

THE
GENEROSITY
PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

**INTRODUCTORY
WORKSHOP**



A synod, congregation and household ministry



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



THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

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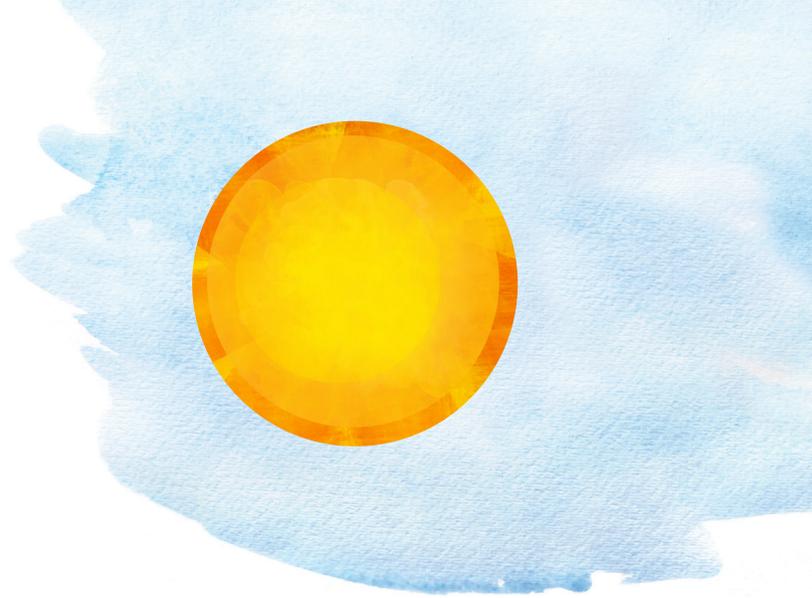
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HISTORY – The GENEROSITY PROJECT

The Generosity Project is an expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Macedonia Project, with initial funding provided by Thrivent Financial Services. The purpose of the Macedonia Project is to grow faithful steward leaders.

The Rocky Mountain Synod, a regional ELCA office, submitted the original proposal for The Generosity Project in 2011. Synod staff representing Outreach and Mission (the Rev. Jim Hytjan), Stewardship (the Rev. Dan Bollman), and Children, Youth and Household Ministry (Linda Staats), collaborated to create an approach to stewardship that crosses all generations and focuses on equipping households.

With continued support from the ELCA beginning in 2013, The Generosity Project: Our Table is Ready became an introductory, in-depth workshop. It was piloted nationally, including events in 10 synods and more than 50 congregations. These events provided valuable insight for the 2018 expanded curriculum, The Generosity Project: 5G. A note of gratitude to all those who helped pilot, shape and contributed to The Generosity Project (TGP).

The following resources support The Generosity Project and are available through the ELCA:

- **The Generosity Project: Foundation and Fundamentals**

A summary of the basics that ground the multi-generational, household approach to stewardship and discipleship. TGP is based on commonly held best practices in faith formation, research, Scripture and a Lutheran understanding of baptism. It includes questions to ponder and next steps to consider.

- **The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop**

The three- to four-hour TGP Introductory Workshop is intended for hosting by synods or groups of congregations, with the purpose of introducing The Generosity Project to teams of people from multiple congregations and/or a network of leaders within a geographic area. The ELCA Generosity Project coordinator or a regional Generosity Project Network leader is available to facilitate the process and content. The goal is for people to experience multi-age interaction, conversation, and a sample of activities from TGP: 5G curriculum.

- **The Generosity Project: 5G**

TGP: 5G is a multi-use curriculum and resource for congregations and households to use as they grow and live into the faith practice of generosity. The curriculum consists of: a planning guide, five one-hour sessions, worship and Live It Out!, a take-home resource.

- **The Generosity Project: Annotated Bibliography**

A list of books, web sites, articles and research for those who wish to go deeper and/or extend the focus of generosity into a year-round initiative.

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Dear Generosity Project Participants,

Welcome to The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop. Together, may we discover, celebrate and share God's life-giving generosity. May we also be inspired by one another's stories of generosity and encouraged by the faith-filled ministries and practices of our households, congregations and synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In this binder you will find a workshop outline with suggestions and details for replicating The Generosity Project in your synod and congregations. You will also find a description of The Generosity Project: 5G, a multi-use curriculum and resource for engaging generations and households in your congregation and community.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry!

Linda E. Staats
The ELCA Generosity Project Coordinator 2019
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THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

VISION

- Being generous: An individual's identity and daily decisions as a consumer shaped by God's Story in Jesus.
- Connecting generations: All ages and all generations recognized as recipients of God's grace and as stewards of God's abundant generosity.
- Equipping households: Households equipped as places where God's generosity is received, practiced, and responded to with joy, at home and away, 24/7/365.
- Creating centers of generosity: A spirit of generosity developed that overflows from households to congregations to neighborhoods and into all the world.
- Living God's Story: A confidence and trust in God's grace and generosity created that fosters a belief – With God, all things are possible, “there is more than enough!”

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- God's Story in Jesus shapes our lives, our identity and our daily decisions.
- All ages have the ability to be generous and God's stewards.
- Generosity is best practiced and formed in households, supported by the community of faith and all generations.
- Faith is nurtured and a climate of trust developed when values and finances are discussed between generations.
- Generosity is essential, as the vital, daily expression and practice of Christian faith.

GOALS

- Grow an individual, household and congregational culture and spirit of sharing.
- Recognize God's grace and generosity through cross-generational interaction.
- Practice generosity and mature as Christ's disciples and God's faithful stewards.
- Celebrate God's Story of generosity, locally and globally.
- Sing, pray, practice, move, laugh, learn and worship together.

INTRODUCTION: Purpose & Objectives

The 3- to 4-hour workshop introduces The Generosity Project – the process, content and resources – to mixed-age teams representing congregations throughout a synod, as well as trains and equips a network of leaders within a synod that will support the ongoing development and expansion of The Generosity Project. A small group of congregations may also decide to host a Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop for the same purposes.

A primary goal of The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop is to explore stewardship and God’s generosity through multi-generational interaction and conversation. Participants will be introduced to a language and model for teaching and practicing generosity, as well as tools to share stories of generosity in one’s congregation and households. The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop is a sampling of the content and process that makes up The Generosity Project: 5G Curriculum. Think of TGP: Introductory Workshop as a “sampler plate.”

The Generosity Project is more than a program – it is a lens, a language, and a way of leading ministry and being in community. The time and effort invested in planning and introducing congregations, leadership teams and households to the faith practice of God’s generosity will be well worth the effort!

The ELCA Generosity Project coordinator or a regional Generosity Project Network leader is available to consult with you about planning details and to facilitate the TGP: Introductory Workshop process and content. This resource also is a comprehensive guide and outline for those who choose to plan and facilitate the TGP: Introductory Workshop locally and independently.



PREPARATION: General

Creating a Planning Team

This is a first step in preparing to offer and host The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop. Attention to the details will provide the best possible outcome, as the workshop moves quickly from one element to another. There are elements that Planning Team members and designated leader(s) need to purchase, prepare, learn and practice prior to the workshop.

- Distribute and review [GUIDE FOR CREATING A TGP: Introductory Workshop PLANNING TEAM on page 35](#).
- Read The Generosity Project: Foundation and Fundamentals, a separate component of The Generosity Project packet of resources.
- Complete [TGP: Introductory Workshop PLANNING TEAM WRAP-UP AND EVALUATION on page 53](#) and share it with the ELCA Generosity Project coordinator following the workshop.

Hosting The Generosity Project Introductory Workshop

Critical to the success of The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop and participants' meaningful experience is selecting a host site that is committed to serving as a "lab" for those who attend. Most participants will attend with the intention of taking The Generosity Project initiative back to their communities of faith and households. Others may have agreed to serve as members of the local TGP leadership team to support the growth of TGP initiative in one's synod or geographic area. A host site needs to meet the following criteria:

- ample parking space and easy building access for all ages and mobility levels;
- ample and flexible interior space for areas for interaction and movement during the course of the workshop;
- a commitment to having all ages and generations present from within their own faith community – children, teens, adults and elders into their 80s or even 90s. The workshop serves as an introduction to teams from other congregations as well as a training lab. This commitment is critical to participants' introduction to and experience of The Generosity Project;
- a local team eager and prepared to provide exceptional hospitality and audio-visual support; and
- since the suggested workshop format is three hours in length (or 4 if a meal is served), caregivers may welcome quality childcare as an option for their youngest. TGP: Introductory Workshop easily engages those age 6 and up, but an accessible and visible space where children of any age may come and go helps everyone stay engaged in the workshop.

Facilitating TGP Interaction

The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop is designed to build relationships between all ages and across all generations. There is interaction and activity that divides people into mixed-age, small groups. All ages and mobility levels are honored as well as varied learning styles, attention spans and reading abilities. Planning for and facilitating meaningful interaction between generations and within households takes confidence and intentionality.

- Read [GUIDE FOR LEADING Cross†Generational Interaction on page 36](#).
- Discuss how the planning team will create an environment that honors the wisdom of the elder and wonder of the child. What are the challenges? The opportunities?

PREPARATION: Physical Space

The checklist below is provided as a guide for creating a welcoming space for hosting The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop.

Hospitality begins the minute people enter the property where TGP: Introductory Workshop is hosted.

- Lighting – ensure the parking lot is well lit, lights on in the entry, and doors unlocked.
- Signage – clear direction, each step and turn, to the gathering space.
- Greeters – direct participants to bathrooms, coatrooms and childcare, if offered.
- Beverages – offer water and other beverages planned for this time.
- Snacks – if serving refreshments, consider serving finger foods that reflect the Middle East and Mediterranean regions of the world, where God's Stories were first recorded.

