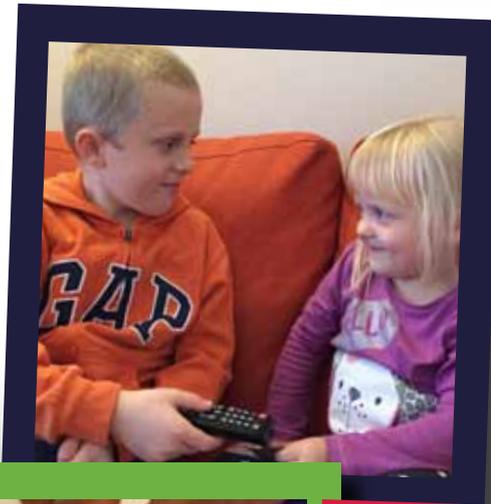




Exploring Generosity

with God Venture and



A resource pack for families
Victoria Beech



What is 40acts?

40acts is a generosity challenge, which invites you to do Lent a bit differently.

During the 40 days of Lent (Sundays aren't counted), 40acts you are invited to take part in 40 simple acts of generosity that will challenge you to 'do Lent generously'.

Lent is a time to think about how we received when Jesus died for us: freedom, salvation, healing, forgiveness, life ... why not write a list? It's traditional to give up something for Lent, but this year, why not give up being stingy, or rather take up being generous! Let's take our lead from our super-generous God and take steps to be more generous in our words, our actions, our whole lives!

Get in touch:  **40acts**  **@40acts** **40acts.org.uk**

Thanks to Ethan, Becky, Ross, Caitlin, Ewan and Ella for their fabulous photos on the cover.

This material is dedicated to a Rainbow Cat and a Beautiful Princess: may your lives always be filled with generosity.

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To find out more about the Contemporary English Version translation visit www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/ and to find out more about the work of Bible Society visit www.biblesociety.org.uk

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Follow the 40acts campaign at 40acts.co.uk  **40acts**  **@40acts**
Exploring Generosity is available as a full colour sticker activity book with 6 extra sessions and 200+ stickers. Get yours from GodVenture.co.uk



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About Stewardship and GodVenture



How to use this material

This material is for families to do together. It has activities for children aged 5–11 and under 5s as well as older children and adults.

Each page has a story from the Bible to explore together and respond to together.

You'll also find:

A fun idea

... of how you could read, re-read and explore the Bible story together. If you find one idea you particularly enjoy, you might like to use it again.

The Bible story taken from the Contemporary English Version (CEV), which is a great version for families and reading out loud.

Online you'll find the amazing 40acts Family Wallchart, full of simple, fun ideas of how you can get generous together.



For Under 5s

If you have one or more children who are under 5 years old, you might find the idea in this box useful to help include them. The ideas might also be fun for the rest of the family too!

Chat Think Pray

... a simple, creative idea to help you chat, think and pray together.

Something Extra ...for older children and adults

This section gives some things for older children and adults to think about or do, perhaps while younger people are drawing or using stickers. If you have teens, this section might be for them.

A generous thought

One big generous idea

Top tips

- 1 Do it your way**
Do it at a time of day and as often as works best for your family. Don't feel you have to wait for all of your family to get together to start.
- 2 Be flexible**
Do as many of the activities as you like. Do them in any order. Adapt them. Repeat them.
- 3 Have fun**
Mix it with things your family enjoys: taking photos, eating, walking, singing!
- 4 Share**
Share your journey by joining us:

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Jesus feeds a huge crowd

Read John 6:1-14.

Read the story with different people reading the words people say (in bold). What might Jesus have said at each point marked with *?

Selected verses:

⁵ When Jesus saw the large crowd coming towards him, he asked Philip, "Where will we get enough food to feed all these people?" ...
⁷ Philip answered, "Don't you know that it would take almost a year's wages just to buy only a little bread for each of these people?"
⁸ Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the disciples. He spoke up and said, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five small loaves of barley bread and two fish. But what good is that with all these people?"
¹⁰ The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to have everyone sit down *. About five thousand men were in the crowd.
¹¹ Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God *. Then he

passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat.
¹² The people ate all they wanted, and Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers, so that nothing would be wasted *. ¹³ The disciples gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with what was left over from the five barley loaves.

