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# Notes for Leaders:

These four sessions aim to help young people as they think through

their commitment to God, to their church and to the wider community. It will enable

course members to:

* Think seriously about their giving of time, gifts and money.
* To consider carefully and prayerfully the effect that their decisions may

have on others.

* To learn more of God’s generosity.

The sessions are designed to be very hands on, creative, interactive, thought provoking and challenging.

## Safeguarding:

The welfare of young people and their leaders is paramount. Each church or organisation will have its own safeguarding policy which needs to be strictly observed. If you are intending to carry out these group sessions online, then please be aware of any online safeguarding policies or protocols.

If you are in any doubt, please contact the person in your church who is responsible

for safeguarding in your own Parish or, if you are still unclear, your Diocesan safeguarding advisor.

# Shape Description automatically generatedSession 1:

# An introduction into thinking about generosity

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Description automatically generatedOverview:

God is the creator of all good things and we want to recognise that everything we have comes from God. It is right that we should give thanks to God for all that he gives us. We want to ask God’s blessing on what we give back to people, the church and to charities for them to carry out God’s work in the world.

## Icebreaker:

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Description automatically generatedAnonymously give out one of the following questions to each member of the group and then ask them to share to the group:

* Describe a great experience you had in the past year, what made it so good, and why you are grateful for it.
* Describe a great present you received and why it was special.
* Describe a gift you have and how you use it.
* Name someone you know who makes your life better and why.
* Think of something you used today that you think other people may take for granted.
* What do you appreciate the most about the person sitting next to you?

## Icon Description automatically generatedShare:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOubROEBqdU>

40 Acts Seize Every Opportunity

* What statement or quotation stands out from this video?

## Discuss:

* Do you prefer giving gifts or receiving them?
* Do you think you are a generous person – why?
* Icon

  Description automatically generatedWhat stories of showing generosity to others can you share?
* What do you think is the most important thing someone can give? Money, things, time, gifts?

Ask a member of the group to read 2 Corinthians 9:7: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful give”.

* Discuss what the group thinks this means.
* Does giving make you happy?

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* Ask the members of the group to think about something that

someone has done for them recently, why it made them

happy and how it might’ve made that other person feel.

* Give thanks to God for the good gifts people have been given.

## Read:

Mark 10:17-27Shape

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* Icon

  Description automatically generatedWhat is the result of the conversation?
* Why was the young man sad when he left Jesus?
* Is this story about money, or is it about putting God first, or both?

Finish by asking the group to consider in silence their approach to giving away everything to God.

* How does this make them feel?

## Pray together:

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Description automatically generatedAsk the group to sit quietly and ask God one or two of the following questions in a way they feel comfortable:

* How can I learn more about God’s generosity?
* How can I learn to know what I am good at and use it to help others?
* How can I be a more cheerful giver?
* In what ways can I have the opportunity to be generous tomorrow?
* How can I encourage others to be more generous through my actions?

Ask if anyone is happy to feedback on what they heard from God.

**Pray to end:** Thank you God for gifts you have given us and opportunities you have presented us with to be generous. Let us understand the role we have to play in encouraging and blessing others and using our own gifts and resources as positively as possible for you. We pray for more opportunities to express our generosity this week and pray you would be with us all. Amen.

Weekly challenge:

Stealthy giving: Leave a little gift for someone you know on their doorstep or send something anonymously in the post. See how this makes you feel. This will introduce a sense of joy through giving and get people thinking about generosity.

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# Session 2:

# A God of plenty

## Icon Description automatically generatedOverview: Shape Description automatically generated

Today we will think about what we have to share and consider how much

more God might have to do with that.

## Icon Description automatically generatedIcebreaker:

Word Association

Start the first person off with some of the words below and see where you get to.

Money / Giving / Blessing / Rich / Poor / Gifts / Charity / Generosity

## Icon Description automatically generatedShare:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8PIkqxHrrI> – Naomi’s story

* What from Naomi’s story stands out for you?

## Icon Description automatically generatedDiscuss:

“You can give without loving, but you can never love with giving”

* Do you agree?
* Why/why not?

## Icon Description automatically generatedRead:

John 6:1-14

* How does God take what we offer and use it to meet the needs of other people?
* How might God multiply our scarce resources to provide plenty for everyone?
* Have you discovered anything new about God?
* How have you viewed God’s plenty before?
* How do you see now that God has an abundance to share?

Write down on a post-it something that you consider a gift you can share with others.

Ask everyone to fold up that post-it note and hold it in their hand. Ask them to silently pray for God to bless what they can offer from their own hands. Ask them to open it up and keep it in a place they will see it often, as a reminder that they are blessed to share this gift.

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## Icon Description automatically generatedShape Description automatically generatedAction:

On a second post-it note, ask them to write down something that they

have seen in others that they are encouraged by – ask them to fold and

give that post-it to someone else in the group to encourage them

e.g. always smiling, always upbeat, being a good listener.

## Pray together:

* Icon

  Description automatically generatedAsk the group to silently thank God for someone else in the room

and for the gifts that they have.

* Ask the group to consider praying aloud for family and friends that need encouragement in their gifting.
* Thank God that everyone has something to share, whether big or small, obvious or subtle.

**Pray to end:** Lord, we thank you for all the great things you have given us,

For the feeling of having plenty and sometimes even more that we need.

Help us to share all that we have willingly with others.

And to see what and when we can share.

Amen.

Weekly challenge:

Take a walk around your community and have a look at God’s creation. Say thank you to God that he has given us so much. Ask God how you can best respond to what he has given us, by thinking about what in your week you can give to him.

