



THE DIOCESE
OF SHEFFIELD
Renewed | Released | Rejuvenated

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Church and Leader Resource

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Intro

"...He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God."

- 2 Corinthians 9 v 11 - The Message

This resource can be used for leaders to process their own life or that of their church. It has also been designed to enable PCCs to use it as a way of processing where their church currently is.

The SWOT analysis tool has been used in many business contexts but is also a helpful reflective tool for churches and individuals.

What you will need to do is take some time to look at your life or church and identify areas that fall into these four sections:

Strength

Weakness

Opportunity

Threat

Use the blank Matrix to plot these areas in your own life or that of your church. Life does not always fall neatly into a box so feel free to place these across two areas if you need to.

Before we do the SWOT analysis we would recommend beginning with thanksgiving. The next page encourages us to look at what we have that we can be grateful for.



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SESSION ONE

Thanksgiving

Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart



**"I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips."**

Psalm 34: 1 - NIV

The focus for the whole of June is to look at how grace, gratitude and generosity are linked so please feel free to access any of the other resources that we have created by visiting generousjune.org.

In session one we will begin by giving thanks for what God has already given us.

GRACE

GENEROSITY

GRATITUDE



Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart



As we prepared the resources for Generous June we have been reminded by God, through Paul's letters, that grace and gratitude are linked to how we see and live out generosity. We would encourage you to pause and reflect on all that God has given you and give thanks to him for those blessings.

You might find it a helpful filter to consider these three areas

HANDS HOME HEART

Give thanks for three things in each area. When you think about these three areas, use them as a lens to filter your gratitude through.

HANDS: consider what you put your hands to: Your work? Whose hand do you hold? Are you artistic or musical? These are all things to be grateful for.

HOME: consider what about it you love? The garden? The paint colour on the walls? What it represents to you. Can you thank God for his provision?

HEART: Consider what passions you have for a group, activity or project. Is there something God has put on your heart?

Use the next page to write down what are thankful for

Begin with Thanksgiving

**"I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips."**

Psalm 34: 1 - NIV









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SESSION TWO

Reflection

5 Questions For Leaders



LET'S
Talk

In this session we are going to reflect on the five questions you will find on the next page.

Use the following page to note down your answers.

5 Questions For Leaders

LETS

Talk

Do I over-extend myself? Is there time, energy, capacity left for my friends and family?

What areas would I like to grow in?

What am I passionate about?

What does generosity mean to me as a leader?

Do I lead from a place of abundance or scarcity?

Notes

[illegible]



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SESSION THREE

SWOT



SWOT ANALYSIS

In this session we will be completing a SWOT analysis. This analysis helps us assess where we currently are. We will analyse what strengths and opportunities we have as a church and/or leader. We will consider where we are under threat or can identify areas of weakness in our congregation or own life.

The words in the orange boxes on the SWOT tool can be used as an additional filter to help us plot things on this chart: They are: FRUSTRATION, FAILURE, BATTLE AND BREAKTHROUGH.

Do not be discouraged by this exercise if you find that situations, opportunities or relationships are not where you hoped they would be. We are all of course longing to see breakthrough in areas of our lives and ministry; by taking stock of where we currently are we are better able to plan for future success.

See examples below of what could go in quadrants

Opportunity & Strength

Large church hall for hire – This is an opportunity where the church ministers to the community and raises financial capital. This would be an area of breakthrough.

Strength & Threat

Covid19 has meant that the church building is closed but online church has begun because of the dedication and skill of a volunteer AV tech team. This is a strength and Covid is a threat so this would be defined as a BATTLE but could easily move into BREAKTHROUGH.



SWOT ANALYSIS

Threat & Weakness

The roof is leaking and there are not enough financial reserves to repair it. You are experiencing a threat to the use of your building and it has highlighted your lack of financial stability. This would be a FAILURE. This is something that could move to BREAKTHROUGH by starting a giving campaign to support building repairs. Or you could discover you have a grant writer in your congregation that can help you secure a building grant.

Weakness & Opportunity

Church is closed and that means that collections are not happening on a Sunday. Parish Giving Scheme allows you to still receive gifts. This is a great example of how you can move into a different quadrant. If PGS was to be set up and giving moved online this would move into the BREAKTHROUGH quadrant.

**Strength and weakness
are internal influences.**

**Opportunities and threats
are external influences
(things outside your control)**

Notes

[illegible]

Activity

SWOT ANALYSIS



OPPORTUNITY



FRUSTRATION

BREAKTHROUGH

WEAKNESS ←

→ *STRENGTH*

FAILURE

BATTLE

THREAT





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SESSION FOUR

Start Stop

Action

LET'S DO
SOMETHING



In this session we will consider if there is an action we need to take. It is helpful to ask ourselves if we are being prompted to begin something new. At times, we need to stop doing something to make time or space for something else.

These things could be a short term action or a long term plan. Use the next page to write down your thoughts and reflections.

Action

LET'S DO
SOMETHING



START

STOP

Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Prayer

"...He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God."

– 2 Corinthians 9 v 11 – The Message

Ask God to show you areas that you need to stop something and where you need to begin something new.

Ask God to reveal people and organisations that can join you in ministry, that can support you in your kingdom work and calling.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Small Group Resource

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A bit of background

In this small group study we will be focusing our attention on the correspondence that Paul had with the Corinthian church.

Paul is sending this letter to them to both challenge and encourage them.

There are divided opinions about where Paul wrote this letter from.

It is a common belief that Paul had already left Ephesus when he was writing 2 Corinthians and was probably in Macedonia.

Paul has had a challenging relationship with the church in Corinth, and so if you read 1 Corinthians, you will see that he takes a much sterner tone with them than the one you find in 2 Corinthians.

It is believed that a group of people went to Corinth after one of Paul's initial visits to challenge his teachings and cause trouble.

It is thought that Paul is writing 2 Corinthians after what is believed to have been a more positive report from Titus, that his more stern letter from 1 Corinthians has had some positive effect.

Paul challenges the church about their continued giving as he wants to ensure that they take care of the poor and live a faithful Christian life. Living this way would have been very counter-cultural for most.

As we spend the next four weeks in these chapters, we would encourage you to find helpful study notes about Paul's missionary journeys and the history and biblical text surrounding them.

Welcome to our Exploring Generosity

Small Group Study

Over the next 4 weeks, we will spend time observing the stories we find in scripture on generosity, specifically in 2 Corinthians. We will be encouraging you to find space and time to reflect on those passages.

You will also find discussion prompts to help you discuss your observations with the other members of your small group or huddle.

Finally, each week we will encourage you to 'make a plan' to action what you feel and think that God is revealing to you.

There are three themes that run throughout this resource
GRACE, GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY

We hope that these three themes provide a helpful context as we all look at what living generously means.

We hope you find this process fruitful.



2 Corinthians 8: 1-7

"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking."

- 2 Corinthians 8: 1-7, NRSV

Observe

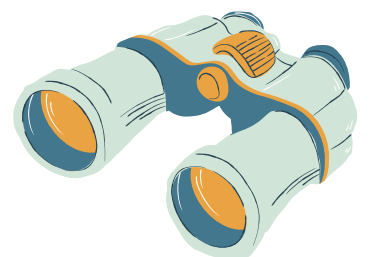
As we read Paul's letter to the Corinthian church, he begins with an acknowledgement of God's gift of grace. This will be the focus of our study this week. As you continue to read this passage, look at the other attributes that Paul mentions the givers have. What stands out to you the most? Paul talks about how they exceeded his expectations, they gave beyond their ability and this all started with grace.

Generosity, as we all know, is not only a financial offering. Just as God's Grace is not only given to one specific area of our lives, it can cover and overflow into many areas, so can generosity.

As we see in the passage the Corinthian church excelled in giving but also in faith, speech, knowledge, and love. Again, this is an overflow of the grace they had already received.

Grace has several meanings but it is always a free gift. It is a gift to receive grace when you do not think you deserve it. Perhaps from a loved one in their attitude towards you, or even a company you owe money to for an outstanding bill. It is a gift to watch a graceful dancer perform or to witness the outpouring of grace from one person to another.

Grace is always a gift. It is a gift that is given, in this case from our Heavenly Father. As with any gift, it is something we need to have a thankful posture towards. As we move on to the reflection section of this study, consider where you have most recently experienced or witnessed grace.



Reflect

Think about areas in your life where you have received grace or have witnessed grace. How did you feel in that moment, were you relieved? Did you gratefully receive it? Or was it a struggle to allow that grace to be given and shown?

It can be a challenge to receive grace for ourselves, we can often be far more comfortable extending it to others. As we explore grace it is important to reflect on our own experiences and if we are able to receive and give.

Take some time now to reflect on an experience of grace.

Where was it? Who was involved? And how did it make you feel?

Now let's think about areas of our own lives where we need to grow in grace. Think about if you have grace for a specific person or group of people? Is God prompting you to extend grace somewhere specifically that might be more challenging to you?

Finally, has God given you the gift of grace for a specific task? Is there a skill that comes easily to you that you feel you have been gifted?

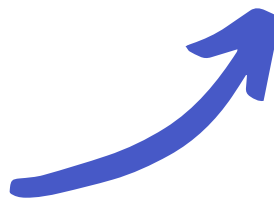
GRACE



GRATITUDE



GENEROSITY



Discuss

As we move to the discussion section of our study for this week, please make room for all members of the group to share their thoughts and feelings.

Discussion questions to get things started:

What stood out to you about the passage?

Is there an experience of grace that you can share with the group?

Do you feel God revealing anything new to you about generosity and how it is linked to grace?



Next steps

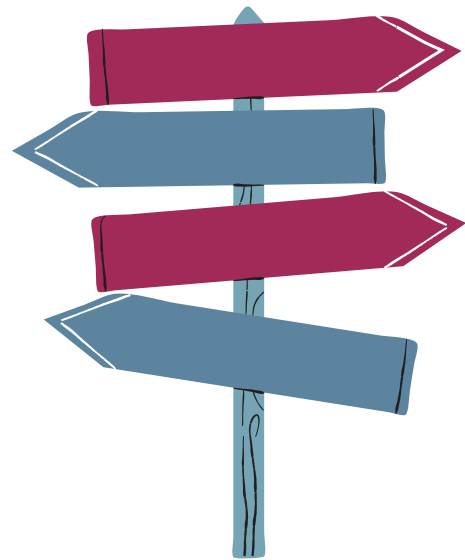
As you think about the week ahead and what God has been speaking to you about, consider actioning something in your own life. Can you extend grace to someone you know, someone in your family? Do you need to extend grace to yourself?

Consider sharing this plan with one other person, maybe a member of your small group. Next week check in with each other about how your plan went. What else did God reveal to you through the gift of grace?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for your grace, for the grace of others in our lives, and for the gift that grace is to us all. Help us as we seek to live more like you, in thought, word and deed. Be with us this week as we extend grace to others and ourselves and help us return to your word for inspiration.

In your name, we pray. Amen



2 Week

Being inspired by the generosity of Jesus

Welcome back! We would love to begin the week with you sharing how your week has been and how you have observed, received, and given grace. This week we will be focusing on the generosity we see in Jesus and how we can be inspired through his example.

2 Corinthians 8: 8-15

"I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has— not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

*"The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little."*

- (2 Corinthians 8: 8-15 , NRSV)

Observe

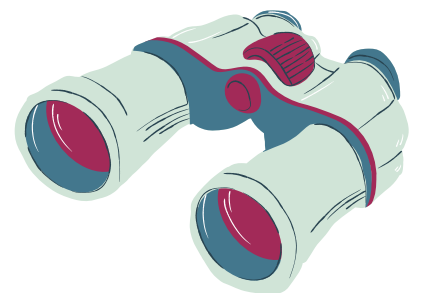
As we read this week's passage we hear Paul reminding the Corinthian church and us of Jesus' Grace gift to us. We are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice in Jesus, who by giving up his position in heaven, became human to walk among us, ultimately giving up his life on a cross. The ultimate sacrificial gift so we could receive forgiveness, restoration and enter into a right relationship with him. What a generous gift we have received through Jesus and what an exchange to witness. Let's read that verse again.

"...For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.."

Think about this great exchange for a moment. He was God and yet he choose to make himself vulnerable and enter the world as a child, knowing the plan all along was to give up not only his position but his life. When we think of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, consider all that he gave up and reflect on things that you have given up, what exchanges have you made, both good and bad?

As we continue to read and spend time in this passage, Paul wants to refocus the Corinthian church and encourage them to continue on the journey they started. As we mentioned on the background page, Paul has had a long relationship with the church in Corinth and it has at times been a painful process. He is keen to see them persevere in the good work they have started.

This week we want to encourage you also to continue on the journey of exploration you began last week as we seek to understand more fully how Jesus lived his life and how we can model our own on his.



Reflect

As we think about the great exchange that took place when Jesus gave up his position and life, let's consider what it means to be both rich and poor.

What characteristics define these words and experiences?

Paul's words and encouragement to continue in what has already begun are challenging. We would encourage you to spend some time reflecting and listening to see where the Lord is prompting you.

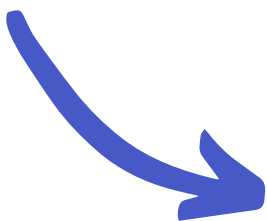
This could be a physical, spiritual, or emotional journey you have begun.

Is there an area in your life that you can identify that requires more perseverance and consistency?

Consider what it means to model your life on Jesus as your example.

What about Jesus' generosity, do you want to extend it to your own life and those around you?

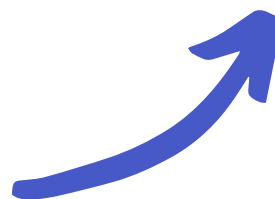
GRACE



GRATITUDE



GENEROSITY



Discuss

In your small group share what about Jesus and his life are you most drawn to?

