

GENEROSITY

HOW WE GROW: INVITATION FOR THE WEEK

As we seek to practice the discipline of generosity together, bless three different people this week, one of whom is not a member of our church family. These acts of blessing ought to be in concert with a listening and prayerful posture. Who is the Spirit leading you to bless today? Here are three examples of what those blessings could be:

1. **Words of Affirmation:** Send someone a note, e-mail, or text. Or you can speak some words of encouragement to someone in person. As we bless someone with our words, we are communicating love and modeling the blessing we receive from God as His beloved sons and daughters.
2. **Acts of Kindness:** How can you serve a neighbor this week? “Who doesn’t feel blessed when someone does them a favor or provides some kind of practical support? Cutting a neighbor’s lawn. Babysitting an exhausted couple’s kid. Helping a neighbor move to his new house. These acts of kindness literally add strength to their arm; they lighten the recipient’s load.” As we seek to practice generosity in the way of Jesus, we can serve as Jesus served.
3. **Gifts:** When we think of generosity, this is probably the first thing we think of! How can you bless someone through gift-giving this week? Maybe there’s someone you meet along the way who could use a meal? Maybe you could bake some cookies for a neighbor? Or make a co-worker’s morning with Starbucks? When we bless people in this way, we are communicating to them that we see them and that we love them, just as the Lord sees us and loves us. We are giving in the way of Jesus.
4. In order to stay rooted in the Spirit as you practice this discipline, it could be helpful to connect each of these opportunities to bless with prayer—praying that the recipients feel seen, loved, and cared for and that they are able to experience God’s grace and goodness through this humble act of generosity. If every member of our church family blesses three people, thousands of people in our city will experience an expression of God’s love this week.