

Share Resources

LUKE 10:25-37

1



GOAL

Youth recognize their ability to generously share resources out of love for neighbor and God.

- A Art
- AM Active/Movement
- AT Abstract Thinking
- C Conversation
- CT Concrete Thinking
- D Drama
- G Game
- M Music
- QC Quiet/Contemplative
- S Service
- T Technology
- X Extra Prep

Note: bit.ly addresses are case-sensitive.



PRAYER

O Creator, Provider, and Sustainer, you have blessed us with abundant life. Help me reveal your generosity and inspire all people to give likewise.

THIS SESSION

God has gifted us with abundant life and a living earth that provides all the resources necessary for life. Unfortunately, we live in a fallen world where systems and structures create unequal access to resources and where individuals hoard wealth. Christians are called to share resources to care for God's creation and ensure all life can flourish.

THE BIBLE STORY

In Luke 10:25–37, Jesus is challenged to answer how one enters heaven and gains eternal life. At first, Jesus recites the *Shema*, that declaration of faith practicing Jews still recite daily: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” When asked, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus launches into a parable. He tells the story of a traveler who has been beaten and left on the side of the road. A Samaritan, despised by Jesus’ listeners, is the one who stops and provides generously for the victim.

CONNECTIONS WITH YOUTH

While some students work after-school jobs, they still rely on the resources others provide. Youth may ask, “What can I give?” when they consider sharing their resources. With that said, youth are exposed to food, clothes, and supply drives in their schools, churches, or communities. They will connect with sharing resources that are not only financial. They will connect with how they, who rely on the generosity and care of others, can share generously to contribute to abundant life for all.

SESSION PREPARATION

- “Giving and Receiving” (p. 6): Practice the American Sign Language signs to teach them to the youth. Use the following YouTube videos as visual aids: “ASL Signs for When We Are Living, Verse 2” (bit.ly/FMSignsForVerse, 0:50) and “ASL Signs with When We Are Living Verse 2” (bit.ly/FMSignsWithVerse, 0:29).

Depending on the options you choose:

- “Introducing the Infographic Poster” (p. 6): Obtain the *Practice Generosity* infographic poster (bit.ly/FMInfographicPosters, Year 2 Set).
- “Our Church Budget” (p. 9): Invite a person involved in budgeting or finances at your church to discuss how the church shares resources with others.
- “Denominational Sharing” (p. 10): Search your denomination’s website for programs that provide resources to those in need. Prepare to tell youth about some of them.

GETTING STARTED

- Index cards
- Pens

EXAMPLES OF GENEROSITY

Welcome youth as they arrive and give them an index card and pen. Invite them to write a definition of *generosity* on their card and to name or draw some examples of generosity.

Invite participants to read what they wrote or drew and see if the group can agree on a common definition of *generosity* based on responses. Explain that you will be looking at the practice of generosity and how Christians do this.

GIVING AND RECEIVING

Invite youth to repeat after you and follow your motions, using the second verse of the song “When We Are Living”¹ and using American Sign Language signs. Keywords that are signed are noted in bold font.

Through all our **living**, (*both hands in fists with thumbs up, move from waist up to shoulders*) /

we our fruits [**work**] must **give**. (*move both hands, palms down and slightly cupped, back and forth in front of you; thumb in palm facing up on right hand moving away from you to another*) /

Good works of **service** (*move right flat palm from chin to left palm facing up; both palms facing up and alternate hands moving in and out from chest*) /

are for **offering**. (*right finger hooked and move hand away from you to another*) /

When we are **giving**, (*thumb in palm facing up on right hand moving away from you to another*) /

or when **receiving**, (*right fist on top of left fist held out at arm’s length, pretend to grasp rope and move hands toward self*) /

we **belong** to **God**; (*interlock thumb and index finger of both hands as a chain; then move open right palm facing left from above head to center of face*) /

we **belong** to **God**. (*repeat above action*) /

INTRODUCING THE PRACTICE

Choose one or more options.

- Practice Generosity infographic poster

INTRODUCING THE INFOGRAPHIC POSTER

Display the *Practice Generosity* infographic poster for the youth and allow some time to look it over and discuss what and how things are shared in the infographic poster. Tell them you will look at this poster each session.

- Resource Page 1

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR GAME

Follow directions on Resource Page 1 to lead this very active game.

1. Writer Credits: St. 1 anon., sts. 2, 3, 4 Roberto Escamilla, trans. by Deborah L. Alvarez; Copyright: © 1994 Abingdon Press (BMI) (Administered by Music Services). All Rights Reserved.

WHAT WE RECEIVE

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Form two groups. Distribute newsprint and markers to each group. Instruct the groups to list as many things as they can think of that others give to them. Allow three minutes to make their lists.

