

# Generosity

A Spiritual Practice



# Worry to Wonder



I'm worried that we  
will run out of  
money.

I wonder what God is  
calling us to do with  
the abundant  
resources we have?



**A story from scripture**

**Acts 4: 32-5: 11**

**A Matter of Trust**

"Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands

sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus named Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet

But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostle's feet. "Ananias," Peter asked, "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were



not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear siezed all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him. After and interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your

husband sold the land for such and such a price."

And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then

Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her



beside her husband. And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

## TRUST

Turn to your neighbor and share a story of a time it may have been hard to trust God.

**It's A Wonderful Life**

Trust  
Transforms  
Worry  
Into  
Wonder

Acts 2: 43-47

Trust in God

Trust  
in  
Each Other





# Inspirational Stories



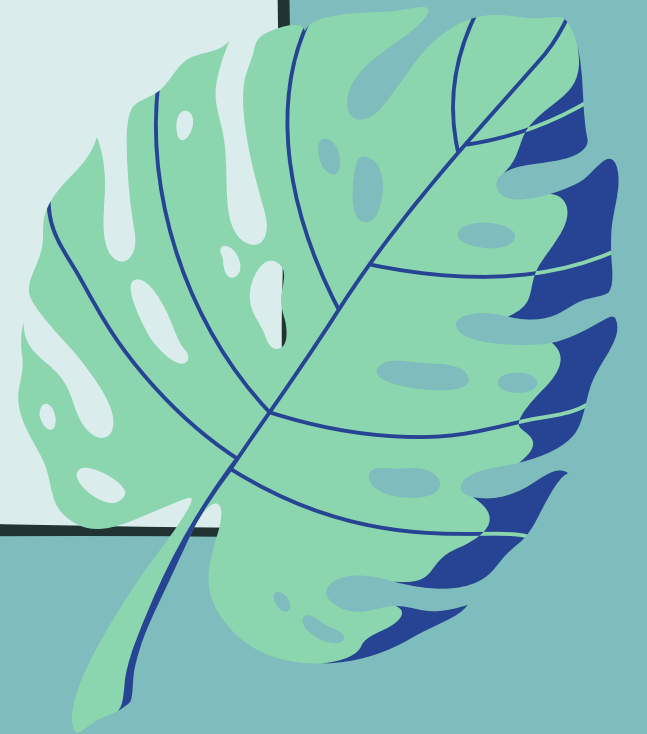
# Resources

## Useful Websites



# Another Story from Scripture

Mark 6: 30-44





The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived

ahead of them. As he went ashore, Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat. But he

answered them, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see?" When they had found out, they said "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the

loaves and the two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men. (Note: plus all the women and children present would have been more people!)

# Share with your neighbor

What did you notice happened when the disciples trusted Jesus and obeyed his command?

What is one thing you can try this week to move from fear of scarcity to trust in God's abundance?



# Closing Prayer:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen