

# JOYFULLY GENEROUS

A Worship & Faith Formation Series for Households about God's Generosity  
An expression of *The Generosity Project* – ELCA

Week 2      Genesis 1:27-31a

*We are made in God's image and blessed by God to be generous too.*



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## CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

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+ **Green is the color for Pentecost**

Find a scrap piece of green cloth, an old green shirt, a cloth napkin/towel, or even a piece of green construction paper and place it in the middle of your kitchen table or coffee table.

+ **Add a small bowl with water**

This is a reminder of our baptism.

+ **Add a small candle to light as you worship**

For households with little ones or apartments that don't allow wax candles, you could use a battery-operated candle, or a candle made from construction paper, if an open flame is not an option.

+ **Add a small cross to the space**

This could be a cross from your wall, a necklace charm, or one made from paper or scrap wood.

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## WHO IS THIS FOR?

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+ **Everyone and anyone who lives in your household can gather together.**

Adults, children, college students, and pets! "Connect" with as many generations as possible!

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## SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP AT YOUR TABLE

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+ **Children/Youth could help lead different parts of your worship time.**

They can set up the altar space, read the Bible story, share their own prayers, sing, or color.

+ **You can invite grandparents, grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, friends, etc. to join you for worship using your phone, or Facetime/Skype or another video chat platform.**

Feel free to email them this worship order so they can follow along, too!

+ **If you are a 1-person household** and are unable to call or video chat family or friends, perhaps you could write in a journal as a part of these worship experiences.

+ **Prepare a space that is most comfortable for you.**

You can worship at your kitchen table, coffee table, on the rug in the kids' room, or in your sunroom surrounded by green plants and windows.

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## CREATIVE PRAYER IN YOUR HOME

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+ **Create a prayer wall/box/basket for your weekly prayers**

Use a dry erase board, post-it notes on a wall or fridge door, a bulletin board, or scraps of paper

+ **Text prayers** or written notes of encouragement or prayers to loved ones or church friends.

**+ GATHERING +**

Together with God our Creator, Jesus our Rescuer,  
and the Spirit our Encourager. **AMEN.**

**+ LITANY +**

Today we gather as one church by the Holy Spirit;  
**God's grace is abundant.**

We have been created in the image of God;  
**God's creativity is abundant.**

We are a part of the sacred story of God's people,  
**God's words are abundant.**

Together, we inhale the goodness and generosity that is  
freely given to us;  
**God's kindness is abundant.**

We exhale our gratitude for all that we have been given;  
**God's love is abundant.**

*Light your candle...*

We light the candle as a reminder that we are the light of Christ. May we reflect on God's grace as we  
gather together today.

**AMEN.**

**+ PRAYER +**

Benevolent God, you have blessed us with life and purpose. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have  
given us the freedom to share what we have been given with others. Please guide our hearts so that our  
actions and words reflect you. **AMEN.**

**+ SCRIPTURE +**

+ **Genesis 1:27-31a**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Creation (Pages 2-7)

+ **Jesus Storybook Bible:** The Beginning: A Perfect Home (Pages: 18-27)

+ **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

**+ REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +**

**Option 1:** Click on the **Joyfully Generous Video #2** (Generation Z)

**Option 2:** Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection

**Questions:**

- + What is your favorite part of God's creation? Why is it your favorite?
- + What does it mean to you that you are created in "God's image?"
- + How do you try to reflect God's generosity in your life?
- + How does being created in God's image influence your giving?



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## WORSHIP

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### + APOSTLES' CREED +

I believe in God, the Father Almighty  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.



### + PRAYERS +

Together we pray:

Thank you, God, for all that grows.  
Thank you, God, for your promise, seen in rainbows.  
Thank you, God, for stars that shine.  
Thank you for these friends of mine.  
Thank you, God, for the moon and sun.  
Thank you for all that's given – for everyone!  
Help us, Lord, to learn to share,  
To be more generous everywhere.  
AMEN

### + OFFERING +

Whether we worship in a church building or in our homes - as people of faith we are reminded of God's abundance and the many ways we have been called to share these gifts with others. This circle of kindness strengthens relationships and the mission of the church. Here are a few for your household as you practice generosity.

- + Gather a gift of money, or write a check, and send this monetary gift to your congregation in the mail; or if your congregation has online giving through an app or on their website, you can take a moment to send a gift digitally.
- + Write a card or letter to a grandparent, elder, shut-in or a resident at the care center.
- + Draw or color a picture to place at your home altar, or to give/mail to someone.
- + When buying groceries or essentials, plan to share 10% of your purchases with your local food shelf
- + Consider sharing 10% of an unexpected financial gift with your congregation
- + Place your weekly contribution in your 10-10-80 container. (*see "Other Ideas" below for instructions*)

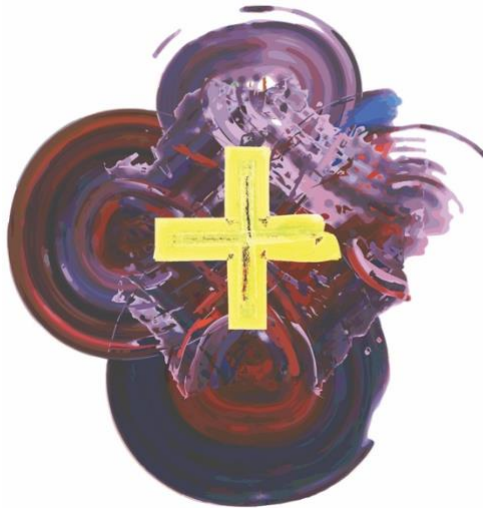
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## WORSHIP

