

Study Guide

Every Blessing in Abundance

In late summer, 2014, Bishop Leonard Bolick asked rostered leaders in the North Carolina Synod for names of people they would describe as “generous Christians.” These people were then invited to attend a retreat at Lutheridge on October 10-12, 2014.

Approximately 25 people attended including the North Carolina Synod Stewardship Task Force with Mr. Neil Bullock, director of the ELCA Macedonia Project, as facilitator. The Macedonia Project is made possible through a grant from Thrivent.

The purpose of the retreat was for people to share their stories and to discuss ways that others can be encouraged toward generosity. This DVD is the result of that sharing.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-8

Background information: The young churches are collecting offerings for the relief of the needy Christians in Jerusalem. Even though the churches of Macedonia have experienced extreme hardship, including persecution by non-Christians, and great poverty, they ask to take part in this offering. Paul presents the example of these churches as a challenge to the Corinthians.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Questions in the video

- Who has inspired you to give?
- Is generosity an act of faith?
- Does generosity change your life?
- Are you a generous person?
- What is your story?

Additional questions

- How do you define generosity? Is accepting people as they are an act of generosity?
- Who are your earliest models of generosity?
- How did these models influence or teach you?
- How have you grown in sharing and what or who helped you grow?
- Do you find it easy or hard to share your generosity story?
- Do you see a connection between faith and giving?
- How can we encourage people to be generous?

Prayer

Most Gracious God, we thank you for your never-failing generosity to us. You have given us so much, and everything we are and everything we have belongs to you. Help us to respond to your love in many generous ways. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen