

Generosity

Adult Discipleship Experience



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Introduction

Generosity

Cultivating a Lifestyle of Generosity

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience





*“We make a living by what we get, but we make
a life by what we give.”*

- Winston Churchill

Welcome to the Generosity Discipleship Experience!

We are excited that you're joining us in this continuing and growing experience of generosity. We believe, and have experienced this ourselves, that generosity is infectious and can change the world. We are inspired by our dream (vision),

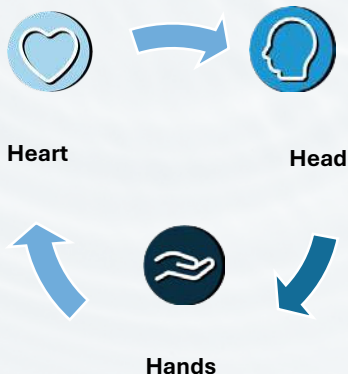
“We envision a world of Generous Generations from diverse backgrounds, who recognize the needs in their communities and instinctively unite to address them. We imagine a global movement of children, youth, and young adults, who model the love of Christ through the transformative impact of Biblical generosity.”

A generosity experience

The *Generosity Discipleship Experience* (GDE) is not a training or teaching about generosity but a whole life experience.

The GDE *challenges* you to move beyond just charity and charitable causes now and then. It brings a Kingdom perspective and *guides* you toward a lifestyle of generosity, addressing the needs of the world. The name says it all.

- **Generosity** originates in God's heart and leads to a life of freedom and liberation within His Kingdom.
- **Discipleship** is to be guided and to guide others in a lifestyle of generosity, following Jesus as the ultimate example of God's generosity.
- **Experience** involves your head (thinking), heart (feelings), and hands (doing) and brings the know-how to be inspired, learn, adapt, and grow through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



A lifestyle of generosity

The *GDE – Cultivating a Lifestyle of Generosity* contains **six focuses** within **twelve generosity experiences** to lay the basic foundation to live a Kingdom **lifestyle of generosity**. It helps to integrate, deepen, and expand your lifestyle of generosity to make an impact where you live and work.

Aim - The aim of the GDE is to guide you towards a refreshing, liberating, and joyful lifestyle of generosity.

Six focuses to cultivate six habits

Each of the six focuses is explored in two experiences and will help you with the *framework* to

1. Experience God's generous love for this broken world and transform it through a lifestyle of generosity.
2. Discover how generosity breaks open God's Kingdom to others in addressing the needs of the world.
3. Define what is enough to serve others.
4. Participate, as a kingdom steward, with what you have in hand.
5. Co-create a generous environment with others, where you live, work, and play.
6. Become a multiplier of generosity experiences in other people's lives.

Each of the six focuses aims to cultivate six habits of generosity.

Why habits? Habits can be learned, practiced, and passed on to others.

The six habits to cultivate are



- **Habit 1:** Give through acts of kindness.
- **Habit 2:** Open yourself to the needs of people and the community and places where you work and live.
- **Habit 3:** Define what is enough for you to live with contentment and generosity.
- **Habit 4:** Align your time, talents, treasure and lifestyle with opportunities to serve others.
- **Habit 5:** Participate in taking care of your environment and measure the impact.
- **Habit 6:** Multiply through infectious generosity and guiding others towards a lifestyle of generosity.

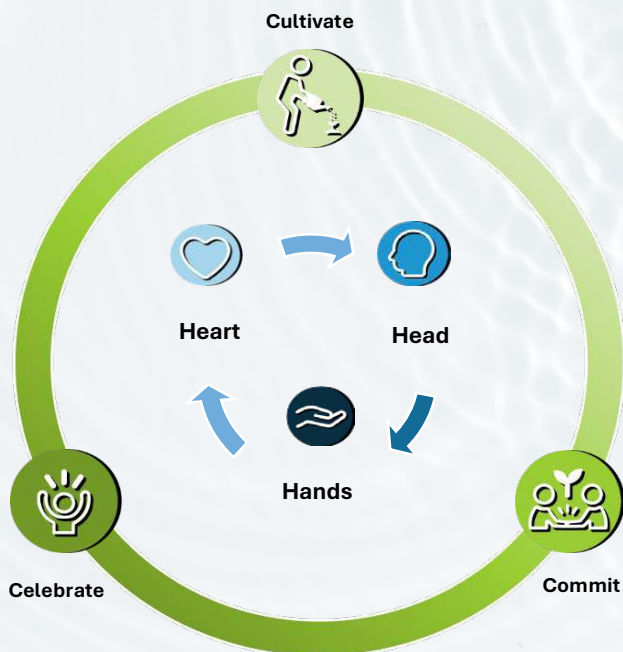
A Generosity Lifestyle Plan

The framework of the six focuses also set the foundation to *develop a focused Generosity Lifestyle Plan.*



With the use of videos, stories, Scripture, sharing, reflection, prayer, and action plans you will be guided to

1. to **cultivate** six habits of generosity to address the needs of the world,
2. to **commit** to a lifestyle change aligning with the habits, and
3. to **celebrate** through obedient actions.



A guide to the GDE

The GDE is designed as a straightforward and self-explanatory tool to guide you through the twelve generosity experiences. It doesn't need a specially trained "generosity specialist" to use the tool.

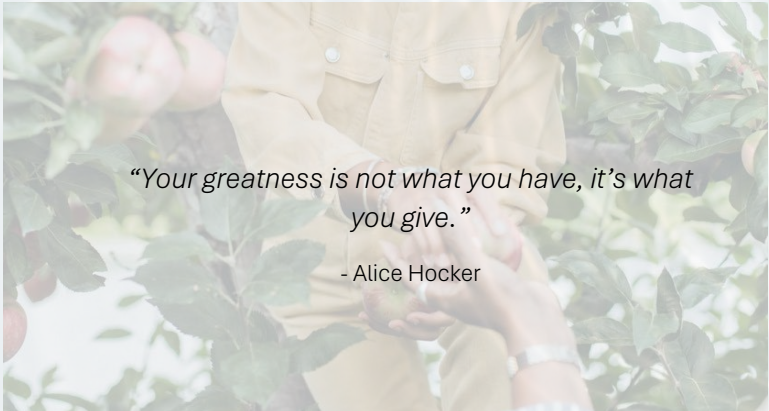
The GDE only needs curious people who are willing to learn and grow through generosity experiences and to just keep on doing that.

Keep the following in mind during the GDE

- The success of any process lies in what **you put into it**. What you invest in terms of time, focus, reflecting, practice and sharing will determine the benefit you will get from the experience.
- It will always be best to go through the experience and to learn **with others**. If you do it on your own, find one or two people you can share your experience with.
- **Do not rush** through the experiences. This is not a weekend course to go through. Give yourself enough time to integrate the experience into your lifestyle. The challenge is not just to get the knowledge, but to measure the outcomes of the actions.
- **Work** your *Generosity Lifestyle Plan*!
- **Share** your experiences with others!
- The most important desire we have for you, is that you **enjoy** the experience and find fulfilment through generosity.

With the GDE as tool and your own generosity experiences in hand you can become **an infectious generosity multiplier**.

The tool is free, the experience is liberating – there are no limitations to being a generosity multiplier!



“Your greatness is not what you have, it’s what you give.”

- Alice Hocker

NB! All the Scriptures and the Video clips in the Experiences are hyperlinked. Just click on the Scripture and Name of the Video.

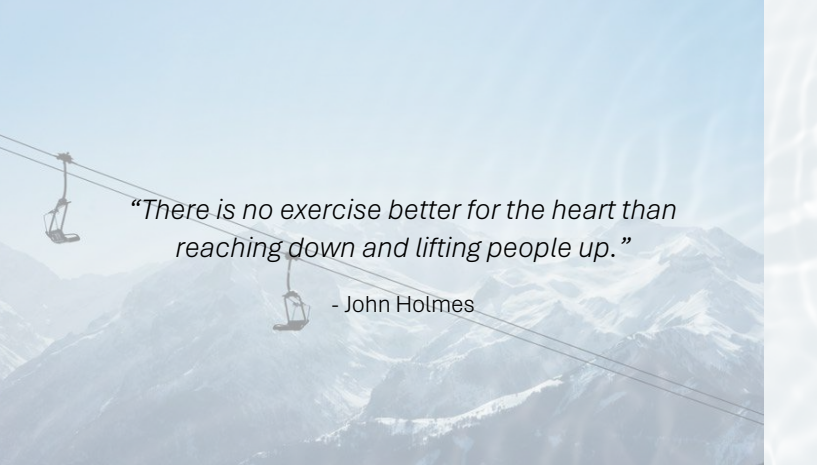
Experience 1

Generosity

A gift from God's heart (1)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience





“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”

- John Holmes

Imagine receiving an unexpected, special gift from someone.

- What will that special gift be and why?
- How will it make you feel?
- How will you react to the giver?
- Imagine that the giver doesn't have much – even less than you. Will you feel and react the same?
- Imagine that you are the giver? What will your experience be to give an unexpected gift?

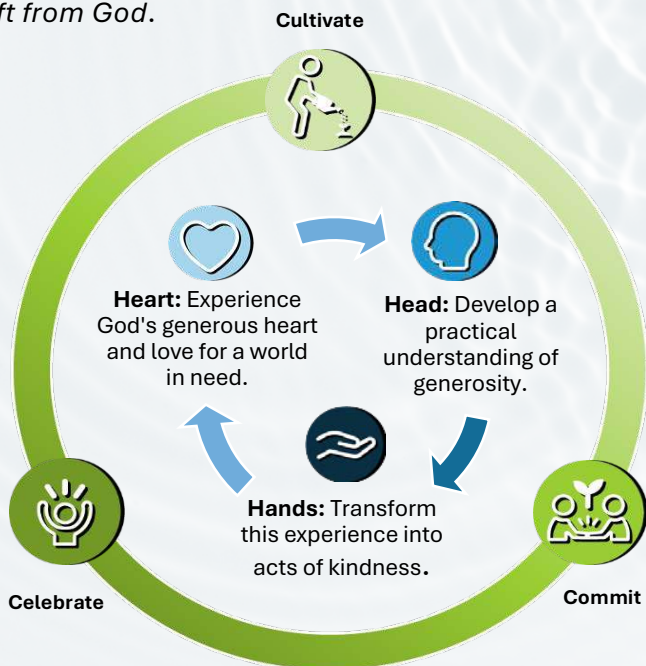
The aim of this experience is to **cultivate the habit of giving through acts of kindness.**

A Gift from God

Generosity is a gift from God's generous and loving heart to us who are living in a world in need. In receiving this gift, it sets free our minds (head), feelings (heart), and actions (hands) to embark on a lifestyle of generosity.

Generosity brings with it a call to our senses, our feelings, our thoughts, and our actions. Whether we are givers or receivers, generosity engages and challenges our whole being and brings with it the potential to liberate us from ourselves and our circumstances.

In this experience, the focus is on Generosity as a *Gift from God*.



God's Generous Heart



Watch: [A Handful of Rice](#)

Share what you've experienced and learned from this story about how people reacted to God's gift of generosity. Think about the following:

- Generosity as showing gratitude
- Serving a greater purpose
- Increased blessings
- Generational habits
- Igniting more creative giving



Reflection:

How are you going to make the experience of this story part of your life as a receiver and as a giver?



Read: [Genesis 1:28](#), [John 3:16-17](#),
[Matthew 4:17-27](#)

What insights do these Scriptures bring to your understanding of God's generous heart?

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment ... (What?):

- **Share stories** (snapshots) of God's generous heart and gifts and acts of kindness experienced in your own life and other people's lives.
- **Write down** one or two things regarding God's gift of generosity that you are going to explore further. How and when are you going to do it?



Habit to cultivate: Habit 1 - Give through acts of kindness.

- **Decide** on one thing you are going to change to receive God's generous gifts as a daily blessing in your own life and a blessing to others.
- **Share:** *The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...*
- **Pray:** [Proverbs 11:24-25](#) (NIV) as an answer to God

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Experience 2

Generosity

A gift from God's heart (2)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience




Recap



The aim of experience 1 and 2 is to **cultivate the habit of giving through acts of kindness.**

Share stories from Experience 1: *Habit 1 – Give through acts of kindness.*

- Share some of your experiences of acts of kindness after Experience 1.
- What inspires you when you see or hear about others' experiences?

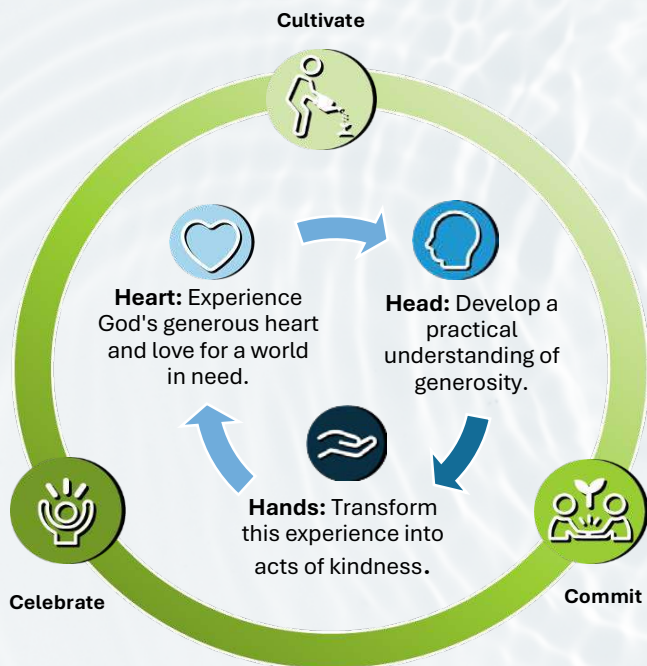


“It is the heart that does the giving; the fingers only let go.”