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# Shape Description automatically generatedSession 3:

# Giving to God enables mission

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## Overview:

Today we will think about giving and why it is important to charities and

churches for them to carry out their mission. We will consider the role we have to play in this.

## Icebreaker:

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Description automatically generated“Would You Rather”:

Ask the group a series of “Would You Rather” questions based around receiving (some examples below):

* Would you rather have someone cook your favourite meal or take you to your favourite restaurant?
* Would you rather your friend took you to the cinema to watch a new film or go on a bike ride together?
* Would you rather get a personal in-joke present from a friend for your birthday or a new expensive gadget?
* Would you rather organise your own birthday party so it’s just the way you want it or have your best friend throw a surprise party for you?
* Would you rather receive a gift or a card saying that someone had donated to a good cause on your behalf?

## Icon Description automatically generatedShare:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKCb0vrCSoY> – 40 Acts seize every opportunity

* What stands out from this video for you?

## Icon Description automatically generatedDiscuss:

Go around the room and ask people to talk about a charity they know of.

* Ask them what that charity does to support its cause.
* How did you hear about the charity?
* Is what the charity does important?
* Would you ever give your money to this charity? Why?
* What is important to consider when you are asked to support a charity?

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## Read:

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Description automatically generatedLuke 8:1-3 key phrase: “Supporting the ministry of Jesus with their

own means.”

* What do you think ‘own means’ means?
* What do you think the Bible isShape

  Description automatically generated telling us here about the importance

of supporting the church with our own means?

## Activity:

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Description automatically generatedGo around the group and ask for each member to say one good thing

that the church does– write them down so everyone can see.

Go through the ideas written up and ask the group if that thing could be

done without money – yes/no and why?

Make a list of all the things in the church that the group consider costs money.

* Where does this money come from?

Ask the group if they feel the church could encourage people to give more to the good things the church does – how could this be done better? Can anything be learnt from how the charities we spoke about at the beginning do things?

* How else can we bless and encourage the church’s work?

## Pray together:

Ask the group to pray aloud for God to bless good things that the church does.

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Description automatically generatedAsk the group to pray for God to bless all the charities and causes that support people across the UK and the world.

Ask the group to pray for God to bless those that give to these causes so that they are able to continue their good work.

Ask the group to pray that they might be encouraged to be generous to causes that they believe in.

**Pray to end:** We pray for all those who give themselves to support others in their communities. We particularly pray for the outpouring of good works of our church, please bless our leaders and all those that support our church with their own means, whether financially or through their time and effort. We ask for a blessing on all those that we have come in contact with today. Amen.

Weekly challenge:

Research one or two charities that have a cause you believe in or are passionate about. Investigate what donations actually help that charity to do and what the impact is. Does this make you more likely to want to give money to that charity? Does what you have learnt encourage you to investigate giving to your church?

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# Session 4:

# Worthiness

## Icon Description automatically generatedOverview:

God is the creator of earth – genesis tells us how he enjoyed what he had made, spending time to look at it at Shape

Description automatically generatedthe end of each day and living amongst creation. We will look at how we can acknowledge what God has provided and enjoy what God has given us and how we motivated to give back to God in response to what he has done for us.

## Play:

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Description automatically generatedPlay guess the cost of items game – examples below:

* Ps5
* Pack of pasta
* MacBook Pro
* Oven
* Monthly O2 contract
* Tin of beans
* Kettle
* New bike
* 6 pints of milk

Discuss the different guesses people came up with and how they came to those ideas.

Ask the group to put them in order of value.

## Discuss:

* Icon

  Description automatically generatedThese are how much things cost - but what are they worth?
* Would you pay that amount of money for that thing and why/why not?

Ask the group to change the order of the items to show their worth, rather than their value.

* What of these things are necessities and what are luxuries?
* Do some of these things need to be sacrificed in favour of something else?
* What do you consider is the difference between need and want?

## Icon Description automatically generatedShare:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sixLca2U5A> – Joel’s Story

* What stands out for you from Joel’s story?

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## Read:

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Description automatically generated1 Chronicles 29: 1-20

King David and the leaders gave the very best of what they had. They

gave willingly and with devotion to God.

* What can you give to God?
* If not riches like David, but praise? Worship? Time? Gifts? Money?

## Icon Description automatically generatedAction:

Give each member a piece of paper and envelope and ask them to write to

themselves about what they can pledge to God and why. Tell them to seal the envelope and takeShape

Description automatically generated it back from them– you will return it to them in a couple of weeks to remind them of what they said.

## Pray together:

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Description automatically generatedAsk the group to pray for the person on their left, asking God to give that person the confidence to commit to giving what they can to God.

Ask the group to pray for the person on their right, asking God to give that person the opportunities to express their generosity to God and the others.

**Pray to end:** God we thank you for your goodness to us and that you invite us to play our part in Your Story. We thank you that you trust us with this incredible task of showing your love to the world and that we don’t have to do this alone but that we do it through your power working within us. We ask that you would fill us with the faith and courage that we need to live generous lives that show your love in action to people both here at home and around the world. Amen.

Weekly challenge:

Discuss with your family the idea of giving a percentage of your pocket money to the church – what does your family think? Does 5% feel like a lot of money to give to the church or would you feel like you could give 10%? Does giving this money excite you? Are you able to give cheerfully? Consider following up with individuals on this topic, but do not press this subject too hard.

***Note to leaders: Be sensitive on this weekly challenge as not all young people may receive pocket money.***

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This young person’s Bible study was inspired by *Young People Giving For Life*, a resource from the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, designed to help develop a generous culture amongst younger Christians. Our thanks go to them for their support, especially to Steve Cumberland and Angela Brymer-Heywood for their original study.

