

# JOYFULLY GENEROUS



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

Week 1 Psalm 100

*God's generosity is present and abundant in every generation.*

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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 even your pets!

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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 or connect with a trusted friend from your congregation 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 1: GENERATIONS OF GENEROSITY

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## + GATHERING +

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

## + CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

God of goodness and kindness,  
hear us as we open our hearts and confess our sins.  
Surrounded by constant change and unrealistic expectations, we  
become influenced by a narrative of fear and imperfection.  
We are tempted to believe there is scarcity, instead of recognizing  
the abundance that you have placed in our hands, homes,  
communities, and throughout the world;  
At times we choose not to act or speak kindly of others, even  
though we know we should.  
Other times we choose to act and speak carelessly, even though  
we know we shouldn't.

As your children, we are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.  
Help us to do what's right in the days to come;  
Surround us and renew us with your grace.  
**AMEN**

God is good, and loves us completely, at all times and in all places.  
By grace we have been saved.  
In the name of Jesus our sins are forgiven.  
**AMEN.**

## + PRAYER +

God of goodness, you fill creation with abundance and surround your children with care. Together with all the generations we thank you for giving us life in Jesus, and for the joy you bring to our lives. Help us to faithfully share what you have given us so that all people will know they are loved by a generous God.  
**AMEN.**

## + SCRIPTURE +

- + **Psalm 100, Psalm 8**
- + **Spark Story Bible:** Praise God (Pages 158-159)
- + **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 #1** (Millennial Generation)
- Option 2:** Use the following questions for **in-home conversation or personal reflection**
- Option 3:** Use questions for reflection + **Coloring Sheet** (page 6)

### Questions:

- + What generation are you in? What's the best thing about being your age?
- + What is one historical event that you have memory of? How did that event change things?
- + Psalm 100 tells us that God's steadfast love endures forever – how does that make you feel?
- + Psalm 8 reminds us of God's creativity and care for us. What's one way you can use creativity today? Who can we care for this week?



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## WORSHIP

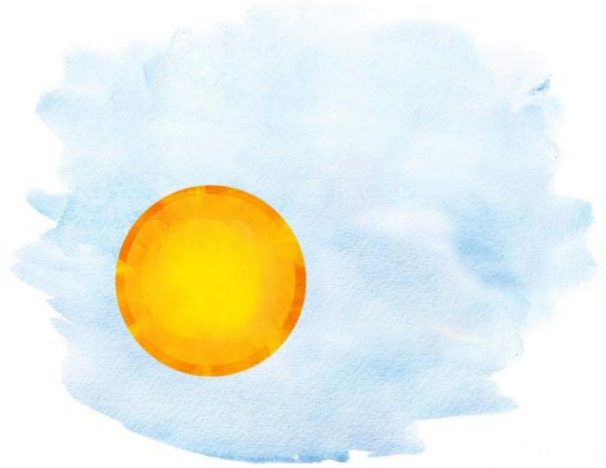
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### + APOSTLES' CREED +

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 +

*If you are a household of more than 1, you may consider having alternate readers, one for the regular text, and one for the bold text.*

With the whole body of Christ, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- + Gracious God, give us generous hearts, so that we may know the joy that comes from helping others, and we may give without counting the cost,  
**So we may fully appreciate all of God's many gifts to us.**
- + Gracious God, give us generous hearts, so that we may show the world another way of living, and we may celebrate the Story that shapes our story,  
**So we may live an abundant life in response to all that God provides.**
- + Gracious God, give us generous hearts, so we may share without expecting something in return, and we may learn the difference between what we need and what we want,  
**So we may hold all our treasures in an open hand.**
- + Gracious God, give us generous hearts, so we may give thanks for the heritage of faith and trust in you passed on to us by our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents and friends, so we may give thanks for all the generous saints who have walked before us,  
**So we may recognize the many blessings of each new day.**
- + Gracious God, give us generous hearts.  
**May we be a blessing to others as we continue to thank God and serve God with humble and generous hearts. AMEN.**

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## WORSHIP

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### + 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
- + Create a 10-10-80 container in your household (*see "Other Ideas" below for instructions*)

### + 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.**

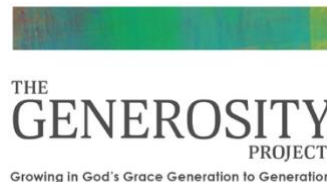


### + BLESSING EACH OTHER +

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, **"You are a beloved child of God."** Take turns until each household member has been blessed. If others are joining you online remember to share a verbal blessing with them as well.

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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 neighborhood walk** (perhaps with a pet or another member of your household); pray for your neighbors, your community, and creation as you walk; think about the people and organizations that rely on financial support or donations for their work. Which of these might God be putting on your heart to share with?
  
- + **Perhaps some time for “holy creations”:**
  - + **Color** the attached sheet – while coloring, share about all the ways God’s love shines on you and your family!
  
  - + Create a **10-10-80 container** and decorate any way you like! (see ideas above!)
  
  - + **Make a gratitude jar:** decorate a glass or plastic container. Each day, invite everyone from the household to share/write down on a small piece of paper something they are grateful for and place them in the jar. Take time at the end of each month to pour out the jar together and look at all the ways generosity and kindness was shown to you.
  
  - + Using a large piece of paper, draw and complete a **family tree**.
    - How many generations of people can you list?
    - How about countries of origin?
    - What are some special or interesting facts?
    - How were the people on your tree significant to your faith?
    - What are some favorite stories about these relatives?
    - Where did these family members grow up?
    - What kind of work did they do?
    - What happened historically during their lifetime?

*For the Lord is good; God's steadfast  
love endures forever, and God's  
faithfulness to all generations.*

Psalms 100:5