This text is taken from the Contemporary English Version of the Bible.

Start your 40acts generosity challenge today, using the 40acts Family Wallchart.



I wonder what jumps out at you from this story.

I wonder where you see generosity in this story.

I wonder what this story makes you think about giving.

For Under 5s

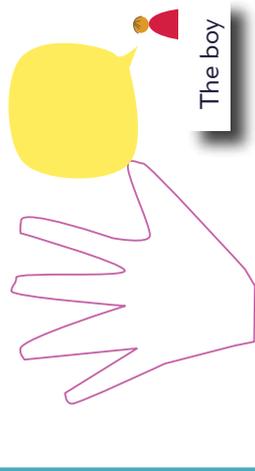
Make fishfinger sandwiches and tell the story as you eat them. Instead of '5000', say 'a really, really big crowd' to help them not get stuck on the numbers.

Chat Think Pray

Make a word or picture collage of BIG problems. Chat, think and pray about them together. You could ask God what you can do to be part of the answer.

Write in each hand what the person did

Write in each speech bubble what that character said

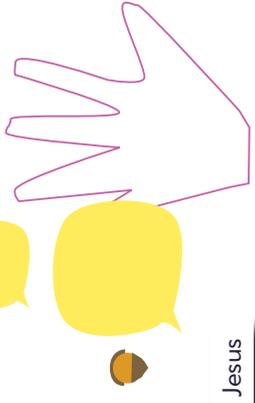


The boy



The crowd

Jesus



Jesus



Jesus' disciples (friends)

If you could be That one, which would you be?

Something Extra...for older children and adults

Is there any significance in the fact that the food that was shared belonged to a child? What can children teach or show us about generosity? Do you think Jesus chatted with the boy? What might He have said?

A generous thought

Be That one



Psalm 24

Read Psalm 24:1-10.

Invite everyone to join in saying the questions in verses 3, 8 and 10 (in bold). You might like to read it all twice!

For Under 5s

- Invent some actions together, maybe one each for verses 1-6.
- Repeat the passage using your actions.

I wonder why people give.

What makes them generous?
What about you?

In the NIV Bible, verses 3 and 4 say that only those with clean hands and a pure heart can stand in God's holy place.

Chat Think Pray

Wash your hands with water as a symbol of washing your heart clean of all the wrong things you have said, thought and done. You could also thank Jesus for forgiving you.

A generous thought

True generosity leaves us

¹The earth and everything on it belong to the LORD.

The world and its people belong to him.

²The LORD placed it all on the oceans and rivers.

³**Who may climb the LORD's hill or stand in his holy temple?**

⁴Only those who do right for the right reasons, and don't worship idols or tell lies under oath.

⁵The LORD God, who saves them, will bless and reward them,

⁶because they worship and serve the God of Jacob.

⁷Open the ancient gates, so that the glorious king may come in.

⁸**Who is this glorious king?**

He is our LORD, a strong and mighty warrior.

⁹Open the ancient gates, so that the glorious king may come in.

¹⁰**Who is this glorious king?**

He is our LORD, the All-Powerful!

This text is taken from the Contemporary English Version of the Bible.

Have you started your 40acts generosity challenge using the 40acts Family Wallchart? Make a list of all the people you could be generous to using the boxes on the back.



Draw or write to represent the picture in this psalm you like most.
E.g. the earth, people, water, God's holy hill and temple, the ancient gates or a mighty warrior. I wonder what you feel the pictures in this Psalm say about God's generosity.

Something Extra... for older children and adults

Some scholars say that this psalm is about the return of the Ark of the Covenant, the symbol of God's presence, to the city of Jerusalem. Imagine you are the city with glorious gates and that God is the king riding towards the city. Use verses 8-10 as a prayer asking God to open your heart to Him as you



A poor widow gives a lot

Read Luke 21:1-4.