The TGP: Introductory Workshop requires setting up five distinct spaces or areas:

- *Registration/Check-in*
- *Large Group*
- *Small Group*
- *Resources*
- *Leader's Staging Area*

Registration/Check-in Area for participants requires at least one table and the following items:

- Supply nametags and markers. Provide more than the number expected.
- Create a generation chart like the example [Generation-to-Generation on page 39](#). Print several copies and place on the Registration Table(s). It contains space for a different colored sticker to be assigned to each generation.
 - You may also use a slide-deck or a large poster to display the description of the generations with coordinating stickers.
- Obtain stickers in seven colors or shapes. Assign one sticker to each generation. Attendees will be asked to find the sticker that coordinates with the generation in which they were born and to place the sticker on their nametag.
- The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop planning guide and outline printed and ready to be distributed to congregational teams and leaders at the end of the workshop.
- A table and space for engaging children and youth immediately after registering in the making or decorating of a piggy bank. See [Piggy Banks Options: on page 41](#) for details and supplies.
 - If not offering the “pig” activity, offer another option related to the theme that engages children and youth upon their arrival at the workshop. Checkout Pinterest for ideas related to teaching Share Save Spend.

Large Group Area is where participants gather and interact for all except WE SHARE and a meal, if served. This area is made up of a Gathering Table and accessible, moveable seating.

- Arrange chairs in a semi-circle or a circle with the Gathering Table as the focal point.
- Place large pillows on the floor in the center of this space for those who choose to sit on the floor.
 - Include smaller chairs for children.
- Consider creating an inviting, cozy area for the youngest children, supplied with engaging, quiet toys. Encourage children to move back and forth between this area and the large group. This is addition to or as an alternative to a designated childcare room.
- Provide a basket filled with pipe cleaners, “fidget” toys and other sensory items – for all ages.

The Gathering Table is a sturdy, large table that is the focal point for the TGP: Introductory Workshop. You need:

- a sturdy 8-foot table or other large table
- a tablecloth that fully covers the table, almost to the floor

Place the following items on top of the cloth that covers the Gathering Table:

- a candle
- a cross
- chalice and patten
- ordinary household table setting of placemat, plate, silverware, cup or glass
- a Contemporary English Version (CEV) Bible. The text used is from the CEV. The CEV translation is more easily read and understood by those in grade school and second language readers. If choosing another translation, remember that the TGP engages all ages.
- a globe or world map displayed on the table or nearby or use a slide deck to share the geographic location for God’s Stories used in TGP: Introductory Workshop.
- a piggy bank, Thrivent’s Blue Pig or another, preferably one with three slots [Piggy Banks or Other Share Save Spend Creation on page 41](#)
- optional – a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible. (Pub: ZondervanKidz, Grand Rapids, Mich.)



Small Group Area is where the church-home connection is emphasized and a meal may be served and shared. In an area adjacent to the Large Group Area, arrange tables and chairs for small groups, congregational teams, and/or households to gather.

- Provide one table for each household or small group. Smaller, round tables are preferred to large tables. If long, oblong tables for 10 are used, create seating for two groups, one on each end.
- chairs available to accommodate varying sizes of groups
- large sheets of newsprint in the center of each table
- drawing utensils
- Thrivent Blue Pig, if available, one on each table.

Note: If a meal is being served, it becomes a part of the “practice” time and integrated into the workshop. Seat mixed ages of five people at a table. (Of course, the very young or those needing assistance join their caregivers.) Prepare a simple finger-food meal (variety of sandwiches, sliced fruit, chips and bars or cookies, pitchers of water). Or consider serving finger foods from the Mediterranean Region. Serve family style with trays or bowls of food items delivered to each table. Participants assisting with serving and clearing the table are engaging in acts of generosity and serving one another.

Mealtime Table Tent set in middle of each table with instructions for mealtime interaction.
[MEALTIME PRAYER on page 49.](#)

Add a half-hour to the total workshop time.

Resource Area is a space that features additional resources and partnerships related to the focus on generosity. Work with your synod staff or judicatory to obtain resources. Have your Planning Team’s “researchers” organize and display additional resources. See The Generosity Project Annotated Bibliography for ideas.

communication pieces that lift-up ministry of local congregations, your synod, and the ELCA including: *Living Lutheran* magazine, the Malaria Campaign, ELCA World Hunger, etc.

Thrivent Financial representative and Thrivent resources on generosity

displays by other ministry partners

children’s books and resources for households

resources in languages spoken by ethnic groups in the community

Leader’s Staging Area is a place to organize and have accessible the items needed for facilitating TGP: Introductory Workshop. It can be a small table, a moveable podium or cart.

script including songs, prompts and notes

bell or chime to call the participants back together after conversations and activities

lighter or match for candles(s)

Coordinate with the host for microphone and amplification, projector, laptop for any slide deck used, Wi-Fi/USB for web links and other visuals. Ensure the mic and audio-visual needs are set up, tested and cued for all formats and ready to go.

PREPARATION: Sequence and Supplies

The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop has six parts or sections:



The same sequence is used in the TGP: 5G Curriculum. The flow is similar to that in liturgical worship. The focus of TGP: Introductory Workshop is stewardship and discipleship education – the workshop is also intended to be worshipful.

The leader's script can be found in [Sequence and Script on page 18](#). Interaction between participants is integrated into the whole of the workshop. [PARTICIPANT PROMPTS on page 33](#) provide questions and responses to be projected, posted or printed. Although it is possible to facilitate the TGP: Introductory Workshop with only the leader's verbal prompts, visual cues honor visual learners.

- Prepare Participant Prompts for projection, posting or printing.

WE WELCOME Large Group Area

Greet (30 minutes prior to start)

Objective: To offer hospitality and help people of every age feel welcome and comfortable.

Hospitality begins the moment people arrive. Be set up and prepared to welcome people at least 30 minutes before the start time.

- Warmly welcome attendees and direct them to register and check in.
- Set up supplies for registration as previously described under Registration/Check-in.

Start It Out (Arrival time until beginning of the workshop)

Objective: To engage children and youth in the theme from the start.

Making a piggy bank or decorating a pig is an activity to engage children and youth, and any one else, as soon as they arrive. Read the options and details for the pig activity [on page 41](#).

- Select activity and prepare necessary supplies.

Preview

Objective: To offer an overview, purpose and history of TGP. Prepare participants for the flow and sequence of the workshop and what to anticipate.

When it's time to begin and everyone has found a place to sit in the Large Group Area, the leader will stand near the Gathering Table to welcome participants.

- Summarize The Generosity Project's vision, principles and goals [on page 6](#).
- Add your hopes and desired outcome for TGP in your synod or faith community.
- Introduce and explain the general flow of the day, time for breaks, etc. Participants relax when they know what to expect.

Map It

Objective: To relate God's Stories to real people, in a real place, in a real world.

TGP: Introductory Workshop lifts up two of God's Stories of generosity.

- Select and prepare a map, globe or slide deck for sharing the location of the Bible stories.
- Locate the Sea of Galilee in northeast Israel, referred to as Palestine in Jesus' time.
- Locate Corinth and the cities of Macedonia – Filippi, Thessaloniki and Berea – in modern-day Greece.

WE GATHER Large Group Area

Sing

Objective: To build community

Select one or two songs that can be easily sung by all ages or are already known by your participants. Introduce the song leader(s). If the words are not commonly known, project, post or print the songs selected or have the song leader introduce them through the echoing method. Some songs are public domain. For other songs, check with your congregation's copyright and annual licensing agreements. Song suggestions are:

- "Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart" – Henry Smith, 1978, Integrity's Hosanna! Music
- "Johnny Apple Seed" – unknown, public domain
- "Oh, God is Good" – Paul Makai. Translator, Marilyn Foulkes (c. 1970). Add words to reflect theme of generosity. Example: God, cares for me. God's generous. I give God thanks.
- "This Little Light of Mine" – African American spiritual, public domain

- song leader(s) selected
- songs selected and ready to lead

Invite

Objective: To center ourselves as we turn our attention toward God, remind ourselves of Christ's presence, and invite the Holy Spirit to guide our time together.

The invitation to gather includes several basic yoga postures and American Sign Language (ASL). Children and many adults, love, even need, to move. Movement helps us "embody" the lesson and take God's message to heart. The goal is to create an atmosphere that is inclusive of all ages, mobility levels and learning styles. Invite youth who might be serving on the TGP: Introductory Workshop planning team, or those you know are attending the workshop, to learn and lead the following.

- Learn Mountain Pose from yoga and be ready to teach it while incorporating movement and the motion of a Fountain Blessing. Instructions with illustrations [on page 42](#) teach the process. Practice the movements while incorporating the blessing, *You are the child of a generous God.*
- Learn ASL for "God," "Jesus" and "Holy Spirit." Use one of the websites that demonstrates signs for various words: signasl.org/sign/ or signingsavvy.com or handspeak.com.
- Be prepared to say the following invocation while signing:
We gather in the name of God, our Creator (demonstrate ASL sign for "God"), **Jesus, our Savior** (demonstrate ASL for "Jesus") **and the Spirit, our Sustainer** (demonstrate ASL for "Holy Spirit"). **All: Amen**

5G Connect

Objective: To explore one of God's Stories of generosity. Name and celebrate the generations in our midst. Engage in cross†generational conversation regarding God's Story in one another's stories.

Cross+Gen interaction is core to the workshop. The intent is to “connect five or more generations” and introduce the theme of generosity in engaging, fun and meaningful ways.

- Review [GUIDE FOR LEADING Cross†Generational Interaction on page 36](#).
- Be cognizant of physical, mental and social limitations and specific needs among participants. Tweak activities and give directions so all feel safe and included.

Activity 1: God's Story John 6:1-14, Feeding of the 5,000 is shared at the beginning of TGP: Introductory Workshop. It engages participants in the story telling and introduces the focus on God's generosity.

- two sheets of brown construction paper (represents fish)
- five sheets of yellow construction paper (represents bread)
- Draw a simple symbol of fish and bread on each appropriate sheet.
- two baskets set on the Gathering Table
- story marked in Bible, CEV, or “Filled Full,” p. 244, The Jesus Storybook Bible

Activity 2: Circle of Generosity: Generation to Generation identifies and celebrates the generations in your midst.

