

Give Well

Characters

- Person #1
- Person #2

Props

- None

Time

About 3 minutes

Person #1 Every day, we're constantly faced with advertising messages to "buy, buy, buy." We see them on billboards. In magazines. Newspapers. Television ads. Movies. The Internet. All this buy, buy, buy emphasis makes it easy to think about me, me, me.

Person #2 Did you see my new shoes? Aren't they the greatest?

Person #1 Very nice. I just got some shoes a few months ago.

Person #2 You mean those shoes? They look like they're a million years old. Yuck.

Person #1 Okay, so they don't look great like yours do. But these shoes work for me right now. Plus, I am using some of my money to help the animals in the animal shelter.

Person #2 Do you have pets there?

Person #1 No. I just care about these cats and dogs. They need a good life too.

Person #2 So you use your own money? To help cats? Dogs? Strange cats? Strange dogs?

Person #1 I do. It makes me feel good. Giving is about your values. Yes, I used some money for myself, but I don't want all my money to be just about me. I want to help others. I want to make a difference.

Person #2 Oh. (Becomes very quiet.)

Script

Give Well

- Person #1 (Waits a few moments to make sure the audience notices the silence.) You're quiet. What's the matter?
- Person #2 You know these shoes? Well, I bought these when my mom gave me \$50.
- Person #1 That was nice of her.
- Person #2 Actually she gave me \$50 so I could buy her a nice Mother's Day present.
- Person #1 So what did you buy her?
- Person #2 Ummmm.
- Person #1 Well?
- Person #2 Ahhh. Shoes.
- Person #1 Great. You bought both of you shoes. Did she like them?
- Person #2 Actually, she's upset with me.
- Person #1 Did you buy the wrong size?
- Person #2 Ahhhh. No. (Holds up foot to show off the shoe.) These are the shoes. They're really cool.
- Person #1 Why are you wearing your mom's shoes?
- Person #2 I bought the shoes for me.
- Person #1 I thought she gave you the money to buy her a present. Not you.
- Person #2 I was going to. But then I saw these shoes. Aren't they the greatest?
- Person #1 If I were your mom, I'd be mad at you.
- Person #2 It's so hard to have money to give away.

Give Well

Person #1 Actually, it's not. Giving is about making your life bigger. It's about thinking not only of yourself, but also about the people around you. It's about noticing who you can help—and which organizations you believe in.

Person #2 Maybe I can do that. If I just stay away from the store.

Person #1 We often think we need to have a lot of money in order to give some away, but it's just not true. Do you know who the most generous givers in America are? Families that make \$20,000 a year or less.¹ That's what the Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey found.² It may seem that these families don't have much to give, but they actually give away the highest proportion of their income when you compare them to any other income group—even those who make the most money.³

Person #2 It's time for me to think bigger. I guess I need to see that what matters is to give *something*.

Person #1 When you start giving, you begin to think about your money in a whole new way. And that new way helps you make even better money choices.

Sources

¹ Arthur C. Brooks, *Who Really Cares* (New York: Basic Books, 2006), 194.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid. Note: The highest income group was identified as making more than \$100,000 a year.