



LIVE IT OUT!

A Calvary Lutheran Church
Fall Generosity Project
for all Ages
Handout Week 3

LIVE IT OUT! - WEEK 3



Theme: Where are we meant to be kind and generous?

God's Story Acts 2:41-47 (CEV). "On that day about

three thousand believed his message and were baptized. They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved."

Conversation #1: Our church buildings are wonderful and meaningful places to worship God. Early Christians did not often meet in a public building for prayer and singing and reading scripture; instead they gathered in their households. And when they left their homes, they spent a lot of time telling others about Jesus and meeting the needs of their neighbors. This story from Acts reminds us that the buildings we meet in are special, but the most important thing is building caring relationships with one another and with God—and that can happen anywhere.

1. How is generosity shown in this story?
2. What do you hear in this story that gives you joy?
3. Followers of Jesus spent a lot of time practicing faith in their homes; what faith practices do you do in your household? What is your favorite faith practice and why?

Our/My Household Identity and Story

Goal: Identify all the places and ways this household can practice generosity.

Key Question: Where are all the places and what are all the ways we could be generous with our treasure (money), time, and talents?

Conversation #2:

One only needs to read or hear the news to know there are many communities of faith, organizations, people and places that could benefit from acts of generosity. The great needs of the world need attention and heart-felt care. Take some time to identify the places that stir your passion for giving. All ages can find ways and places to share.

1. What issues or concerns are most important to each of us? This household?
2. What or who compels me/us most deeply to give?
3. What are the ways we can support those issues and needs we most care about in addition to our financial gifts? (Ex. Recycling)
4. What is the difference between charity and generosity? (Do a web search if unsure.)
5. What do we need to do and know to practice responsible and wise generous giving?

Affirmation + Blessing: (Share this blessing with each other.) God equips us and has given us many opportunities to give and share at home and away from home.

EQUIPPING HOUSEHOLDS

Action 3

Our /My words and drawings illustrate ALL the places and people we/I can imagine receiving our /my heart-felt care and generosity.



The Generosity Challenge

How many items do we/I own that have wheels? (Ex: vehicles, tricycle, bicycles, lawn mower, toys with wheels etc.) Count them. What would it mean to give away 10% or purchase new that same number? How hard would this be to do? Who is in need of these items? To whom or where would we/I go to donate one or more?



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Bonus Activity

Generosity: God's promise. Our practice.

Faith5 (R. Melheim), Four Key Faith Practices (D. Anderson) and HomeGrown Faith's Top Ten Faith Practices are reflected in this inventory

Read together Acts 2:42-47 (CEV):⁴² They spent their time **learning** from the apostles, and they were like **family** to each other. They also **broke bread** and **prayed together**.⁴³ Everyone was **amazed** by the many miracles and **wonders** that the apostles worked.⁴⁴ All the Lord's followers often **met together**, and they **shared everything** they had.⁴⁵ They would **sell their property and possessions** and **give the money to whoever needed it**.⁴⁶ Day after day they **met together** in the **temple (church)**. They **broke bread together** in **different homes** and **shared their food** happily and freely,⁴⁷ while **praising God**. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

Name all the things people in this household practice. How many hours are involved in practice? Following are 14 faith practices. What habits are **Already** established as a part of my/our personal and household routine? Mark those with an "**A**." Choose one faith practice to start or **Begin**. Write the letter "**B**" by that practice. Discuss when, where and how I/we will make it happen.

I/we invite the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and household as I/we practice generosity.

- **God's Story:** Regularly read and study the Bible to *personally* learn more about God.
 - **Learn. Teach:** Share God's Story with one another, using age appropriate Bibles, storybooks and technology.
 - **Caring Conversation:** Share highs and lows and find God's Story in one another's stories.
 - **Mealtimes:** Regularly eat meals together – with all "tech" turned off.
 - **Serve:** Joyfully serve one another and regularly host guests for a meal in our home.
 - **Pray:** Pray at mealtime, bedtime, sick time, car time, school time, anytime and anywhere.
 - **Share:** Easily and joyfully share possessions and wealth with those outside this household and family.
 - **Care:** Take deliberate action to care for our neighbor, our community and the earth.
 - **Identity:** Talk and act in ways that reflect our creator God who sent us Jesus to follow.
 - **Cross-Generational Relationships:** Create opportunities for friendships and caring relationships with faith-filled people of all ages.
 - **Worship:** Regularly gather to worship with a community of faith.
 - **Bless:** Practice forgiveness and grace. Affirm and celebrate one another's gifts. Live joyfully and share freely.
 - **Music:** Sing, play or listen to music that praises God and brings joy, peace and healing in our lives.
 - **Amazed and Awed:** Live with a sense of gratefulness every day for God's grace and generosity.
- I covenant with God and one another to become a center for the faith practice of generosity.** Add household signature(s) here:
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