- Nigerian Proverb

A Gift from God

We continue our focus on *Generosity as a Gift from God*.



Experience 2 will guide you in a deeper experience, understanding and commitment towards a lifestyle of generosity. You will be guided in the following:

- To *develop* a working definition of generosity for you to be generous.
- To *integrate* your experiences and learnings of Experience 1 and 2 into your *Generosity Lifestyle Plan*.

A practical definition of generosity



Watch: [*What does generosity mean to you?*](#)

Listen to the different views people have on practical generosity.

- What did you experience and learn from this video clip about how people see generosity in everyday life?



Reflection: Reflect on the following definition of generosity.

“Generosity is the tangible manifestation of God’s love to a hurting world.”

A practical definition of generosity



Read: the story of the Macedonian believers in [2 Corinthians 8:1-9](#)

Think about the experience of the givers and receivers in this story.

- What difference did this generosity experience make to their hearts, heads and hands?
- How do you want to make the experience of this story part of your life as a receiver and as a giver?



Reflection: Write a one-sentence definition of generosity that will help you to be generous and to explain to others how you understand generosity.

(Example: Generosity is to share God's generous heart with other people through my lifestyle of giving, caring, and supporting what has been entrusted to me.)

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (What?):

1. **Define** what must change in your lifestyle to be generous.
 - What is the one thing you are going to commit to do differently?
 - How and what are you going to do to stay with your commitments?



Habit to cultivate: Habit 1 - Give through acts of kindness.

- **Decide** on one simple act of kindness you are going to start with this week. (What, where and when are going to do it?)
- **Share:** *The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is...*
- **Pray:** *My prayer for the following week will be...*

My Generosity Lifestyle Plan

Generosity Habit 1

Give through acts of kindness.

Integrate your experiences and learnings of Experience 1 and 2 into your Generosity Lifestyle



Cultivate a focus of generosity

My Lifestyle Focus (*Why?*)

I understand generosity as ...

My Generosity Lifestyle Plan



Commit to a change in lifestyle

My lifestyle change for the Next 3-6 Months
(What?):

*I see God's generous heart playing out in my life
like this...*



Celebrate through obedient actions:

My Plan for the next 3-6 months:

(How, Where, When and Accountability)

Experience 3

Generosity

A radical kingdom lifestyle (1)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience



Recap

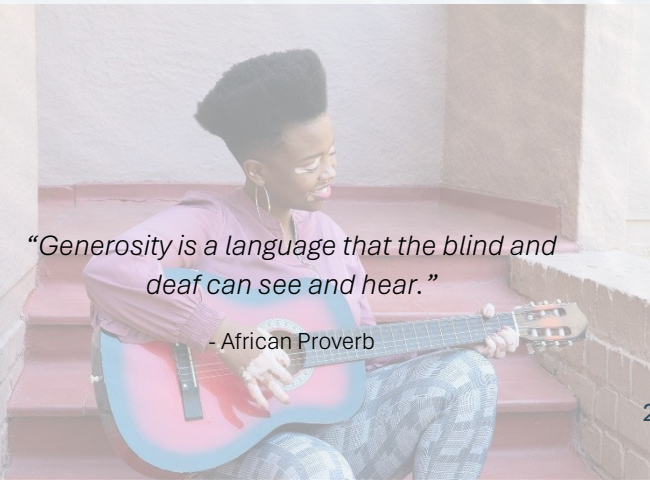


Share stories from Experience 1 and 2:

Habit 1 – Give through acts of kindness.

- Share some of your experiences of acts of kindness after Experience 1.
- What inspires you when you see or hear about others' experiences?

The aim of this experience is to ***open yourself to the need of people and the community and places where you work and live.***



“Generosity is a language that the blind and deaf can see and hear.”

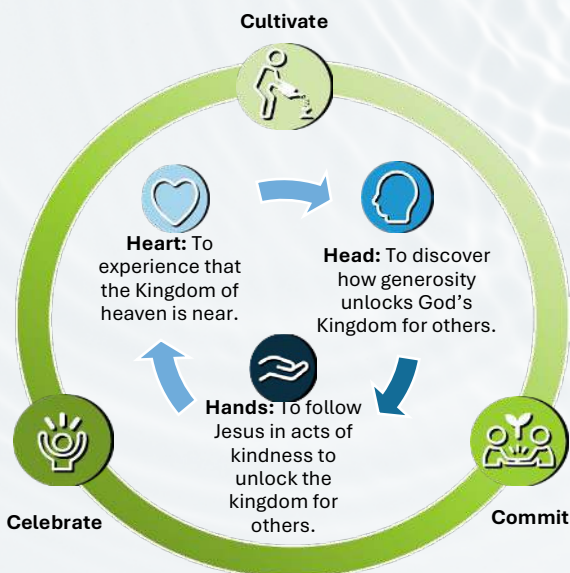
- African Proverb

Context of Generosity

Generosity does not function in a vacuum, nor is it determined by our own circumstances or efforts. We've experienced that generosity is a gift from God's heart. God's gift is extended to us through the invitation to enter His kingdom. His kingdom is our inheritance which has been prepared for us since the creation of the world ([Matthew 25:34](#)).

Experience 3 and 4 will take you a bit deeper into the context in which generosity functions – **the context of the Kingdom of God**. The context of the Kingdom of God is a radical context – an “upside-down theology.” The Kingdom of God is near – it becomes part of our thinking (head), feelings (heart), and doing (hands).

This experience focuses on Generosity as a “*Radical Kingdom Lifestyle*.”



A Radical Kingdom Lifestyle



Imagine sitting with Jesus on a hill or on the highest building, looking at your community, and talking with Him about your community.

- What do you want to tell Jesus about your community?
- What are some of the things that Jesus might want to show you that He would like to change?
- What do you feel and think about what Jesus has shown you?



Watch: [This Is Who the Kingdom of God Starts With, Sermon on the Mount](#)

What did you experience and learn from this video clip regarding the new radical Kingdom realm that came to earth referring to the ...

- Crowd who are the chosen servants?
- A new realm they bring where generosity reigns?
- A Jesus-style revolution?
- Radical effect (transformation) they bring?
- Three images (salt, light, city) describing their role and purpose?



Read: [Matthew 5:1-16, Matthew 10:1; 7-8](#)

- What do you experience and learn about the radical nature of the Kingdom?
- My answer to God regarding this radical Kingdom lifestyle is ...



Watch: [“The Grace of Giving”](#)

What inspires me in this story is ...

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (*What?*):

- **Make a list** of the different faces of need (physical, emotional, economic, social, systemic, spiritual needs in your community where you live. (See also the notes you took while talking with Jesus.
- **Pray into the list of needs:** Decide when and how you are going to pray through your list.

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



Habit 2: *Open yourself to the need of people and the community and places where you work and live.*

2. **Decide** on one or two needs and opportunities you are going to explore further.
 - From your list, which needs of the people and the community stand out to you?
 - What opportunities do you see to serve and bless others generously?
 - How are you going to explore it further?
 - Discuss with someone about some of the needs and opportunities you have identified.
3. **Share:** The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...

4. **Pray** [Proverbs 3:27-28](#) (NIV) as an answer to God.

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"—when you already have it with you."

Experience 4

Generosity

A radical kingdom lifestyle (2)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience



Recap



Share stories from Experience 3: Habit 2 –
Open yourself to the needs of people and the community and places where you work and live.

- Share some of your experiences since you started looking at the needs of your community.
- What inspires you when you see or hear about others' experiences?

The aim of Experience 3 and 4 is to *develop the habit of opening yourself to the need of people and the community and places where you work and live.*

“The gospel alone liberates you to live a life of scandalous generosity, unrestrained sacrifice, uncommon valor, and unbounded courage.”

- Tullian Tchividjian

Context of Generosity

We will keep on exploring the radical nature of the kingdom as the context in which generosity exists.



Experience 4 will guide you towards a deeper commitment and obedience in a radical kingdom lifestyle of generosity.

You will be guided in the following:

- To *discover* how generosity unlocks God's Kingdom for others.
- To *integrate* your experiences and learnings of Experience 3 and 4 into your *Generosity*

Generosity unlocks God's Kingdom for others



Watch: ["Kindness Endures Beyond Age"](#)

What did you experience and learn from this video clip on how generosity unlocks God's Kingdom for others?



Reflection:

- What do you experience and learn in these Scriptures about the authority to unlock the kingdom for others?
- [Matthew 25:37-40](#)
- [Mark 12:41-44](#)
- [Acts 2:42-47](#)
- What do you want to answer God?

Generosity unlocks God's Kingdom for others



Watch: [Perseverance brings light to the community](#)

What inspires me in this story is ...

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (*What?*):

Define what must change in your lifestyle regarding the need of people and the community.

- What did you hear from the Lord when you started to pray into the needs of your community?
- What is the one thing you are going to commit to do differently?
- How and what are you going to do to stay with your commitments.

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



Habit 2: *Open yourself to the need of people and the community and places where you work and live.*

5. **Decide** on one of the faces of need on your list you will focus on
 - Since you've explored the opportunities to serve and bless others, what is the one opportunity you are going to develop further?
 - What do you want to see changed?
 - How, where and when are you going to address this need?
 - Invite somebody to join you in this endeavor.
6. **Share:** The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...
7. **Prayer:** My prayer this following week will be ...

My Generosity Lifestyle Plan

Generosity Habit 2

Open yourself to the need of people and the community and places where you work and live.

Integrate your experiences and learnings of Experience 3 and 4 into your Generosity Lifestyle Plan.



Cultivate a focus of generosity

My Lifestyle Focus (Why?):

I see the *following* Kingdom generosity opportunities to serve and bless others...

Generosity Lifestyle Plan



Commit to a change in lifestyle

My lifestyle change for the next 3-6 Months (*What?*):

I'm going to focus my acts of generosity on these one or two needs where I work and live ...



Celebrate through obedient actions

My Plan for the next 3-6 months

(How, Where, When, and Accountability)

Experience 5

Generosity

Enough for everyone to be
generous (1)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience



Recap



Share stories from Experience 3 and 4:

Habit 2 – Open yourself to the need of people and the community and places where you work and live.

- Share some of your experiences on how you saw generosity opening the kingdom for others.
- What inspires you in hearing all the other experiences?

The aim of this experience is to ***cultivate the habit to decide what is enough for you to live with contentment and generosity.***

“Even if you have nothing to offer a person, salt to taste is more than enough.”

- African Proverb

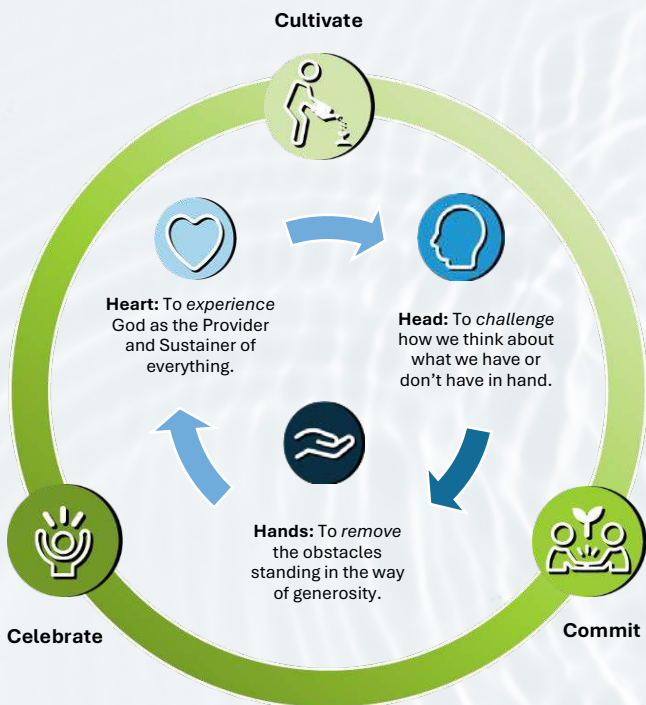
Generosity and What We Have in Hand

We've already experienced that God has a generous and loving heart, and that generosity is a radical kingdom lifestyle. Embarking on this lifestyle will take our generosity even deeper.

As we dive deeper into our generosity experiences, we encounter a new set of challenging but also liberating questions. These questions center around what we have in hand (or don't have) to be generous with. Questions such as, *"How do we think about God's generous provision?"*, *"How do we use God's generous provision?"*, *"How does God's provision for us connect with the needs of the world?"*, or *"Do I have enough to also be generous?"*

It is liberating to be challenged with what lies deep within our innermost being – who we are, what we have or don't have, and how we act on it.

The next six experiences will focus on what we have in hand to be generous with and how to use it as part of a radical kingdom lifestyle. Experience 5 and 6 will focus on God's provision and the challenges we face to be generous with what we have in hand. Experience 7 and 8 will focus on how we steward God's provision in hand through generosity. Experience 9 and 10 will focus on how we care for the environment we live in.



In this experience the focus will be on the **relationship between God's provision and how we live generously from this provision.**

God's provision is enough, not scarce

God's provision and generosity

There are many views, perceptions and arguments around God's provision. It shows in statements like *"The Bible tells us that all followers of Jesus will prosper in wealth;"* or *"People suffer because they don't provide enough for themselves;"* or *"There is not enough for everyone."*

Experience 5 and 6 will deal with the two main belief systems that are obstacles in a lifestyle or generosity namely (1) a scarcity mindset and (2) the prosperity gospel.

In Experience 5 the focus will be on how to transform a scarcity mindset into a mindset of generosity.



Read: [Exodus 16:1-30](#)

- Reflect on the story of how God's people who embraced his provision in times of scarcity.
- What I take from this story is ...



Watch: [This Lie Can Keep You From Living Generously](#)

What did you experience and learn from this video clip about God's provision and caring for his creation?

