.	<i>Walk humbly with God</i>
Step 2	Money belongs to God.	
Step 3	I am accountable for how I use it	
Step 4	I need to share my blessings with others	<i>Do justice</i>
Step 5	Giving and sharing should be a priority	<i>Love mercy</i>
Step 6	I should be content	<i>Give thanks</i>
Step 7	I should decide- how much to give, how much to spend, how to spend, and how to live	<i>Love the Lord your God... and love your neighbour as yourself</i>

Discuss the Steps in your small group. Do you agree with the statement? If you do, write on a Post It something that you can do practically. For example, if you agree with Step 1 you might say a prayer of thanks each day for what you have.

Write down all the suggestions you come up with on the Post Its and then put them together on a board with suggestions from other groups.

Have a look at all the different suggestions and see which you like most.

Making commitments

Now its time to decide what you can do! Have a think and pray about what money you receive and how you spend it at the moment: Do you budget your money? Do you buy fair trade chocolate? Do you give to the church or a charity regularly (one off donations or buying charity records should not be treated the same as a commitment to give every week.)

Use this table to help you think through what you can do.

1	Money is a gift.	Do I accept that all I have comes from God?	<i>Walking humbly with God</i>
2	Money belongs to God.	What difference will this make to how I use my money?	
3	I am accountable	Do I understand where my money goes?	
4	I need to share	What do I do at the moment- regularly?	<i>Doing Justice</i>
5	Giving and sharing should be a priority	Do I agree with this? What ways can I do this?	<i>Loving Mercy</i>
6	I should be happy	Am I content? Does my happiness come from money and possessions?	<i>Giving thanks</i>
7	I should decide - how much to give, -how much to spend, -how to save -and how to live	My budget could be Giving- for those in need% Giving- for the Church.....% Spending.% Saving.....% I could commit to the following changes to my lifestyle and purchasing.....	<i>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind</i>

Group commitments

Have a discussion about what you feel is important in the different steps. Do you need any help to move towards your goals, the things you feel you would like to do?

What about things that you can do as a group? Can you use any of the lifestyle and fairtrade ideas as a group? What can you do and who will be responsible for the things you agree to do?

Finally take home the brochures to think and pray about, before returning the following week.

Close in prayer using the chapter of Micah to reflect on what God has done for you, how we let him down, how he forgives us, and how we are to respond to his goodness by walking humbly with Him, showing mercy and doing justice. Finish with the Grace

