
Generating Generous People

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Summary

- Discover the theological core of generosity: grace.
- Explore ways to cultivate movements of grace - curiosity, vulnerability, and gratitude within your congregations and communities.
- Share the vision and story of generating generous people within your congregations (and beyond)

What's Holding Us Back?

Fear

Fear Cycle

1. Unknown - Stranger Danger! We perceive the other/outsider/different as a potential threat.
2. Oriented towards suspicion and distrust
3. Fight - Flight - Freeze
4. Defense & Protection - Close off & Armour Up
5. Skepticism, Criticism, and Cynicism

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Response to Fear:

Faith

Faith Cycle

1. Unknown - Interesting! We perceive the other/outsider/different as a potential relationship. I'm created in the image of God. They are too! God is the creator and thus creative. Diversity is a gift to be embraced!
2. Oriented towards curiosity and trust.
3. Ask & Receive, Seek & Find, Knock & Open
4. Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Hands, Open Arms

Theological Core - Grace

Radical Acceptance of Self & Others

Unclench the fists of guilt, shame, and hate. Discover the Embrace.

Growth Mindset vs Fixed Mindset

I'm not stuck or static. You are not stuck or static. Adaptation, improvisation, and fluidity is good.

From Either/Or to Both/And

Move from binary thinking to openness. I'm God's beloved and I'm frail, frayed, and frenzied.

Movement #1 - Curiosity

→ Discover the Unknown

Embracing uncertainty - it's a gift from God.
Wisdom and Truth are incarnate.

→ The Face of Grace

Tell me more! That's interesting! Tell me how you came to that conclusion. Tell me about your experiences. And... what happened next? Who, what, where, when, and how. Why???

Curiosity Practices

→ **Start with Exploration Questions**

Don't make the other person defend themselves.

→ **Demonstrate Curiosity & Openness**

The congregation does NOT need to think like me. Embrace difference and diversity.

Curiosity Practices

→ **Attract. Don't Push.**

People often seek safety. Let them venture in small steps and circles beyond that safe zone.

→ **Embrace Failure & Learning**

Iterations, improvisation, and experimentation.

→ **Move from No/But to Yes/And**

We don't have to be dogmatic and closed off. Shift from "lie-detector" to "truth-spotter"

Movement #2 - Vulnerability

Grace Needs a Place to Thrive

You are that place - in and around you. Grace wants to pitch its tent and take up residence. Light and Truth.

Authenticity & Transparency

I am created by God. I am gifted by God. I am unique. I am frail, frayed, and frenzied. I am beautiful and magnificent. This is who I am.

Take Off Armour - Show Yourself

Life is not a battle. In life and in death, we belong to God.

Movement #3 - Gratitude

Grace Cultivates Space

Where is the good and beautiful in me and around me? This creates and cultivates spaces of hope and healing.

Abundance vs Scarcity

The good and beautiful are eternal, abundant, infinite, and unlimited.

Care & Share

I've got more than enough of the good and beautiful in and all around. I have space for empathy and compassion. Therefore, I can care and share.

From Me to We

→ **We move from Self-Focus to Self-Giving**

Fear keeps us in a mode of protection and protector. Faith shifts us to give ourselves away. "Those who lose their life for my sake shall find it."

→ **We move from Boxed Categories to Storytelling Expression**

In or out, Us vs Them, and Definitions TO Experience and Encounter.

Generosity Experienced

Embrace

Big open arms with
generous open hands.

Face

I see you and you are
seeing the real me.

Place & Space

Room for you to be you.
Room for me to be me.
Space for us to hear, see,
and experience the good
and beautiful. Room to
share it with everyone all
around.