

“
I HAVE COME
THAT THEY MAY
HAVE LIFE AND
HAVE IT TO
THE FULL.

JOHN 10:10
”



THE GENEROSITY INITIATIVE

We have developed a short series of four talks to help congregations think through how we should respond to God's lavish generosity:

1. *The generosity of God.*
2. *Being generous with our **time** and **talents**.*
3. *What Jesus teaches about our **treasures** - our money and possessions - and putting them to work for him.*
4. *Being generous with our **talking** - our conversations, our comments, our prayers and our **testimony**.*

If your Church would like to participate in The Generosity Initiative, please contact Keith Gardiner:

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Responding generously
to a generous God



WHAT IS GENEROSITY?

Generosity is caring about the needs of others and taking action to meet those needs. It is a means of transforming lives and communities.

IS GENEROSITY BENEFICIAL?

Social and scientific studies have shown that generosity leads to a happier, healthier, and more purposeful life.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

God in his very nature is lavishly generous. He created the world, every living thing, and all its resources for us to look after and enjoy. He sent his only Son to save us from our sins and enabled us to be adopted into his family - as well as pouring out his Holy Spirit upon us.

As we are made in God's image, we are also designed to be givers and to receive satisfaction from giving. By being generous to God and to others, we show our love and gratitude to God in addition to bearing witness to our faith. Giving is the antidote God provides to help us resist greed and self-indulgence. Practising generosity helps us to grow in spiritual maturity and enables us to participate in God's mission in the world.

HOW CAN CHRISTIANS RESPOND?

The call on Christians to be generous applies to all our resources - our time, our attention, our energy, our skills and capabilities, our money and possessions, our speech and testimony.

God's generosity in entrusting the world to us comes with the expectation that we will use its resources wisely so that through responsible stewardship all people on earth will be able to enjoy the abundant life that he intends for us.

HOW CAN CHURCHES RESPOND?

Churches are called to be examples of abundant generosity and stewardship in how they handle their resources and to inspire their congregations to live generously. This leaflet signposts two resources that churches can use to enable them to bring God's abundance to the communities where God has placed them.

- *The Generosity Project*
- *The Generosity Initiative*

THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

This project aims to help us learn and understand what God is saying about generosity through Bible study and teaching material and then to pray and encourage each other to put generosity into practice.

The project has six parts:

- *A world built on generosity*
- *The inward curve of the heart*
- *A new, generous life*
- *Money and the new life*
- *The partnership of the generous*
- *Reflection, action, and prayer*

As well as thought-provoking study books which can be ordered, excellent videos and online guides for church leaders and group leaders are provided free of charge on the website:

<https://matthiasmedia.com.au/pages/the-generosity-project>

GENEROSITY