- Review [CIRCLE OF GIVING Generation-to-Generation on page 37](#).
- Become familiar with descriptions on [Generation-to-Generation on page 39](#).
- If more than 50 participants in TGP: Introductory Workshop, prepare individual sheets of paper with one number written on each sheet, #1 through the total number of participants divided by 5. (Example: 100 participants divided by 5 = 20 numbered sheets of paper)
- Psalm 78:1-7 marked in CEV Bible ready to read.

Activity 3: The Give and Get game introduces a core challenge of TGP: Introductory Workshop, recognizing the narrative of our culture and the narrative of God's Story related to our daily decisions as consumers.

- Prepare by reading [The Give and Get Game: Background Info on page 43](#).
- Prepare [The Give and Get Game: Marketing Statistics on page 45](#).
- small cups (recyclable or non-throw away)
- spoon in each cup (plastic or metal)
- M&M's or Trix cereal (multi-colored and gluten free).
Prepare ahead of time small cups with 10-15 pieces of plain M&M's or Trix cereal. Include a spoon in each cup. Place on trays ready to quickly distribute.

Break (15 minutes)



WE HEAR Large Group Area

Act it Out – God's Story.

Objective: To explore and “to know” another of God's Stories of generosity and to share our own stories of generosity.

The Bible story is intended to engage all ages through words, actions, movement and props. The goal is to honor varied learning styles and to “embody” God's Story. Act It Out and Talk It Out are a means to live out the ELCA Book of Faith initiative: Open Scripture. Join the conversation.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 marked in Bible.

Text of [2 Corinthians 8:1-9 \(CEV\)](#) on [page 47](#) printed, cut into individual strips, and ready to distribute. Each small group will be given a verse of the text to read and act out. If fewer than nine small groups or households, give several groups more than one verse. If you have more groups than verses, combine groups or have two or more groups act out the same verse.

Talk It Out – Your Story. My Story.

Objective: Reflect on God's Story and find God in your story and my story.

In mixed-age small groups or households, people share with one another how God is in their story, based on questions projected, posted or printed.

Reach Out – A Glocal Story.

Objective: To celebrate and “know” the stories of generosity locally and globally.

The focus is sharing “local” and “global” stories of generosity, those in our households, schools, community, congregations, synods, ELCA and its worldwide partners. Glocal stories are meant to expand our understanding of God's generosity and connection with our ministry partners and “neighbor.” The emphasis is on Paul's words to the Corinthians, “Do you know?”

Activity 1:

- Arrange for a member of the synod staff (or other host institution) to speak regarding the overall vision for stewardship and generosity.
- Invite the Thrivent Financial representative or other ministry partners to speak about their resources and stories related to generosity.

Activity 2:

- five sheets posted on walls, each with one of the following headings written in large print: *Household, Community/School, Congregation, Name of Synod, ELCA or other hosting entity*
- sticky notes, 8-10 per person
- writing utensils



WE SHARE Small Group Area/Tables

Center It – Remember It.

Objective: To gather around tables and practice, create an object, a “centerpiece,” to take home to household tables as a reminder of God’s Story and The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop..

The congregation has an opportunity every time the community of faith gathers to model and practice what one desires to have happen in the home. This is one reason for The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop – so participants can experience and practice new approaches for stewardship and generosity to take home to one’s congregation and household.

- 10 dimes and 10 \$1 bills or bills in play money
- 4” sticky notes
- pencils or pens, one per participant
- a piggy bank or other Share Save Spend item to take home. See [Piggy Banks or Other Share Save Spend Creation on page 41](#) for ideas.
- Print copies of the [Blue Pig](#) article for households to take home

Connect It – Church and Home.

Objective: To connect God’s Story with our story. To reflect upon the workshop experience and connect it to life in the community of faith and one’s daily life.

A goal in every component of The Generosity Project is to connect the workshop experience with the life of the church and the home – to connect God’s generosity to the understanding and practice of generosity in the life of the congregation and the life of a household.

- Distribute resources planned for congregational teams or households to take with them as they depart.
 - The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop Binder, so congregations may duplicate this workshop or use it as an introduction to The Generosity Project: 5G sessions. Briefly go over the contents in the binder. Point out additional readings and resources in the Supplement Section.
- Distribute the [Introductory Workshop REFLECTION & ACTION WORKSHEET on page 51](#) for participants to complete.
- Prep for SEND Bless activity:
- small, white, non-waxy, paper plates easy to draw on, one per person
- markers



WE SEND Large Group Area

Sing

Objective: To end our time together as we began, around the Gathering Table with the generations of faith.

All gather around the Gathering Table. Close with singing a song introduced at the start of the workshop.

- Select a song to sing.

Pray

Objective: To express our gratefulness to God and practice various forms of prayer.

A Generosity Litany

- Inform people where the words are projected, posted or printed.
- Delineate two groups A & B. Teach non-readers the response: "Gracious God, give us generous hearts." Let them know that when your hand is raised in a welcoming gesture, it is the signal for their response.

Bless

Objective: To celebrate God's relationship with us and our relationship with one another and be sent forth to serve as Christ served us.

Our Many Gifts

- Read John 6:1-14 as printed in the script [Activity 1: God's Story John 6:1-14 \(CEV\), Feeding of the 5,000 on page 20](#) or "Filled Full" from The Jesus Storybook Bible, making the same adlib points as in the script.
- Incorporate individual "gifts" previously drawn on paper plates into the Bible story.

WE LIVE Resource Area

Take It Home

Objective: to put the workshop experience into action in daily life

As a final summary and celebration of The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop, ask participants to share, popcorn style (spontaneous sharing out loud) their response to the following question from the Reflection & Action worksheet: *What is one new idea you are taking home to your congregation or household, or one thing you will do differently in your congregation or household as a result of the workshop?*

Live It Out!

Objective: To nurture conversation between household members and encourage the practice of God's generosity in households and daily lives.

Live It Out! is a household supplement that is integrated into The Generosity Project: 5G Sessions. It is recommended that the Live It Out! packet be sent home with TGP: Introductory Workshop participants as a way of introducing the six session TGP: 5G Curriculum to congregations.

- Decide if Live It Out! will be printed, ready to send home with participants following The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop.

Sequence and Script

Notes:

- **Scripted text is in bold.** Background information and instructions are in regular font style.
- Inform participants where to find their responses projected, posted or printed.
- All preparations are described in the previous sections of the Planning Guide.

WE WELCOME Large Group Area (30 minutes prior plus 10)



30 min

Greet (30 minutes prior)

- Be ready to greet and register people 30-45 minutes prior to designated start time.
- Assist people in registering and placing stickers on their nametags that match the sticker next to the generation into which they were born, as indicated on the prepared Generation-to-Generation Chart.
- Direct people to the location of the beverages and nutritious snacks.



30 min

Start It Out (30 minutes prior)

- As people arrive immediately engage the children and youth in making a piggy bank (Option 1), or decorating a piggy bank (Option 2), or another activity that is related to the theme. They may engage in the activity until the formal start of the workshop.
- Let those engaged in making a piggy bank know that there will be opportunities to continue working on the pigs during the workshop.



8 min

Preview

When ready to begin, encourage folks to sit anywhere in the circle, semi-circle of chairs, or on the large pillows scattered on the floor in the middle of the Large Group Area. Standing in front of or next to the Gathering Table, welcome everyone.

During The Generosity Workshop we will:

- Experience a process of interaction between the generations that is designed for replication in your congregation and household.
- We will use the term “cross+generational” to represent all generations gathering around the cross of Christ.
- Develop a common and shared language in which to talk about, teach, model and practice the gift of generosity.
- Return to our congregations and households with tools to share God’s Story.
- Celebrate God’s generosity and the joy of giving in one’s life.
- And bless our pigs!
- We will also have fun as we build relationships between the generations, connect God’s Stories of generosity to your stories and my stories.
- Briefly share the flow of the day so people will know what to expect and anticipate.
- In your own words offer an overview of The Generosity Project, its vision, principles, and goals [on page 6](#). Consider projecting, posting or printing. Share the hopes and goals for the impact of The Generosity Project in your synod, congregation and households.

What do you notice about the items on our Gathering Table? Notice the connection between items similar to those on an altar (chalice and patten) and items used in household table settings (plate, silverware, cup) **Yes, our Gathering Table is a visual reminder that just as we gather around the Lord’s Table we gather around our household tables, picnic tables, Starbuck coffee tables. This is “practice time” for connecting church with our daily life.**



2 min

Map It

One other item that is on our Gathering Table (or near by) is a globe (or map). In our time together, we are going to explore two of God’s Stories of generosity. We will use the globe (map) to locate where God’s stories took place.

Invite one person from each congregation, leadership team and/or household present to make an introduction, sharing the name of the congregation or household and location. Let people know that individual introductions will happen later in the workshop.

WE GATHER Large Group Area (65 minutes)



5 min

Sing

Introduce the song leader(s). Inform people where the words to the songs are projected, posted or printed, if the words are not commonly known.



5 min

Invite

As we begin, let's take a moment to center ourselves, prepare for our time together, and turn our focus toward God's generosity. Comment on the possible rush people might have experienced getting from where they live to the workshop, busy schedules or hectic-ness of the day. **We are going to do this through relaxing and stretching our bodies, taking deep breaths, and reminding ourselves of God's generosity.**

Mountain Pose:

Please follow *my* instructions (or name the people leading/demonstrating this section), as we use our whole bodies to affirm our identity as children of a generous God:

- You may stand up tall or sit up tall in a chair.
- Place feet hip-width apart and pointing forward.
- Press feet down into the earth.
- Hands may be at your sides or palms together at your heart.
- Lift your belly, head and heart.
- Move your shoulders back and down away from your ears.
- Your body is active and you are looking straight ahead.