Discuss what you each thought of when you think of rich and poor.

Discuss what biblical generosity means to you.



Next steps

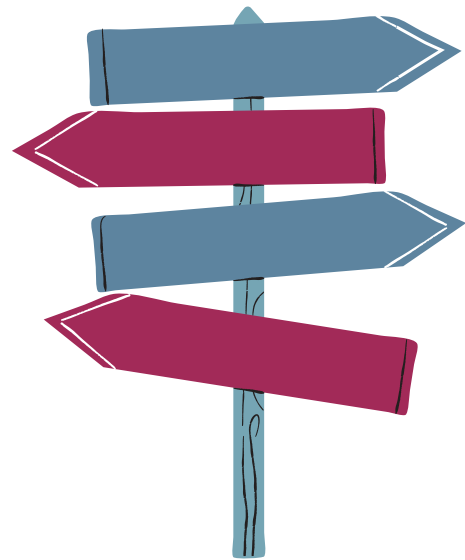
As you consider the passage and your discussions from this week and last, are there any actions you want to take as a response?

Consider sharing what your plans are with the others in your group and begin next week's gathering by checking in with each other about these plans.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you that in Jesus we see a perfect example of living a generous life, be with us as we seek to reflect you in our own lives and actions.

*We pray that you will help us extend grace to ourselves and others.
In your name, we pray Amen*



Delight in the act of generosity

2 Corinthians 9: 6-9

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

As it is written,

*"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."*

- (2 Corinthians 9: 6-9 , NRSV)

Observe

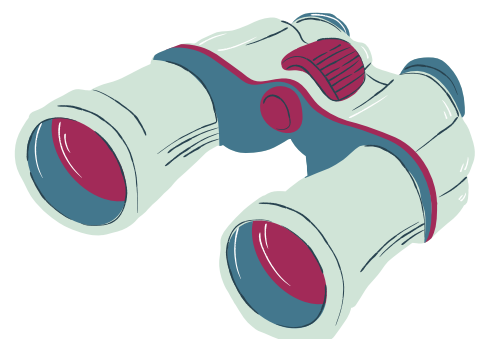
This week we are jumping ahead to 2 Corinthians 9: 6-9 to look at generosity encouraged. Please feel free to spend time reading the passages in between if you would find it helpful.

This week we will be looking at our attitudes towards generosity and what attitudes we see in the scriptures.

As you read the words that Paul writes, think about your attitudes and those around you when it comes to generosity. What feeling comes to mind when you think about giving and generosity?

Paul is very clear that we should give what we have decided in our hearts to give and not to do it reluctantly or under compulsion. This is a wonderful reminder that we need to have a balanced approach to generosity, we should not give from a place of fear but a place of peace.

Paul challenges our attitude towards giving and prompts us to look inward to our hearts. What can we observe in our own lives? What thoughts and feelings emerge when we think of generosity?



Reflect

Do we have a positive attitude towards giving or do we give from a position of scarcity or fear?

Let's spend some time reflecting on what your particular fears are when it comes to giving?

Do they arise from any experiences you or your household have had?

In this week's passage Paul also mentions compulsion, contrasted with cheerfulness in giving. That's an interesting contrast. What prompts either of those feelings in us?

How can giving be a joyful experience? There is a freedom in Paul's approach, which contrasts with that sense of compulsion.

Again, this is not only financial generosity. How do you spend your time?

How do you use the skills and knowledge you have been blessed with?

Do we find it easy to give our time but not our treasure?



Discuss

As you enter a time of discussion in your small groups, discuss what a generous life means to you.

Is there a person you can think of that has given generously to you?
(e.g. their time, attention, training, resources)

What feeling did that promote inside of you? Did it make you feel thankful?

Think about and discuss what areas in your life you would like to be more generous in. Is there anything you can implement to facilitate this change?

Use this space to write down any notes



Next steps

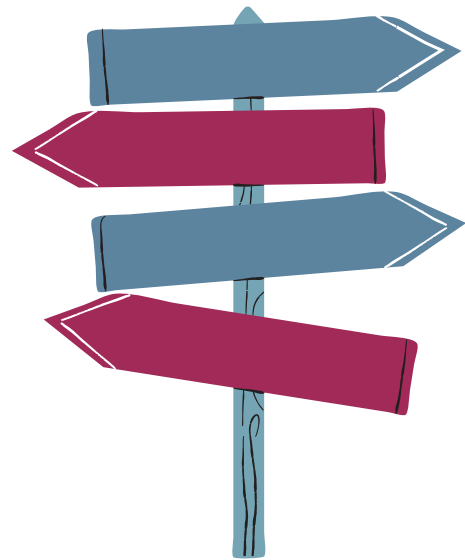
As you go into the coming week is there an act of kindness or generosity that you can show to someone else?

Consider using some of the Generous June evaluation exercises that will help you identify where you have been blessed and where you may want to use those gifts and talents in your community, family and church.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you delight in generosity and that it is something we see modelled through your son Jesus. We pray that as we examine our hearts and lives and look for areas where you are prompting us to find joy and generosity, you will remind us of your grace and the many gifts and talents you have blessed us with. Make it clear to us how we can invest our time, talents and treasure to grow your Kingdom and be lights for Christ.

Amen



As we begin our final week in our exploration of generosity we wanted to end by looking at how all three themes are connected together.

2 Corinthians 9: 10-15

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

- (2 Corinthians 9: 10-15 , NRSV)

Observe

As we read Paul's words at the end of this passage he draws us to the connection between grace, gratitude and generosity. We read how our generosity can spark gratitude in others. "...through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

We are reminded of all that we have already received in grace "...because of the surpassing grace God has given you." And finally, he thanks God for all the gifts he has given, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift."

The connection between these three actions is so important in our understanding of generosity and how to live a generous life. We must acknowledge that our actions do have an effect on others and how they understand and experience God.

We can only give freely and joyfully once we understand the full breadth of what we have already received. And in so doing, giving thanks to God for those gifts is a key indicator of a truly generous life.

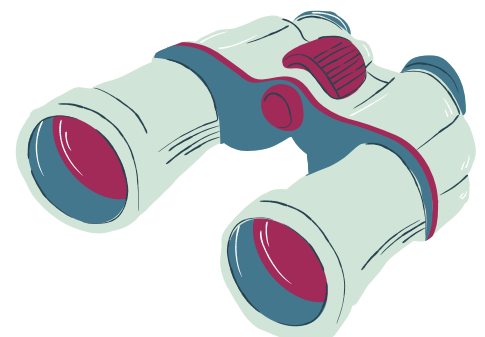
GRACE



GRATITUDE



GENEROSITY



Reflect

As you reflect on this passage and all the Lord has given you:

What do you want to take away from your exploration into generosity?

What attitude do you want to leave behind?

Use the space below:



I am taking away ...

I am leaving behind ...

Discuss

If you feel comfortable, share with the other members of your group what you are taking away and leaving behind.

Consider discussing what holds us back from living a generous life. Our culture can often hinder our relationship to living generously, if we have a wealth in resources, time or finances we can often find ourselves trying to hold on to them. In contrast living a generous life can bring freedom to us in a powerful way.

Pray for one another.



Next steps

As this study draws to a close we hope and pray this is only the beginning of your exploration of generosity and what it means to live a generous life.

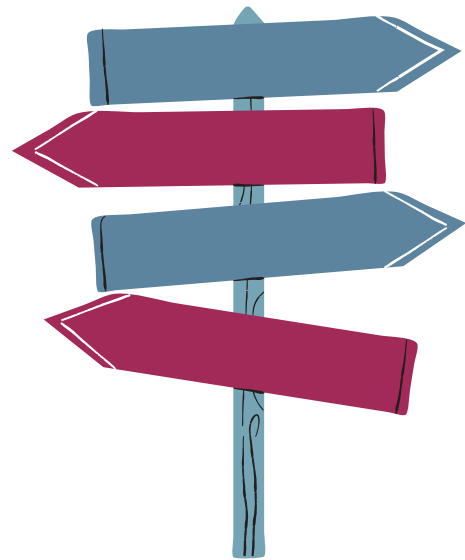
We have a lot of resources on generosity and exercises you can use as part of this process. Please contact generosity@sheffield.anglican.org to find out more about how you can access them.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Prayer

Father God, we thank you for you have already given us so much. We thank you for the grace you have shown us in your scripture and through your son Jesus' life. We pray that we will take away with us more of an understanding of your heart and what it means to live a generous life, overflowing with thanksgiving.

Amen





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Intro

This pack is designed to help you ponder what generosity means for you at this time. We know that God blesses us with households and families of all shapes and sizes.

Throughout this resource pack we will refer to families, households and individuals. Please use whichever term you feel most comfortable with. We've tried to ensure that you can use this as an individual, household or family and we hope that you find these resources helpful.

The aim of this exercise is that it helps you set goals and bring awareness to what you value individually and/or as a household and to find common themes and statements.

We would hope that this statement planner and other activities provide a filter for you to run your ideas through and to consider how different investments of time and money affect you and your household.

By learning to ask questions like the one below you can have an open chat around mission, investment and how we can operate well as a household.

"Does this fit within my/our Mission Statement?"

"Is this something we want to invest in?"

"Who does this decision affect?"

This is not something that has to remain the same forever, it could be something you do each year as a way of deciding what you want to focus on. We hope that by the end of this exercise you will be able to have a sentence or a few that help explain who you are, what you value and where you are going to invest your time, money and resources. That being said, please feel free to use as much or as little of the guidance. This is just intended to be a helpful guide so use what is helpful to you.

If you are doing this as an individual then we would encourage you to think through this exercise with a close friend. If you are working through this resource as a household we would suggest that you discuss with them the goals you have in mind when completing this exercise and why you think it will be helpful.



THE DIOCESE
OF SHEFFIELD
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Session One

Thanksgiving

Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart

"I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips."

Psalm 34: 1 - NIV

As we prepared the resources for Generous June we have been reminded by God through Paul's letters that grace and thanksgiving are inherently linked to how we see and live out generosity.

The focus for the whole of June is to look at how grace, gratitude and generosity are linked so please feel free to access any of the other resources that we have created by visiting generousjune.org.

In session one we will begin by giving thanks for what God has already given us.

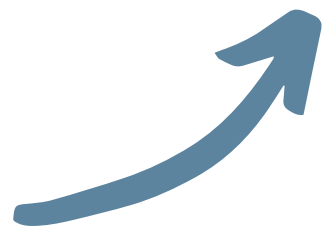
GRACE



GRATITUDE



GENEROSITY



Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart



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HANDS HOME HEART

Give thanks for three things in each area. When you think about what these three areas use, them as a lens to filter your gratitude through.

HANDS: consider what you put your hands to: your work? Whose hand do you hold? Are you artistic or musical? These are all things to be grateful for.

HOME: consider what about it you love: the garden? The paint colour on the walls? What it represents to you? Can you thank God for his provision?

HEART: Consider what passions you have for a group, activity or project. Is there something God has put on your heart?

Use the next page to write down what you are thankful for

Begin with Thanksgiving

**"I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips."**

Psalm 34: 1 - NIV







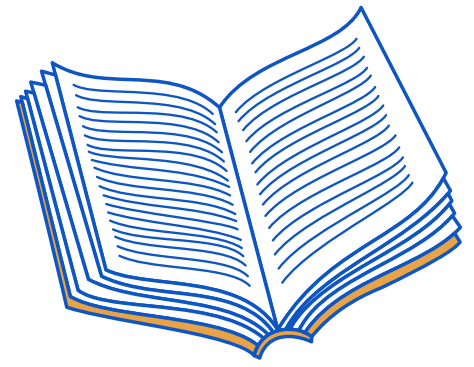


THE DIOCESE
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Session Two

Who are we?

Reading



Before you look at the 5 questions on the next page.
Spend some time reading one of the passages below.
As you read them think about what stands out to you.
Is there any specific passage that resonates with you?
What gifts do you think you have been given?

The gifts that we were given is that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4: 11-13 (NSV)

Matthew 25:14-30 (NSV)

5

Questions

LET'S

Talk

What would you hope your friends say about you when you're not around? (they are: kind, patient, generous, fun)

**How do you hope to make others feel?
(welcomed, encouraged, equipped, safe)**

**What behaviour is important to you?
(listening, learning, reading, exercise)**

How do we make time for important relationships? Household meal? Share a meal with friends? Family night? Date night? Walk and talk?

What problem do you see in the world, your community that you would like to help solve?

5

Questions

LET'S

Talk

Use this space to write down any thoughts about who you are and who you want to be.



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Session Three

MISSION STATEMENT

Activity

MISSION STATEMENT PLANNER



In this session we want you to start to think about what you want your Mission statement to be. Think about what represents the passion and calling God has put on your life and your household. It could be one short sentence or it could take up a whole page.

To live a generous life we need to have a missional focus. Jesus was very clear that we are all called to be his representatives. We read Bible verses like the one below, but we can struggle to work out what that means for our everyday lives and those we live with.

We hope this exercise will help you practically think about who and what you and your household are called to. There is room on the next page for your ideas.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," - Matthew 28:18 NSV

Here are some statements to help get you started.

I (insert your name) am passionate about ...

I believe.... I am committed to doing and seeing....

If you are doing this as a household you could begin with WE are the (insert household name)

WE are passionate about....

WE believe....

