

JOYFULLY GENEROUS



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

Week 3 John 6:1-14

God uses the gifts and generosity of people of every age to accomplish the impossible.

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 3: CONNECTING GENERATIONS

+ 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 +

Compassionate God, again and again you provide what we need...more than what we need. Yet, we often allow our fears to create doubt in your abundance. Help us remember that you encouraged our oldest relatives in times of need, assure us that you are still walking with us, and give us hearts of gratitude for the generous ways you continue to love us. **AMEN.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **John 6:1-14**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Jesus Feeds 5,000 (Pages 426-431)

+ **Jesus Storybook Bible:** Filled Full (Pages 244-249)

+ **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 #3** (Alpha Generation)

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

Questions:

- + Who are some of your favorite people from the Bible? Why are they your favorites? How was God generous to them? How did they respond to God's generosity?
- + What is an example of abundance?
- + How has God provided for you? For your household?
- + What's one thing we can do differently this week because of God's generosity?

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 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 joyfully share what God provides for you.**"

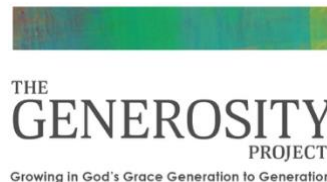
We are made in the image of God!

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

- + **Write Notes of Gratitude** – Think of the people you know in the Alpha Generation (ages 0-7ish) take a moment to write and send an encouraging note to one or more of them; include observations about them ('you have a joyful laugh!', 'your happy spirit makes me happy too!', or simply 'Jesus loves you so much!').
- + **Generosity Tablecloth** – use an old tablecloth, butcher paper, or construction paper to create a table covering that you can continue to draw on. For the next 4-5 weeks, add words, doodles, prayers, etc. that you believe describe generosity. Be sure to include names of people who have shown generosity to you!
- + **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:** *Rainbow Fish* or *The Giving Tree* are wonderful books to read with children.
- + **Create 'I Will' Statements:** Encourage each household member to write their own 3-part statement. It could be created for the week, the month, or each day. You could also create 'We will' statements.

I/We will:

1. Share my/our: _____
2. Give my/our time to: _____
3. Pray for: _____

- + **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 food.

LIVE IT OUT!



Connecting Generations: Conversation Goal The WHO

Identify and celebrate the people of all ages who are examples of generosity that surround this household.

Conversation #2

Ripples of Generosity

Who are the models of generosity for you? Have you been the recipients of the generosity of others? Who are the extended family members or friends who have shared their time, talent or wealth with you? Recall and name beloved friends, community members and others whose generosity have shaped your life. Listen to one another's stories. Make a photo collage of people who have impacted your life in big ways and small ways. If living, send them a note expressing your appreciation.

Key Question

Who has given generously to us?

Discussion Prompts

- When have we been recipients of the generosity of others?
- For whose generosity am I most thankful?
- What are the giving patterns over the generations in our family? Do we want to change these patterns in some way?
- Does the giving of others inspire us to be generous?
- Does one's age matter in acting generously?

God's Story John 6:1-14 (CEV). "When Jesus saw the large crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, 'Where will we get enough food to feed all these people?' He said this to test Philip, since he already knew what he was going to do. 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. After the people had seen Jesus work this miracle, they began saying, 'This must be the Prophet who is come into the world!'"

Affirmation + Blessing

God has blessed us through the abundant generosity of others. We will joyfully share what God has provided us.



CONNECTING GENERATIONS

Action 2

Our Family Tree of Generosity: These are the names of all those who have shared God's abundant generosity with us.



The Generosity Challenge

How many canned goods or jars of food are in our cupboards and pantry? Count them. What is 10% of that number? What would it mean to give away or purchase 10% of the number of canned and jarred items in our cupboards? How hard would this be to do? Who suffers from being hungry? To whom or where would we go to donate these items?