Fountain Blessing:

State instructions while modeling the movements:

1. Place palms together at the heart. Take a slow, deep breath through the nose and pause when the lungs are full.
2. Hold the pause as we bring our arms up overhead.

3. Exhale slowly, and "spray the fountain" as we move our arms out to our sides.

4. Bring our palms back together at heart center.

Let's repeat the movement. Each time we breathe in and bring our arms up overhead (bring arms up), it's like we are breathing in all that God has given us. And as we move our arms to our sides (spray the fountain), we are sharing God's generosity with others. (Bring palms back together at the heart.)

Let's repeat that motion one more time. This time as we "spray the fountain" we will say together the blessing: "May I overflow with joy."

Stand up tall in Mountain Pose, or sit up tall in a chair.

Place palms together at heart center.

Take a slow, deep breath through the nose and pause when the lungs are full.

Hold the pause as we bring our arms up overhead.

As we "spray the fountain" say: *May I overflow with joy*

moving our arms to our sides and palms back together at heart center.

Invitation:

We continue with an invocation, or "invitation." We will incorporate American Sign Language signs for God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. Do them with me now.

This is the sign for God (make the sign for God and invite all to mimic it).

This is the sign for Jesus (make the sign for Jesus and invite all to mimic it).

This is the sign for Holy Spirit (make the sign for Holy Spirit and invite all to mimic it)

Let's practice them all together: God. Jesus. Holy Spirit.

Now, when I say the inviting words, you make the sign: We gather in the name of God, our Creator (ASL sign for "God"), Jesus, our Savior (ASL for "Jesus"), and the Spirit, our Sustainer (ASL for "Holy Spirit"). All: *Amen*.

Light of Christ:

Invite someone to light the candle as the leader says: We light the candle as a reminder that we are the light of Christ. May we reflect God's grace and generosity from generation to generation, at home, and away from home.



10 min

5G Connect

Activity 1: God's Story John 6:1-14 (CEV), Feeding of the 5,000

As we begin, we will focus on one of God's Stories about generosity. The Bible is full of stories just like this – all telling the story of God's grace and abundance. Our story is recorded here, in the book of John, Chapter 6:1-14 (point out story in the Bible on Gathering Table). It took place right here, near Lake Galilee also known as Lake Tiberius in Jesus' time. Point to the Sea of Galilee in Israel/Palestine on a map or globe, or project the location marked on a map.

If the leader reads the story from The Jesus Storybook Bible, follow the general instructions outlined below for bringing the story alive. Prep:

- Give the seven sheets of paper previously prepared to an elementary-age child before beginning to read. Tell him/her you will need assistance to tell the story.
- At the beginning of the story, ask everyone to stand, if able.

Jesus crossed Lake Galilee, which was also known as Lake Tiberius. ²A large crowd had seen him work miracles to heal the sick, and those people went with him. ³⁻⁴It was almost time for the Jewish festival of Passover, and Jesus went up on a mountain with his disciples and sat down. ⁵When Jesus saw the large crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where will we get enough food to feed all these people?" ⁶He said this to test Philip, since he already knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip 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?" ⁸Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the disciples. He spoke up and said, ⁹"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?" Nod to the helper to hold up the *bread and fish*. ¹⁰The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to have everyone sit down. Motion for all to sit down. About five thousand men (*and even more*

counting women, youth and children!) were in the crowd. ¹¹Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Take the "bread and fish" from the helper and lift upwards in thanks. Then he passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat. Distribute the sheets of paper to seven people and in wonderment, ask, "How will we feed all these people?" If those holding the "bread and fish" do not catch on, make the motion of tearing off a piece and passing the "bread and fish" to others. The sheets of paper should be passed with each person tearing off a piece until all have *food*. ¹²The people ate all they wanted, and Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers, so that nothing would be wasted. ¹³The disciples gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with what was left over from the five barley loaves. Give the baskets from the Gathering Table to two children. Ask them to gather up all the "left overs." Set the baskets back on the Gathering Table or on the floor near the table. ¹⁴After the people had seen Jesus work this miracle, they began saying, "This must be the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

Introductions – A Sack Lunch:

The following brief interaction is a means to connect to the story and to connect people to one another. Address the following question to the large group:

- Do you think the little boy packed his own lunch or someone else packed it for him? Pause for responses.
- What about you? What is your favorite food for a sack lunch? Let's find out. As we go around the circle, say your first name and your favorite food for a sack lunch.
 - A second option is inviting everyone to think of an item they would pack in their lunch that begins with the same letter as their first name.
 - If a large group, ask people to turn to two others and share their response to the question above.



25 min

Activity 2: Circle of Generosity: Generation-to-Generation

The following activity is key to participants' understanding the generations present in one's faith community and for experiencing cross†generational interaction for the time together in TGP: Introductory Workshop and any future Generosity Project gatherings.

In the story we just heard, we learn that about 5,000 thousand men were in the crowd. The story is even referred to and known as the feeding of the 5,000. We also know that in Jesus' day women and children were not counted. We know a little boy was present, so we might conclude that other children were present, as were women including moms, grandmothers, sisters and aunts. That would mean there could have been 10,000, or even more – people of all ages and generations coming to see and hear Jesus. So let's count who is here today!

Conduct this next section in a light-hearted spirit.

- **We are going to form a Circle of Generosity. I am ___ years old.** (Leader states own age or year born.) **Who here is older than or born before me?** (Pause for responses)
- **Whoever is the oldest will be honored with the title of "Wise Elder!"** Identify the person and move to stand beside him or her. Ask for name and a bit of information about the person related to role of faith practices in household growing up and/or role in faith community, if any, now.
- **Now that we know who is the oldest and wisest among us, who is the youngest? The "wisdom of the elder" will meet the "wonder of the child."** Identify and invite the youngest to stand beside the eldest and introduce them to one another, if they do not already know one another. If a young child, encourage the parent/caregiver to accompany him or her.

- **Next, we will form a Circle of Generosity. We will create a circle from oldest to youngest, with our Wise Elder and Wonder Child as the bookends. The stickers on your nametags will give you a hint of where you belong in the circle.** Provide chairs for those who may not be able to stand for the next several minutes of the activity.
- Once everyone is in the circle, identify and honor the various generations present and/or all the decades. Briefly summarize the various characteristics of each generation from the Generation to Generation Chart used on the Registration Table and included [on page 39](#).
 - Take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the eldest present for their years of faithfulness and dedication.
 - Point to the children and youth in the circle and say, **"Our youth are not the church of tomorrow. No one is too young to be the church and no one is too old** (pointing to the elders) **to be the church – we are ALL the church of today.**

While all are in the circle read **Psalm 78:1-7**. Emphasize that we are to know God' Stories and share God's Story in our own lives, with the next generation, and across generations.

- **Now we will form cross†generational conversation groups. While remaining in the circle, we will count off by the # ___** (Count the total number in your circle. Divide by 5. The resulting number is the one used to count and assign each person around the circle a designated number.) Begin with the oldest person/generation.
- **As each person in the first group is assigned a number, move to an open space in the room and raise the same number of fingers as the number you are assigned, so those assigned the same number will be able to find you.** (Or when more than 50 participants, give the first group a sheet of paper with the assigned number on it, prepared before hand.) Allow time for the first group to find a spot in the room and space for four others to gather.

- As each of you is assigned a number, find the group assigned the same number. The result should be small groups scattered about the room, of no more than five people in each group, representing varied decades and generations.
- Please find a chair and move them close together, knee-to-knee, so you can easily hear one another while responding to the following questions.



Now, take a moment and find out how many generations are represented in your group. Pause.

Ask groups to call out their tally. How many decades are represented in each group? 0 to 9 years old is one decade. 10-19 is another, 20-29 a third etc. If there are elders present in their 90s, there is the potential of having 10 decades present.

Celebrate the number of decades and generations in your midst!

Point to the following questions previously prepared to project, post or pass out. All in a group are to respond to the same question before going on to the next one. Remind people they always have the choice to “pass” but still give the gift of listening. Six to eight minutes is about the limit for sharing. Watch for restlessness to begin and be ready to move on to the next activity.

In your small group, do the following:

- Share your name. Are you named after someone? Do you know the meaning of your name?
- What are your favorite items to pack for a lunch (If this question was not asked previously.)
- What is the best thing about being your age? The most challenging?
- Who is the most generous person you know? In what ways is that person generous?
- If the little boy in God’s Story were with us right now, what would you ask him about the day Jesus used his lunch to feed thousands of people?

Give people a 2-3 minute warning before moving on to the next activity.



20 min

Activity 3: The Give and Get game

The objective of the Give and Get game is to explore the messages and impact of marketing and God’s message that there is “more than enough.”

Distribute the cups of plain M&M’s (Trix cereal) to each person.

Now we are going to play a game. Each of you is receiving a small cup with M&M’s (or gluten free, multi-colored Trix cereal). There is a spoon in each cup – do not put the spoon in your mouth! The game is called Give and Get. Listen carefully as I give the instructions. The object of this game is simple: Give and get M&M’s (or Trix cereal) using your spoon. You have two minutes to play. Stand, if you are able. Include those who participate from their chairs. Go!

As people engage in the game, observe how the group reacts. Listen for comments. If people ask for further instructions, simply repeat what you stated earlier.

Allow people to play the game for 2-3 minutes, then call time or ring the chime, to stop. Invite people to sit again. They may keep and eat their “winnings.” Verbally elicit comments from the entire group (no need to project, post or print these questions):

- Was the Give and Get game confusing? What would have made it easier?
- Was everyone playing by the same rules?
- Who do you think won? Why? (Accept and process all answers)
- Did anyone have a strategy? (Example collecting all blue. Giving all away)

Regardless of what answers people have given, ask the group, “Who does the world say won?” (Answers: Those with the most stuff, those who are rich, those who ...)

The purpose of the interactive and lively Give and Get game is to prepare us to discuss our society's message about the "good life" and the effort by advertising companies to form our identity and the story we tell ourselves as consumers, beginning with our children.

Now, we're going to hear some statistics about marketing and consumers. Listen to these statistics and consider what they mean to you, your family and your congregation's ministry to households.

- Project or pass out [The Give and Get Game: Marketing Statistics on page 45](#) previously prepared.
- Invite volunteers to stand and read each of the statements in a clear, loud voice for all to hear.
- Facilitate large group responses and reactions to what they just heard.

Living Counter Culture:



Find the members of your small group. Pull your chairs close together so you can easily hear one another. Share your responses to the following questions. Point to where the questions are projected, posted or printed:

- When has advertising influenced a purchase you made?
- Do friends, family members or classmates influence what you buy?
- What makes you happy?
- For you, what is the difference between being happy and being joyful?
- Who or what brings you joy?



15 min

BREAK

WE HEAR Large Group Area (50 minutes)



10 min

Act it Out – God's Story

Please prepare to receive another of God's Stories. The story is about the Macedonians and their extreme generosity told in 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (CEV). Or read from *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson. God's Story takes place in the country we call Greece. Paul is writing to the congregation and people in Corinth. They were considered an affluent or wealthy community. He is telling them about the generosity of the people and congregations in Macedonia, located in the cities of Filippi, Thessaloniki and Berea. Point the towns out on a map or globe.

Read slowly: My friends, *we want you to know that the churches in Macedonia have shown others how kind God is.* ²Although they were going through hard times and were very poor, they were glad to give generously. ³They gave as much as they could afford and even more, simply because they wanted to. ⁴They even asked and begged us to let them have the joy of giving their money for God's people. ⁵And 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹You know that our Lord Jesus Christ was kind enough to give up all his riches and become poor, so that you could become rich.

We are now going to act out the story.

Each small group will be given a sentence of the text just read to act out (2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (CEV) on page 47). If fewer than nine small groups or households, give several groups more than one verse. If more groups than verses, combine groups or have two or more groups act out the same verse.

- Someone in your group please volunteer to read out loud to the other members of your small group, the section of the story you receive.
- You will then have three to four minutes to decide as a small group how you will act out your portion of the story for the larger group. This is to be like a silent movie. You may share your part of the story using actions and any props found in this room, but no verbal words or talking to tell the story.
- Select one person in your group to read your part of the story to the whole group, as the other members of your group act it out. (Yes, they may talk to one another as they plan their part.)

Ring the chime or bell to call time. Let everyone know that you will nod to each group to stand when it is their turn to act out their portion of the story. When all have finished, thank everyone for their participation in helping us “to know” and share the story.

Talk It Out – Your story. My story.



10 min



I wonder how God’s Story is in your story and my story? In your mixed-age small groups, once again pull your chairs together. Sit knee-to-knee so you can easily hear one another. Discuss for a few moments the following questions:

- What were the core belief(s) of the Macedonians?
- How did this shape their decision-making?

Your assignment is to create a 280-character tweet for sharing this story. If you do not have someone in your group who knows about Twitter, then come up with a newspaper or 6 o’clock news headline for this story. Give everyone time to complete the task. Then invite each group to share their tweet or headline with the larger group.





30 min

We Want You To Know ...

Why did Paul want the people in Corinth “to know” the story of the Macedonians? Direct the question to the large group. Accept and affirm all answers. Then summarize or make the following points, if not already given:

For the Apostle Paul it was because of God’s grace and to:

- **encourage** the Christian community in Corinth to be generous;
- **replicate** the generosity of God as witnessed in the community of Macedonia; and
- **excel** in generosity.

This is an opportunity for a representative of the synod or the hosting body, Thrivent and other sponsors to share brief stories of generosity locally and globally – because WE WANT YOU TO KNOW! During the presentations, invite those working on piggy banks to continue their projects.

Now it is time to share our own stories – stories of generosity. Here is what to do: There are five sheets of newsprint on the wall displaying the following words:

1. **Household**
2. **Community & School**
3. **Congregation**
4. **Name of our synod**
5. **ELCA & Worldwide Partners**

There are sticky notes on the tables. You are invited to write or illustrate examples of acts and stories of generosity, sharing and kindness you witness in:

1. **Your own household** (example: cleaning your room, loading the dish washer)
2. **The community** (donating items to a food pantry, walking dogs at a shelter) and school (fund raising for a classmate who has cancer)
3. **The congregation** (weekly offering, singing in the choir, helping with vacation Bible school, donating books to a school)
4. **Our synod** (the Malaria Campaign)
5. **And the ELCA** (Companion Synod support, Lutheran Refugee Services, Disaster Relief).

One example per sticky note, please. Once you have recorded examples of your acts of generosity and that of others you know, place the sticky notes on the appropriate labeled newsprint sheet posted on the walls around us.

Invite everyone to walk around to the various sheets and view the “stories” of generosity.

Ask several volunteers to read out loud two to three examples from each of the five sheets. Following each reading, invite the entire group to shout; **“Now we know!”**

To prepare for the next activity, invite participants to move to the tables and sit with their congregational groups, people they traveled with or their individual households.

Invite anyone who has made a piggy bank to bring the pig and set it on the table. If Thrivent Financial is a partner in hosting TGP: Introductory Workshop, there should also be a Blue Pig on every table. Ideally, every congregation and/or household will receive a Blue Pig to take home or has made a piggy bank to take home.

WE SHARE Small Group Area (30 minutes)



20 min

Center It – Remember It

Note: If a meal is served, this activity works well following the meal, while people are seated at tables.

This section of the workshop is called Center It – Remember It. We center ourselves around tables for more conversation and to “practice.” The piggy banks (or other item to represent 10-10-80) serve as our center pieces and will go home with us, as reminders of God’s generosity.

First, we are going to learn about an approach to managing our money called 10-10-80, or Share Save Spend. It means to take one’s total income or allowance and:

- First, SHARE and be generous with 10 percent of one’s income or allowance.
- Second, SAVE 10 percent of all income or allowance as a step toward planning for the future, such as college or retirement and also to meet unexpected needs or crisis.
- Finally, SPEND 80 percent on daily needs and wants.

The goal is to live 10-10-80 regardless of how little or how much one’s income or allowance. Some say it is impossible to live by; others say it is unfair for those with the lowest of incomes; many say it’s too simple of a rule for our complicated financial lives; yet others say it is not being generous enough. Regardless of what others may believe, it is one way to begin to think about how to live more generously. So let’s take a closer look at this idea of living 10-10-80, also called Share Save Spend.

Invite 10 children or youth forward. Ask them to stand in a straight line facing the large group. Give each one a dime. [Note: *If more than 10 children, form pairs or triads to represent “one” entity. Have enough dimes available so each child receives one at the end of the activity.*]

What is the total amount you have between you? Pause for responses. Yes, 10 dimes equals one dollar. Now we are going to practice 10-10-80.

I need one person who is willing to SHARE or give away his or her dime. Please step forward. Welcome person by name and thank him/her for volunteering. Please find someone in the large group with whom to SHARE – to give your dime or 10 percent. Pause while child gives dime away. THANK YOU! Was it hard or easy to share your 10 cents? Pause for response.

Address the 10 helpers: What are some causes or people you care about that you have assisted in raising funds? Facilitate answers.

Now I need a volunteer willing to SAVE 10 percent. Please step forward. Invite the volunteer to place the dime in the Thrivent Blue Pig or another piggy bank placed on the Gathering Table. Ask the child or youth: What is something you are saving for or are wishing for?

Now there are eight of you left. How much money do you have between you? Pause. Yes, eight dimes or 80 cents. That is 80 percent of \$1 left to SPEND. Put your heads together for a moment and decide on something you could buy with 80 cents. Have them announce their decision to the large group. Ask, “Is that a need or a want?” Encourage discussion among everyone about the difference between a “need” and a “want.”

Wants and Needs: *Things required to live are called needs. Examples: food, water, shelter. Needs change when we retire, lose a job, move, get sick or can’t work. “Extra” things make our lives more enjoyable and comfortable. These items are called wants. Examples: coffee-to-go, a manicure, new bicycle, latest smart phone, designer clothes or Netflix. One person’s wants may be another person’s needs. A person may need a smartphone to feel safe while for another person it is a luxury, a want.*

Direct the following question to the 10 helpers:

- How hard was it to Share 10 cents?
- Save 10 cents?
- Spend 80 cents of the \$1 you possessed between you? Facilitate responses.

Repeat this exercise by distributing \$1 bills in real or play money to the helpers.

- **The 10 of you now have \$1 dollar each, how much do you have altogether? (\$10) How much is 10 percent for Sharing?** Ask one child to step forward to represent \$1.
- **How much is 10 percent for Saving?** Ask one child to step forward to represent \$1.
- **What is the amount you have left to Spend?** Count the eight people, \$8, left in the row. **Again, decide as a group how you will spend your \$8.** Pause for response. **Would it be hard or easy to live this way?** Pause for responses.

Thank the volunteers for assisting in teaching 10-10-80. They may return to their seats.

Direct the same questions to the large group increasing the amounts one possesses. (If time allows, continue the demonstration using play money.)

What if one has:

- **\$100 = \$10 + \$10 + \$80** With this amount of money, would it be hard or easy to practice Share 10. Save 10. Spend 80?
- **\$1,000 = \$100 + \$100 + \$800** Repeat above question. Invite responses.
- **\$10,000 = \$1,000 + \$1,000 + \$80,000** Repeat above question. Invite responses.
- **\$100,000 = \$10,000 SAVE. \$10,000 SHARE. \$80,000 to SPEND.** Repeat above question.

Does it seem easier or more difficult to live 10-10-80 as income increases? Why or why not? Allow time for discussion. The response is almost always the same, "As the amount of money increases it is more difficult to share." Ask, why?

What if every home, in every congregation, in every community had a piggy bank on its kitchen table? What if every household practiced 10-10-80? What if? Invite people to discuss this idea at their tables.