WE are committed to doing

WE are committed to seeing

Activity



MISSION STATEMENT PLANNER

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines, resembling notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Activity

MISSION STATEMENT PLANNER

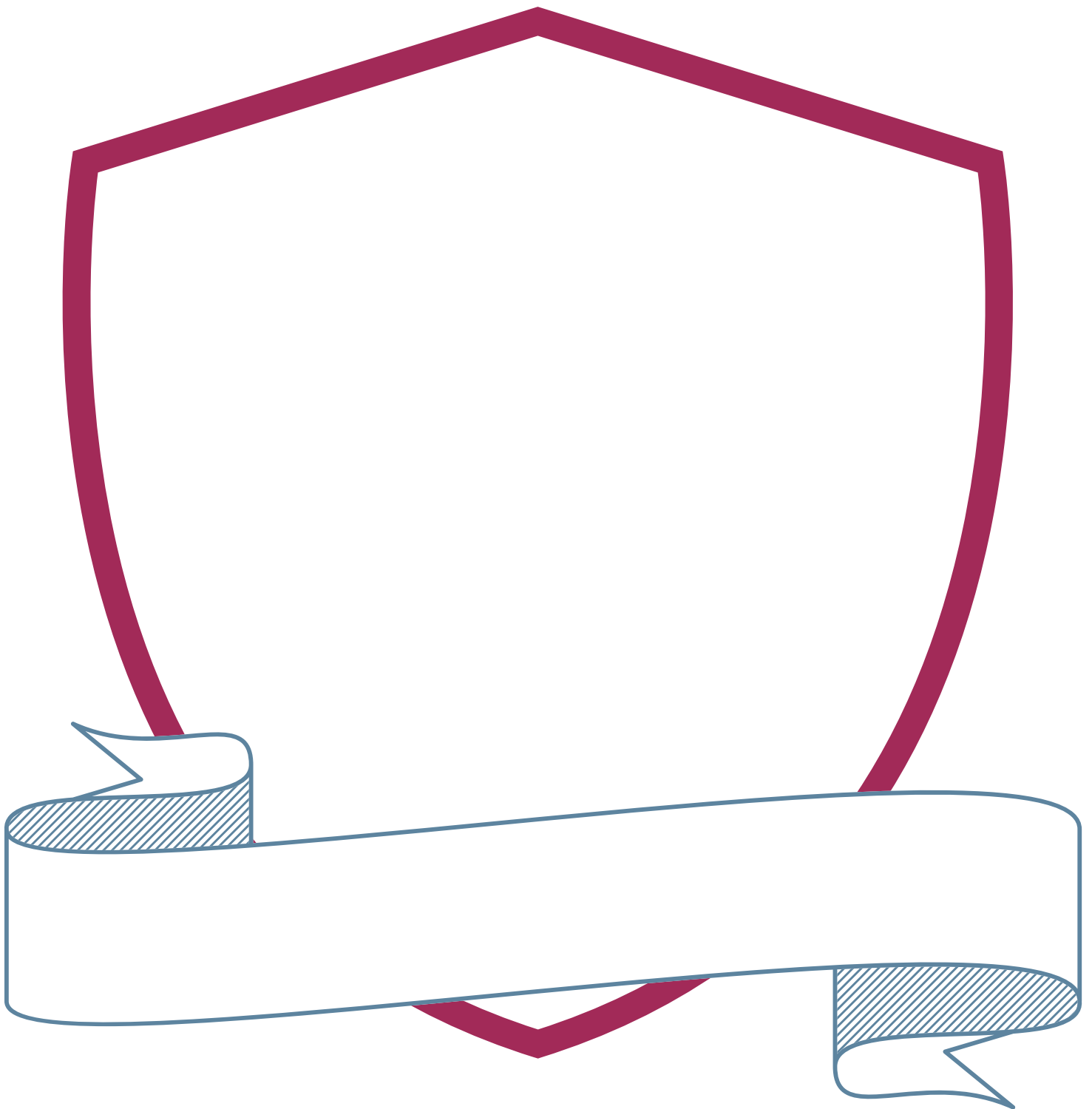
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Activity



CREATE A SHIELD

If you want to create a visual representation of your mission statement why not design a household shield? Picture what your shield could have on it. What words do you want to include? If you have children in your household you could get them involved in planning and designing your shield.





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Session Four

ACTION

Action

LET'S DO
SOMETHING



How can we show Generosity to each other tangibly?

Ideas

- Plan a date night or meal with friends
- Choose to listen first
- Share our toys
- Say thank you and be grateful
- Write an encouraging note
- Ask how someone else is doing
- Share a skill with someone

Prayer

Let's Pray Together



Ask that God will continue to reveal to you all the resources he has blessed you with. Pray that you will be able to reveal Jesus in your community, family, household, workplace and at school by choosing to live a generous life for Jesus together.

Amen



THE DIOCESE
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2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Households with children

Resources



Session One

Thanksgiving

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Intro



**This resource is specifically for households with children.
We hope you find these resources easy to use and not too
time consuming.**

**Each session we will look at what is in our Hands, Homes and
Hearts and ask questions that surround these topics
and places.**

**The focus for the whole of June is to look at how grace,
gratitude and generosity are linked, so please feel free to
access any of the other resources that we have created.**

Visit generousjune.org

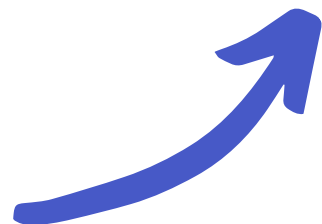
GRACE



GRATITUDE



GENEROSITY



Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart

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HANDS HOME HEART



Give thanks for three things in each area. When you think about these three areas, use them as a lenses to filter your gratitude through.

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HEART: Consider what passions you have for a group, activity or project. Is there something God has put on your heart?

Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart



Activity

As a household write down on paper or lolly pop sticks what you are thankful for?

Each meal time bring one out and discuss what and why you are thankful.

You could even create a thankful jar that you each add to daily.

Use the next page to write things down

Begin with Thanksgiving

"I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips."

Psalm 34: 1 - NIV









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Session Two

Worries

Worries

Hands, Home & Heart



In this session we want to continue to look at our Hands, Homes and Hearts.

This time we invite you to consider the things that you want to change in these three areas. Think about things that you need to give to Jesus. 1 Peter 5:7

HANDS: What are your hands full of? Is there anything you should not be carrying? Anxiety, fear, stress?

HOME: Think about the place you live, is it inviting, do you feel able to invite others into your home?

Heart: What is weighing heavy on your heart? A situation? A person?

When talking to our children about these three areas, depending on their age you may want to tailor the questions to be more age appropriate. Talk about these things as a family, share examples of how you have been able to change a thought or situation before.

Worries

Hands, Home & Heart



Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life
Philippians 4:6 The Message.

What are you worried about?

What are you frightened of?

Discuss how you can give this to Jesus.

Fears and worries aren't always easy to let go of. It doesn't only take one action, Bible verse or thought to overcome them.

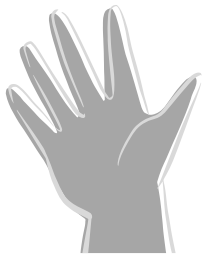
Discuss as a family what has helped in the past, how has God helped?

