

News Story Summary

On May 5, Jim Irsay, owner of the Indianapolis Colts purchased at an auction the founding document of Alcoholics Anonymous. Known as the “Big Book,” the document includes handwritten notes and was first printed in 1939, having sold more than 30 million copies since. Irsay attended his first AA meeting several years ago and intends to make the manuscript available as part of a display with the hope that more will be helped who struggle with addiction. Irsay stated that the only way to stay sober is to give it away.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Irsay purchases AA document”.)

Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention idea, begin by sharing a summary of the story about the recent purchase of the founding documents for Alcoholics Anonymous. Lead the group to discuss the motivations of Jim Irsay for purchasing the document. Ask: *How does the benefit we gain serve as a motivation to help others? How does our experience impact our decisions? What does the purchase of this document reveal about Mr. Irsay?* Explain that Paul challenged the Corinthians to help others believers by collecting an offering. Emphasize that what we do with our money reveals our priorities. Present a summary of the information found under Understand the Context, setting the context for the lesson.

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge idea, focus on the third bulleted statement under Apply the Text (Believers’ gifts can be a means of honoring God for both the giver and the receiver.). Remind the group of the news story. Lead the group to discuss how Mr. Irsay and those who will view the document may benefit from his purchase. Help the group understand that both benefit from the purchase. Compare the mutual benefit gained to the honor given to God by both the giver and receiver. Ask: *How can both the giver and receiver of a gift honor God for the same gift?* Complete the step as written.