

STATIONS OF GENEROSITY 2024

Dear Facilitator:

Stations of Generosity inspires biblical generosity in all kinds of learners, especially those who prefer to learn through oral methods.

Key Principles of Facilitating Stations of Generosity

1. Practice your introduction. Remind people that you are a learner. “I am on the journey with you.”
2. Encourage people to explain their thoughts. “What do you think?”
3. Create discussion, not teaching. Let the group *find* the answers. Don’t let them depend on you. When they ask you questions, pass them to the group. When questions are too hard to answer, suggest that we discuss it later.
4. Ask open-ended questions. Silence is good; people are thinking.
5. Give small, precise instructions for discussion. Explain the purpose of discussion ahead of time.
6. Listen actively. Pay attention to what people say. Connect it to what others have said. Repeat back to them what they said. Affirm their sharing. Write down their names and use them.
7. Never, never let people ask for money. Stations of Generosity must be safe from asking. Stations forms *disciples*, not *donors*.
8. Give lots of time for discussion. Participants and the Holy Spirit will carry conversation to unexpected places. That’s great.

Facilitating Challenging Topics

Participants may bring up challenging topics, like the prosperity “gospel” or tithing. Remember, you are in the role of facilitator, not teacher. Ask good questions or offer passages of scripture to discuss. Then, trust the Holy Spirit to reveal truth. For more information on these topics, feel free to contact us at stations@stationsofgenerosity.org

A few scriptures to consider:

- **Prosperity gospel:** *Blessed to be a blessing.* (Genesis 12:1-2) *Promise of trouble.* (John 16:33)
Tithing: *The Old Testament 23% tithe.* (Numbers 18:21, Deuteronomy 14:23, Deuteronomy 14:2) *New Testament giving.* (2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Luke 21:1-4, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

Stations of Generosity

PREPARE...

Look through the document below to make sure you understand it. Think about the time you have allocated. How far do you want to be at each point during the retreat?

In section 1, you will briefly introduce yourself and share some of your story so people can relate to you. Prepare that ahead of time.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE....

- Sign-in Sheet
- Booklets for participants
- Survey Sheet
- Pens
- (Optional) Flip chart and marker
- (Optional) Computer and TV/Projector with Pastor Hannington and Handful of Rice videos

For each passage, we will do six things:

1. Read the story once out loud.
2. Ask and answer first-level questions (slowly walking through details of the story).
3. Have someone retell the story in their own words.
4. One of these three options:
 - a. Memorize a verse.
 - b. Act out a drama.
 - c. Write a song (in very song-based cultures).
5. Ask second-level questions that draw meaning and application from the story.
6. Ask “Which of the Stations do you see in this story?”

SESSION 1

Objectives:

1. Welcome Participants to Stations of Generosity
2. Address Money and Mammon
3. Help participants take ownership of the learning process
4. Introduce the 7 Stations of Generosity

Resources:

- Time: 60-90 minutes
 - Audio/Visual: NA
-

Welcome Participants & Express Gratitude (25-30 minutes)

1. WELCOME TO STATIONS OF GENEROSITY

- “Today we are part of a global movement. This kind of retreat has happened on every continent, in more than 70 countries and 30 languages. Our brothers and sisters all over the world are learning the same principles of biblical generosity.”
- “Welcome to Stations of Generosity”
- Handout the Participant Guide
- “This booklet is our guide today. It’s not a book to read through. It’s a map for our experience together.” The booklet has:
 - This 1-2 Day Experience
 - Eight Discovery Bible Studies for house churches or small groups.
- “Many of us will spread this to others. But today, let’s focus on experiencing it for ourselves. God touches me every time I read these verses. Later, we can ask ‘How will I spread this in my area?’”
- Question for the group: “What would happen if everyone in your church became radically generous? What would it look like?”

Stations of Generosity

2. INTRODUCE YOURSELF and share some of your story. Let the group introduce.
 - “I am not an expert. I am a trained facilitator.”
 - “I am on the journey with you. When I do this, God always teaches me more.”
 - Share your personal story – perhaps 5-7 minutes – including your family so that people can connect and relate to you.
 - Here’s what generosity means to me. Here’s the joy I’ve experienced as I learn to be more generous.
 - “I would like to have us go around the room and introduce ourselves. You will say your name, tell us a little about your family – spouse, children, parents – and what your job is.”
 - [In group of 21 or more] “I would like to have you find 3 other participants you do not know and introduce yourself to each other. You will say your name, tell each other about your family – spouse, children, parents – and what your ministry job is. I will start by sharing with the whole group and set an example.”

