

JOYFULLY GENEROUS



A Worship & Faith Formation Series for Households about God's Generosity

An expression of *The Generosity Project* – ELCA

Week 5 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

To know and joyfully share God's stories of generosity.

CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

+ **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.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

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

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

SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP AT YOUR TABLE

+ **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.

CREATIVE PRAYER IN YOUR HOME

+ **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.

WORSHIP + WEEK 5: CENTERS FOR GENEROSITY

+ 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 +

God of mercy, you have shown us love, even when we don't deserve it. Prepare our hearts to receive love,
and to give love to others, especially when it feels difficult to do so. **AMEN.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Love Is... (Pages 546-549)

+ **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 #5** (Generation X)

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

Questions:

- + Share a story of how God has shown kindness to you?
- + Why is love important? How do love and generosity relate to one another?
- + The people of Macedonia were generous, even when had very little to give. What's another example of generosity from the Bible?
- + What is something that brings you joy?

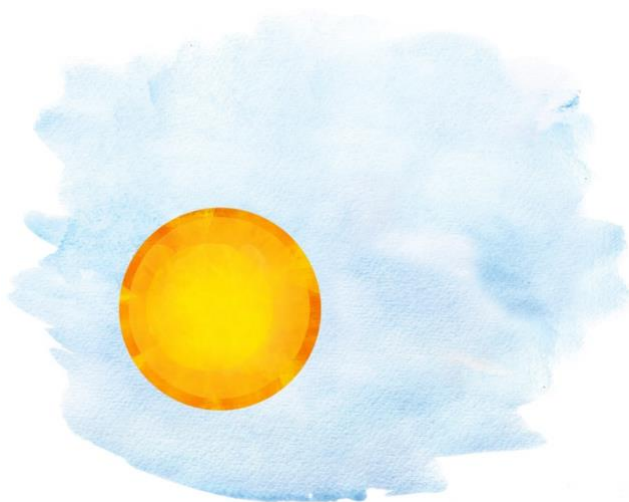
WORSHIP

+ 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 ideas 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 Week 1 for instructions*)

WORSHIP

+ 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)__, may you overflow with joy.**"

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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<http://www.elca.org/generosityproject>*

OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE WEEK

- + **Purchase or collect food items or toilet paper:** Take these items to your community or church food pantry, or directly to a family member or neighbor who is in need.
- + **Incorporate Generosity Language and Conversations:** Click here for 10 simple statements to dwell on or use as conversation starters when we think about generosity.
<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/1b/b3/10/1bb310932a0a3b0f36d757023e034137.png>
- + **10-10-80 Containers** – place your week’s gifts into your containers. Have you made a family goal? What are some other things we have an abundance of that we could share 10% of?
- + **Books About Generosity:** *It’s Mine!* (by Leo Lionni)
- + **Create a Generosity Tree:** Make a trunk out of brown paper or cardboard. Cut some leaves for the tree and place them nearby with a pencil or marker. Throughout the week, encourage one another to add names of people, activities, or things that they are grateful for and add them to the tree (and watch the gratitude “grow!”)
- + **Watch Video: “Shobi’s Table”:** <https://vimeo.com/181670103>
- + **Live It Out:** Choose a time to use this resource (pages 6-7) during the 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 clothing.

LIVE IT OUT!



Creating Centers For Generosity: The HOW

Conversation Goal

Become a center of generosity by creating a household purpose statement and commitment to practice generosity 24–7–365

Conversation #4

Make A Plan

It is time to form a plan around the conversations that have engaged you so far. You have become informed on your household giving patterns where you could pour out care and generosity. Now it is time to take action!

Key Question

How can we begin to fully live a life of intentional generosity in response to God's love for us?

Discussion Prompts

- What is our purpose as a family?
- How does that purpose inform our sharing and generosity?
- What two items from those we brainstormed in Session 3 do you want to commit to our giving? How much of our treasure? Our time? Our talents?
- How can we commit to giving and serving our church and community of faith?

God's Story 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (CEV). "My friends, we want you to know that the churches in Macedonia have shown others how kind God is. Although they were going through hard times and were very poor, they were glad to give generously. They gave as much as they could afford and even more, simply because they wanted to. They even asked and begged us to let them have the joy of giving their money for God's people. And they did more than we had hoped. They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us; just as God wanted them to do...I am not ordering you to do this. I am simply testing how real your love is by comparing it with the concern that others have shown. You know that our Lord Jesus Christ was kind enough to give up all his riches and become poor so that you could become rich."

Affirmation + Blessing

God, use us to respond joyfully to the needs of this world with our acts of generosity.



CREATING A HOUSEHOLD CENTER of GENEROSITY

Action 4



Our Household Purpose Statement

Two Places We Choose To Give Generously of our Time, Talents and/or Financial Treasure

1.

2.

How do these two choices support our household purpose statement?

The Generosity Challenge

How many pairs of socks and undies get washed each week in this household? Count them. What is 10% of that number? What would it mean to purchase new socks and undies – 10% of the number we wear? How hard would this be to do? Who needs socks and undies? To whom or where would we go to donate them?

