

Dear Generosity Project Champions and Leaders,

THANK YOU! Thank you for your leadership in these worrisome and fear-producing times. The daily news is filled with the very real question, “Will there be enough –medical equipment, hospital beds, well health care providers, sanitizers and disinfectants, toilet paper, food, income...?” At the same time, we hear inspirational stories of the generosity of people’s time, skills, putting one’s self at risk to care for others, and sharing of commodities.

Conversations about money can be challenging for congregations and households in the most normal of times. But in this time of COVID-19, these discussions become essential, and most likely even more difficult. In a time of fear and unknowns related to one’s job, income, and budgets, Pastor Olivia Bryan Updegrove, Co-minister for Family and Children’s Ministry at Disciples Home Missions, shares this, “Talking about money can be done in deeply faithful ways when we remember that we are in relationship with a generous God who loves humanity. God’s generosity is not just a conversation with [*or between*] adults about money, but it is a conversation that should be had between generations who bring gifts [*and unique perspectives*] to offer to God.”

The Generosity Project (TGP) - ELCA is providing the 5G: Live It Out! resource (PDF attached) to you and your households for free. This resource is intended to encourage conversation and support households in their role as God’s stewards and financial managers during this time of economic crisis and fear. Please encourage your households to use this resource to find hope in God’s Story and engage in these faithful conversations.

Live It Out! was specifically designed for household conversation based on the six TGP: 5G Sessions. One need only *add a COVID-19 lens* to make the questions and conversations incredibly relevant for this time of crisis - and hope.

Lesson 1. How does this household talk about money *in a time such as this*?

Lesson 2. How is our household the recipient of generosity *during COVID-19*?

Lesson 3. Where and how are we generous *and caring for one another in our own home and beyond*?

Bonus Activity, p.11, based on Acts 2:42-47, “they gathered In the temple AND they gathered in their homes,” is an inventory of household faith practices and how to begin new ones during this time of dwelling and sheltering in our homes.

Lesson 4. What is our family’s purpose *in these fear-filled, unknown times*? How do we make a plan to be responsible stewards of all God has provided *as we live-day-to-day*?

Lesson 5. “Nothing is impossible with God!” *How does the impact of COVID-19 motivate us to be unexpectedly generous*?

Lesson 6. We now know God’s Story. What is our household story of generosity? *What will it be going forward in these uncertain times*?

Each **Live It Out!** lesson offers a *Generosity Challenge* that involves counting a household object. This exercise seems incredibly timely as we wonder, “will we have enough –food, toilet paper, sanitizing agents, etc.?” Besides adding the counting of toilet paper rolls to the list, this exercise will challenge our households to be generous, even in a time such as this. The final Generosity Challenge invites households to plan a feast and invite ten people - how could this be tweaked in this time of physical distancing? I look forward to your creative solutions and ideas!

Using the social media platforms (that you are now all proficient at using!), consider hosting online discussions with your households and generational cohorts as a part of your ministry of connecting church with home. How could this serve as a resource and focus for Holy Week, VBS for all generations, or summer Family Camp – in person or virtual?

Please let Keith Mundy, ELCA Director of Stewardship Programming, or me know how we can support you in this time when there is desperate need for the message of a loving, generous and grace-filled God.

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THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation