

# GENEROSITY FIKA

Facilitator's Handbook



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# I. Introducing the Fika

## Welcome

1. Welcome attendees, thank the host, and ask the host or someone else to open the Fika in prayer.
2. Introduce yourself: share briefly why you are facilitating the Generosity Fika.
3. Introduce Journey of Generosity, explain we will be using some of their materials.
4. Pass out the Generosity Fika Handbook and say that this is theirs to keep and will guide them through the Fika.
5. Talk through the indicative schedule below. Say you may adapt it to allow conversations to reach a natural conclusion, but will keep to the times for the breaks and the ending of the Fika.
6. Run through the guidelines on page 3 so people understand the expectations in how we relate and communicate with each other.

## Indicative schedule

Start	Finish	Topic
8.45	9.00	Arrive and register
9.00	9.30	1: Introducing the Fika
9.30	10.00	2: Film 1: Generosity amidst Poverty, then discussion
10.00	10.30	3: "Biblical Generosity" article, then discussion
10.30	11.00	4: Film 2: Sacrificial Generosity, then discussion
11.00	11.30	Tea, Coffee and 7 Cakes
11.30	12.00	5: Film 3: Generosity in Crisis, then discussion
12.00	12.30	6: Create your Generosity Web, then discussion
12.30	12.45	7: Time for individual reflection
12.45	1.00	8. Feedback on what has been learnt
1.00		Close

## 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.

## Introductory activities

1. People can be anxious about talking and thinking about money, so it is good to acknowledge those anxieties to start with. Reassure people that no-one will ask them for money, or to increase their giving, this is a safe space to reflect, think and pray.
2. Encourage people to turn to the person next to them and say which of the mood list they think they are closest to right now.

aggravated	anti-social	apathetic	bouncy	cantankerous	chilled
chipper	confused	contemplative	cranky	dreamlike	fabulous
fuzzy	giddy	grumpy	happy	hungry	hunky-dory
inspired	listless	manic	mardy	mischievous	misunderstood
neglected	puzzled	rocking	rushed	scattered	snarky
spent	splendid	stressed	subversive	weary	wonky

3. Ask everyone to write down their personal objectives on page 2 of the participant's handbook. Emphasise that people will not be asked to share these; these are for their own personal record. Some people may 'crash' into a Fika, without giving it much thought beforehand. Reassure people that this is fine, and encourage everyone to use this time to start to thinking through any hopes or fears they may have for this session.
4. Ask each participant to briefly introduce themselves, saying their name, why they came, and their earliest experience of money, which doesn't have to be spiritual or church-related.

## 2: Generosity amidst Poverty

1. Introduce the first short film on “Generosity in Poverty” called A Handful of Rice. Explain that the three films you will watch today look at generosity in different parts of the world, and aims to enable us to reflect on our generosity. Say that all the films are about six minutes long.
2. After showing the film, ask “What stood out for you?”. If conversation does not flow easily, consider asking one of these questions:
  - ≈ how does it make you feel to see the poorest of the poor giving from their rice to support missions around the world?
  - ≈ Are there ways that fear of having too little holds us back from giving more?
  - ≈ In what ways do these people, with no savings or backup plan, inspire you?
  - ≈ What do you think of the quote, “As long as we have something to eat every day, we have something to give to God every day”?
3. As a facilitator, this session is key – it sets the expectations for the rest of the Fika. So, it is particularly important that you affirm each person’s sharing, especially those who share from the heart and/or may struggle to articulate their views. Keep an eye on the time, as sometimes conversation really flows quickly, and encourage all to take part.

### 3: Biblical Generosity

1. In this session we explore how living a generous life is core to our Christian faith, but it is often difficult to do.
2. Ask participants to turn to page 3 in the Fika Handbook and read the article on 'Biblical Generosity'. Allow 15 minutes for reading the article.
3. When everyone has read the article, ask "What stood out for you?". If conversation does not flow easily, consider asking one of these questions:
  - ≈ The article says, "whilst we as a church often hate talking about money, Jesus never stopped". Do we really hate talking about money? If so, why?
  - ≈ Did you agree with the challenges to living generously? Are there other challenges not mentioned?
  - ≈ Can you be generous without knowing God's generosity?
  - ≈ "We cannot lead generous lives because we feel we ought to". Is this true?
4. Make sure to keep the tone light and encouraging. Emphasise the joy in giving – loving to give, experiencing God's pleasure.

## 4: Sacrificial Generosity

1. This section explores sacrificial generosity and how it enables God's mission to take place. Show the sacrificial generosity video.
2. After showing the film, ask "What stood out for you?". If conversation does not flow easily, consider asking one of these questions:
  - ≈ The Hseih's show all kinds of generosity. What do they give, beyond money?
  - ≈ How does this level of sacrificial giving make you feel?
  - ≈ What decisions did they make before they were wealthy that helped them be generous when they were wealthy<sup>1</sup>?
3. Break for Tea and Coffee and (up to) 7 cakes. Remind people when to come back. Encourage people not to check their phones. Remind them where there is a quiet space (if available) if they would like some time alone.

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<sup>1</sup> they always determined to give their time and resources irrespective of their wealth

## 5: Generosity in Crisis

1. Show the “Generosity in Crisis” film about Bishop Hannington<sup>2</sup>.
2. After showing the film, ask “What stood out for you?”. If conversation does not flow easily, consider asking one of these questions:
  - ≈ How does it make you feel to see people with so little being so generous?
  - ≈ Can you imagine giving your ‘only chicken’ whatever that is in your life, for the building of your church or God’s kingdom?
  - ≈ How does fear of having too little hold you back from giving away more?
  - ≈ How do these people, with no savings or backup plan, inspire you?
  - ≈ How did giving in community inspire more generosity than these people would otherwise have shown<sup>3</sup>?
3. The woman who gave her only chicken ended up becoming the person responsible for raising the church’s chickens as the people in the church continue to care for her.

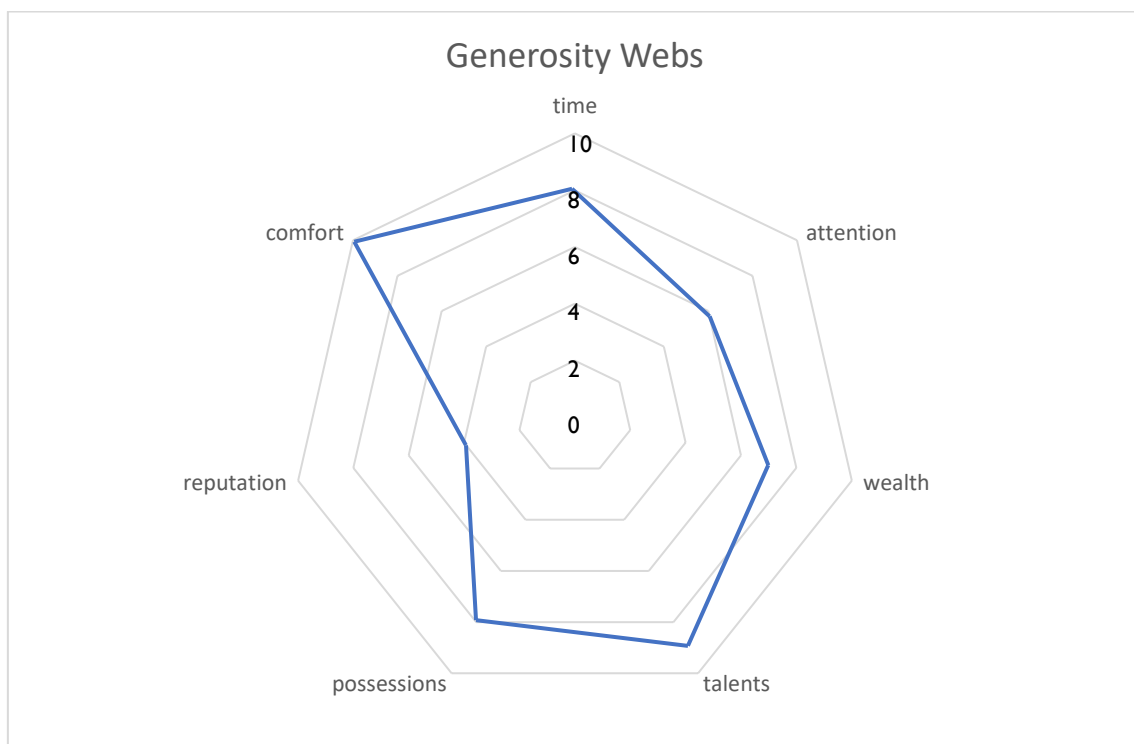
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<sup>2</sup> Just for sake of clarity, Bishop Hannington is not a Bishop in the Anglican church, but in the independent Charismatic Episcopal Church

<sup>3</sup> When we give together, we inspire more generosity

## 6: Create your Generosity Web

1. Turn to page 8 in the Generosity Fika Handbook. Invite participants to read through the Reflections if they have not already done so. Working alone, invite participants to score themselves for how comfortable they are being generous in the seven different ways. Mark them on the graph, then draw lines between them to create your Giving Web (example below).
2. Ask participants to reflect on what they see, and why they find some forms of generosity more comfortable than others.
3. Participants may find it helpful to pray St Anselm's prayer - "I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you".
4. Invite participants to think about the different generosityes. Is God nudging us to develop a generous life in a new way?





## 7: Reflection

1. Ask participants to turn to page 9 in the handbook. Spend 15 minutes reflecting on what you have discussed and thought this morning. Think specifically about these questions:
  - ≈ *What has struck you about this morning?*
  - ≈ *Have you changed your thinking or developed a greater understanding in any way?*
  - ≈ *How will you take forward what you have learnt? What steps will take?*
2. Think through what you would be comfortable sharing with the group, and what you would prefer to keep private.

## 8: Feedback

1. Ask participants to share what they have learnt through the morning, and any actions they will take as a result of what they have discovered.
2. Draw participants attention to the 10 Questions for Reflection on page 10, which they may find helpful to think about after the Fika.
3. Encourage people to explore Journey of Generosity if they wish to look at these issues in more depth.
4. Ask participants to look back at the initial hopes and fears. Have the hopes been met, have the fears been realised?
5. Close with prayer.