Use the next page to write down the things you want to see change in all three areas.

Worries

*Cast all your anxiety on him, because he
cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:7







Worries

Hands, Home & Heart



Activity

As a household sat around the table at dinner, why not share your highs and lows of the day?

Ask each member of your household to share the best part of their day.

After everyone has shared, then ask each person what was the hardest part of their day.



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Session Three

Give

Give

Hands, Home & Heart



In this session we will be looking at ways we can give. We will continue to use Hands, Homes and Hearts as a filter to look at our lives.

When we think about giving it is important to remember that everything we have comes as a gift from God and that attitude can help change how open we are to sharing our time, skills, homes and resources.

HANDS: Consider what you have that you can share?

HOME: How could you use your home and time to bless others?

HEART: Is there a situation, person or project you feel God is asking you to invest in? This could be financial but it could also be time, skills, knowledge.

Give

Hands, Home & Heart



Questions

Give

**Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a
cheerful giver.**

2 Corinthians 9: 7









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Session Four

Actions

Actions

Hands, Home & Heart



Kid's Questions

Who could you invite to participate in the Be Generous week?

How can we live more grateful, generous lives because of the grace we have received?

Hands, Home & Heart

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.- James 2:17 NRSV



As we wrap up our time together consider if there are any actions you want to take when you think about your life. Are there things you need to let go of to make room for new gifts.

Are there ways you can engage with your community.

Think as a household about how you can continue living generously and what you especially enjoyed about the Be Generous Week.

OTHER RESOURCES CHECK OUT

generousjune.org



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2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Senior Resource

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Intro

"...He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God."

– 2 Corinthians 9 v 11 – The Message

As our stage of life changes so do the things we have at our disposal: time, finances, capacity etc. When we think about generosity it is easy to think about what we aren't able to do. We would encourage you to give those things to God in prayer. God can deal with our disappointments and our celebrations. We can live a generous life at every stage, but it will look different for everyone. As you work through this resource please use what is useful and leave what is not.

CIYD have kindly allowed us to use and adapt the resource they created called Live to Give there full resource can be found at ireland.anglican.org/resources/524/live-to-give-youth-resource



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Session One

Thanksgiving

Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart

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GRACE



GRATITUDE



GENEROSITY



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HANDS HOME HEART

We know it may be difficult to find things to be thankful for in all these areas, especially if we are processing disappointments and grief. We would encourage you to pray through those painful realities and experiences and ask God to show you things to be thankful for in the midst of those.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart



Give thanks for Three things in each area. When you think about these three areas use them as a lenses to filter your gratitude through.

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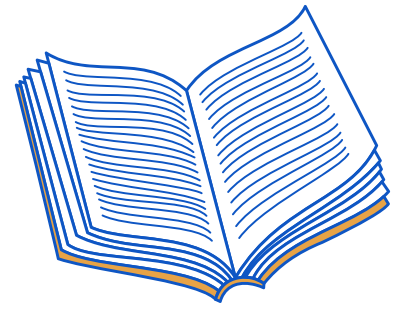


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Session Two

Who are we?

Reading



Before you look at the 5 questions on the next page
spend some time reading the passages below.

As you read them think about what stands out
to you.

Is there any specific passage that resonates
with you?

What gifts do you think you have been given?

Verses on Grace

2 Corinthians 8:7-16

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Ephesians 4:7-13

Verses on Generosity

Matthew 14:13-21

Matthew 25:14-30

1 John 3: 16-24

Use the next page for thoughts and reflections

Notes

[illegible]

Stage of Life



Lets also consider our stage of life

What stage of life do you think you are in?

Is it what you hoped for?

Spend some time looking at the stage of life we are at
and what we can do and share.

We have some questions over the page to help with
that process. You can do this with a friend or partner,
or individually. Do what works for you.

5

Questions

LET'S

Talk

What do people see when they look at our life?

What is your legacy? What will your legacy be? What do people know about you and what is important to you?

What are you investing in/who are you investing in? (Foodbank, Helping or Discipling others)

Can you identify any resource that you have (Home? Time? Money? Wisdom? Energy? Skill?)

When you think about gratitude who do you think of?

Notes

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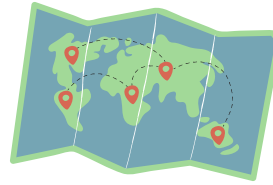
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Session Three

Adventure

LET'S HAVE AN ADVENTURE

Activity



When we think about generosity, we don't always think about the adventure. Here are a few examples of people that lived a generous life that was and is an adventure – they dared to do it!

Captain Tom is an excellent example of a generous life. He took a challenging situation and the Covid lockdown. He worked within the country's restrictions and physical capacity and did something unique. He raised a staggering £32.7 million in the run-up to his 100th birthday. You can read more about his incredible story here. www.captaintom.org Captain Tom is a wonderful example of someone who made an incredible difference, but there are lots of people we can look at for inspiration.

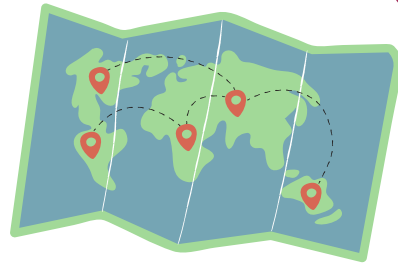
Sir David Attenborough at age 95 is continually leaving a legacy of discovery and modelling, being a constant learner and explorer.

Dolly Parton is another example of someone who, at age 75, continues to grow and leaves a legacy of generosity. Over the years, she has invested in literacy and education; she launched the Imagination Library that provides a book once a month to children from birth until they start school. She has responded to and raised funds for natural disasters, education more recently during the Covid pandemic. She donated to help aid the research and development of the Moderna vaccine.

All these people are known for a variety of reasons. They used the opportunities they have and still have to make a difference and leave a legacy.

Activity

LET'S HAVE AN
ADVENTURE

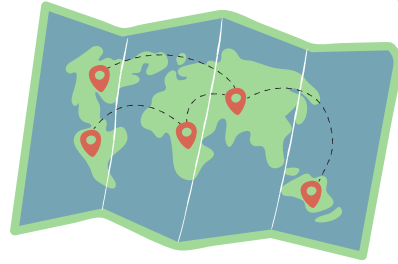


On the next page, you will see a blank chart ready for you to complete. This is designed to help you think about the skills and resources you have at your disposal that you might want to invest in.

We by no means think we will have covered every possible category so please feel free to add in what you see fit. Please tick the boxes that are relevant to you.

