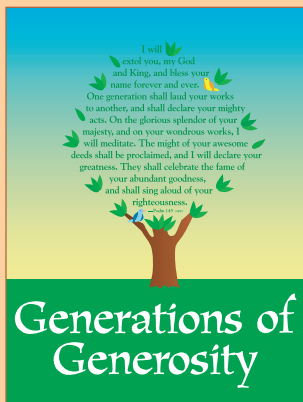


Let the Word of God Dwell in You



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I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

—Psalm 145 NRSV

A bulletin or newsletter promotion

could read: What motivated a young, growing boy to give up his lunch? Why should a seemingly poor woman spend money on expensive perfume and then pour it on Jesus' feet? What principles guided a widow to drop her last two copper coins into the offering box? What inspired a Samaritan man to bind the wound of a stranger, place him on his own animal and walk to the nearest shelter?

Using familiar biblical characters, we will celebrate the principles that allowed these New Testament characters to model their faith. And we will examine our own lives.

Setting the Stage

You will need six people

1. A boy about 12
2. A younger woman
3. An older woman
4. A middle-aged man
5. A narrator/director
6. A worship leader

Taped music or a pianist can help to make transitions from drama to discussion and back. Guests should be sitting in small groups, able to see the stage, also able to discuss between scenes.

Explanation

The theme verse for Generations of Generosity comes from Psalm 145 where we read, "One generation shall laud your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts." There are times when we don't need to use words to do that. Our actions can tell others clearly of our faith. Why do we act in certain ways? What motivates us? What principles guide our behaviour?

Colossians 3:16a says "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." We might paraphrase this as, "Let the story of Christ stay with you. Let the certainty of God's

action fill you. Let this continual gift guide every moment of your days."

One way to see God at work in Christian people is to watch them. God's story is told through the everyday stories of ordinary people. Our actions demonstrate to others who we are and what is important. Our principles are evident every day in relationship to others at home, on the job, at leisure, during commutes, in volunteer efforts, and in church. We meet and interact based on the principles that are already an ingrained part of our lives.

Colossian 3:16 serves as the backdrop for the following drama. The audience will hear stories of familiar Bible story characters who modeled principled living. They will have the chance to discuss their actions and to compare the Bible characters to people they know. Our hope is that they will also examine their own lives and ask, "Does the word of God dwell in my life? Is that obvious to others?"

SCRIPT

Narrator: Welcome fellow travellers on the road of faith. Gather together to hear the stories of others who have traveled on this very same road. Old stories told in a new voice. Stories that celebrate, stories that encourage, stories that teach, direct, guide, and give us a chance to see in others that which we seek in ourselves... a glimpse of the gospel. As you enjoy these stories may you celebrate that God has also invited you to a better place, a place where the word of Christ dwells in you richly.

(Read John 6: 1-14 as a young boy enters.)

Young boy: I really don't see what all the fuss was about. I had a lunch. I shared it. And then I went back into the crowd to join my friends. It wasn't that great a lunch. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to you, probably. It's what he did with it. Giving thanks. I just gave the lunch. Jesus did the praying. Lifting up my

Intergenerational Event "Let the Word of God Dwell in You", continued...

fish as if they were gold or something. Way above his head. Fish in one hand. Bread in the other. It was embarrassing. Such a simple lunch. For a moment it got really quiet. I was scared that everyone was going to laugh at me. But then...all at once...baskets were flying from hand to hand. People were shouting, 'Over here! Look!' The food came out of nowhere and with it the sound of laughing...not at me...but laughing...with each other. I still don't get it. Two fish and five loaves of barley bread and all those people...laughing and eating and passing baskets.

Narrator: Talk with your small group. What motivated this young boy to give up his lunch to Jesus when he could have kept it for himself? Who have you met in your life with similar principles? (5-7 minutes of discussion time)

Narrator: Watch now as a young woman enters. She comes in quietly just like she came into the room where Jesus sat with his friends. No speaking. She began to act out her plan. Beautiful smells filled the room. All was quiet. Everyone watched. Her long hair and her tears told her story.

(Read Matthew 26:6-13 as she enters)

Young woman: You know how some people see you but they never quite act like you're there? Lots of people like that in my day. So I thought it would be easy just to slip in quietly. I was hoping no one would notice and say something. I hadn't really planned out the way it would happen. The perfume I bought with my own money. A very personal gift. The cost didn't matter. Didn't know if he'd like, but it just seemed right. It was something I had to do. Give him the perfume. The tears came on their own. I had seen him with his friends. Walking on the streets. He had seen me. But not like the others. He had seen me as if I were real and there. A friend. I had to do something. But I made such a scene. My tears, the perfume. I tried to wipe it up with my hair. I couldn't look up. I couldn't speak. It was just something I had to do.

Narrator: Discuss what motivated the woman to give Jesus this gift. Have you ever given or received a similar gift? (5-7 minutes of discussion time)

Narrator: A different day. A different place. Another came forward. Not knowing the eyes of Jesus were watching her. Holding her forth as an example to his disciples. Holding her forth as an example of a principled life. With two coins she came. She left with something more.

(Read Mark 12:41-44)

Older Woman: I stood towards the back of the line. I let several go in front of me. I had so little, you see, and I could see they had so much. You could hear the sound of coin after coin piling up. Gold, I'm sure. Silver too. I had copper coins...pennies...pennies. I lived alone. I was old. What was I to do? Spend them and have nothing? Better to give and have hope. But standing in line, I kept my hand in my pocket. I felt them slip between my fingers. One...two...one...two...one...two...I hoped no one was looking. I hoped.

Narrator: What principle allowed the woman to give all that she had? Who do you know who has given sacrificially? How do you decide how much of your life to share with Jesus? (5-7 minutes of discussion)

Narrator: It was along journey. He was hot. His animal was hot. The dust covered his face, feet, eyes. He came slowly down the road, his thoughts on a clean room, a good night's sleep and the business of the next day.

(Read Luke 10: 30-35)

Middle-aged Man: I had come down this road a hundred times. Always a bit tricky. Long distances, open areas. You have to be alert. But it was a fairly busy road. I didn't feel in any danger. I could see something off to the side of the road. I didn't recognize it as a man at first. I thought maybe somebody had dropped a bundle of clothing. He was hurt. My Lord, how could someone do

this to another? He couldn't be left. I did what I could. The blood had dried on his face. He couldn't talk but he saw me. I smiled. Just two men on a hot day trying to get to shelter. You would have done the same.

Narrator: Helping those 'off to the side." Giving a hand to one not on the main road. Someone a little bloody. A little battered. A little dead. What motivated this man? What principle guided his actions? Who do you know like this? (5-7 minutes of discussion time)

Narrator: A young boy, a party crasher, a poor woman, and a man with oil, wine and a donkey. Gracious God, you have always used the simplest to show us your truth. Dried fish and bread, two copper coins, white bandages on dark skin, a strong back, a dusty road, a repentant sinner. We thank you for their witness. May their stories dwell in our hearts richly. In your name, Amen

Worship Leader: In the name of God, who created, redeems and sustains us, let us thank God for people in our lives whose actions reflect Christ in their heart. You can speak your thanks to God out loud or you may choose to thank God silently. (prayer time) Amen

Sing together "Take My Life that I May Be", Lutheran Book of Worship #406

Worship Leader: We have been blessed so that we might be a blessing to others. We have been called to a life filled with high principles. We are grounded in the things that really matter when we allow the word of Christ to reach us and to affect our lives. We dwell in Christ when we allow his word to dwell richly in us. Let our leaving be filled with pride and joy at how God has touched us today.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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