

# How do you become great in God's kingdom?





1. The call to serve is clear but it can also be complicated and costly



#### WHAT THE DISCIPLES WANT

- To be top of the pile. They had a reluctance to serve
- Similarly, the rich young ruler (Mark 10:21-23), didn't serve wholeheartedly because of a love of money

Beautiful

#### Biblical principles about handling money well

- 1. It is more blessed to give than receive (Acts 20:35)
- 2. Give our first and our finest, not our leftovers

(Genesis 4:2-5)

#### The Entertainer won't let a tough year ruin the toy chain's Christmas

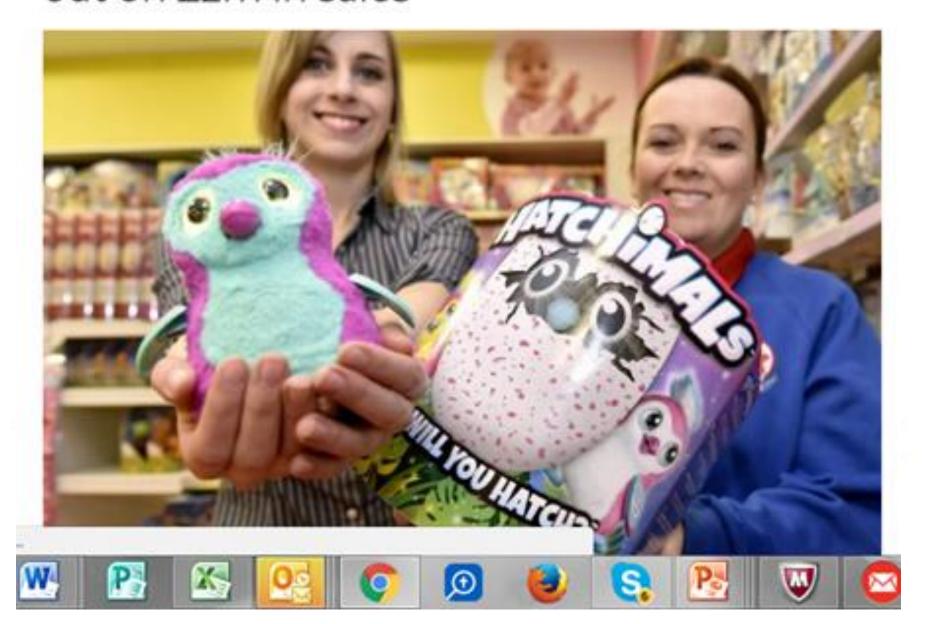
Founder Gary Grant is giving all his staff Christmas Eve off despite a 'terrible' few months and the troubles of rival Toys R Us





The Entertainer 'will not open on Christmas Eve' declares devout Christian owner

Popular toy shop chain will reportedly miss out on £2m in sales



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- 3. How do we give?
  - a. Thought through, not sporadically (2 Cor 9:7)
  - b. Gladly, not under compulsion or reluctantly (2 Cor 8 and 9)
- 4. Could we excel in the grace of giving? (2 cor 8:7)



#### Obstacles to service

- 1. Love of money (Mark 10: 17-27)
- 2. Desire for status (10: 35-37, 41)



#### What Jesus does

- Doesn't crush the ambition of James and John. Instead, he redirects it
- God always out-gives and out serves us (10:33-34, 45)