Offering Two Open Hands (5 minutes)

1. GENEROSITY INCLUDES MONEY
 - “Today we are talking about generosity. We can be generous in all areas of our lives. Let’s think about what that means.”
 - “Put two fists in front of you. Sometimes we come to God with closed hands to generosity. We do not want to give anything away.”
 - “Now open one of your hands. Sometimes we come to God with an open hand to most of our lives (like our time, relationships, love, and even smiles), but we have a closed hand to our money and resources.”
 - “Now close the first hand and open the other hand. Some of us are open-handed with money but have our hands closed over how we use our time and relationships and other things.”
 - “Now open both of your hands. Today we are going to talk about generosity with two open hands. That means we are going to talk about money.”

Stations of Generosity

2. THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON

- “It is important to talk about money because our money has real power. In Matthew 6:24, the Bible calls this “the Spirit of Mammon”. Mammon is the power and influence we get from wealth. Whether we have much or little, Satan seeks to lead us away from God through the power of Mammon. Money is alive with spiritual power. It is not neutral, so we cannot ignore it.”

3. ASK GOD

- “Take a moment to ask God: Are both of my hands open? What is it easy to be generous with? What might I be holding with a closed fist?”
[Give two minutes for people to reflect and hear from God.]

Ownership of the Learning Process

(25 -30 minutes)

1. COMMUNICATION STYLE

- In child learning, the teacher prepares everything and takes it to the audience class participants. In adult learning, the facilitator helps the group class participants discover for themselves.
- Child learning is me taking a bottle of water and pouring it into your mouth.
- Adult learning is pointing you toward the water. Then you use your experiences and wisdom to reach your own conclusions.
- As adults, we only take home what we process and what we relate to our own experiences.
- We process by thinking and sharing and asking God.
- In both, you end up drinking the water. In this style, we expect you to be active to discover the truth for yourself. We facilitate this; we don't teach it.

Stations of Generosity

2. MAKING THIS AN EFFECTIVE TIME

- How can we together make this an effective time?

Facilitator Note: Do not tell adults rules. Let them decide what are acceptable boundaries

- Let's build an environment where we all get maximum benefit. What do you expect all of us to agree to so we can make this successful? For example, will turning our phones to silent mode help?
- OK, what else?
- Great. Are we agreed that these are good principles for our time together?

3. FACILITATOR ROLE

- What does it mean that I'm a facilitator and not a teacher? I'll be in a few roles.
 - 1. **Traffic Man** – directing the conversation. I want everyone to have a chance to share today. Some of us talk more, some talk less. Let's aim for equal sharing.
 - 2. **Time-Keeper** – helping us begin and end at agreed times

Stations of Generosity

4. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR TIME HERE

- Have someone read - [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)
- Take a moment to ask God, "Why do you have me here today?" Write down any thoughts that He shows you. You won't be sharing this.

[Give 2 minutes for people to reflect and hear from God.]

5. MEMORIES OF MONEY AND GIVING

- Break into small groups of 3 or 4.
- In your small group each person will answer this question: "What's something you remember about money or giving from before the age of 12?"
- Not just about church giving, but anything you remember about money or generosity from early in life.
- You will have 5 minutes as a group to share. First, let me share as an example.

[After the small groups have finished sharing]

- Ask several groups to report on what one person from their group said.
- Affirm everyone's sharing. Draw out key themes.

Stations of Generosity

Introduce the Seven Stations of Generosity (10 - 15 minutes)

- On this journey, there are seven stations, like bus stations or train stations. Every station has three things: a name, a motion, and a verse.
- Start on the top left. Fill in the name and the verse next to each picture.
- As you introduce each Station, review all previous motions. Repeat the seven stations several times.

[Arms outstretched]

1 God Owns Everything

Psalm 24:1 -- "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

[Hands offering gift]

2 God Provides Enough

Luke 12:32 -- "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

[Arms on cross]

3 God Gave Generously

John 3:16 -- "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son."

[Hands form a heart]

4 We Respond Lovingly

1 John 3:16 -- "Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

[Ear with a hand cupping to hear]

5 We Hear God

John 10:27 -- "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

[Smiling face]

6 We Find Joy

Acts 20:35 -- "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

[House in heaven]

7 We Store Treasure

2 Timothy 1:12 -- "He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."

[Break– be back at TIME]

Stations of Generosity

SESSION 2

Objectives:

1. Participants discover and relate to “the blessing of giving”
2. Participants see that God is the greatest Giver
3. Participants equate giving to love

Resources:

- Time: 90 minutes
- Audio/Visual: (Optional) Handful of Rice

The Blessing of Giving - Acts 20:32-35

(30 minutes)

Facilitator Note: Provide context on the scripture

Context: Paul is on his way to Rome, where he will eventually die. On the way, he comes near Ephesus. He sends a message to the elders of the church he planted there. These elders rush to see their dear friend Paul. Paul explains that they will not see him again (v25). As he’s about to leave, Paul says a few last important things. Let’s see what Paul said to them.

