

GENEROSITY FIKA:

A Journey of Generosity

A guided conversation about
generosity, over coffee & cake.





How this Fika should look...

	Timings	Resources
Arrival & Welcome	15 minutes	Drinks and cakes (available throughout), Guidelines, pg2
First Activity	5 minutes	Choose from: a) Watch the <u>Bible Project Video</u> or, b) <u>Read the book of Haggai</u> together
Discussion Questions	10 minutes	Questions, pg 5
Second Activity	7 minutes	Watch the video: A Fire That Sparked Transformation
Discussion Questions	10 minutes	Questions, pg 7
3rd Activity	10-15 minutes	Continue the video: Rebuilding Well - A Roundtable Conversation
Discussion Questions	10 minutes	Questions, pg 8
Activity	10 minutes	Worksheets
Close	5 minutes	



What is a Fika?

A Fika is a programme for small groups to explore God's generosity to us, biblical generosity and generosity around the world. Through short films, reflections and discussion we can be inspired and encouraged to live more generous lives. Fikas can be an enormously effective way of developing a generous culture within your church.

The Fika should last about 1hr 30mins, with tea, coffee and cakes available throughout.

This resource was designed by Liverpool Diocese, inspired by the National Giving Team's 'Generosity Fika'.

Guidelines

- Please turn off your mobile phone, or put it on silent.
- Please try and avoid giving unsolicited advice, as it can feel like criticism.
- Talk about how you feel, and what you think, not what you think others feel or think.
- It's important that everyone contributes, so please participate but do not dominate.
- Don't interrupt, always allow someone to finish what they are saying.
- For people to be truly open they need to know that what they say will be kept confidential, so commit to confidentiality.
- Allow for different personality types. Not everyone is an extrovert, or thinks by talking, some prefer to be quiet and reflect in order to think through things.

You will need

- A range of cakes and treats with beverages available throughout the session
- A screen so everyone can see and hear the video content
- Print off the worksheets at the back of this document, enough for each person to have one of each.



Arrival & Welcome

Beginning the session

- The leader should begin by welcoming attendees, explaining how the session will go, and opening with a prayer. If you are the host, introduce who you are and why you are the facilitator.
- Encourage people to contribute to the session with their opinions and thoughts throughout the session.

Taking the temperature

Ask people to get into pairs and discuss for 2 minutes how they are feeling at the start of this session with questions, such as;

Have they just finished work and are a bit tired? Have they ever talked about generosity with others from church - is this exciting, or daunting? Have they had a hard week and feel a bit overwhelmed? Or, are they full of energy and ready to go?!

Bring the group back together.

Reassure people that this session is a safe space to reflect on their own discipleship, and **no one will ask them for money or about their personal finances.**

Activity 1: Haggai

Watch [the Bible Project video](#), or read the story of Haggai. See what people thought of the video/text, then **ask the following questions**:

Q1 - Timing (Haggai 1:2-4)

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "These people say, 'The **time** has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house.'"*

*Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a **time** for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"*

Have there been moments in your life when you have waited for the right timing to make an important decision? Why was it important to wait? It might have been a financial decision about a job or home situation, a spiritual decision between you and God, or about a relationship?

Q2 - Prioritising God (Haggai 1:9-10)

"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops."

In this passage, God withholds his blessing on the people because they have *not* chosen to put Him first by rebuilding the temple. **Why is rebuilding the temple so important? What do you think this tells us about God's desire to be among His people?**

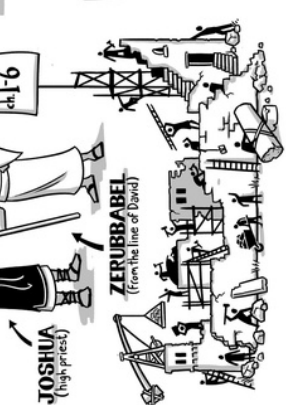
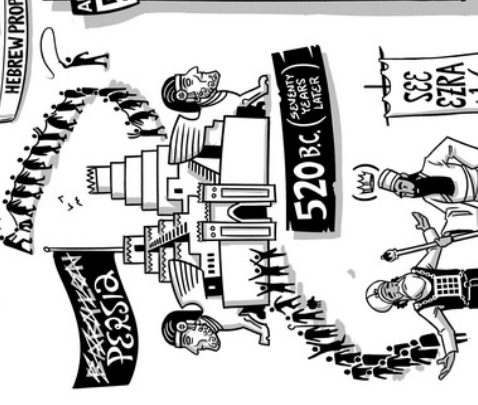
Q3 - Stirring Up Hope (Haggai 1:13-14)

Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord. So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God.

