



# GENEROSITY WEEK



## Living Faith: Celebrating Our Legacy

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 you'll be reflecting on the legacy we have received from past generations.
- Point out some of the things which you have inherited in your local church – this might be your stained glass, or a historical font, a beautiful altar or the music sung by your church choir, depending on your tradition.
- Link the story of your local church in serving your local community, which will be explored in the session.

## 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

Encourage people to take a tour around the church, sending them out with the opening questions in their booklets. In total, these should take 30 minutes. You might want to ask those who love the church's history to help with facilitating this, in getting people engaged and moving about. Depending on the size of the group, use your judgement on whether this can be done together, or if you need to split into smaller groups.

- Draw out local stories: this could include stories about the church architecture, stonework or stained glass, as well as stories of people.
- In thinking about things that people value, encourage reflection on things that have been passed down from previous generations. Point people towards sharing their own stories of why those things hold value to them, as well as reflecting on where those things came from.

## Suggested Activity

**Time required:** 10 minutes for the exercise, 10 minutes for conversation

**Materials required:** Phone, paper, pencils, felt tip pens

**Guidance:** Invite individuals to take a picture with their phone or prepare a drawing of the area in the church that is of most importance to them. Encourage them to share their choice with the group and/or on social media using the hashtag #ilovemychurch. Continue the conversation with explorative questions; why did participants choose this area?

## 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.



- Point out that a legacy is not simply the legal act of leaving a gift in your will, but whole communities leave a legacy in building, architecture and faith.
- Draw out people wanting to leave a legacy in order to make a lasting change beyond the end of their lifetime, to benefit those in future.

## Suggested Activity

Time: 15 minutes Materials: Pieces of paper with the following words: church tower, organ, bells, roof, windows, pews. Five coins per individual Guidance: Write down the following words in advance on individual papers: church tower, organ, bells, roof windows etc. Each person receives five coins, which they can distribute accordingly to the various categories written on the pieces of paper. Follow the activity with a conversation about how they made the choice to spend the money made available to them.

## 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.

