# Generous Life Project : Study Guide

**Goal:** To inspire each other to deepen the generosity of our response to the Gospel.

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| **Session 1 – The Bread of Life**  **Theme**: Feeding people with both physical and spiritual bread as a sign of God in the world  **Hook: Come, The Table is Ready**  **Text**: John 6:1-14,25-35 and Isaiah 55:1-2  **Video**: Feeding Programs  **Learning Goal**: To discover ways to feed the hungry of the neighborhood with both physical and spiritual bread  **Learning Activity:** **:**  Introduce congregation and neighborhood analysis tool. Discover the opportunities for engagement where the assets of your congregation meet the challenges faced by your neighborhood.  **Sending**: Eucharist picnic with reading of Isaiah 55:1-2  **Preparation/Need**   1. Have HOOK written out on whiteboard, newsprint or screen 2. Newsprint or poster size paper for ongoing congregation and neighborhood analysis 3. Newsprint for tracking “Images of the Kingdom of God” 4. Markers 5. Paper for participants 6. Elements for Holy Communion present and ready 7. Area outside selected and prepared – if available. | **Session 2 – One Goal: the Kingdom of God**  **Theme**: Working together for the one goal of living into the Kingdom of God  **Hook: What is the Kingdom of God like?**  **Text:** Luke 13:18-21, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Isaiah 40:4-5  **Video**: Congregations Working Together  **Learning Goal:** Explore potential conference partners for your work in the Kingdom of God  **Learning Activity**: Small Group charting, add “obstacle” circle to congregation and neighborhood analysis  **Sending:** Isaiah 40:4-5  **Preparation/Need**   1. Newsprint tracking the “Images of the Kingdom of God” from the last session 2. Analyses work from the last session 3. Newsprint paper 4. Markers | **Session 3 – Shower YOUR Blessings**  **Theme**: In the Kingdom of God, we are all neighbors. Being a neighbor means using all of your resources, especially your mercy**.**  **Hook: Who is my neighbor?**  **Text:** Ezekiel 34:23-31 and Luke 10:25-37  **Video:** Congregations Working Ecumenically  (no title on video)  **Learning Goal:** To determine the cost and risk your congregation is willing to take to become neighbor  **Learning Activity:** Compare/Contrast chart, Think, Pair, Share questions,  **Sending:** Whip Around  **Preparation/Need**   1. Copies of the Compare and Contrast chart on the last page of the session guide 2. Analysis work from the last session 3. “Images of the Kingdom of God” newsprint from the last session 4. New pieces of newsprint 5. Markers |
| **Session 4 – Boundless Generosity**  **Theme:** Jesus provides in abundance as a sign of the Kingdom of God!  **Hook: Are we a refueling station in the Kingdom of God or a clubhouse?**  **Text:** John 2:1-11, Luke 6:37-38, Psalm 72:15-20  **Video**: Congregations Working for their Community (Bethel, Encino – no title in video)  **Learning Goal**: To discover ways your abundance can overflow into your neighborhood  **Learning Activity**: Congregation and neighborhood analysis  **Sending:** Psalm 72:15-19  **Preparation/Need**   1. “Images of the Kingdom of God” newsprint 2. Analysis newsprint 3. Markers 4. Copies of the last page of the session with Psalm 72   ***See “Preparations for Session 7” to find detailed work to be done prior to this session!!*** | **Session 5 – Life from Death**  **Theme:** Resurrected to be fruitful: life has purpose!  **Hook: Are we ripe, rotten or dehydrated?**  **Text:** John 12:20-26,32, Isaiah 61:1-11  **Video**: Struggling Congregations Back From the Brink  **Learning Goal**: To recognize where death could be productive in the life of your congregation  **Learning Activity**: Kingdom of God images, T Chart, personal reflection, analysis  **Sending:** Luke 4:16-21  **Preparation/Need**   1. “Images of the Kingdom of God” newsprint 2. Analysis newsprint 3. Markers 4. Blank paper for folks to make a “T” chart | **Session 6 – Light for the World**  **Theme**: Sharing the light of Christ with each other around the world  **Hook: Oh my! Debbie Boone was right!**  **Like a light switch – goes click – turn it ON!**  **Text**: Matthew 5:13-14, Revelation 7:9-10, Isaiah 66:18-19  **Video**: Congregations Working Globally  **Learning Goal**: To learn from those who share the light of Christ with you  **Learning Activity**; Next steps from your congregation and neighborhood analysis  **Sending:** Revised Affirmation of Baptism  **Preparation/Need:**  **1**)“Images of the Kingdom of God” newsprint,  2) Congregation and neighborhood analysis newsprint,  3) Markers,  4) Baptismal Font  5) Paschal Candle  6) Baptismal candles or some other candles |
| ***See “Preparations for Session 7” to find detailed work to be done prior to this session!!***  **Session 7: Celebrating Generosity: Your Offering P**  **Theme:** What do you WANT to do?  **Hook: You don’t have to do anything.**  **Text**: Review of past Biblical Foundations work. Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22: 34-40, Matthew 28:16-20 and 2 Corinthians 5: 16-20  **PowerPoint Slides: See synod website to download slides and spreadsheet.**  **Learning Goal:** to discover how God is using the resources you share with your congregation, our synod and our churchwide organization**.**  **Learning Activity;** create a narrative budget for your congregation that shows how resources are used to fund our common mission: to Love God, Love neighbor, for the sake of the world**.**  **Preparation/Need:**  1) “Images of the Kingdom of God” newsprint,  2) Congregation and neighborhood analysis newsprint.  3) Several sheets of blank newsprint  3) Markers  4) Power point slides loaded and ready on computer, projector  5) Copies of your congregation’s budget from this year.  6) Read “Preparation for Session 7” which precedes this session.  This is IMPORTANT!!  7) Copies of Personal Letter of Intent for each congregation member  8) Copies of Letter of Intent for synod for the groups to consider.  9) Blank pieces of paper for participants**.** | **Celebrating Generosity Sunday**  **Worship:**  Ideas for texts and other content of Celebration worship  **Prayers:** Suggested prayers to be offered at the reception of “Personal Letters of Intent” as well as “Congregation’s Letter of Intent.”  **Preparation/Need:**   1. Get the word beginning at least a couple of weeks ahead of this Sunday that folks will be expected to bring their “Personal Letters of Intent” with them to worship that day. 2. Get the word out that **Celebrate Generosity** will be extra fun with great stories and great music! |  |