1. **Read/recite the story once.**
2. **Ask first-level questions** (for example)
 - Paul commends them to God and to what?
 - What did Paul not covet?
 - How did Paul supply his own needs?
 - How did Paul supply the needs of his companions?
 - When his own needs were met, did he stop working?
 - What is the saying from Jesus that Paul quotes?

Stations of Generosity

3. Have someone retell the story in their own words.

4. (Optional) Memorize verse 35

Facilitator Note:

- **Facilitator says the verse out loud, then asks the class to repeat.**
- **Again, the facilitator says the verse, then asks the class to repeat.**
- **Then have participants turn to one other person and repeat**

5. Ask second-level questions (for example)

- What are some ways that giving could be more blessed than receiving?
- When have you experienced the blessing of giving? Tell me more.
- If it's more blessed to give than to receive, why don't people give?
- How did Jesus demonstrate that it is more blessed to give than receive?
- Does Paul give everything away? How do you think he determines what he should keep for his own needs and what to share?

6. Which of the stations does this remind you of?

Stations of Generosity

Facilitator Note: Optional Exercise (adds 10-15 minutes)

God is the Greatest Giver

- 1. Ask a participant to read the first passage, then have another participant read the second passage, then have another read the next passage....**
 - 2 Corinthians 8:9 – “You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”
 - Matthew 10:8 – “Freely you have received; freely give.”
 - 1 John 4:19 – “We love because He first loved us.”
 - John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son.”
 - Ephesians 1:3 – “Praise be to the God...who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.”
 - 2 Corinthians 8:7 – “Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”
- 2. Discussion**
 - Let’s take a minute to reflect on these 6 scripture passages.
 - Is there one passage that seems to stand out or touch your heart? If so, why is that passage meaningful to you?

Stations of Generosity

The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

(30 minutes)

- 1. Read/recite the story once.**
- 2. Ask first-level questions** (for example)
 - What must the expert in the law do to inherit eternal life?
 - What did the expert in the law ask Jesus to justify himself?
 - Who were the three people walking along the road where the man was attacked?
- 3. Have someone retell the story in their own words.**
- 4. (Optional) Act out a Drama based on verses 30-35**

Facilitator Note: Give instruction. For example:

- **Have the participants break out into several groups with five people in each group. Give them 3-5 minutes to prepare a drama.**
 - **Each group participant will choose to be one of the five people in the passage - Man attacked, Priest, Levite, Samaritan, Innkeeper**
 - **Let the groups know that they will have 2-3 minutes for the drama, then return to their seats.**
- 5. Ask second-level questions** (for example)
 - According to Jesus, who is our neighbor?
 - According to Jesus, how can we love our neighbor?
 - Why was the Samaritan willing to show compassion and help?
 - What return did the Samaritan receive? Was he paid back?
 - How do you think the Samaritan chose the amount to give the innkeeper? [Emphasize “What’s for me? What’s to share with others?”]
 - 6. Which of the stations does this remind you of?**

HANDFUL OF RICE

(20 minutes)

This story is true and from modern times. It comes to us from a state in India.

Facilitator Note:

- **Ask for four volunteers to read the four roles: Mizo Villager 1; Mizo Villager 2; Pastor; Old Person**

1. Read the story once.

2. Ask first-level questions (slowly walking through details of the story)

- What do the Mizo people do each time they cook a meal?
- What do they do with the rice?
- How long have the Mizo people been doing this?
- Which group among the Mizos started this offering?
- Why did they start doing this at the beginning?
- How reliant is the Mizo church on foreign funding?
- What did the man say at the end? “As long as we have...”

3. Have someone retell the story in their own words.

4. (Optional) Show the video, or

5. Ask second-level questions.

- What stands out to you from this story?
- How do you think the Mizo people feel when they set aside a handful?
- How do you think giving has built the faith of the Mizo people?
- What benefits do the Mizo people experience from doing this?

6. Which of the stations does this remind you of?

Stations of Generosity

PERSONAL ANECDOTE:

Tell a short anecdotal story from your own life to show that we give out of love, not duty, and not to get something. [Tell something from your own life like the story below....]

I brought my wife/husband a gift recently. [Insert what the gift was.]

She/he was so moved. “For me? Thank you so much. Why did you do this for me?”

And I said [sadly], “Because it’s my duty as your husband/wife.”

Or I could say, “I did this because I hoped if I give you something nice, you’ll do something nice for me, like make dinner. I’m giving this to get something from you.”

Or I could say, “Because I love you so much. You are a gift to me, and this is a small way to thank you and say I appreciate you.”

Which of those do you think will go best?

But when we give to God, is it duty? Or to get something? Or love? Let’s give from the heart, out of love!

Pray for lunch.

[Break for Lunch – be back at TIME]

Stations of Generosity

SESSION 3

Objectives:

1. Participants equate giving to love
2. Participants see generosity as a response to forgiveness and grace
3. Participants reflect on where their true treasure lies

Resources:

- Time: 60 minutes
 - Audio/Visual: NA
-

THE WOMAN WHO GAVE HER BEST - Luke 7:36-50 (30 minutes)

Facilitator Note: Before reading, offer three cultural notes:

- She gave the most valuable thing.
- Comment on her profession as a “sinful” woman.
- Note that Jesus is a holy man.
- Break into small groups of 4-5 and ask the groups to read the passage TWICE.

1. Read the story twice.

2. Ask first-level questions

Facilitator Note: Keep in small groups, present the questions and have them discuss. Give 5-7 minutes for discussion

- Who invited Jesus to dinner?
- What do we know about the woman?
- What did she bring?
- How did she approach Jesus, who is a holy man?
- What story did Jesus tell Simon?

Stations of Generosity

3. **Have someone retell the story in their own words.**
4. **(Optional) Have a group of three create a drama.**
5. **Ask second-level questions.**
 - Why does Jesus say that the woman did this?
 - What do you think the alabaster meant to this woman?
 - Why do you think she gave Jesus something so precious?
6. **Which of the stations does this remind you of?**

Facilitator Note: Optional Exercise (adds 5 minutes)

Reflection Exercise:

It was the woman's knowledge of her sin that made her love much. Think of all the times, every year of our lives, that we've all done things we knew were wrong. Any one of those sins is enough to condemn us forever.

But instead, we'll never have to pay for any of them. When you think of that, ask God, "What's my jar of perfume I can give you to say 'Thank you'?"

Stations of Generosity

TREASURE AND HEART - Matthew 6:19-21

(30 minutes)

Facilitator Note: should recite from memory if possible.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- 1. Read/recite the passage twice aloud as a group.**
- 2. Ask first-level questions**

Facilitator Note: Break the group into pairs to discuss these questions. Share the questions, then allow 5-7 minutes for the pairs to discuss the questions.

- Where does Jesus say we should NOT lay up treasures?
 - What can happen if we lay up treasures in the wrong place?
 - What happens to our treasures if they're laid up in heaven?
 - What connection does Jesus make between our treasure and our heart?
 - Why do you think people lay up treasure on earth instead of heaven?
 - Why is Jesus inviting his followers to handle treasure differently?
 - What do you think Jesus's followers did differently to respond to this teaching?
- 3. Have some of the pairs share what they observed or discussed.**
 - 4. Reflection and Pray:**
 - “Ask Jesus – What is the one thing I can act on from this lesson”?
 - “Take about a few minutes to pray with your partner.”

[Break for 15 minutes – be back at TIME]

SESSION 4

Objectives:

1. Participants relate giving to listening to God, recognizing God's voice
2. Participants recognize the struggle between two masters
3. Participants reflect on sharing, greed, integrity, contentment

Resources:

- Time: 60 minutes
 - Audio/Visual: NA
-

LISTENING EXPERIENCE EXERCISE

(15-20 minutes)

Facilitator Notes: This exercise is not in the Participant Guide

1. **Set up the experience.**
 - "This exercise is about listening"

Facilitator Notes:

- **Choose a volunteer.**
- **Let the volunteer pick someone to be their "partner."**
- **Blindfold the volunteer using a jacket or shirt or piece of cloth.**
- **Set a timer.**
- **Say these instructions:**

[Blindfolded person] will start at this side of the room.

[Blindfolded person] needs to get to the other side of the room in one minute.

[Partner,] your job is to get [blindfolded person] safely there using just your voice.

The rest of us don't want [blindfolded person] to get there.

You may want to put obstacles in the way or create other noises.

No one can touch [blindfolded person] or do anything dangerous.

Everyone understand?

Stations of Generosity

2. After the exercise, lead the group through reflection.

- What did you observe about this game?
- What was challenging?
- How did people try to distract you? (Noise, intimidation)
- What kinds of steps did [volunteer] take? What kinds of instructions did [partner] give? (Small steps, one at a time.)
- What was the key to success? What was the magic? (Listening, discerning the right voice.)

3. Shift to discuss the practice of listening to God.

- What are different ways that people hear from God?
- What have you learned about listening to God in your own life?
- What would you say to someone who is new at listening to God, or is not sure that they can hear from God?
- How have you posed questions to God to listen to His voice? (What are your listening practices?)

WHAT SHOULD I DO? [Luke 3:10-14](#)

(30 minutes)

Provide context about this passage:

John the Baptist has been baptizing people. They have repented, received baptism and want to learn how to take the next step with God.