God speaks clearly to Zerubbabel the Governor, and Joshua the High Priest, declaring that He is with them, and they are motivated to begin building.

- **If you were there, what advice would you give to Zerubbabel, Joshua and those about to embark on rebuilding the temple?**
- **How can we encourage each other, and our leaders, when big decisions need to be made?**
- **Hearing from God can look different to each of us. How do you usually hear from God, and how do you recognise God's blessing in your life?**
- **Has there been a time you have felt stirred-up to be a part of something?**

You may wish to print off the poster on the next page as a visual reminder or reference of the story.



created by
The Bible Project



A Fire That Sparked Transformation

Watch the first 7 minutes of the video, pausing for discussion.

Encourage the group to share any initial thoughts.

Revd Raymond heard the words from Haggai in a dream and believed it was an encouragement from God, which he shared with the community.

- **Have there been times in your life that you were able to identify with a bible story?**

St Luke's heard the verse from Haggai read aloud on the Sunday after the Fire and decided that they would commit to rebuilding the church. It took a lot of time, and a lot of generous giving to make it happen.

- **Unlike the Israelites who took 70 years(!), how can we discern together when the time is right to give generously to God's plans?**

Raymond spoke about how the people of St Luke's grew in their faith during the time when they were meeting in the church hall, awaiting a newly refurbished building.

- **What can we learn from this story about waiting on God as a community?**

A close-up, slightly out-of-focus image of warm white string lights, likely Christmas lights, with many small, glowing bulbs. The lights are tangled and create a soft, warm glow against a dark background.

Generosity Roundtable - Video

Continue the video, then ask the following questions:

- **Which story stood out to you, and why?**
- **Is there anything you didn't agree with, or understand?**

In the video Jennie speaks to Kath, Pete, Amanda, David and Poppy to discuss how making decisions about buildings effects the entire community, not just the church, and how we can navigate times of uncertainty by trusting God and leading people well. They cover topics like;

- Giving
- Grief
- Generosity of spirit
- Waiting
- Investing in God's Kingdom
- Storytelling

We have the whole bible to tell us of the goodness of God, and each story teaches us something that God can speak to us about today. The story of Haggai teaches us so much about how we are stewards of God's kingdom because of the decisions we make every day.

Take a moment to think individually:

Which chapter of the story are you in?

Listening

Waiting

Hoping

Giving

Grieving

Building

What is the story you are telling with your life?



Self Reflection - Worksheets

The next pages contain worksheets for the group to reflect on their own generosity through their lives, and their goals for the future.

Depending on timings, you may wish to send the worksheets home with people to complete in their own time. There is no need for anyone to share what they have written with others.

Worksheet 1 - My Generosity Journey

This is an exercise for people to reflect on the times generosity has shown up in their lives.

Worksheet 2 - My Generosity Map

This sheet uses a hexagon where participants can score themselves on each point.

This is not an exercise of judgement, but a tool to enable people to pinpoint where there might be room for growth. There may be times when we can give more, or times where we have to give less, so encourage the participants to be fair and gracious.

MY GENEROSITY JOURNEY

Map out the key moments in your life when generosity made a difference. When have you given or received an act of generosity...

because someone was sad?

to show your gratitude?

to help someone practically?

to bless someone?

you knew God had provided for you?

to be obedient to Jesus' invitation?

to celebrate?

