

# JOYFULLY GENEROUS



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

An expression of *The Generosity Project* – ELCA

Week 8      John 6:1-14, John 13:1-20

*We celebrate God's grace and generosity lived out at the Lord's Table and the ordinary tables where generations and households gather in daily life.*

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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**

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

+ **Add any art, decorated tablecloths, a paten & chalice** (reminders of holy communion) or other objects that remind you of God's generosity

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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.

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## WORSHIP + WEEK 8: WE CELEBRATE!

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### + 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 +

Sustaining God, your table is ready and has a space for each of us – we sit with generations of people from long ago, and we anticipate those who will continue to join us in the future. When we are tempted to believe the assertions of scarcity, you continue to remind us of how plentiful your gifts are. By the power of your Spirit, help us and encourage us to mirror your generosity in the world, and to celebrate the joy of Jesus' love with one another. **AMEN.**

### + SCRIPTURE +

+ **John 6:1-14, John 13:1-20**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Jesus Feeds 5,000 (Pages 426-431), The Last Supper (Pages 462-467)

+ **Jesus Storybook Bible:** Filled Full! (Pages 244-249), The Servant King (Pages 286-293)

+ **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 #8** (Greatest Generation)

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

#### Questions:

- + What is your favorite meal? Where is your favorite place to enjoy a meal?
- + How does practicing generosity change us? Our community? The world? Our church?
- + If you could use one word to describe God's generosity, what would it be?
- + How do you celebrate special occasions in your household/family? Share a story of a memorable celebration. Who was there? How did you spend your time?

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## WORSHIP

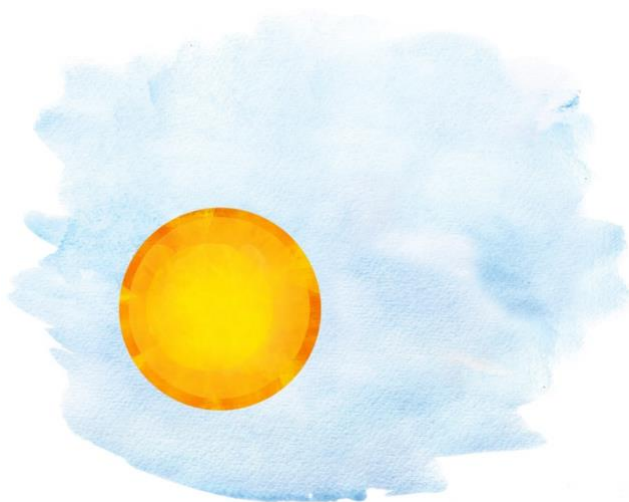
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### + APOSTLES' CREED +

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 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*)

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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)\_\_, may you continue to grow in God's grace and generosity.**"

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

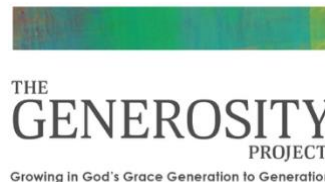
**God is a generous God!**

**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>*



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## OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE WEEK

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### + Plan Some Surprises:

- + Make/decorate a flowerpot and fill with flowers – deliver to a neighbor without them seeing you!
- + Use sidewalk chalk to write uplifting words or draw fun images on neighborhood sidewalks
- + Send a greeting card to someone special – fill it with confetti, a gift card/certificate, or stickers
- + Make homemade dog treats and drop them off at your nearest animal rescue
- + Do an extra chore around the house without being asked
- + Plan a yard celebration for a shut-in/family member or friend who is celebrating a birthday or other milestone; place yard signs that say “honk to celebrate \_\_\_\_(name)\_\_\_!” or attach balloons to their mailbox; leave a box of sweets; or order their favorite takeout meal and deliver it to them.
- + Have a road trip day: choose several places to visit (hiking trail, picnic, fishing, etc.). Write them on a piece of paper and put them in sealed, numbered envelopes – after each place visited, let someone new open the next destination.