1. Read/recite the story once.

2. Ask first-level questions

- Who are the three groups that come to John the Baptist?
- What advice does John the Baptist give to the first group? (share)
- What advice does John the Baptist give to the tax collectors? (integrity)
- What advice does John the Baptist give to the soldiers? (contentment)

Stations of Generosity

3. **Have someone retell the story in their own words.**
4. **(Optional) Drama: Have people act out the four characters in this story.**
5. **Ask second-level questions.**
 - Why do you think all three relate to money? (2 Masters we all struggle with)
 - What connection does John the Baptist see between repentance and how his followers handle money?
 - Between “sharing,” “being honest” and “being content,” which do you think was hardest for John the Baptist’s followers?
6. **Which of the stations does this remind you of?**

REFLECTION:

“Your question for overnight reflection is this:

What should I do? Write what He tells you on this page.”

Before ending the day, review the Stations of Generosity from Page 4.

[END THE DAY – pray to close the day]

Stations of Generosity

SESSION 5

Objectives:

1. Participants reflect on sessions 1- 4 and personal takeaways
2. Participants review teaching on sowing and reaping
3. Participants reflect on the triangle of blessing between God, Giver, Receiver

Resources:

- Time: 60 minutes
 - Audio/Visual: NA
-

RECAP OF YESTERDAY

(20 minutes)

- Pray to open the day
- Review Stations of Generosity – words and motions

1. Repeat Stations of Generosity from page 4.

- “Welcome Back. Who remembers the motions of the seven Stations of Generosity?”
- Repeat Stations of Generosity from page 4

2. What are you chewing on?

Facilitator Notes: Ask the questions, then allow the participants 3-5 minutes to reflect and write down their response.

- “When you visit a farm, you see the cows eat grass. Later, they are still chewing. What do we call that word in your language?”
- Two questions:
 - What was your “aha” moment yesterday?
 - What challenged you?

Stations of Generosity

3. Ask participants what they wrote. Draw out themes.
4. Discuss Key take-aways from yesterday: Sessions 1-4.

SOWING AND REAPING - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

(30 - 35 minutes)

Provide context: Paul is asking the church in Corinth to help the poor saints in Jerusalem by sending money.

1. **Get into groups of 3-4. Each group reads the passage once (or twice) and then answers these questions:**
 - What are some words that you see repeated often?
 - What promises do you see?
 - What does the giver give in this passage? What does the giver receive?
 - What does God give? What does God receive?
 - What does the receiver receive? What does the receiver give?
2. **Invite the groups to report their answers.**
3. **Get three volunteers. Act out the roles of God, giver, and receiver. (You can also do this in the booklet or with a flip chart instead.)**

Stations of Generosity

THE GIVING TRIANGLE

Fill in the names of God, Giver, and Receiver. The key below does not include all possible answers.

- What does the giver receive from God?
- What does the giver receive from the receiver?
- What does the receiver get from God?
- What does God receive?
- Continue to fill in. (Some answers go beyond the passage).

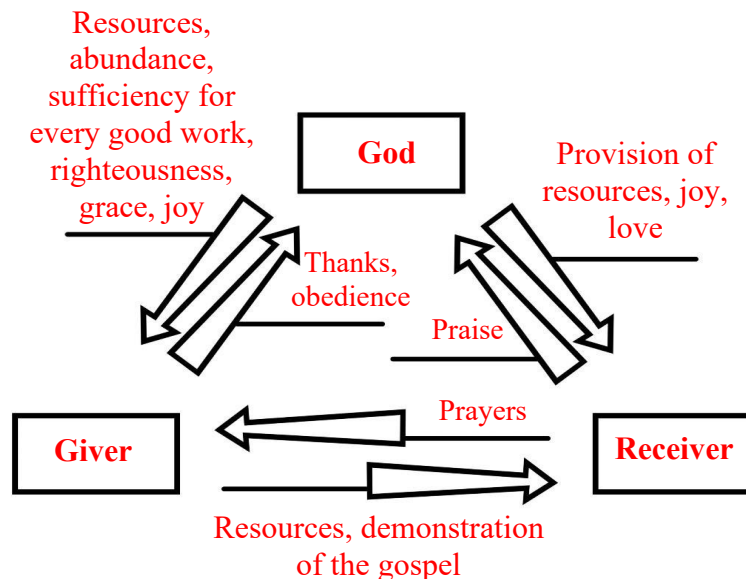
Point out that the world says giving means I have less and someone else gets more. But in God's biblical generosity, everyone is giving and receiving and finding joy. In fact, the giver seems to receive the most, according to the passage.

- If God wants it to end up with the receiver, why would He give it to the giver?

If participants are ministry leaders, point out that they can follow this passage by regularly praying for their donors.

4. Ask "Which of the Stations do you see in this passage?"

[Break for 15 minutes – be back at TIME]



SESSION 6

Objectives:

1. Participants learn about giving out of need, overcoming poverty mindset
2. Participants reflect on generosity being a faith versus fear action
3. Participants review that God provides enough and we are stewards, not owners

Resources:

- Time: 90 minutes
 - Audio/Visual: (Optional) Pastor Hannington Video
-

THE VILLAGE OF BUNDIBUGYO

(40 minutes)

Provide Context: This is another true story. This is from Uganda.