One step toward a life of generosity and being responsible stewards is to practice.

Prior to the session, prepare three large newsprint sheets with the following words, one on each sheet: SHARE SAVE SPEND. Post each sheet on a wall in three areas around the room. Provide ample supply of sticky notes and writing utensils at each table.

Now we are going to practice 10-10-80 or Share Save Spend. At each table there are sticky notes. Imagine that you or your household has been given \$1,000. Now ...



SHARE 10: As a household, name or draw examples of where you would Share 10 percent or \$100. Your examples, one per sticky note, could be things you have already given to or would like to support in the future. Examples: our church, your school, the Humane Society, a cause to fight cancer, school fundraiser or someone who has lost everything in a flood.

SAVE 10: As a household, name the things for which you are Saving. What will the \$100 go toward? Write your answer on a sticky note. You may name more than one, but write each item on a separate sticky note with the amount that will go toward that goal.

SPEND 80: As a household, list eight items, each on a separate sticky note, that are a part of your basic household budget. Decide how you will Spend or distribute the remaining \$800. Decide if each item is a Need or a Want. Talk about the difference. What is a Need for one person may be a Want for another. Beside each item write N or W.

Allow time for each household group to complete the above exercise and for conversation within the household or leadership groups.

You are invited to post your sticky notes on the appropriate SHARE SAVE SPEND newsprint sheets on the wall. Invite everyone to walk around and notice the various responses.



10 min

We are coming to the end of our workshop. As we prepare to depart, we want to take time to connect what we have been doing here today with our roles and lives in the congregation and at home. This is the time to distribute all resources planned for congregational teams or households to take with them.

- **The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop Binder.** Give each congregation represented at least one binder so they may duplicate this workshop.
 - Briefly go over the contents in the binder.
- Show samples of and introduce **The Generosity Project: 5G Curriculum**, if it is not being provided for each congregation. Explain that this curriculum builds on the experience of the Introductory Workshop and includes five sessions and a worship service.
- Show samples of the **Live It Out!** supplement, if this resource is not being provided for each leadership team and household present.



- Distribute the **Blue Pig** article from Thrivent, even if the Blue Pigs were not used.
- Distribute **Introductory Workshop REFLECTION & ACTION WORKSHEET on page 51** to participants, including children and youth. Allow time for everyone to complete, including children. Inform everyone that the TGP: Introductory Workshop planning team will view the responses.

As we prepare to depart, we have one more activity, another reminder that God’s Story of generosity is also our story:

- **In the middle of the table are paper plates, one for each person, and markers. On the plate write words or draw a “gift” you possess that can be shared with others.**
 - Your gift could be something you know how to do, like coloring or playing the guitar, or knowledge you have about a subject, like gardening or caring for a pet. Your gift could also be a talent like singing, or a skill like playing computer games, that God uses to bless others. Write your name on the backside of the plate.

We will now move back to the Large Group Area. Please bring your paper plate with the gift you identified depicted on it, your piggy bank, if you made (or decorated) one.

Let’s form a circle around the Gathering Table. Just as we gather around the Lord’s Table, we gather around this table, a reminder of the common, ordinary tables where we gather in our daily lives.

I now invite you to add your piggy banks and portrayal of “gifts” (paper plates) to the Gathering Table, as your offering. You may place them anywhere. Allow time for pigs and paper plates to be placed.

WE SEND Large Group Area
(Ten Minutes)



5 min

Sing

As we depart, we will sing a closing song together. Sing one of the songs sung for the opening of the workshop.

Pray

A Litany of Generosity

- Inform people where the words are projected, posted or printed.
- Delineate two groups, A & B. Teach non-readers the response: **“Gracious God, give us generous hearts.”** Let them know that when your hand is raised in a welcoming gesture, it is the signal for their response.

Leader and non-readers (NR): Gracious God, give us generous hearts,
A: So we may know the joy that comes from helping others,
B: So we may give without counting the cost,
ALL: **So we may fully appreciate all God’s many gifts to us.**



Leader and NR: Gracious God, give us generous hearts,
A: So that that we may show the world another way of living,
B: So we may celebrate the Story that shapes our story,
ALL: **So we may live an “abundant life” in response to all God provides.**

Leader and NR: Gracious God, give us generous hearts,
A: So we may share without expecting something in return,
B: So we may learn the difference between what we need and what we want,
ALL: **So we may hold all our treasures in an open hand.**

Leader and NR: Gracious God, give us generous hearts,
A: 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,
B: So we may give thanks for all the generous saints who have walked before us,
ALL: **So we may recognize the many blessings of each new day.**

Leader and NR: Gracious God, give us generous hearts.
ALL: **May we be a blessing to others as we continue to thank God and serve God with humble and generous hearts. AMEN.**



5 min

Bless

There is More Than Enough!

Just as the little boy offered his gift to Jesus to use, we offer our gifts. (Point to the items on the Gathering Table) Regardless of our age, our income, gender or the address of our household, God uses our contributions, our “little,” to make big things happen – bigger than any one person, one household, one congregation or one church can accomplish on its own.

Read the following portion of the now familiar story of the feeding of the 5,000. Take notice of the changes in the words and phrases shown in italics:

Jesus crossed Lake Galilee, which was also known as Lake Tiberius. A large crowd had seen him work miracles to heal the sick, and those people went with him. It was almost time for the Jewish festival of Passover, and Jesus went up on a mountain with his disciples and sat down. 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, with an attitude of scarcity, believing it was impossible, “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 are people here who have a variety of gifts ... Stop and read out loud some of the “gifts” written on the plates scattered on the altar. But Andrew was also skeptical. He questioned the small gifts before us, “What good is this, with ALL these people?” How can this little feed about five thousand men, [plus women and children] who were in the crowd.*

Well – we now know the rest of the story. You see Jesus received the little boys lunch, just as Jesus receives each of our gifts. Jesus gives thanks to God for you, and for me, and for our gifts regardless of how large or how small. And just as Jesus fed the people with two fish and five loaves of bread, God uses our gifts, our generosity, as individuals, those of our households, congregations, the ELCA and our worldwide partners – to feed, clothe, provide pure water, end malaria ... (Name other ministries as appropriate for your faith community) throughout the world. There IS more than enough!

WE LIVE Large Group Area



Everyday

Take It Home

Stories in the Bible never say, “The end,” because God’s Story continues in you and me. As we prepare to depart, please share popcorn style (spontaneous sharing out loud), “What is one new idea or something you will do differently in your congregation or household as a result of The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop?”

Invite everyone to take home a paper plate other than one’s own. Ask participants to keep one another in thought and prayer and to give thanks for the gift and generosity of the person named on the plate.

Thank everyone for coming and their participation.

Live It Out

Live It Out! is a household supplement that is integrated into The Generosity Project: 5G sessions. It is also available as a separate packet. It is recommended that the Live It Out! packet be sent home with TGP: Introductory Workshop participants as a way of introducing the six session TGP: 5G Curriculum to congregations.

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP SUPPLEMENTS



PARTICIPANT PROMPTS

WE GATHER



Sing

Invite

Say, "I am the child of a generous God."

5G Connect

Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-14)

- What is my favorite food for a sack lunch?

Circle of Generosity

- My name. Am I named after someone or do I know the meaning of my name?
- What is the best thing about being my age? The most challenging?
- Who is the most generous person I know? In what ways is that person generous?
- What would I like to ask the boy about the day Jesus used his lunch to feed thousands?

Give and Get Game

- When has advertising influenced a purchase I made?
- Do friends, family members or classmates influence what I buy?
- What makes me happy? Who or what brings me joy?
- For me, what is the difference between being happy and being joyful?

WE HEAR

Act It Out

Story of the Macedonians (2 Corinthians 8:1-9)

Talk It Out

What were the core belief(s) of the Macedonians?

- How did this shape their decision-making?
- Create a 280-character tweet for sharing the story or a newspaper or TV news headline.

Reach Out – A Glocal Story

Examples of generosity in:

- My household ... community ... school ... congregation ... synod ... ELCA ...

WE SHARE

Center It

Practice: I and/or my household have been given \$1,000

- SHARE 10/\$100: Example(s) of causes we already do or could support.
- SAVE 10/\$100: Examples of item(s) we are saving for.
- SPEND 80/\$800: Examples of items we spend or budget for. Are they needs or wants?

Connect It

- One "gift" I have to share (knowledge, experience or a skill)

WE SEND

Sing

Pray

Leader and non-readers (NR): Gracious God, give us generous hearts,

A: So we may know the joy that comes from helping others,

B: So we may give without counting the cost,

ALL: **So we may fully appreciate all God's many gifts to us.**

Leader and NR: Gracious God, give us generous hearts,

A: So that that we may show the world another way of living,

B: So we may celebrate the Story that shapes our story,

ALL: **So we may live an "abundant life" in response to all God provides.**

Leader and NR: Gracious God, give us generous hearts,

A: So we may share without expecting something in return,

B: So we may learn the difference between what we need and what we want,

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Leader and NR: Gracious God, give us generous hearts,

A: 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,

B: So we may give thanks for all the generous saints who have walked before us,

ALL: **So we may recognize the many blessings of each new day.**

Leader and NR: Gracious God, give us generous hearts.

ALL: **May we be a blessing to others as we continue to thank God and serve God with humble and generous hearts. AMEN.**

WE LIVE



Everyday

Take It Home

- What is one new idea or something I will do differently in my congregation or household as a result of The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop?

Take home a paper plate other than one's own. Keep one another in thought and prayer and give thanks for the gift and generosity of the person named on the plate.

GUIDE FOR CREATING A TGP: Introductory Workshop Planning Team

Your time and intentional efforts in preparing to offer TGP: Introductory Workshop will be well worth your effort. If possible, create a team of varied generations and gifts to assist in preparing, presenting and facilitating TGP: Introductory Workshop. Involving many people in the planning will generate energy and excitement for the workshop.

