

THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

LIVE IT OUT!

A Household Supplement
Connecting Church
and Home



A synod, congregation and household ministry



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

Writer and editor: **Linda Staats,**
ELCA Generosity Project coordinator

Co-editors and contributors: **Jen Kooistra**
Stephanie Luedtke

Contributors: **Heather Roth Johnson**
Aly Kohlmeyer
Laura Ramlow
Jennifer Rome
Holly Slater
Sara Yotter

To host a workshop, train leaders or for more information, contact:
ELCA Generosity Project coordinator
TheGenerosityProject@elca.org

Permission is given for congregations and households to reproduce the handouts and resources for the implementation of The Generosity Project. Reproduction for resale or paid presentations is prohibited. All handouts and activities are to clearly identify the source as The Generosity Project – ELCA. 2019.

Copyright © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



LIVE IT OUT!

Take home conversation starters to nurture the practice of generosity in our households and daily lives.

Live It Out! is a household supplement to The Generosity Project: 5G Sessions and Worship. The Live It Out! conversation starters are intended for households with one or more members, those sharing living space temporarily or permanently; for immediate family, extended family; and friends of all ages and generations. They are intended for those who may experience multiple religious traditions or no faith practices in their daily life.

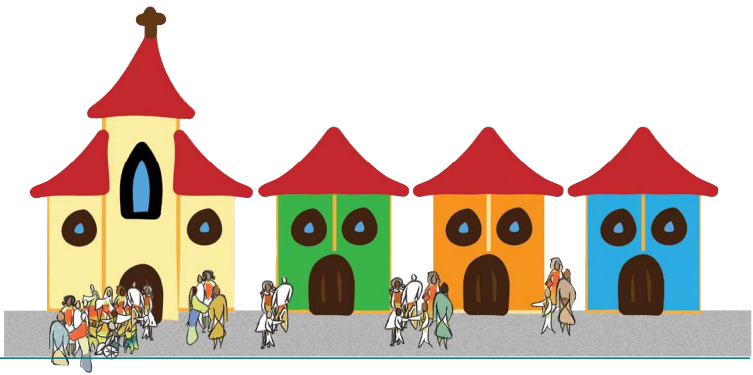
Each conversation session consists of a theme, a goal, a key question, further discussion prompts and words of affirmation and blessing. Corresponding activity pages help launch conversations into understanding and action.

The goal of the Generosity Challenge is to explore the meaning of tithing and the idea of sharing 10 percent of all we earn or own. It is meant to trigger further conversation – and a generous response.

The six household conversation starters may be used in six days, six weeks, six months or as part of a congregational initiative related to The Generosity Project. Allow plenty of time for these important conversations. May these conversations and activities help shape the practice of generosity now and for many generations to come!

Note: If a household of one, please substitute “me” for “we” and “my” for “our.” Think about those with whom you could have these conversations – extended family members or a small group of friends.

LIVE IT OUT!



Living God's Story: HERE & NOW

Conversation Goal

Discover that my household can respond to God's surprising and unexpected nudges to be generous – and do what may seem impossible.

Conversation #5 When Pigs Fly – Nothing Is Impossible With God!

Sometimes you may be moved to give beyond your planned and intentional giving. A specific situation may move you to give to someone in need. You may feel the desire to help an entire community when tragedy or disaster has occurred. You may feel moved to support a person or organization that helps others and cares for God's creation. Spontaneous giving may be prompted by the Spirit and is another way to grow and nurture generosity in our lives.

Key Question When have we unexpectedly felt motivated to be generous?

Discussion Prompts

- What are some situations or examples where we may want to give of our treasure, time or talent unexpectedly? (Ex.: disasters, someone we personally encounter, or a fundraiser at school)
- How can we be open to giving and sharing unexpectedly?
- Is there a limit to our generosity?
- Do we need to consult with one another before giving and sharing spontaneously?
- How does giving spontaneously fit into our household mission statement?
- Is there a difference between responsible and irresponsible giving?

God's Story Matthew 19:23-30 (CEV). Jesus said to his disciples, "It's terribly hard for rich people to get into the kingdom of heaven! In fact, it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly surprised and asked, "How can anyone ever be saved?" Jesus looked straight at them and said, "There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything!" Peter replied, "Remember, we have left everything to be your followers! What will we get?" Jesus answered: "Yes, all of you have become my followers. And so in the future world, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, I promise that you will sit on twelve thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel. All who have given up home or brothers and sisters or father and mother or children or land for me will be given hundred times as much. They will also have eternal life. But many who are now first will be last, and many who are last will be first."

Affirmation + Blessing God, with you all things are possible. Lead us and help our household grow in generosity and unexpected giving and sharing.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

LIVING GOD'S STORY

Action 5

Our words and drawings illustrate the causes and purposes that we have supported because of unexpected opportunities.



The Generosity Challenge

How many light bulbs are inside and outside our house? Count them. What is 10% of this total? What would it mean to give away or purchase new, 10% of the total number of lightbulbs we use? How hard would this be to do? Who needs lightbulbs? To whom or where would we go to donate them?



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.