1. **Ask someone to read the story once as a drama.**
2. **Ask first-level questions.**
 - Who is this story about?
 - What happened to the people that he leads?
 - In the camps, what was the first thing the people did to give? Who did they give to?
 - How did the children respond when they received these gifts?
 - When they returned to the village, what had happened to it?
 - What was their first reaction when that happened?
 - What did the pastors say to the people?
3. **Turn to the person next to you and retell the story in your own words.**

Facilitator notes: give the participants 7-10 minutes to do this

Stations of Generosity

4. **(Optional) Show the video.**

5. **Ask second-level questions.**

- Who stood out to you in this story?
- Why did the lady with the chicken want to give?
- What fears do you think the lady with the chicken had?
- What feelings do you think the village experienced after giving?
- Where does Pastor Hannington think generosity can work?

6. **Which of the stations does this remind you of?**

FAITH AND FEAR – Psalm 23

(20 minutes)

Transition: “The lady with the chicken gave out of faith and not fear. Luke 12:32 says, ‘Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’ We can give out of faith instead of fear when we know who God, the shepherd and owner, really is.”

1. **Read Psalm 23. When you reach a blank, pause and let people quietly say their own name. Read slowly, meditating on each phrase.**
2. **Have participants read Psalm 23 a second time (without their names in the blanks).**
3. **Turn to the next page.** “On the left side, we have images and words about what God does. Let’s walk through them one by one. God is a shepherd to you. What do you think he’s promising there?”
4. **Continue, phrase by phrase. Let participants explain how each phrase makes them feel.**
5. **After completing the exercise, do the following imaginative prayer exercise:**
 - “Close your eyes. We’re going to imagine God coming to us as a shepherd. As you close your eyes, you realize you’re a small lamb in a field. You feel like you need to find your own food and your own water. You look up at the hills and you see threats. The sun goes behind a cloud. You hear a wolf howl in the distance. The other sheep used to be nearby. But where are they? And it seems to be getting colder.”

Stations of Generosity

- “Now imagine that you see a capable, athletic person walking in the field. He’s walking toward you. He’s carrying a staff in one hand and a rod in the other. He approaches you and picks you up. He takes your face in His two hands and looks you right in the eyes, speaking tenderly.”
 - “Hear Him say to you, ‘Little lamb, I am your shepherd. Anything that you need, I am here to make sure you have.’”
 - “He sets you down and says, ‘Get some rest, you’ve been very worried and scared and you must be tired.’ You feel the softness of the grass as your body rests. Imagine that you’ve napped for an hour, or maybe it was two. You look around, and He’s still there.”
 - “You must be thirsty,” He says. I know where the brook is. And He leads you toward it and you find it and drink the most clear, cold, refreshing water you’ve ever had. You’re cared for and protected. All your needs are met.”
 - “Now imagine that you’re no longer a lamb, but you’re still talking with this tender, kind shepherd. In your heart, tell him the things that you’re afraid of. He’s looking at you with the same kind eyes. What do you hear him say in response?”
[Leave space for people to have this mental discussion with God.]
6. “What has God shown you through our discussion of Psalm 23? What promises does God make to you?”
7. **Ask second-level questions.**
- If this passage is true, what would it mean for us?
 - If we trust the Lord as the shepherd of our money and resources, what does it say will happen?
 - What kinds of things do people gain to live by faith?
 - What other passages does this remind you of?
8. **Which of the stations does this remind you of?**

Stations of Generosity

FEARS THAT KEEP US FROM GIVING

(20-25 minutes)

1. “What are the fears that keep me from giving?”

- Let’s pray and reflect on the kinds of fears that keep us from giving. Reflect on fears that are personal. Ask the Lord what those are and write them down.

Facilitator Note: allow participants 2-3 minutes to pray, reflect, and write

2. Fear is the opposite of faith.

- For each fear, ask God, “What do you say that’s true instead of these fears?”
- For example, if you wrote down, “I’m afraid there won’t be enough,” God may remind you “I promise to supply all your needs.”

Facilitator Note: allow participants 2-3 minutes

3. Would anyone care to share something you wrote down?

FOLLOWING ME HOME

Here’s a funny story about fear of generosity. A brother in Ethiopia told us this:

One time, I had been fasting three days, partially because I wanted to fast, and partially because I had little money. On the third day, my friend and I were going to go home to break my fast, splitting the very little bit of money that I had.

Then a guy from our church started coming with us as we headed to my home to eat. I thought, “I hope he’s not coming all the way. I can’t buy him a meal. But his house is on the way, so maybe he’s walking home. It’s probably OK.”

Stations of Generosity

We got to his house, and he didn't stop, but kept walking with us. I thought, "I can't buy him a meal. But his uncle's house is up ahead, so maybe he's walking there. It's probably OK."

We got to his uncle's house, and he didn't stop. He kept walking with us. I was very nervous. I was barely going to eat and now this guy—that I didn't really like—was going to ask for some of my food. I was afraid to be generous with what God had given me.

I thought "Maybe I can give him some of what little I have." Before I could say that, he said, "I have been so blessed by you guys that I was hoping that I could buy you dinner."

Sometimes even when we are living by fear and not faith, God provides enough. He's so good and generous! And now he's provided lunch for us.

- **Pray**

[BREAK FOR LUNCH – be back at TIME]

SESSION 7

Objectives:

1. Participants compare God's view and World's view on provision.
2. Participants learn how much God loves us and provides for us
3. Participants reflect on having an eternal perspective on life and treasure.

Resources:

- Time: 90 minutes
- Additional Material A rope or a chord

OUR FATHER LOVES TO PROVIDE - [Matthew 6:24-33](#) (25-30 minutes)

1. Read the passage once out loud.
2. Ask and answer first-level questions (slowly walking through details of the passage).
 - How many masters can you serve?
 - Why is that?
 - What are we not supposed to worry about?
 - Why are we not to worry about those things?
 - What can we not do by worrying?
 - What are the questions we don't need to ask?
 - Who runs after this life's worries?
 - What are we supposed to seek instead?
3. Have someone retell the passage in their own words.

Stations of Generosity

Facilitator note: Break the participants into pairs. Keep them in pairs for the remainder of the lesson.

4. Ask second-level questions – discuss in pairs

- What surprises you about this passage?
- What challenges you in this passage?

5. Ask several pairs to report to the whole group.

- After discussing these questions, what stood out to you from this passage?
- What was meaningful to you about Jesus' teaching?

6. Which of the stations does this remind you of?

MORE SCRIPTURE on GENEROSITY

“At the end of Session 8 in your booklet, we list passages for further study.”

BIGGER BARNS – Luke 12:13-21

(25-30 minutes)

Context:

Jesus told a story about someone who thought about how to allocate money.

There are lots of passages that connect money to eternity. But let's focus on one....

- 1. Read/recite the story once out loud.**

- 2. Ask and answer first-level questions (slowly walking through details of the story).**
 - What did Jesus tell his listeners to 'be on your guard' against?
 - What kind of harvest did the ground yield?
 - What was the rich man's plan?
 - What did God say to the rich man?

- 3. Have someone retell the story in their own words.**

- 4. Ask second-level questions that draw meaning and application from the story.**
 - Why did Jesus tell his followers this parable?
 - Why do you think God is not in his thoughts?
 - Was it wrong that he had barns? [Is it OK to save some?] What was he condemned for?
 - What else could the rich man have done with his abundance?
 - How could the man have chosen to be "rich toward God"?

- 5. Ask "Which of the stations does this remind you of?"**

Stations of Generosity

ETERNAL TREASURE – Matthew 13:44-46

(20- 25 minutes)

We just learned a valuable lesson about God’s provision and our responsibility as stewards or managers of His money. God entrusts me with His money not to build my kingdom on Earth, but to build His kingdom in Heaven.

Now we are going to look at what the kingdom of heaven is like.

- 1. Read/recite the passage once out loud.**
- 2. Have someone retell the passage in their own words.**
- 3. What stands out to you about this passage?**

THE DOT AND THE LINE

- If possible, use a power cord or rope to make an illustration.
- “Let’s assume that this [cord/ rope] represents eternity. How much of that is represented by our life here on earth?”
- “Are most people living for the entire length of the [cord/rope], or living for just the end of this [cord/rope] that I am holding up with my two fingers?”
- It’s tempting to say, “I want to have the best possible time here on Earth. I’m going to have a great [PLUG]. But why not instead store up treasure that we can enjoy for the whole rest of the cord?”

REVIEW THE STATIONS OF GENEROSITY

- First just signs. Then just words. Then words and signs together. Faster and faster.

[Break for 15 minutes – be back at TIME]

SESSION 8

Objectives:

1. Participants have time to quietly and personally listen to God
2. Participants learn how we should give and the importance of trust in giving
3. Participants take ownership for sharing what they have learned

Resources:

- Time: 60 - 75 minutes
 - Additional Material Surveys
-

LISTENING TO THE LORD

(30-35 minutes)

Now we have a time of silence to hear from God.

Let's take 30 minutes to reflect in silence on what God wants to say to us.

On the page that says "Session 8", there are steps to help with this exercise.

You can go away somewhere and find a quiet place to reflect.

[Be back here at TIME]

GIVING BIBLICALLY – 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

(15-20 minutes)

We've talked about **why** to give, but what does the Bible say about **how** we should give.

Context: Paul is asking the Corinthians to take up a collection to help the poor brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. The gift goes from Corinth all the way to Jerusalem in the southeast.

1. **Read/recite the passage once out loud.**
2. **Ask and answer first-level questions (slowly walking through details of the story).**
3. **Have someone retell the passage in their own words.**
4. **Ask second-level questions that draw meaning and application from the story.**
 - Why do you think Paul wants everyone to participate?
 - Why do you think Paul is willing to accompany the “men you approve” to Jerusalem?
5. **Ask “What stands out to you about this passage?”**

Facilitator Notes: Draw out these themes and make a summary statement on these points.

- Everyone participates. We give consistently, otherwise we don't give.
- Trust in the cause is critical. Trust in the leaders is critical.
- Paul is willing to stop his missionary work if necessary. (We give more when we know we can trust those to whom we're giving.)

SURVEY AND WRAP UP

Direct participants to the survey (the last page of the Participant Guide) and explain that it can be completed anonymously, if they prefer. We want to understand their experience with Stations of Generosity.

“Now I want everyone to think about **ONE** take-home lesson and who you can share it with in the next 24 hours. Then, we will share it with this group. I want everyone to share, so please be short.”

Facilitator Note: give the participants 2 minutes to think about their response. Then ask them to begin sharing. While they share be sure to:

- Affirm all sharing.
- Write down notes to recall participant comments.
- Draw out any key themes.

***Remember: As the facilitator, you will fill out your own survey (the last page of this Facilitator Guide) at the end of Stations, based on the participant surveys you collect and your own observations. You can use this time to begin filling out the top section.**

THE BIRD

I'd like to tell you a story. The elder of a village was known for having wise answers to everyone's questions. He had solutions to everyone's problems. People respected him.

A young man thought the elder was not as smart as he thought. So the young man wanted to make this elder seem silly.

He got a small bird in his hand. Here was his plan:

He would go to the elder with the bird in his hand, behind his back. He would say, "Elder, I have a bird behind my back. You are wise. Can you tell me whether the bird is alive or dead?"

Then, if the elder said "alive," the young man would quickly squeeze the bird and kill it, showing the elder that he was wrong.

But if the elder said, "dead," the young man would show the live bird. And the elder would seem foolish.

So the day came and the young man found a bird and took it to the elder. With many people from the village gathered around and listening to the elder's answers, the young man walked up with his hands behind his back.

"Elder, behind my back is a bird. I just have a simple question. Is that bird alive or is the bird dead?"

The elder thought for a moment and replied....

"Son, the bird's life is in your hand. You have the power of its life and death. It's up to you what you do with it."

In the same way, this message gives life. If we live generously, we find more life. And this message is in your hand. It's up to you what you do with it.

Stations of Generosity

CLOSING NOTES:

- Thank the group for being such great participants.
- Explain the two available paths for sharing the message of biblical generosity.
- Have someone read Romans 11:36 as a benediction.

“Everything comes FROM Him, is THROUGH Him, and is given TO Him.”

“As you carry this home, what will success look like? Those images you shared at the beginning of your church being generous... I pray that all those come to be.”

NEXT STEPS - TWO TOOLS:

“We’ve put two tools in your hands to share this message. You can facilitate a Stations of Generosity event just like this, which usually takes 8-12 hours. Or you can use the Discovery Bible Study tool at the end of your packet to facilitate a small group Bible study over 8 weeks.”

“When you share these lessons, don’t ask for money. Don’t use this to directly fundraise. People will feel manipulated and like you tricked them.”

“We share this message NOT to get something FROM them, but to do something FOR them. God gave the message to us freely, and we give it to you freely, and you can share it with others freely.”

- Close the time in prayer for the participants and those with whom they will share the message.
- Group picture, if desired.

END OF SESSION

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible,
New International Version® NIV®
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.
Used with permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

© 2022 Stations of Generosity is licensed under the
Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>.

To access the original materials, visit stationsofgenerosity.org.

**Do you want more information about customizing the materials
with the Creative Commons license?**

Access more information at stationofgenerosity.org/contextualize



Facilitator Survey

Dear facilitator, THANK YOU for investing your time in leading people through *Stations of Generosity*!

Please send the following information to stations@stationsofgenerosity.org as soon as you can. You may type an email with the following information, send a picture of your handwritten responses, or use the QR code to submit digital responses. As a reminder, we do not see the participant surveys. We greatly appreciate any powerful results you are able to share with us on this facilitator survey.

Facilitator Name(s)		Event Location (Country)	
Ministry/Network		Translation Used (Language)	
Event Date		# Participants	
Countries Represented by Participants		Average Reported Heart Change	

What else would you like us to know about this event?

Let us know: What was the most significant impact you observed during this experience? Feel free to share more than one, if desired.