AV/Technology – *Gifts to create, maintain and make things work*

- Responsible for all audio-video details and will be unfazed with any challenge that arises

Chaplain or Intercessor – *Gifts to pray with a certainty that all are in God's care*

- Prays for staff, planning team and all participants; may offer prayers during TGP: 5G sessions

Facilitator(s) – *Gifts of confidence to lead, teach, encourage, listen, and inspire*

- Ability to create a safe and trusting environment for all ages, sensitive to group dynamics

Hospitality – *Gifts to joyfully welcome and receive guests as Jesus would*

- Meet, greet, prepare name tags, food, beverage; well-placed directional signs; set up; clean up

Music & Movement Leaders – *Gifts of faith, movement, music*

- Memorize and lead Invite and Fountain Blessing; use gifts of children and youth as leaders
- Select, learn, teach and lead songs

Promotion – *Gifts of artistry, evangelism, writing and web mastery*

- Skilled at the how, where, when and whom for promotion
- Use web, posters, bulletins, newsletter, phone, Facebook, newspaper, personal invitation

Registration and Finances – *Gifts of administration, organizing, faith, giving*

- Sets up a system for registering, receipt of any funds and reimbursement of expenses

Research – *Gifts of technology, curiosity, wisdom*

- Fun Facts; expands a topic for parents, congregation, small groups and community outreach

Storytellers – *Gifts of exhortation, faith, knowledge, evangelism*

- Learn and share God's Story with heart, so it is taught, caught and remembered
- Communicates an understanding of the Bible in such a way it is understood by others

Supply /Resource Curator – *Gifts for organizing, enjoys crafts, creative and helps behind the scene*

- Create the Gathering Table, assemble items for the theme and focus for each session
- Gather supplies and resources; sees that "Prompts" are projected, posted or printed

Team Chair – *Gifts of leadership and administration*

- Ability to formulate, direct, coordinate and carry out a plan and vision for a specific purpose
- Checks that all is ready for each session, even if it is the responsibility of someone else

GUIDE FOR LEADING Cross-Generational Interaction

Tips for creating an environment that honors the wisdom of the elder and wonder of the child.

The Generosity Project is built around mixed-age, small group interaction and discussion. Because the norm has been age-segregated learning for so long, many of even our most experienced leaders and teachers are nervous about facilitating groups composed of 4-year-olds with 94-year-olds and all ages in-between.

The Generosity Project attempts to honor various learning styles, attention spans, non-readers and mobility limitations. The workshop divides people into mixed-age, small groups. Almost always the instructions are for the small groups to contain five people. It is the experience of the editor that this is truly the gathered number where the Holy Spirit does its best work.

Create Sacred and Safe Space

- Let participants know that they always have permission to “pass” on any question or exercise they are invited to do. A person says, “pass” and continues to give the gift of listening.
- Ask people to honor one another’s conversation by not sharing what they hear beyond the group gathered, unless it is their own story.
- Always inform people if the content of their small group conversation will later be summarized for all the gathered participants.
- When appropriate, list questions and responses on a projected slide deck, newsprint or white board. This provides a visual element to the learning and sharing process.

Magic Number “5”

- Five is an effective number of people for small group interaction. If a group is larger than five, it is difficult for people to hear, and it takes too much time to share. If there are only two in a group, one may be a non-talker, creating uncomfortable moments. Three works for brief exchanges.

- Most tables in our congregations are too large to be conducive for shared conversation. People will quickly disengage if they cannot easily hear others. If you have a choice, use smaller tables or create one group of five at each end of a large table.
- When the goal is shared conversation and storytelling, move away from tables and ask people to pull their chairs together, knee-to-knee, in small groups of three, four or five.
- “Turn to one person next to you and share,” is a fine approach for questions that can be answered briefly and by any age. This also works when time is short.

The Gift of Sharing and Listening

- Provide a few moments of silence for people to consider a response to a question before inviting open sharing. Some folks are out-loud “verbal processors” while others need time to think.
- Provide materials for people to write, draw or create an artistic response. Participants of any age whose learning style is visual or tactile will feel more included and at ease when asked to share.
- Add a tactile element to the flow of conversation by providing a soft round object that can be easily passed from one person to the next – something like a hacky-sack or stress ball. A person has permission to speak, uninterrupted, as long as he or she holds the designated object.
- Mutual Invitation, a process created by Eric Law of the Kaleidoscope Institute, is a means for sharing the “power” of selecting who goes next. One person shares a response to the selected question or activity and then that person invites the next person or group to share, continuing until all have had an opportunity. Even if someone chooses to pass, they still retain the privilege of selecting the next person or group. kscopeinstitute.org

CIRCLE OF GIVING

Generation-to-Generation

Desired Outcomes:

- Develop an awareness of the six, soon to be seven, generational categories.
- Appreciate the uniqueness, gifts and attitudes toward giving by each generation.
- Understand the biblical directive and research for bringing the generations together for forming identity, nurturing faith and values for what defines a good life.
- Hear the faith stories of what has shaped one's values and practice of generosity.
- Become equipped to create and lead effective, faith-forming cross+generational ministry in the congregation and home.

Key Messages:

- A faith community's significant role is to bring all generations together.
- Meaningful interaction between the generations is essential to building relationships, sharing stories, shaping and nurturing faith and values and the practice of generosity.
- Each generation offers a gift and unique perspective to the faith community.
- Each generation's beliefs, stories, values, faith and giving practices are shaped by one's time and place in history.

Outline for Interaction:

- Identify and honor the oldest in your midst.
- Name her or him as the group's "wise elder."
- Identify the youngest and have her or him and introduce to and stand next to the oldest.
- Form a Circle of Giving by decades and generations, from oldest to youngest.
- Read words from Psalm 78:1-7.
- Count off around the circle so the result is small groups of five with a mix of generations in each. (Preference is to sit in chairs pulled closely together, not at tables.)

- Experience faith talk and caring conversation in these groups. See questions to consider.
- Questions to Consider: (Choose those appropriate to your audience and time allotted)
- What is the best thing about being your age? The most challenging?
- What is something you saved for as a child or youth?
- Name the most generous person you know. Why do you consider them generous?
- Tell about the first time you "earned" money. "What was the circumstance? How old were you? How much did you earn?"
- What is an early memory of "sharing," other than money?
- Tell of a memory of being the recipient of the generosity of others. In what form was that generosity shown?
- Who were the people in your life who shaped your attitudes about money and finance?
- When or where did (does) your household talk about money?
- What is your unhappiest memory associated with money? Happiest memory?
- What does "money" mean to you? "Being generous" "Being a good steward"?
- For you, are faith and finance related to one another? Why or why not?
- If you were given \$1,000 dollars right now, what would you do with it?
- What motivates you to support something financially beyond your own needs or wants?

NOTE: *Circle of Giving* and *Gifts of the Generations* are segments of a more extensive workshop on Generational Ministry and the Church-Home Connection designed and facilitated through HomeGrownFaith.net.

Generation-to-Generation

Select a colored sticker that represents your generation and place it on your nametag

1901-1926 The Greatest Generation or GI's

Faith based on knowledge and experience; know hymns by heart; had heroes; "We will do whatever it takes to get the job done"; believe every generation will be better off than the one before it; lived a life of sacrifice for the good of others; want respect and to share their stories; civic minded; may have fought in WWII; Came of age during the Great Depression.

1927-1945 The Silent Generation/Traditionalist

Faith based on knowledge and involvement; know hymns by heart; committed to common good; "Hard work will get the job done"; save and pay cash; shaped by the Depression, WWII and Industrial Revolution; rooted in tradition, loyalty, hard work and the conservation of resources; grew up listening to radio; appreciate traditional music; trust institutions and leaders; may have served during the Korean War.

1946-1964 The Baby Boomers

Born post WWII; taught that institutional church will pass on faith, "buy now, pay later;" shaped by TV and social-political change, space exploration, Vietnam, women's movement, Watergate; experienced assassinations of religious and political leaders; suspicious of institutions, hierarchy, and authority; live to work and play; high standards; first generation to leave hometown for a career, may care for parents, kids and grandkids.

1965-1980 Gen X or Busters

Searching for purpose and meaning; reached by non-denominational churches; lack loyalty to a denomination; live in shadows of three generations; "No fear – just do it;" known as "latch-key kids;" concerned about making ends meet; shaped by: computers, collapse of Berlin Wall and end of Cold War, AIDS crisis, divorce, rise of mass media, MTV; concerned about making ends meet; accept diversity; care for the environment.

1981-1996 Millennial or Y Generation

New civic generation; public service; looking for heroes; experience a hectic pace of life; formative years in childcare and preschools; short attention span; "wired" for technology; digital natives; less respect for authority; assumed adult responsibilities at young age; looking for authentic relationships; economically stressed; confident; upbeat; open to change; coming of age influenced by 9/11.

1997-2012 Generation Z or iGeneration

Rise of the Information Age; communicate in real-time across the globe; digital globalization; influenced by dot-com bubble, Google and internet; marketing directly to them 24/7/365; leaving behind toys for digital devices; KGOY-kids (kids-getting-older-younger), and much more still to be defined.

2013-2025 Alpha Generation

Born into and immersed in technology; will expect customization; movement to "touch" communication; more will become centenarians; global citizens.

Notes: Generational descriptions and dates may vary by ethnic group, culture and personal experience.

REMINDER of the STORY

Piggy Banks or Other Share Save Spend Creation

The opportunity for the youngest participants and/or households to make or decorate a piggy bank, or to engage in a similar activity, serves several purposes.

- Engages children, youth, and households immediately upon arriving at TGP: Introductory Workshop.
- The item is a take-home and a reminder of God’s Story and the workshop experience.