- Creation?
- Mindset of scarcity?
- Life of Jesus?
- Kingdom?
- To live according to a different story?



Watch: [Big changes from Small changes](#)

What I take from this video is ...



Reflection: What keeps people believing the lie that there is not enough for them to be generous?

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (*What?*):

Make a list of everything (money, belongings, relationships, opportunities etc.) you received from God.

- How do you think and feel about God's provision in terms of what you have or do have in hand?
- What symptoms of a scarcity mindset do you see in your own life and the lives of others?



Habit 3: *Decide what is enough for you to live with contentment and generosity.*

8. **Submit** everything on your list to God as an act of worship. Repent of the symptoms of a scarcity mindset in your life.
9. **Share:** The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...
10. **Pray** [Luke 12:31](#) (NIV) as answer to God
"But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."

Experience 6

Generosity

Enough for everyone to be
generous (2)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience



Recap



Share stories from Experience 5: *Decide what is enough for you to live with contentment and generosity.*

- Share some of your experiences on how you saw generosity opening the kingdom for others.
- What inspires you in hearing all the other experiences?

The aim of this experience is to ***cultivate the habit to decide what is enough for you to live with contentment and generosity.***



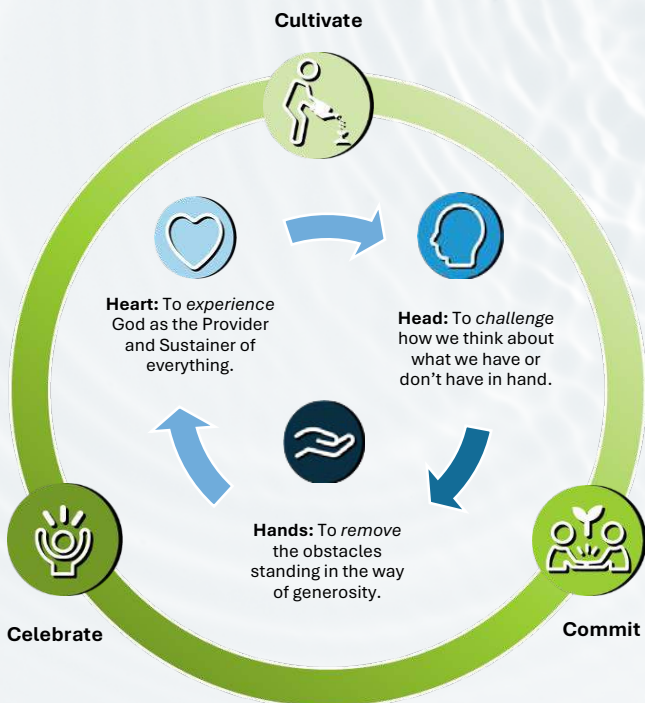
“A basket of giving is usually given to those who are generous.”

- African Proverb

Generosity and What We Have, or do not Have in Hand

Experience 6 continues the focus on the relationship between God's provision and how we live generously from his provision. We've already experienced how to transform a scarcity mindset into a mindset of generosity.

Experience 6 focus on the second obstacle in the way of generosity namely ***how to counter the prosperity gospel with a Kingdom-focused lifestyle of generosity.***



God's provision is enough when it is enough

What is the prosperity gospel?

In short, followers of the prosperity gospel believe that God wants believers to be richly blessed in this life and that physical well-being and material riches are always God's will for the faithful.

Illness and poverty are seen as curses that, through atonement, can be broken with faith in Jesus.

The question is – *Is this true, is it Biblical?* Let us explore this further.



Watch: [Does God promise health and wealth?](#) (Allan Parr)

Reflect on the five problems that Alan Parr identify with the health and wealth promises of the prosperity gospel.

- #1 – It is inconsistent with the Bible.
- #2 – It switches our focus from God to us.
- #3 – It sets people up for major disappointment with God.
- #4 – Limited primarily to the Western world.
- #5 – It is inconsistent with the life of Jesus and his disciples.



Read: [Luke 12:13-34](#)

What do you experience and learn about God's provision and the way we act on it?

- Abundance and greed.
- Storing up for yourself.
- Worries about what you have or have not.
- God's provision.
- Treasures in heaven.



Watch: [Testimony of Allan Banhart](#). What inspires you in this story?

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (*What?*):

Revisit the list you received from God.

- What symptoms of the prosperity gospel do you see in your own life and the lives of others? Repent of the symptoms of a prosperity gospel in your life.
- What is the one lifestyle change you are going to make? .



Habit 3: *Decide what is enough for you to live with contentment and generosity.*

11. **Identify** the red (stop doing), yellow (be aware of), and green(continue) lights in how you think about and use what you have (or don't have) in your hands.
12. **Remove** the obstacles through repentance.
13. **Decide** what is enough for you to have in your hands.
14. **Share:** *The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...*

My Generosity Lifestyle Plan

Generosity Habit 3

Decide what is enough for you to live with contentment and generosity.

Integrate your experiences and learnings of Experience 5 and 6 into your Generosity Lifestyle Plan.



Cultivate a generosity focus

My Lifestyle Focus (*Why?*):

Enough for me is ...

Generosity Lifestyle Plan



Commit to a change in lifestyle

My lifestyle change for the next 3-6 Months (*What?*):

The lifestyle changes in using God's provision that I'm going to focus on are ...



Celebrate through obedient actions

My Plan for the next 3-6 months

(How, Where, When and Accountability)

Experience 7

Generosity

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience

Kingdom stewards in action (1)



Recap

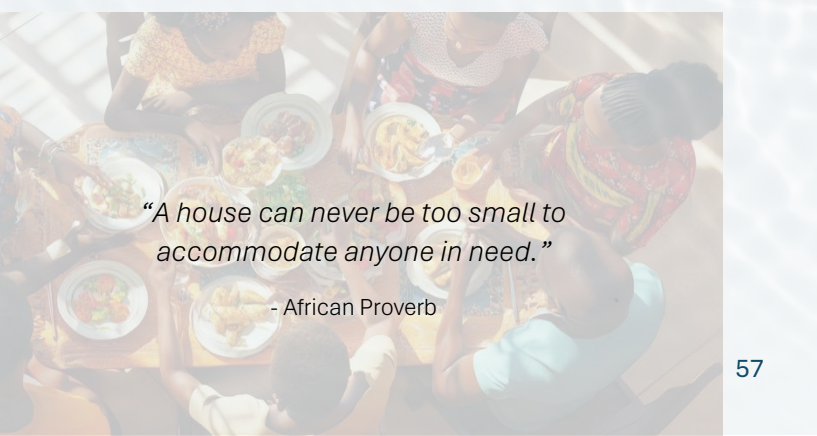


Share stories from Experiences 5 and 6:

Habit 3: *Decide what is enough to live with contentment and generosity.*

- Share your experiences of living with contentment and generosity after completing Experiences 5 and 6.
- What inspires you when hearing about others' experiences?

