



GENEROSITY WEEK



Living Faith: Giving In Community

Leaders' Guide



Preparation and Overview

- When you know how many people are attending, set out a suitable number of chairs so as not to look too cramped or too empty. Arrange seating so that discussions can happen naturally.
- Welcome people on arrival, and where possible have refreshments available to bring to their seats.
- Once everyone has settled, spend 5 minutes formally welcoming people. Indicate where the facilities are. Explain that the session should take an hour and a half, and that all conversations are kept confidential.

Introduction

After welcoming people, introduce the session. Summarise the introductory text, not necessarily reading it word-for-word so as to retain an informal atmosphere.

- Explain that we'll be thinking about what it means to be a community, and how generosity helps to shape the way we live out our faith together.
- Keep the atmosphere light, focusing on giving thanks for people and community as well as the generosity that enables the life and work of your local church.

Opening Prayers

You may want to lead this yourself, or find a volunteer among the participants who is willing to lead. Don't be afraid of silence – leave space for people to reflect between each section. The introduction and opening prayers combined should take around 5 minutes.

Beginnings

Introduce the opening questions. In total, these should take 30 minutes. Depending on the size of the group, use your judgement on whether these can be discussed together, or if you need to split into smaller groups.

- Draw out stories of generosity: keep it local where possible.
- You also might want to encourage participants to link the relationship between love and generosity within community.



Suggested Activity

Time: 15 minutes

Materials: Print a gift test for each individual (these are freely available online)

Guidance: Ask all participants to fill in the test and follow with discussion on the unique role each individual plays as part of this church and how this can be put to good use. Use 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 to reflect on this further.

Time of Reflection

This section should take around 10 minutes. You could invite someone to read the Bible verse and another to read the reflection, or ask participants to read this quietly to themselves.

Conversation

Introduce a time of conversation. In total, these should take 30 minutes.

- Try to draw out the theme of generosity being a core of lived out faith.
- Encourage participants to reflect on whole-life generosity, especially in how we might express love through giving our time and resources to support others.

Suggested activity

Time: 15 minutes

Materials: Print a big map of your parish (A1 would be ideal)

Guidance: Invite participants to write / draw on the map, identifying needs in the community. Follow with conversation on how the individual and the church can be involved.

Closing Prayers

Like the opening prayers, you may want to lead this yourself or find a volunteer among the participants who is willing to lead. The introduction and opening prayers combined should take around 5 minutes.



Wrapping Up and Taking it Further

Thank people for coming, and wrap up by sharing some key points that have come out of discussions. Encourage people to continue reflecting on generosity by taking their booklets home, and engage with other Generosity Week resources.