Piggy Banks Options:

1. It is fun for the youth and households to make pigs from plastic bottles. Check out DIY or Pinterest for ideas. Establish designated times to work on the pigs – at the beginning of the workshop as people arrive and register, during the breaks, and during presentations by synod staff or other ministry partners.

people with the gift of “crafts” to coordinate this effort

lower height tables for younger generations to sit comfortably and create piggy banks

collect plastic bottles – use bottles larger than the small disposable water bottles

glue guns and glue

items for legs, ears and tails

markers and other decorations

2. Order one-slotted ceramic pigs from Discount School Supply. Decorate the plain, white pigs with markers and stick-on decals as each chooses. A ceramic pig for each child or youth could be combined with providing a Blue Pig for each household and/or congregation.

white, one-slotted ceramic pigs from [Discount School Supply](#). 12 for \$20.

permanent markers and selection of decals

tables of appropriate height for children and youth to sit and decorate their pigs

3. Approach your [Thrivent Financial](#) representatives and inquire if they are able to provide Blue Pigs, one per child, or a minimum of one per household/congregation participating in TGP: Introductory Workshop. The Blue Pigs have three slots marked Share Save Spend.

Set one on the Gathering Table and one on each table in the Small Group Area.

Provide permanent markers for participants to personalize each pig.

Make copies of “[The Secrets of the Blue Pig](#)” article to send home with households

Invite a Thrivent Financial representative to be present. Introduce and thank her or him for Thrivent’s support and partnership in equipping households. The “Secrets of the Blue Pig” is a part of Thrivent’s one-hour workshop “Parents, Kids and Money Matters” series. There is a similar workshop for teens and one for adults. Thrivent is a resource for teaching and providing resources to equip households for a life of generosity.

4. Greet children with tables set with a variety of play dough, drawing paper and colors. Encourage them to create or draw pigs, or even flying pigs - pigs with wings!

Other:

Check out Pinterest for creative take-home activities related to Share Save Spend.

WE GATHER Invite

Mountain Pose and Fountain Blessing are a part of every session: You may stand up tall or sit up tall in a chair. Place feet hip-width apart, pointing forward. Press feet down into the earth. Hands may be at your sides or palms together at your heart. Lift your belly, head and heart. Move your shoulders back and down away from your ears. Your body is active and you are looking straight ahead.



1

Place palms together at the heart. Take a slow, deep breath through the nose and pause when the lungs are full.



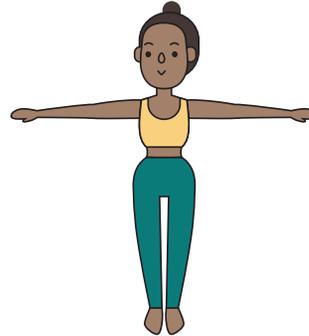
2

Hold the pause as you bring your arms up overhead.



3

Exhale slowly and “spray the fountain”



4

Moving arms to the side and then



5

Back together at heart center.

Repeat movements: Each time we breathe in and bring our arms up overhead, it’s like we are breathing in all that God has given us; and as we move our arms to the side, we are sharing that generosity with others.

Repeat movements: Stand up tall in Mountain Pose, or sit up tall in a chair. Place palms together at the heart. Take a slow, deep breath through the nose and pause when the lungs are full. Hold the pause as you bring your arms up overhead. Say “Blessing for the session” as you “spray the fountain,” moving arms to the side and then back together at heart center.

WE GATHER 5G Connect

The Give and Get Game: Background Info

The goal of this activity is to recognize our culture's message for us to consume versus God's invitation for us to share. If we as Christians do not know or pass on God's Story or see God in our story, then Scripture loses its capacity to affect our daily living.

We confess in the Apostles' Creed that we believe in a God who is the maker of all things, the creator of heaven and earth. We believe in God who is responsible for our own be-ing. How do we respond to the One who gives us our very life – the One from whom we receive our identity? We Christians have a story – a story of God's generosity in and through Jesus.

The cultural and political manifesto for our time is, "Never believe you have enough!" Commercials and advertising want us to believe that we can buy happiness and the "good life" – you are a winner if you are the one with the most stuff. As followers of Jesus we ask, "Is the good life the same as the abundant life?" Is happiness the same as joy?

At its foundation, being a consumer is an issue of identity. We need to ask, "Have modern logos and emblems become the current "cross" or marker that defines us?" With more than 3,000 messages a day urging us to spend, how do we lift up the voices inviting us to be generous?

Hosting TGP: Introductory Workshop is a step toward creating a safe space where all ages and households are encouraged to hear, know and live God's generosity – and be supported in wrestling with the implications for one's life. Jeremy Meyers, associate professor of religion at Augsburg College asserts, "We bought into the consumer culture as sort of the normal practice, and we started to think of church as a product and people as consumers. But what people are yearning for is the ability to connect what their faith community believes with their daily life."¹

Your community of faith has within it the tools for providing a different message, one that is based on God's generosity and how Christ lives among us. It is our intention that TGP: Introductory Workshop will offer a foundation to claim the gifts you, your households and the generations in your midst already possess to grow in God's grace and live more generously.

To learn more, check out David Lose's articulate reflections and application of Scripture to the questions of identity, consumerism and what is the abundant life:

- "[Abundant Life](#)," Working Preacher, May 8, 2011
- "[Abundant Life Now](#)," Working Preacher, May 5, 2014
- "[Creating Generations of Generosity](#)," Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod – ELCA, 2014 Bishop's Convocation, the Rev. Renee Lia Braaten and the Rev. David Lose
- "[Identity Theft](#)," Working Preacher, March 3, 2014



¹ "A chance to re-engage," pp. 38-39, Living Lutheran, November 2017, Vol. 2 No. 8.

WE GATHER 5G Connect – The Give and Get Game

The Give and Get Game: Marketing Statistics

Project via slide deck to be read out loud, or cut along the dotted line and distribute sentences to individuals to be read.

The average American child watches an estimated 25,000 to 40,000 television commercials per year on TV and other mobile devices.

Companies advertising to children in the U.S. spend \$15 billion to \$17 billion. Over \$4 billion was spent in 2009 by the fast-food industry alone.

Teens in the U.S. spend approximately \$160 billion a year.

Children (up to 11) spend approximately \$18 billion a year.

Children (under 12) and teens influence parental purchases that total \$130 billion to \$170 billion a year.

80 percent of all global brands deploy a “tween” marketing strategy.

Teens between the ages of 13 and 17 have an average of 145 conversations about brands per week, twice as many conversations as adults have.

Six-month-old babies recognize corporate logos and mascots.

Brand loyalty begins at age 2.

An average 3-year-old recognizes 100 brand logos.

Toddlers cannot distinguish a TV program from a commercial.

Children ages 5 to 8 account for 41 percent of licensed character and entertainment merchandise sales in the U.S. and Canada.

Not until age 8 can a child tell the difference between truthful and misleading advertising.

OPTION: Play the [Logo challenge quiz](#).

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.

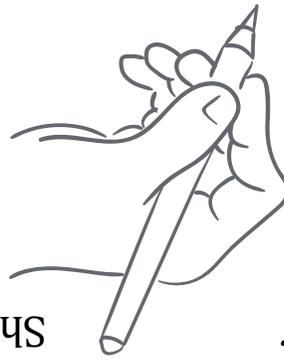
Titus was the one who got you started doing this good thing, so we begged him to have you finish what you had begun.

You do everything better than anyone else. You have stronger faith. You speak better and know more. You are eager to give, and you love us better. Now you must give more generously than anyone else.

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.

For *What* purpose and *Where* did you
Share, Save or Spend money today?
On money you spent, what was
a Need and what was a Want?
What is a happy memory related
to money? Unhappy memory?



Where did you witness
God's or experience God's
generosity today?
Draw a picture.

*Come Lord Jesus, be our
guest, and let these gifts
to us be blessed.
Blessed by God, who is
our bread; may all the
world be clothed and fed.*

GOD'S STORY in YOU

MEALTIME PRAYER

HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Name and describe the most generous person
you know.
Write their name on the sheet in the middle of
the table.
For *What* purpose and *Where* did you
Share, Save or Spend money today?
On money you spent, what was
a Need and what was a Want?
What is a happy memory related
to money? Unhappy memory?

FOLD

SERVING

How can you help clean up following this meal?
How do you help at home? In your neighborhood?



OTHER TIME PRAYER

Thank you, God, for all that grows.
Thank you 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.

FOLD

BOTTOM

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP REFLECTION & ACTION WORKSHEET

You may use words or drawings to record your responses.

I belong to the following generation:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greatest/GI | <input type="checkbox"/> Millennial/Y |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silent/Traditional | <input type="checkbox"/> Gen Z/iGen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boomer | <input type="checkbox"/> Alpha |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gen X | |

Five words (or a drawing) to describe The Generosity Project workshop:

The most useful or interesting part was:

The least useful or interesting part was:

I was surprised ...

I was disappointed ...

I have an idea for continuing the focus on generosity in my congregation:

Action I need to take is:

I have an idea for continuing the practice of generosity in my household:

Action I need to take is:

If my congregation offers The Generosity Project: 5G sessions:

- Against it Not for me Hm-m-m Will attend Will bring others Want to help others

Other thoughts, ideas and questions: Use the back to share further thoughts.

Name of my congregation _____

City _____ **State** _____

I am interested in supporting and expanding TGP in my synod.

My name and contact information _____

TGP: INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP PLANNING TEAM WRAP-UP AND EVALUATION

Questions for the TGP: Introductory Workshop Planning Team to ponder upon completion of hosting and offering the Introductory Workshop:

- What can we celebrate about hosting The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop?
- What is the most important learning about cross-generational interaction?
- What are the challenges we faced?
- What components of the TGP: Introductory Workshop design worked most effectively?
- What was least effective or did not work?
- Suggestions for improvements and edits needed.
- Name and share new activities created and tweaks to the existing workshop that worked well.
- Comments and stories we received or heard from participants..
- How we plan to support and grow The Generosity Project ministry.

Please email your comments and evaluation to:

Linda Staats, ELCA Generosity Project Coordinator
TheGenerosityProject@elca.org