The aim of experience 7 and 8 is ***to cultivate the habit of aligning your time, talents, treasure and lifestyle with opportunities to serve others.***



“A house can never be too small to accommodate anyone in need.”

- African Proverb

Generosity and What we Have in Hand

As you grow in a kingdom lifestyle of generosity, you will discover that opportunities for generosity align with what you have in hand. Therefore, it is helpful to recognize what you have in your hand.

God's provision in your hand becomes your **"Stewardship list"** – what is given to you by God to take care of.

An easy way to define your *Stewardship list* is to consider what you have in hand in terms of the following:

- **Time** – You have 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week, 4 weeks in a month and 12 months in a year. How much time do you spend on what, where, when and how?
- **Talent** – You have certain gifts, talents, skills, education, experience, etc. How, when, where and for what purpose do you use it?
- **Treasure** – You have money, possessions, relationships, networks, experiences irrespective of the quantity or quality thereof. What do you use where, how, when, and for what purpose?
- **Lifestyle** – You live in a certain way and present yourself in a certain way. How do you present yourself as a "being" in everyday situations?

This experience focuses on how to take ***Kingdom Stewardship Action*** for what has been entrusted to you.



Kingdom Stewardship



Watch: [Stewardship](#)

- What is the difference between “ownership” and “stewardship” regarding what you have in hand?
- In what ways do you and other people around you act as owners instead of stewards?
- *I will describe stewardship as ...*



Read: [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

What did you learn and experience in this parable on how to take care of what has been entrusted to you?

- The expectations of the owner.
- The distribution of talents to each person.
- How each servant responded.
- The owner’s reaction.



Watch: [Dave and Karla – Growing God’s kingdom](#)

What inspires me in this story is ...

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (What?):

Make a list of everything (time, talents, treasure, lifestyle) that the Lord entrusted you to care of as your *Stewardship list*.

- How do you think and feel about what God has entrusted to you?
- **Submit** everything on your list to God as an act of worship



Habit 4: *Align your time, talents, treasure, and lifestyle with opportunities to serve others.*

15. **Discern** what areas in your list are still off-limits for generosity. Bring it before the Lord in repentance.
16. **Share:** *I'm going to share what I have experience*
17. **Pray:** [1 Peter 4:10-11](#) (NIV) as an answer to God.
*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, **as faithful stewards** of God's grace in its various forms."*

Experience 8

Generosity

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience

Kingdom stewards in action (2)



Recap



Share stories from Experience 7: Habit 4 –
Align your time, talents, treasure and lifestyle with opportunities to serve others...

- Share some of your stewardship experiences since the last session.
- Share stories of how your commitments and obedient actions played out.
- What inspires you when you see or hear about others' experiences?

The aim of experience 7 and 8 is ***to cultivate the habit of aligning your time, talents, treasure and lifestyle with opportunities to serve others.***

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”

- Winston Churchill

Generosity and What you Have in Hand

This experience continues to focus on how to align what we have in hand with opportunities for generosity.



Align with opportunities for generosity



Watch: [What is Stewardship?](#)

Reflect on the following statements:

- *“Once you became a follower of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option.”*
- *“Stewardship is a conscious decision”*
- *“Stewardship is a lifestyle that reflects who we are and what we believe. It goes beyond the mere sharing of one’s resources, but asks us to share ourselves ... It is really a call to be a holy people.”*



Read: [John 6:1-13](#)

- The boy, Jesus, and the disciples were all stewards of what was put in their hands. In what ways were each one of them stewards?
- *What I learned from this story about the process of stewardship is ...*



Watch: [Larry and Bonnie – Quilters of Hope](#)

What inspires me in this story is ...

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (*What?*):

Write down possible obstacles and difficulties that will prevent you to be a steward. Bring it to the Lord in prayer.

- The one or two things from my Stewardship list I'm going to align more with generosity opportunities are ...

(Example: *"To be generous with my time in serving my family in home activities?"* or *"To be more generous with myself in being there for others in my relationships?"*)

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



Habit 4: *Align your time, talents, treasure, and lifestyle with opportunities to serve others.*

18. **Develop and execute** clear action steps and plans.
 - What do you want to change, stop doing, or increase in each one?
 - What do you want to see happening as a result of your actions?
19. **Accountability:** Who are you going to ask to keep you accountable in this?
20. **Share:** *The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...*
21. **Prayer:** My prayer this following week will be ...

My Generosity Lifestyle Plan

Generosity Habit 4

Align your time, talents, treasure, and lifestyle with opportunities to serve others.

Integrate your experiences and learnings of Experience 7 and 8 into your Generosity Lifestyle Plan.



Cultivate a generosity focus

My Lifestyle Focus (Why?):

My stewardship list is ...

Time ...

Talent ...

Treasure ...

Generosity Lifestyle Plan



Commit to a change in lifestyle

My lifestyle changes for the next 3-6 Months (What?):

I want to grow in the following two matters on my stewardship list ...



Celebrate through obedient actions

My Plan for the next 3-6 months

(How, Where, When and Accountability)

Experience 9

Generosity

Co-creating a generous
environment (1)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience



Recap



Share stories from Experience 7 and 8:

Habit 4 – Serve others with your time, talents, treasure and lifestyle.

- Share your experiences of serving others with your time, talents, treasure, and lifestyle since completing Experience 7 and 8.
- What inspires you when hearing about others' experiences?

The aim of Experience 9 and 10 is to ***cultivate the habit to participate with others in taking care of your environment and to measure the impact.***

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

- Robert Swan

Generosity and the Environment

We've discovered that generosity is a gift from God's loving heart and includes the gift of our inheritance of the Kingdom of God. This leads to a radical kingdom lifestyle of generosity. God Himself provides enough for everyone to live with contentment and generosity. Furthermore, He has made us stewards of His provision in terms of our time, talents, treasures and lifestyle.

But there's more!

Part of God's gift to us is the environment we live in – the place where animals, trees, plants, and human beings coexist.

Everything belongs to Him and is given to us as a gift to enjoy, to take care of, and, in doing so, to become co-creators of a generous environment for everyone. This becomes our *cultural mandate* given to mankind at creation.

Experience 9 and 10 focus on how we, as stewards, ***can co-create a generous environment for everyone.***



In this experience, the focus is on our Cultural Mandate specifically that we are **created to rule in God's image and likeness.**

Our Cultural Mandate to Rule in God's Image and Likeness

Imagine that you are a *photographer*, commissioned to shoot a portfolio of photos to increase awareness for the environment in your community. Imagine walking through your city, town, community or countryside.

- What photos will you take and why?
- What story do you want to tell through your photos?



Watch: [Creation Care](#)

What do you experience and learn from this clip about Creation Care regarding the following:

- Relationship between God and the natural world.
- Our privilege as caretakers.



Read: [Genesis 1:26-31](#)

God's cultural mandate comes with a responsibility to take action and care for our environment. Write down your responsibility and actions next to God's mandate.