Get a pile of (chocolate) coins and give two to one person and lots to another.

Invite them to act out the offerings as you read the story.

For Under 5s

Chat about which is more, two coins or lots of coins.

Chat about which means more, giving lots when you have lots or giving a little when you only have a little.

Jesus looked up and saw some rich people tossing their gifts into the offering box.² He also saw a poor widow putting in two pennies.³ And he said, "I tell you that this poor woman has put in more than all the others.⁴ Everyone else gave what they didn't need. But she is very poor and gave everything she had."

This text is taken from the Contemporary English Version of the Bible.

Sometimes something which seems very small can be very generous. Have a look at #2, #7, #12 and #18 on the 40acts Family Wallchart for some ideas of small but generous things which you could do this week.

Draw two coins on one side and lots of coins on the other. Then write the word 'MORE' to show which Jesus said was more.

I wonder why Jesus said this.

A generous thought

Be Extravagant
Be **GIVE-TASTIC**

Chat Think Pray

Take it in turns to hold two coins and say, 'Let me have a generous heart, like the poor widow.' Each time you see or hold coins this week, silently repeat this.

I wonder how you feel about giving extravagantly. This could be giving your time, your kindness, your things. What could you do to give extravagantly?

Something Extra... for older children and adults

Most of us probably don't consider ourselves to be as poor as the widow or as rich as the people in the story. However, this story isn't about the size of the gift but how much it cost the person to give it. Have you ever been really grateful for a 'small' gift from someone else? Do you ever find thinking your gift is too small stops you from giving? Consider re-assessing how you calculate what you give.



Jesus teaches how to pray

Read Luke 11:1-4.

Read both versions here.
Compare them with another Bible version you use or one on www.biblegateway.com

For Under 5s

Draw a picture of your favourite part of this prayer. Learn together the version used at your church or school.

Contemporary English Version

¹ When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his followers to pray."
² So Jesus told them, "Pray in this way:
'Father, help us to honour your name. Come and set up your kingdom.
³ Give us each day the food we need.
⁴ Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us. And keep us from being tempted.'"

The Message version

¹ One day he was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, "Master, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."
²⁻⁴ So he said, "When you pray, say, Father, Reveal who you are. Set the world right. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil."

If you're low on ideas of things you can give, don't forget the #40acts Family Wallchart, which has daily ideas on generous things to do!

A generous thought

Give us each day a way to give

Chat Think Pray

Write and use your own family version of the Lord's prayer, using everyday words.



★ Our Daily Giving Chart

What have you *been given* today? (There are some clues in verses 3 and 4!) What have you *given*?

Each day this week, chat about things you were given. Draw a smile to represent each one. Chat about things you have given and add a star for each one.

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Something Extra... for older children and adults

This familiar prayer is a collection of different Jewish prayers. What does this prayer make you think about living generously? Look again at verses 2-5 and consider how generosity could relate to ways to honour God's name, as well as how God sets up His kingdom (v2), gives us the food we need (v3), and forgives our sins (v4).



Elijah stays with a widow

Read 1 Kings 17:8-16.

Place the following items on a table and challenge everyone to touch the item when it is mentioned in the story: sticks, cup, bread, oil and flour.

For Under 5s

Act the story out using a play house or kitchen (or make one with a sheet draped over two chairs, a few pans and a jug).

⁸The LORD told Elijah, ⁹“Go to the town of Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I’ve told a widow in that town to give you food.”

¹⁰When Elijah came near the town gate of Zarephath, he saw a widow gathering sticks for a fire. “Would you please bring me a cup of water?” he asked. ¹¹As she left to get it, he asked, “Would you also please bring me a piece of bread?”

¹²The widow answered, “In the name of the living LORD your God, I swear that I don’t have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour and a little olive oil. I’m on my way home now with these few sticks to cook what I have for my son and me. After that, we will starve to death.”

¹³Elijah said, “Everything will be fine. Do what you said. Go home and fix something for you and your son. But

first, please make a small piece of bread and bring it to me. ¹⁴The LORD God of Israel has promised that your jar of flour won’t run out and your bottle of oil won’t dry up before he sends rain for the crops.”