Activity

LET'S HAVE AN
ADVENTURE



<u>Talents/ Skills</u>	<u>I'm good at/ interested in (tick)</u>	<u>How can I use this at my Church?</u>	<u>How can I use this in my Community?</u>	<u>How can I use this in my Family?</u>
Working with children (sports team, Sunday school)				
Technical skills/social media etc				
Teaching/leading				
Organisational skills				
Cooking				
Practical skills – able to build/repair				

<u>Talents/Skills</u>	<u>I'm good at/ interested in (tick)</u>	<u>How can I use this at my Church?</u>	<u>How can I use this in my Community?</u>	<u>How can I use this in my Family?</u>
Welcoming/ encouraging				
Artistic/ creative				
Business skills				
Working with the vulnerable or elderly				
Financial resources				
Other				

Notes

[illegible]



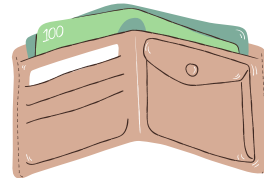
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Session Four

Action

Action

LET'S DO
SOMETHING



Discuss with a friend or family member where you want to invest your time and talents and treasure based on what you have discovered.

Is there a generosity adventure that you want to start?

Another way you can leave a legacy is by writing a will. Have you got one? Have you considered leaving a gift to your church and or charity so that you can continue to make a difference? It is important that you get appropriate advice about writing a will. You can get some good guidance here www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/death-and-wills/wills/

Alternatively, the church of England guidance can be found here

www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/enabling-giving/giving-mechanisms/legacy

Use the next page to write down your ideas

Notes

[illegible]

Prayer

"God, we thank you for your goodness to us and that you invite us to play our part in Your Story. We thank you that you trust us with this incredible task of showing your love to the world and that we don't have to do this alone, but that we do it through your power working within us. We ask that you would fill us with the faith and courage that we need to live generous lives that show your love in action to people both here at home and around the world. Amen."



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2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Student Resource

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Intro

**“...He gives you something you can then give away,
which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God,
wealthy in every way, so that you can be
generous in every way, producing with us great
praise to God.”**

– 2 Corinthians 9 v 11 (MSG)

This resource will help us to look at where and why we are spending our time, money and energy. We are going to start with five questions to help us begin processing and then move on to an activity.

It's very easy in our culture to get very busy without considering where we are investing our time and resources and without allowing ourselves the time and space to prioritise schedules. If we want to live a generous life we need to see what we have been given and what we can share with others.

This exercise is meant to allow us to take a look at our life and see how we can live generously. Don't overthink this, just write down a general picture of where you are and what you are doing. This is not supposed to make you feel bad. It's a process, we are always learning, growing and improving.

Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart

**"I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips."**

Psalm 34: 1

The focus for the whole of June is to look at how grace, gratitude and generosity are linked, so please feel free to access any of the other resources that we have created by visiting generousjune.org.

We will begin by giving thanks for what God has already given us.



Begin with Thanksgiving

Hands, Home & Heart



As we prepared the resources for Generous June we have been reminded by God through Paul's letters that Grace and gratitude are linked to how we see and live out generosity. We would encourage you to pause and reflect on all that God has given you and give thanks to him for those blessings.

You might find it a helpful filter to consider these three areas

HANDS HOME HEART

Give thanks for three things in each area. When you think about these, use them as a lens to filter your gratitude through.

HANDS: consider what you put your hands to. Your work? Whose hand do you hold? Are you artistic or musical? These are all things to be grateful for.

HOME: consider what about it you love. The garden? The paint colour on the walls? What it represents to you? Can you thank God for his provision?

HEART: Consider what passions you have for a group, activity or project. Is there something God has put on your heart?

Use the next page to write down what you are thankful for

Begin with Thanksgiving

**"I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips."**

Psalm 34: 1







Reading



Before you look at the five questions on the next page. spend some time reading the passages below.

As you read them think about what stands out to you.
Is there any specific passage that resonates with you?
What gifts do you think you have been given?

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4: 11-13 (NSV)

The parable of the five talents

Matthew 25:14-30 (NSV)

5

Questions

LET'S

Talk

What does generosity mean to me?

What do I feel passionate about?

Do I know where I spend my resources? Where does my time go? Who do I spend time with? How do I use my body and physical resources? Do I feel burnt out and tired?

What do I think I am lacking?

What areas would I think to grow through investment from others?

Notes

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

Activity

COUNTING THE COST



1

When you are filling out the grid below think about:

What stands out to you?

Are there activities that are costing you time, money, energy?

Are there activities that help you grow spiritually, relationally,
financially?

Are you surprised by anything?

2

Next let's run these things through the filter of:

I have to – Examples: Uni studies, sleep, work.

I choose to – Examples: Play on a sports teams, part of social groups,
art club, Student Union etc

I want to – Examples: Learn to cook, start to run, spend more time
with friends/family

If it helps think about them as commitments and freedoms.

This about what stands out to you about your current schedule?

The reason that we are looking in detail at our daily lives like this is so
that we can see what have we gathered that we can give away.
Generosity and living a generous life means that we need to see
all that we have been given.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Notes

[illegible]

Activity

REFLECTION



What have you noticed? What do you have a lot of?
What do you feel you are lacking?

Is there a resource you have a lot of that you can
share?

Where would you like to grow/ ask for investment
from a friend?

Use the space below to write down your thoughts

Action

LET'S DO
SOMETHING



Share what you have discovered with someone close to you. Ask them what they think is a skill, resource or blessing that you could share with someone else.

Share with them how you think you can live generously.

Eg. cook a housemate a meal once a week, share a skill or an area of knowledge and explain to them how you are going to schedule that into your weekly/monthly rhythms.

Share with them the areas you have identified where you want to grow and what you are going to do to make room for that in your schedule.

Prayer

“...He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.”

— 2 Corinthians 9 v 11 — The Message Version

Think about what God has revealed to you during this exercise. Thank him for all that he has given you and ask Him to show you ways you can share with others.



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2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Youth Resource

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Intro

"He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God."

– 2 Corinthians 9 v 11 (MSG)

You might have thought generosity only applied to what we do with our money.... But actually to live a truly generous life we have to look at more than that.

As we explore how to live a generous life we need to also look and acknowledge the grace that we have received from God. What gifts, talents and resources have we received that can be used for him.

Gratitude is a vital part of living a generous life and so each will invite you to reflect on how and when you give thanks and look at what you can be grateful for.

Finally, we want to invite you to take action and make a plan to live a more generous life. We hope this exploration is helpful.



Intro

This resource has been designed to help you look at all the areas of your life and see where you are spending and investing. These resources are only a guide, not a prescription and usually benefit from being done in a group, although they can be done alone. They are not meant to make us feel bad about ourselves or like we are failing, but instead to help us reflect on how we can be more like Jesus.

You could ask your youth leader to work through this booklet with you.

CIYD have kindly allowed us to use and adapt the resource they created called Live to Give. Their full resource can be found at www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/524/live-to-give-youth-resource



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SESSION ONE

GRACE

Reading



Before you look at the five questions on the next page,
spend some time reading the passages below.

As you read them think about what stands out to you.

Is there a specific passage that resonates with you?

Think about and discuss what grace and generosity mean to you.

You decide which one to read first.

