



# NEWCASTLE DIOCESE GENEROSITY WEEK 2024

## Children and Families Activity



 Seeking  Sharing  Sending



# Building the Church Together

This resource is suitable for use in a variety of settings such as Sunday school or cafe style church.

The activity looks at the theme of generosity, through the story of King David asking the people to come together to build a temple for the Lord. The activity will help us understand that through our generosity, with all our different gifts of time, talents, as well as money, we can “build God’s Kingdom together”.

## You Will Need:

- Small containers (small bags / plastic containers / mini boxes)
- Lego Bricks or similar
- Stickers and pens to label the bricks before hand
- Chocolate (or another appropriate treat)

## Prepare beforehand:

Take some toy bricks – enough to “build a church”, and write on the side (or on a sticker and stick on the side) what our church does, what activities happen, and all the things that make it “run”. This should be a mix of all the jobs such as cleaning, reading, tea rota, prayers, lighting candles, and money could be represented as ‘£’, ‘££’, ‘£££’ so there are no specific amounts on there but gives an idea of varying amounts.

Then place the bricks inside each container, along with a piece of chocolate. The number of bricks varies in each container – consider whether you want each container to have at least one ‘£’ in, with some containing just one and others holding at least three (this will depend on the expected numbers attending – you may adjust to more if you need lots of bricks and have less attendees for example). Before anyone arrives, hide these containers around the space.

## Story: 1 Chronicles 29: 1-14

Dramatised story – 2 performers. One reading “Chronicler” another reading “David”  
Based on “The Message” and “Dramatised Bible Readings for Festivals”

**Chronicler:** King David announced to the whole assembly:

**David:** “My son Solomon was singled out and chosen by God to do this. But he’s young and lacks experience. The work to be done is tremendous, because it is not just a place for people to meet each other, but a house for God to meet us. I’ve done my best to get everything together for building this house for my God, all the materials necessary: gold, silver, bronze, iron, lumber, precious and varicolored stones, and building stones—vast stockpiles. Furthermore, because my heart is in this, in addition to and beyond what I have gathered, I’m turning over my personal fortune of gold and silver for making this place of worship for my God: 3,000 talents (about 113 tons) of gold—all from Ophir, the best—and 7,000 talents (214 tons) of silver for covering the walls of the buildings, and for the gold and silver work by craftsmen and artisans.

And now, how about you? Who among you is ready and willing to join in the giving?”

**Chronicler:** Then the heads of families, leaders of the tribes of Israel, commanders and captains in the army, stewards of the king’s affairs, stepped forward and gave willingly. They gave 5,000 talents (188 tons) and 10,000 darics (185 pounds) of gold, 10,000 talents of silver (377 tons), 18,000 talents of bronze (679 tons), and 100,000 talents (3,775 tons) of iron. Anyone who had precious jewels put them in the treasury for the building of The Temple of God in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite.

And the people were full of a sense of celebration—all that giving! And all given willingly, freely! King David was exuberant.

David blessed God in full view of the entire congregation:

**David:** Blessed are you, God of Israel, our father  
from of old and forever.  
To you, O God, belong the greatness and the might,  
the glory, the victory, the majesty, the splendour;  
Yes! Everything in heaven, everything on earth;  
the kingdom all yours! You've raised yourself high over all.  
Riches and glory come from you,  
you're ruler over all;  
You hold strength and power in the palm of your hand  
to build up and strengthen all.  
And here we are, O God, our God, giving thanks to you,  
praising your splendid Name.

But me—who am I, and who are these my people, that we should presume to be giving something to you? Everything comes from you; all we're doing is giving back what we've been given from your generous hand. As far as you're concerned, we're homeless, shiftless wanderers like our ancestors, our lives mere shadows, hardly anything to us. God, our God, all these materials—these piles of stuff for building a house of worship for you, honouring your Holy Name—it all came from you!

It was all yours in the first place! I know, dear God, that you care nothing for the surface—you want us, our true selves—and so I have given from the heart, honestly and happily. And now see all these people doing the same, giving freely, willingly—what a joy! O God, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep this generous spirit alive forever in these people always, keep their hearts set firmly in you.

And give my son Solomon an uncluttered and focused heart so that he can obey what you command, live by your directions and counsel, and carry through with building The Temple for which I have provided.”

**Chronicler:** Then David commanded the people

**David:** Praise the Lord your God!

**Chronicler:** And the whole assembly praised the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and the bowed low and gave honour to the Lord and also to the king,

**Cast:** This is the word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

## Talk

Delve into the story of David and his generous contributions from his own treasury.

This gets everyone engaged as we discuss why David made these contributions and the purpose of the temple. We then shift the focus to how people in our community give different amounts, but what matters most is giving freely and wholeheartedly.

Next, send everyone off to search for the hidden containers. When they return with their findings, gather together and read aloud what each brick says.

Working together, we can use these bricks to build a representation of our church. During this activity, talk about how each person brought these containers and these “gifts” to build the church.

That all of these bricks are important to ensure the church is build and has all it needs to serve the community.

Emphasis that you needed the bricks to build the church, and everyone had different amounts and different things that they brought to create the church.

Some people ended up with just one or two bricks, while others had several. Some had “lots of money” some had readers or cleaning. All of which allow a church to serve its community and worship God.

King David had lots, but he knew that everything he had belonged to God. Emphasize that the quantity of bricks isn't the focal point; what truly matters is the enthusiasm and joy everyone brings to building our church together.

Once the church is built – we can enjoy our treat.

## Prayers

Finding a quiet place to sit, invite each person to thank God for something – it could be something in the church, in the community, their family – just spontaneous gratitude.

Father God we thank you for your generosity.

We thank you now for ..... (Invite the children to fill in the blank with someone or something they are thankful for)

Thank you for all those people in our community who have given generously throughout of lives.

Teach us God to be generous following your example.

Help us give our time, words, energy, love and possessions with a cheerful and generous heart.

**Amen**

We say together the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Blessing and Dismissal

We suggest this action based grace, from BRF Messy Church Resources

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ** (*Hold out your hands as if expecting a present*)

**And the love of God** (*Put your hands on your heart*)

**And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit** (*Hold hands*)

**Be with us all now and forever. Amen** (*Raise hands together on the word 'Amen' and shout loudly!*)





Taken from the Church of England in Lancashire Blackburn Diocese and originally created by Stewardship Resourcing Officer Christy Sawyer 2023. With permission, this order has been adapted by the Diocese of Newcastle for 2024.