MY GENEROSITY MAP

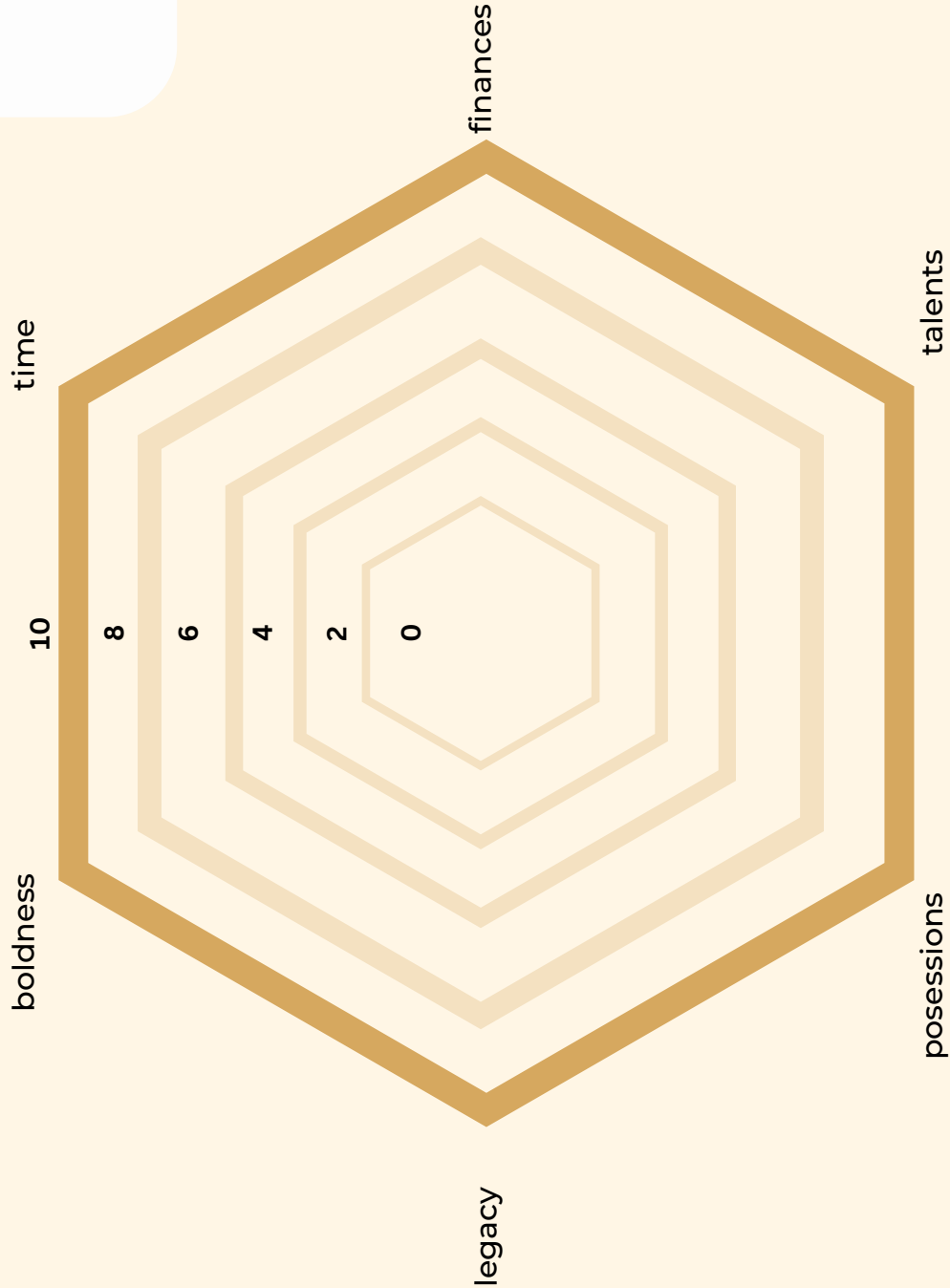
Reflect on the discussions today.

Pinpoint where you would score yourself in that aspect of your generosity.

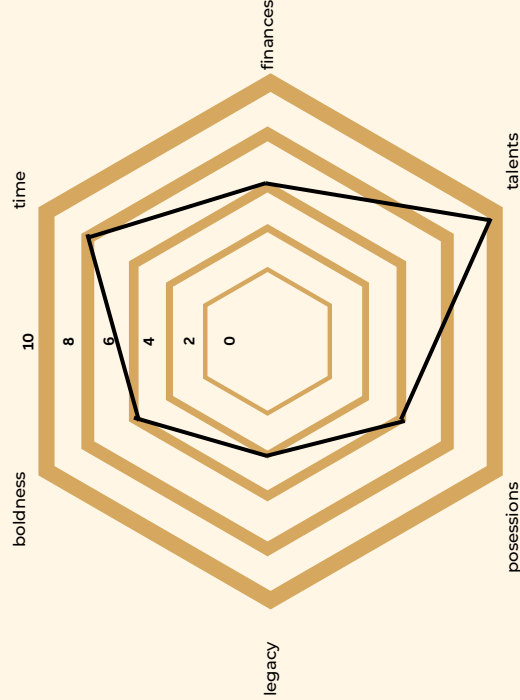
10=the most you could give

0=not giving anything

Link up your scores to create a web.



It might look something like this:





Closing

Check out: Assess the mood of the group by asking people to return to their original pairs and for 1 minute, share **one** thing that they will take away from today's activity. If you have time, you may wish to feedback one or two things to the wider group.

Finally, draw the session to a close with a prayer.

Thank You Heavenly Father, that You have not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and sound mind. Thank You Holy Spirit, that You can do immeasurably more than we can imagine or ask. Thank You Jesus, for sacrificially giving of Yourself so we are inspired to live generously to enable Your Kingdom here on Earth. ”

Written by Liz Mullins, Generous Giving Advisor, Rochester diocese



Feedback

If you have used this resource, please take a moment to give us some feedback on your experience with it.

Contact:

Lucia Miller at Liverpool Diocese - lucia.miller@liverpool.anglican.org