Verses on Grace

2 Timothy 1:8-10

2 Corinthians 8:7-16

Ephesians 4:7-13

Verses on Generosity

1 John 3: 16-24

Matthew 14:13-21

Matthew 25:14-30

5

Questions

LET'S

Talk

You can write your answers on the next page

List as many things as you can that you are thankful for

How often do you find yourself being thankful - either to other people or to God?

What could you do to express your gratitude to God on a regular basis?

Can you remember an experience of grace in your own life?
(this could be kindness from a friend or God, forgiveness for yourself or other)

How have you shown kindness to someone? Did they thank you? Either way, how did that feel?

Notes

[illegible]



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SESSION TWO

GRATITUDE

GRATITUDE



In this session we are focussing on gratitude. Before beginning the gratitude challenge spend some time thinking and discussing what you have to be grateful for already.

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast
love endures forever!*

1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV)

7 Activity

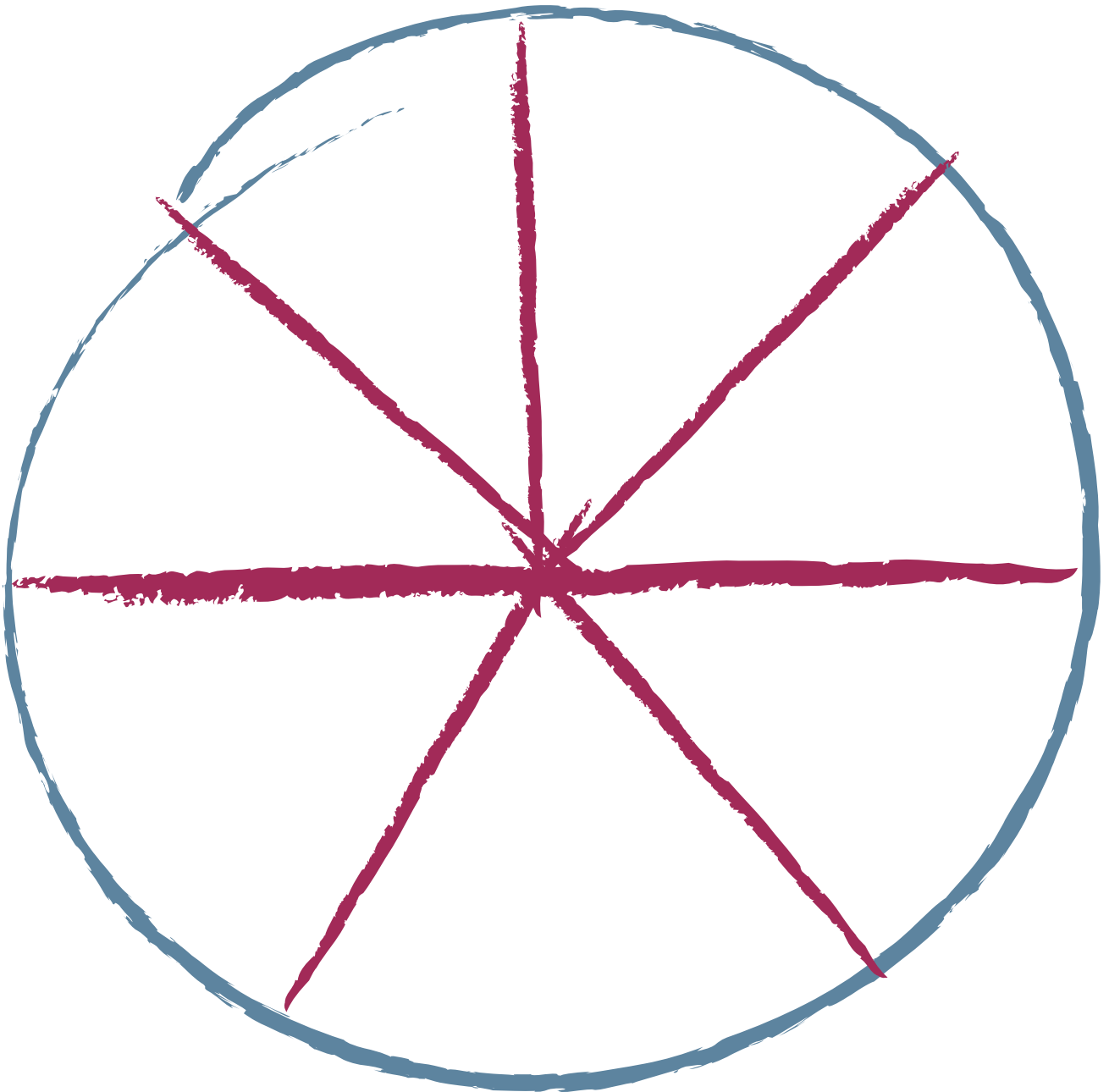
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE



Print and cut out the template, or list seven things you can be grateful for.

You can do this individually or in small groups. If possible discuss your ideas with someone else.

Then each day thank God for one of the things or people on your list.



Notes

[illegible]



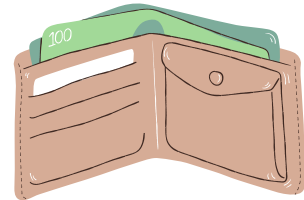
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SESSION THREE

TIME, TALENT &
TREASURE

Activity

TIME, TALENT &
TREASURE



In this session we will take a detailed look at how we spend our time/talents/treasure (money)

What do you spend most of your time thinking about and doing?

What do you spend your money on?

Spend some time talking about this with a friend or your youth group.

How does your list compare to others?

Think about how you could utilise your time, talents and treasure differently.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE



<u>Talents/Skills</u> <u>Treasure</u>	<u>I'm good at/</u> <u>interested in</u> <u>(tick)</u>	<u>How can I use</u> <u>this at my</u> <u>Church?</u>	<u>How can I use</u> <u>this in my</u> <u>Community?</u>	<u>How can I use</u> <u>this in my</u> <u>Family?</u>
Artistic/ creative				
Money (treasure) saving, spending, donations				
Working with children (sports team, Sunday school)				
Technical skills/social media etc				
Teaching/leading				
Organisational skills				
Cooking				
Musical gifts				
Practical skills – able to build/repair				
Other				



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SESSION FOUR

ACTION

LET'S DO
SOMETHING

Action



Thank you for exploring generosity with us. As part of your final session, we want to invite you to look at how we can action and live a generous life.

How can you give your time, talents and treasure?
Discuss with a friend or your youth group. Use the next page to write down your ideas.

Is there an organisation you could volunteer to serve at?

(Foodbank, nursing home, kids club)

Is there a skill you could share with someone else?
(Church AV or worship team, art project to raise money for a missionary)

How could you use your treasure?
(Church, charity, individual, programmes such as kiva.com)

Notes

[illegible]

Prayer

**"Create in me a clean heart O God, renew a
right spirit within me"**

Psalm 51:10

Write a prayer asking God to give you a generous heart like his - write down specific areas of your life where you want to have God's heart and keep it somewhere you will see it every day as a reminder to you.