Invite the groups to take turns reading responses. Instruct groups to use a different marker to circle the responses that both groups have listed and count how many responses they had in common. Instruct the groups to then count how many unique responses their group brainstormed.

Ask youth if they can think of one thing that has not been given to them by God or others. Affirm that generosity includes receiving and giving as we are all interdependent.

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- Newsprint
 - Two different colored markers for each group

WHAT WE GIVE

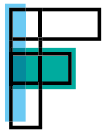
QC C

Distribute a piece of paper and pen to each person. Invite them to write things they do for others, such as smiling, holding the door, helping with homework, or inviting someone new to sit with them at lunch. If they give money to the church or other groups, encourage them to write those down as well. After a few minutes, invite volunteers to call out a couple of things they wrote down.

Lead youth in the following prayer:

O God, you have blessed us—with resources, talents, insights, and time. We know that, sometimes, we think we need more or something different, but you have given abundantly and call us to share with our neighbors. Let us use all you have given us to honor, glorify, and worship you. Amen.

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- Table/surface
 - Paper
 - Writing supplies



FINDING THE PRACTICE IN THE BIBLE

Choose one or more options.



For any of these activities, show the YouTube video “The Parable of the Good Samaritan Bible Animation (Luke 10:25–37)” (bit.ly/FMGoodSamaritan, 2:28) if preferred to reading the text.

SKIT

D AM

Tell youth they will read Luke 10:25–37 and then act it out. Assign parts of the lawyer, Jesus, the man who was robbed, a robber, the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan, and the innkeeper. Allow youth to elaborate on each part using additional dialogue or actions.

Read the parable aloud as youth follow in their Bibles. Allow them a few minutes to organize themselves and plan how they will act out the parable. Encourage them to be creative and have fun. Before they perform, suggest that they spend a few minutes in silence, each reading the parable again, concentrating in their character and how they will act it out without reading.

Carry out the performance and praise them for their fine acting.

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- Bibles



A full cast requires at least eight actors. For smaller groups, consider assigning multiple parts to participants.

A RETELLING

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Invite a volunteer to read Luke 10:25–37 aloud to others as they follow along in their Bibles. Form pairs. Instruct youth to close their Bibles and retell the parable to each other using modern expressions and language. Return as a large group and discuss who the characters of the Samaritan, the priest, the Levite, and the lawyer might be today.

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- Bibles

DISCUSSING THE PARABLE

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Take turns reading Luke 10:25–37, going around the group with each youth reading a verse. Discuss the following questions:

- ➔ How did the Samaritan practice generosity?
- ➔ How did the innkeeper practice generosity?
- ➔ Why did Jesus tell this parable when the lawyer asked, “Who is my neighbor?”

IMAGINING THE PARABLE

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Read Luke 10:25–37 as a whole group. Explain to youth that traveling was dangerous on that road, and many people were robbed. Also tell them that, to the Jews hearing this story from Jesus, Samaritans were unwelcome outsiders. They were not respected at all.

Go around the room with youth numbering off from one to three so that everyone has a number. Tell them that the ones are to assume the role of the priest or Levite who did not stop. The twos are the Samaritan. And the threes are Jesus. Have them read the parable again by themselves, trying to identify with their character as you will have some questions for them to answer.

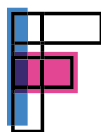
Encourage youth to respond to your questions the way they think their person may have responded.

Ones (priest/Levite): Why did you not stop and help this man? He obviously needed help.

Twos (Samaritan): What made you stop and help this man? Don't you know how dangerous this area is? It could have been a trick.

Threes (Jesus): Why did you tell this parable to your fellow Jews, knowing how much they despise Samaritans?

Have the whole group imagine which groups in their community might represent the various characters in the parable today.



FINDING THE PRACTICE THEN AND NOW

Choose one or more options.

THE EARLY CHURCH

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Go around the group, taking turns reading Acts 2:24–27 verse by verse with all youth following along in their Bibles. Explain that this is a description of life in the early church. Use the following questions to facilitate a conversation:

- ➔ How would you describe the early church?
- ➔ What is similar about life in early Christian communities and our current Christian communities?
- ➔ How is passing the offering plate in worship the same as or different from the early Christians sharing resources?

OUR CHURCH BUDGET

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Invite a person who is highly involved in your church's budgeting and finances to discuss how the church collects and shares resources. Encourage this person to address the following:

- Describe the church's budgeting process.
- Describe how the church balances using resources to care for the church (for example, building maintenance, staff benefits) with sharing generously with others.
- Explain where the money goes that youth may give.
- Explain any special offerings your congregation participates in.
- Explain how the church decides which individuals and communities to share resources with.

Encourage youth to ask their own questions.

NONFINANCIAL GENEROSITY

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Form teams of two to five youth and distribute a piece of paper and a pen to each group who will select a writer. Tell youth that Christians understand the practice of generosity as more than just giving money. Generosity is love in action. One way we do this is to share resources, financial and nonfinancial.

Challenge youth to come up with as many nonfinancial ways they see love in action in your church, such as volunteer programs, food distribution, and teaching. After a few minutes, ask each group to total their responses and then report out all the answers they have.

Paper and pens



PRACTICING THE PRACTICE

Choose one or more options.

SHARING RESOURCES WITH ALL CREATION

A C

Distribute copies of Resource Page 2 and coloring supplies to youth. Facilitate a discussion by wondering with youth what the items in the picture share and how they share resources with each of the items. Invite youth to color as the group discusses and write how they support the item labeled.

Copies of Resource Page 2
 Colored pencils

LOCAL SHARING

C

Make two columns on newsprint, one titled "Community Needs" and the other titled "Resource Organizations." Invite youth to first name needs in the community they know about that are not just needs within their church or school. Write these on the newsprint as they are mentioned. Then invite youth to name any organizations they know about that address these needs with resources, financial and other types of aid.

Invite youth to name organizations they either give money to or volunteer time to support. If there is interest in doing so, consider working as a group to find out more about a group and either raising money to support it or visiting it and volunteering there.

Newsprint and marker



Many youth with resources are encouraged to give a weekly tithe to the church. If it is true, affirm that some of the money the church receives from offerings goes to support those in need.

DENOMINATIONAL SHARING

C

Tell youth that, just as the disciples worked together to be most effective, churches work together to share resources with those in need, locally, nationally, and globally. Tell about the efforts you researched and see if youth know any others.

Spend some time looking at websites of how these groups support those in need and whether your church supports any of them.

Some examples of places youth may begin their research include:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: pda.pcusa.org/
- The United Methodist Church: www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving
- Episcopal Relief and Development: www.episcopalrelief.org/
- Church World Service: cwsglobal.org/
- World Council of Churches: www.oikoumene.org/
- On Super Bowl Sunday, many youth groups and churches participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring in which they collect cans of soup for local food pantries. See tacklehunger.org.
- Through CROP Hunger Walks, Christians raise money to support Church World Service (CWS), “a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.”² Learn about events near you at bit.ly/FMCrop.



FOLLOWING JESUS

ONE THING LEARNED

Write “Share Resources” on newsprint. Invite youth to write one thing they learned about sharing resources in today’s session.

CLOSING BLESSING

AM

Instruct youth to repeat your words and actions:

O God, / (*Raise arms, hands outstretched, above head*)

You provide all there is on earth. / (*Circle arms downward, around body*)

Let us humbly receive / (*Pull arms toward chest*)

and graciously give / (*Extend arms in front of body*)

as we love you / (*Form hands into hearts and raise above head*)

and love our neighbors. / (*With hands still in a heart shape, circle arms in front of body*)

Amen. /

1. CWS/CROP Hunger Walk, “About the Walk,” <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/page/about-the-walk>. Accessed March 17, 2021.

Love Your Neighbor Game

Leader Instructions

Count the number of youth in the room and arrange that exact number of chairs in a circle without too much space between chairs.

Invite youth to take a seat in one of the chairs. You stand in the middle of the circle as the first person asking the question. There should be no empty chair.

Explain the rules of the game as follows:

1. The person standing in the middle of the circle approaches someone sitting and asks, “Do you love your neighbor?”
2. The person can say yes or no. Those are the only two responses.
 - a. If the person says yes, the people on their direct right and direct left attempt to switch spots while the person in the middle attempts to get one of the spots of the people switching. The game continues with the person left without a chair in the middle of the circle asking someone new, “Do you love your neighbor?”
 - b. If the person asked responds no, then the person in the center asks, “Who do you love?” The person responds with “I love people who . . .” and finishes the sentence by describing a way someone shares resources or practices generosity. For example, they might say, “I love people who give during the offering,” “I love people who share snacks,” or “I love people who volunteer their time.”

At that point, anyone in the circle who does those things must leave their chair and find an empty one. They cannot return to their own chair. While they do this, the person who asked the question also tries to get in a spot. The game continues with whoever is left without a chair (and it might be the original person who asked the question if they failed to get an empty chair) asking someone else, “Do you love your neighbor?”

3. Begin the game by approaching someone in the circle and asking, “Do you love your neighbor?”

Note that it may take several rounds before youth feel confident playing the game.

Allow youth to play the game for about five minutes, then ask, “Why is it important to share God’s love with others by practicing generosity and sharing resources?”



