

FUNDING A COMMUNITY | Participant Guide

Video Prework

In this [13-minute video](#), musician Amanda Palmer talks about the power of “asking without shame.”
Link: https://youtu.be/xMj_P_6H69g

Scriptural Foothold

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8 NRSV

Food for Thought

“... the perfect tools aren't going to help us if we can't face each other and give and receive fearlessly but, more important—to ask without shame.”

Amanda Palmer, TED Talk 2013

Determining the amount of financial contributions you can expect in a new church requires a simple formula. Take the # of giving units (households) you intend to have participated by the end of year one, multiplied by the average household income in your area, multiplied by 2.4% (the average households tend to give to charity). This is your potential annual giving income. That is not the difficult part. The hard part is asking for money. It is important to be reminded that fundraising is a skill, not an inherent gift. In other words, everyone can get good at it if they practice.

For Reflection *(please write down your answers)*

1. When does asking for money feel shameful?
2. What would you be proud to ask people to give to? How is this different or similar to planting a church?
3. Describe the kind of church those in your ministry context would support and would miss if gone?

Taking Action *(please fill out during our session together)*

In support of cultivating a new faith community:

For me: I commit to _____, starting _____,
and I will ask _____ to be my accountability partner.

For my team: I will train my team on new community funding on _____.

Additional Resources

Rendle, Gil, *Doing the Math on Mission*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014.
Palmer, Amanda, *The Art of Asking*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2014.