God's mandate	<i>My responsibility and action to take are ...</i>
<i>Created in God's image and likeness</i>	
<i>Rule over creation</i>	
<i>Be fruitful and increase</i>	
<i>Fill and subdue the earth</i>	
<i>I give you everything</i>	
<i>God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.</i>	



Watch: [Stewardship of Creation](#)

What inspires me in this story is ...



Reflection:

What inspires me in God's cultural mandate to co-create a generous environment where I live is ...

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (What?):

Make a list of the challenges the environment you live in faces as your *Cultural mandate list*. (Think about the photos you would have taken for environmental awareness)

- *What I would see changed in my environment is ...*



Habit 5: *Participate with others in taking care of your environment and measure the impact.*

Investigate prayerfully if there are any projects or initiatives you could join or start to address the challenges of your environment on your Cultural Mandate List.

Share: *The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...*

Pray [Proverbs 16:3](#) (NIV) as an answer to God.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

Experience 10

Generosity

Co-creating a generous
environment (2)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience



Recap



Share stories from Experience 9: *Habit 5*

- *Participate with others in taking care of your environment and measure the impact*

- Share some of your experiences on how you went about your cultural mandate.
- Share stories of how your commitments and obedient actions played out.
- What inspires you when you see or hear about others' experiences?

The aim of Experience 9 and 10 is to ***cultivate the habit to participate with others in taking care of your environment*** and measure the impact.

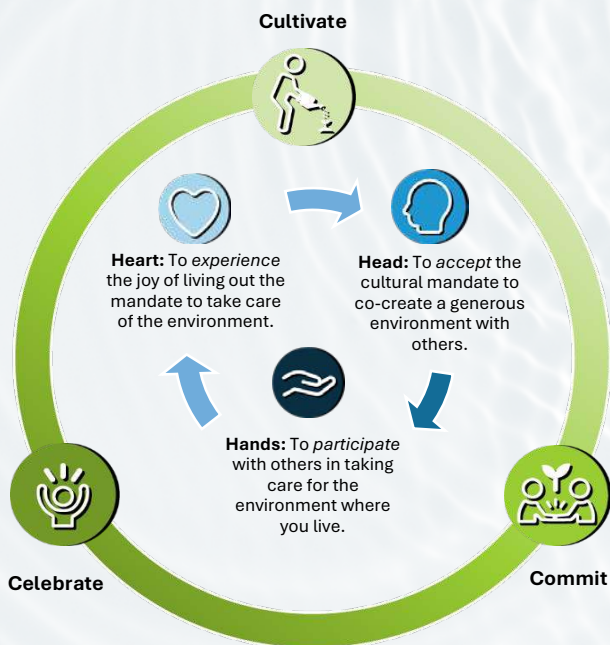
“Giving is not losing. It’s keeping for tomorrow”

- *Zambian Proverb*

Generosity and the Environment

This experience continues to focus on how to fulfil your cultural mandate through generous caring for your environment. It will help you to take action as steward of the environment.

Experience 9 and 10 focus on how we, as stewards, ***can co-create a generous environment for everyone.***



In this experience the focus is on our Cultural Mandate and the **connection with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Our Cultural Mandate and the Gospel of Jesus Christ



Watch: [“Does the gospel has anything to do with Creation Care”](#)

- How does the gospel influence the way we live in our environment and how we are taking care of it?



Read: [Colossians 1:15-20](#)

The Bible says that Christ is the firstborn of all creation. This opens amazing opportunities for his people to co-create a generous environment for all people.

Write down, next to what Christ as firstborn is, what opportunities will open for you to co-create a generous environment.

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ as first born ...	Opportunities opened for you are ...
<i>The Son is the image of the invisible God.</i>	
<i>All things were created in Him, through Him and for Him.</i>	
<i>In Him all things hold together.</i>	
<i>He is the head of the body so that in everything He might have the supremacy.</i>	
<i>All the fullness of God dwells in Him.</i>	
<i>Everything in heaven and earth are reconciled in Christ.</i>	
<i>This is the gospel that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.</i>	



Watch: [From rodents to redemption](#)

What inspires me in this story is ...



Reflection:

*What inspires me in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
to co-create a generous environment where I
live is ...*

My answer to the Lord is...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (What?):

Identify one or two aspects from your Cultural mandate list and investigations (previous experience) that you want to focus on for the next three months.

Who will join you in this or who will you join in co-creating a generous environment?



Habit 5: *Participate with others in taking care of your environment and measure the impact.*

Develop and execute clear action steps and plans for your focus (What, when and how are you going to do to make it happen?)

What do you want to see happening as result of your actions?

What are you going to change, stop doing or increase in each one?

Accountability: Who is going to keep you accountable?

Share: *I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned in this session with*

My Generosity Lifestyle Plan

Generosity Habit 5:

Participate with others in taking care of your environment and measure the impact.

Integrate your experiences and learnings of Experience 9 and 10 into your Generosity Lifestyle Plan.



Cultivate a generosity focus

My Lifestyle Focus (Why?):

I see the following environmental issues and challenges where I work and live ...

Generosity Lifestyle Plan



Commit to a change in lifestyle

My lifestyle change for the next 3-6 Months (*What?*):

The environmental challenge I'm going to focus on is ...



Celebrate through obedient actions

My Plan for the next 3-6 months

(How, Where, When and Accountability)

Experience 11

Generosity

A multiplying force (1)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience



Recap




Share stories from Experience 9 and 10:

Habit 5 – Participate in taking care of your environment and measure your impact.

- Share some of your experiences of you co-creating a generous environment with others.
- Share stories of how your commitments and obedient actions played out.
- What inspires me in hearing others' experiences is ...

The aim of Experience 11 and 12 is ***to cultivate the habit to multiply through infectious generosity and guidance of others towards a lifestyle of generosity.***



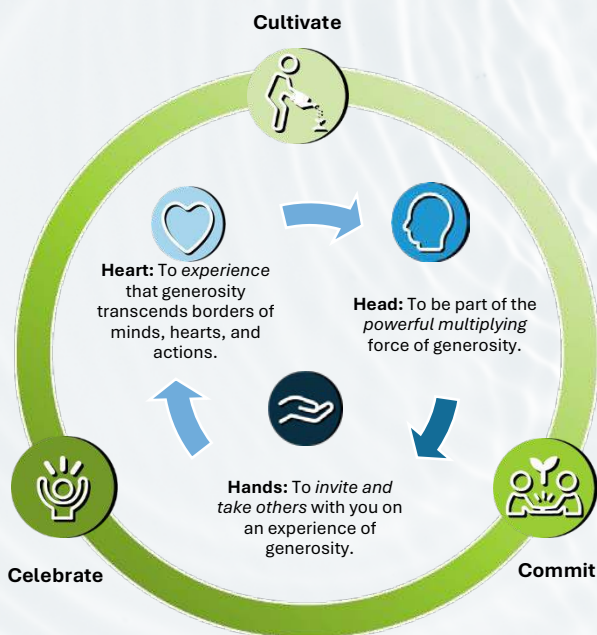
“If you want to go fast... go alone. If you want to go far... take others with you.”