### + 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?

### + Create a Global Meal: Choose a country in the world (or have each person in your household choose a different country) and plan a meal that celebrates this place.

- + What is a traditional dish that is served there? (A quick Google search can help with this!)
- + Organize ingredients and a recipe (Pinterest has MANY).
- + Create a table setting that reflects this country – color a flag or include colorful fabric or images
- + As you eat this meal, pray for the people there and give thanks to God for such special food!

### + Create a Centerpiece: Using whatever materials you have around your home, (craft supplies, wood scraps, fabric, hot glue, buttons, old toys, etc.) create a centerpiece for your table that reflects God’s generosity.

### + Live It Out: Choose a time to use this resource (Pages 6-8) 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 practice our own generosity!



# LIVE IT OUT!



## We Celebrate!

Gathering at the table.

## Conversation Goal

Celebrate God's generosity in the daily expression and practice of our faith – at home and away from home.

## Conversation #6 The Table Is Ready...May God's generosity overflow through us

Let's take the seeds from The Generosity Project: 5G, continue the conversation, and commit to hearing, knowing, living and celebrating God's Story of generosity in and through us.

Ready, set, **GIVE!**

**Key Question** What wondrous, surprising, joy-filled things might happen because of the generosity of our household?

## Discussion Prompts

- What have we learned about generosity? What can we celebrate?
- What do we have yet to learn?
- If we could teach someone else or a household about generosity, what would we share?

## God's Story

Of the five stories about God's generosity that we have received, which story, words, or phrase within a story reflects us? Or has shaped us? (See next pages to review Bible stories).

Write it here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The title of our household's story of generosity is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign your individual names anywhere on this Covenant.*

**Affirmation + Blessing** We are catching on...may God's story of grace and generosity become our story.



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

## GOD'S STORY OF GENEROSITY IN US

*As a household discuss and select one of God's stories, words or phrases below that most closely reflects your own story of generosity, or the story you would like to become. Highlight the story or words you chose.*

TGP: 5G #1. So, God created humans [in God's 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. This 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! (Genesis 1:27-31a CEV)

TGP: 5G #2. When Jesus saw the large crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where will we get enough food to feed all these people?"... Philip answered, "Don't you know that it would take almost a year's wages just to buy only a little bread for each of these people?" Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the disciples. He spoke up and said, "There is a boy here who has five small loaves of barley bread and two fish. But what good is that with all these people?" The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to have everyone sit down. About five thousand men were in the crowd. Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat. The people ate all they wanted, and Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers, so that nothing would be wasted. The disciples gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with what was left over from the five barley loaves." (John 6:5-13 CEV)

TGP: 5G #3. On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized. They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. (Acts 2:41-47 CEV)

TGP: 5G #4. 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." (2 Corinthians 8:1-9 CEV)

TGP: 5G #5. Jesus said to his disciples, "It's terribly hard for rich people to get into the kingdom of heaven! In fact, it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly surprised and asked, "How can anyone ever be saved?" Jesus looked straight at them and said, "There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything." Peter replied, "Remember, we have left everything to be your followers! What will we get?" Jesus answered: "Yes, all of you have become my followers... But many who are now first will be last, and many who are last will be first. (Matthew 19:23-30 CEV)



## WE CELEBRATE

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### Action 6

Our words and drawings illustrate all the things for which we are grateful. Our household table overflows into our neighborhood, our faith community, and the world.



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### The Generosity Challenge

We celebrate – Our Household is ready! Let's plan a feast...Who are ten people ( family, friends, classmates, neighbors) we can invite to join us in celebrating God's generosity? How about a picnic at a local park, our backyard, apartment, or church? We will invite guests to bring a favorite dish or food item. They can be a part of the generosity story by contributing one of the following: a canned good, book, new socks or undies, something with wheels, or light bulbs – or one of each! We already know where to donate these items! We will encourage everyone to join in naming and celebrating acts of generosity witnessed each and every day:

The guest list includes: \_\_\_\_\_

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