



Prayer:

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

DVD 4:1



Generosity

Think about what they have just heard and consider how generous you are towards the following groups:



Family	Friends	Strangers	People I don't like

On your own, put a number into each rice bowl to indicate (where 5 is extremely generous and 1 is not generous at all)

Bible: Matthew 18 21-35 (20 minutes)

Ask a member of the group to read out the passage, you may like to ask someone in advance to avoid putting someone on the spot!



Matthew 18 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

²³ 'Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ 'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ 'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded.

²⁹ 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back."

³⁰ 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² 'Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

After the passage has been read, ask the group for any immediate comments or thoughts about the passage. Then consider the following questions:

- Describe the character of the two servants in the story
- What do you think motivated the King to cancel the debt?
- How did the other servants feel when the servant owing 100 silver coins was thrown into prison?
- What caused this reaction?
- If the king in the story is representative of God, what might this passage show us about the nature and character of God?

DVD 4:2



Making a difference



In the film we heard the story from Matthew 25 v 31-46 about how at the day of judgement, Jesus will separate people into two categories. The story shows us that, as Jesus lives in us and our hearts are transformed by him we should care for others

³⁷ 'Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?"

⁴⁰ 'The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

In groups of three or four, think of ways in which you (on your own or through your church) can show generosity towards others. You may like to share examples of things you are already doing and what you might like to do?

There are some ideas listed below and space for your own suggestions

Supporting your local foodbank or soup kitchen or homeless shelter
Volunteering with groups helping refugees or asylum seekers
Random acts of kindness – doing something good for other people
Praying regularly for a particular organisation or person or supporting them financially

Becoming a “place of Welcome” – offering a free brew and a listening ear
Campaigning for justice on national or international issues
Supporting Street Pastors

Other



Prayer: (3 minutes)

Spend some time thinking back to the stories in this session and how they encourage us to be generous – just as God is generous to each of us

Listen to these words from Luke 6:38

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.'



Take Away activity: (1 minute)

We can make a difference in the lives of others by committing to pray for them, choosing to act generously towards them, or by deciding to campaign for them. Our attitudes towards others can be generous if we choose - it's a choice we can all make.

Ask God to show you how he is calling you to show generosity towards other in the way you live out your faith this week.