



Conversation on Gratitude and Generosity

PURPOSE: To explore our experience of gratitude and generosity, and to become more comfortable sharing this aspect of our faith.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Two people
 - 30 minutes to devote to the discussion
 - Advance individual preparation around current financial giving
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ACTIVITY:

Opening Prayer (have one person open in prayer, or use the following petition):

Loving God, we thank you for all that you provide for us. Be with us now in our conversation. Open up our hearts and minds to hear your call to generosity in the stories we share with each other. Use this opportunity to deepen our faith and our ability to follow your call. These things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reflection (read the following):

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
— Psalm 136:1

Our experience of gratitude and generosity is rooted in our experience of God. God fills the world with abundance and blesses us beyond our deserving.

God's people recognize that all good things are gifts from God. As God's children and heirs, we respond first with gratitude and an acknowledgment of God's grace.

When we respond generously with our gifts, we deepen our faith and participate in God's mission in ways that go beyond what our gifts can accomplish alone. This is one of the many ways we work together as a church *In Mission for Others*.

Discussion (ensure that each person has time to reflect and share their thoughts on each of the following):

- What is your first memory about money? What are some ways you feel this has shaped your current feelings towards giving?
- Has there been someone in your life who taught you about, or modeled for you, gratitude and generous giving? Is there someone who serves as a model for you today?
- What is your personal theology of giving?
- What percentage of your income do you currently designate to the church? Other charities/ organizations? Do you know how you divide your current giving?
- Are there ways you could see yourself growing in gratitude and generosity?
- Make one commitment for that growth.

Closing Prayer (have one person offer a prayer, or use the following petition):

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for this time of mutual conversation and encouragement. Help us to take this conversation and use it to strengthen our discipleship in both generosity and gratitude. Give us the strength and courage to carry out the commitments we have made. For all these things we give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name. Amen.