¹⁵The widow went home and did exactly what Elijah had told her. She and Elijah and her family had enough food for a long time. ¹⁶The LORD kept the promise that his prophet Elijah had made, and she did not run out of flour or oil.

This text is taken from the Contemporary English Version of the Bible.

Plan some generous hospitality or do one of these ideas on the 40acts Family Wallchart: #6, #22, #26, #30.

A generous thought

Who are you God's gift to?

Chat Think Pray

Chat, think and pray about someone you can show some hospitality to, and how it feels to be part of the answer to their needs.

Hospitality doesn't have to be perfect to be appreciated! How could you be generous to someone in need? Cook a meal for a family with a young baby? Make a cake for someone who's ill? Call in for a cup of tea and a chat with someone who can't easily get out? Make a plan! Use the stickers to inspire you.

Our Plan

Draw or write a list below.

Things we find out about the widow

1

2

3

4

5

I wonder which of these things jumps out at you.

I wonder what it means for you.

for older children and adults

I wonder why the widow was generous to Elijah. What does verse 9 suggest about the widow's relationship with God? Are you open to being prompted to give even when you might feel you have very little?

Something Extra

Zacchaeus meets Jesus

Read Luke 19:1-10.

Use chocolate coins to explain earning money and paying tax. Then use it to show Zacchaeus collecting too much, keeping it and then giving it back plus more.

¹ Jesus was going through Jericho, ² where a man named Zacchaeus lived. He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich. ³⁻⁴ Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like. But Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree.

⁵ When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today."

⁶ Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

⁷ Everyone who saw this started grumbling, "This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."

⁸ Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "I will give half

of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much to everyone I have ever cheated."

⁹ Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."

This text is taken from the Contemporary English Version of the Bible.

For Under 5s

Act out the story with a crowd of toys, something tall to be a tree (e.g. a stack of blocks), and a house for Jesus and Zacchaeus to go to (e.g. a doll's house or a box).

A generous thought

Generous people get it

Write or draw the details on each card.

Chat Think Pray

Take it in turns to (carefully!) waft the light of a candle towards you saying: "I welcome light into my light." Waft the light away from you saying: "I share this light with other people."

1

Zacchaeus

Town:

Height:

Job:

Wealth:

See verses 1-2

2

Zacchaeus

Wanted to see:

Problem:

Action taken:

See verses 3-4

3

Zacchaeus

Surprised by:

Action taken:

See verses 5-6

4

Zacchaeus

Had dinner with:

See verses 6-7

I wonder what they said over their meal.

5

Zacchaeus

Action taken:

See verses 8-9

Something Extra... for older children and adults

Look at Numbers 5:6,7. Zacchaeus understood Jewish law in his head but it wasn't until he met Jesus that it became real for him in his heart. Can you think of a time when something in the Bible became real for you?



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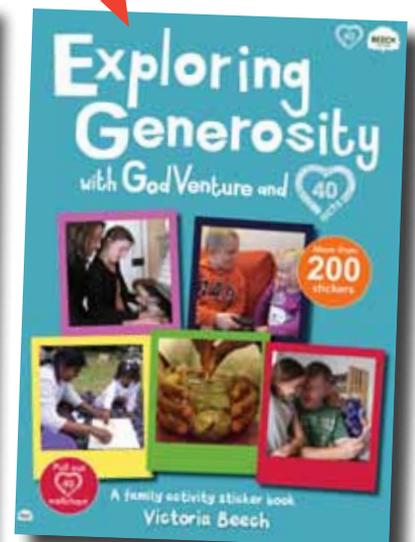
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About GodVenture

GodVenture exists to inspire, encourage and help families to 'do God-stuff' at home. We make sticker activity books and lots of other simple, fun resources for families.

You'll find this full colour sticker activity book for families with 6 extra sessions plus loads more ideas and resources at www.GodVenture.co.uk
 [GodVenture](#)
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Follow the 40acts campaign at 40acts.co.uk  [40acts](#)  [@40acts](#)
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