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### + LORD'S PRAYER +

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth, as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
And the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. **AMEN.**



### + BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water, and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, "**\_\_(name)\_\_, you are created in the image of a generous God.**"

**We are made in the image of God!**

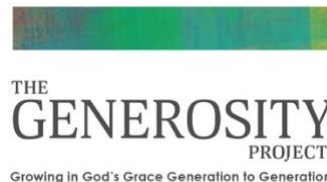
**God is a generous God!**

**We are made to be generous too!**

**Go, be a blessing to others as you serve God with grace-filled, generous hearts and hands.  
AMEN.**

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## OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE WEEK

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+ **10-10-80** – A conversation about intentional, thoughtful management of our money

1. **"Share-Save-Spend"** (Or, 10-10-80) is a model that encourages us to look at what we have, and allocate it to one of three areas:
  - + First, We **SHARE** and be generous with 10% of our income or allowance.
  - + Second, We **SAVE** 10% of our income or allowance as a step toward planning for the future (college, retirement, unexpected needs or crisis)
  - + Third, We **SPEND** 80% on daily needs and wants
2. **The goal** is to live "10-10-80" regardless of how little or how much our income/allowance.
3. **Use coins to demonstrate** with young people what 10% looks like. Practice various examples.
  - + Give each person a dollar or two in coins.
  - + Ask them to figure out what 10% would be.
    - + Think about WHO you could share that with? Who might need that 10%? What are some organizations or ministries that could use help?
    - + Think about WHAT you hope to save up for. Saving 10% can add up quickly!
    - + What are some examples of the "needs" and "wants" that you have?
  - + Add up everyone's money – how much do you have in total? What would 10% of that look like? Who might need it? What could change when you share that 10%?
4. **Create a Share-Save-Spend container** using materials you have around the house – a cardboard box, three plastic containers or jars, three piggy banks, three ziplock bags, etc.
  - + Invite everyone to make a personal goal or agree on a family goal for SHARING 10%.

+ **Take a nature walk**; bring along a bag or container to collect small nature items. Once you return home, spill them out on a table, the floor, or deck and examine each item. What does it look like? Smell like? Does it have a texture? Where did it come from? How does it grow or form?

+ **Create Yourself**: Using butcher paper and markers, or sidewalk chalk outside, trace the members of your household or draw an outline of a person on a small piece of paper. Color it in and decorate it to look like you. Encourage the other members of the household to surround your image with words that they think describe you (kind, helpful, funny, musical, etc.).

+ **Playdoh Creations**: create some new animals or fish out of playdoh; what will you call these new "creatures?" What makes them special or unique? Where do they live?

+ **Live It Out**: Choose a time to use this resource (pages 6-7) this week as a way to respond to God's word and actively participate in practicing generosity as a household!

- + Conversation Questions – can be done during a meal, in the car, on a walk, etc.
- + Storytime – re-reading a scripture story can help us to see just how "alive" God's Word is! Take time to read and think about a word or phrase that stood out. What might God be saying to you through those words?
- + Action – A fun and interactive way to remember how generosity shows up through the special people in our lives.
- + Challenge - What does 10% look like in your household? This week's challenge helps us to see the abundance of books.



# LIVE IT OUT!



## Being Generous: The WHY

## Conversation Goal

Identify this household's giving patterns and practices

### Conversation #1

#### Our Household Identity and Story

*Do your family members know how much you share and give of your financial wealth? With so many methods available to exchange currency, it is easy for the significance of giving to be overlooked and unknown to one another. Research shows children learn sound financial health and generosity when they see parents and significant adults model this as a priority in their lives.*

*If you do not already have an established pattern of giving, consider a conversation to discuss when and how you as a household might begin.*

### Key Question

Does each person in this household know how we share and are generous with what we have been given?

### Discussion Prompts

- How does this household talk about money? What words do we use?
- Who decides how we distribute our money, especially related to regular giving?
- What is tithing? Do we do it? (Use the internet to look up the word and meaning)
- Do we support a church or institution of faith? Organizations or other causes?
- Do we have an emergency fund? Are we saving for college, vacation, house repairs, retirement, etc.?
- What are our household's essential expenditures for living? Which ones are Wants? Which ones are Needs?
- How much of our spending is influenced by advertising?
- Why do we share? Give?

**God's Story Genesis 1:27-31a (CEV).** "So, God created humans in God's own image; God made men and women. God gave them a blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth. I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat. And I have given the green plants as food for everything else that breathes. These will be food for animals, both wild and tame, and for birds. God looked at all that was created. All of it was very good!"

### Affirmation + Blessing

I am created in the image of a generous God. I give because I want to mirror a generous God.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# BEING GENEROUS

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## Action 1

These are the names or drawings of all the people and places that have been recipients of our generosity.



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## The Generosity Challenge

How many books do we own? Count them. What would it mean to give away 10 percent or buy that many new books for others? How hard would this be to do? Who needs books? To whom or where would we go to donate them?