- African Proverb

Generosity cannot be contained

It must be clear by now that generosity is a kingdom force that cannot be restricted or controlled. Once you've experienced it, whether as a giver or receiver, it becomes infectious, almost like a virus that transcends borders.

In these last two experiences, the **focus is on how generosity can be a multiplying force.**



In this experience, the focus is on the ***infectious power of generosity.***

The infectious power of a generous lifestyle



Read: the story of the Macedonian Believers in [2 Corinthians 9:1-15](#)

- In what ways did the Macedonian's generous lifestyles transcend borders and created a movement of generosity?



Watch: [Chris Anderson Ted Talk "It's time for infectious generosity"](#)

- Discuss the three things (*emotion, creativity, and courage*) mentioned in the video clip that makes generosity infectious.



Read: [Luke 19:1-9](#), [2 Corinthians 9: 1-15](#)

- How did Jesus, by extending his generosity to Zacchaeus, transformed him from a tax collector to a generous person?



Reflection:

- What obstacles stand in the way of your lifestyle of generosity to be infectious?



Reflection:

- Discuss how generosity transcends borders and creates a movement of generosity in the context you are living in.

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (*What?*):

I commit to continue and grow in a lifestyle of generosity through ...

Align the commitments and action plans in your Generosity Lifestyle Plan in creative ways.

Work through the focusses (Why) and commitments (What) in your Generosity Lifestyle Plan until now.

Discern how you can align these focusses and commitments to be more creative and effective.

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



Habit 6: – *Multiply through infectious generosity and guidance of others towards a lifestyle of generosity.*

Rework the action plans you've worked on in your Generosity Lifestyle Plan until now. How can you be even more creative in your acts of kindness? Think of creative ways you can streamline your action plans to enhance the impact of your lifestyle of generosity.

Adapt your commitments, focuses and action plans to become more infectious through your lifestyle of generosity.

Share The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...

Pray Romans 8:37-39 as an answer to God.

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

Experience 12

Generosity

A multiplying force (2)

Generosity
Discipleship
Experience



Recap



Share stories from Experience 11: *Habit 6 – Multiply through infectious generosity and guidance of others towards a lifestyle of generosity.*

- Share some of your experiences of the infectious power of generosity.
- Share stories of how your commitments and obedient actions played out.
- *What inspires me in hearing others' experiences is ...*

The aim of Experience 11 and 12 is ***to cultivate the habit to multiply through infectious generosity and guidance of others towards a lifestyle of generosity.***

“A generous soul will always increase”

- Luganda Proverb

Generosity cannot be contained

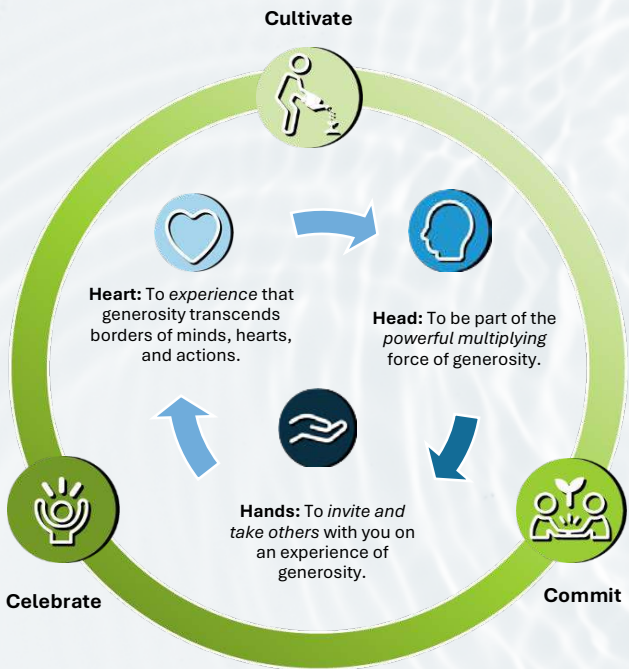
This is the last experience of the twelve Generosity Discipleship Experiences (GDE's). The aim was to *grow towards a refreshing, liberating and joyful lifestyle of generosity*. You already started to create your own story of generosity since you embarked on these experiences and started to make adjustments to your lifestyle. We trust that it was a refreshing, liberating and joyful experience.

This was just the beginning!

- A lifestyle of generosity is like a fruit tree that has to be grown and nurtured to bear fruit.
- The GDE gives you a framework for a continuous process to keep on growing in the twelve experiences.
- The GDE also gives you a framework to inspire and guide others towards a refreshing, liberating and joyful lifestyle of generosity. This is called *multiplication* and is the growing power of the Kingdom.
- In inspiring and guiding others, you became part of the multiplying force of generosity in God's kingdom.

This last experience focusses on launching you into becoming, not only a multiplier of generosity through

your lifestyle of generosity, but also to guide others through the twelve GDE's.



In this experience the focus is on the ***multiplying power of generosity in the Kingdom.***

Multiplication as the growing power of the Kingdom



Watch: [“Strawberry runners explained”](#)

Discuss what we can *learn from the strawberry plant* about the principle of multiplication. Think about the following:

- Reproducing through colonizing runners.
- Low-level stems that end in new identical daughter plants.
- Organic reproduction.
- Genetical identical.
- Colonizing available space.



Read: [Matthew 13:31-33](#) (Parables of the Mustard Seed and Yeast)

- What do you learn about the power of the Kingdom in these verses?
- How can a “mustard seed of generosity” become a powerful force in our lives?
- How can you work “the yeast of generosity” into your daily life and circumstances?



Watch: [Francis Chan - Disciple making](#)

What inspires me in this story is ...



Reflection:

- What inspires me to become a generosity multiplier is ...
- What inhibits me from being a generosity multiplier is ...

Generosity Lifestyle and Habits



My lifestyle commitment (What?):

I commit to guide (Who) towards a lifestyle of generosity



Habit 6: – *Multiply through infectious generosity and guidance of others towards a lifestyle of generosity.*

- Step 1 - Get in contact with Generous Generations to do the Gen-G multiplier training.
- Step 2 - Identify and invite the person, people or group you would like to take through the experiences and walk alongside them.
- Step 3 - Share the Introduction and framework of the GDE and get their commitment.
- Step 4 - Multiply in guiding the person or group through the discipleship experiences.
- **Share:** *The person with whom I'm going to share what I have experienced and learned is ...*

My Generosity Lifestyle Plan

Generosity Habit 6:

Multiply through infectious generosity and guidance of others towards a lifestyle of generosity.

Integrate your experiences and learnings of Experience 9 and 10 into your Generosity Lifestyle Plan.



Cultivate a generosity focus

My Lifestyle Focus (Why?):

I can inspire these person, people, groups to be generous ...

Generosity Lifestyle Plan



Commit to a change in lifestyle

My lifestyle change for the next 3-6 Months (*What?*):

I am going to be more courageous and creative in...



Celebrate through obedient actions

My Plan for the next 3-6 months

(How, Where, When and Accountability)