

Generous Week 3

Act on Poverty

Ask Ahead: a question to consider before this session

Can you think of a time when someone showed you generosity that went above and beyond your expectations? What difference did that make to your life?

Scripture Reading: Mark 12.41-44



Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Reflection

Listen In: Stephen Amusala, Anglican Development Service Western, Kenya (7 min)

Stephen Amusala is Director of ADS Western, the social development agency of the Anglican Church in Western Kenya. He discusses the cost of living crisis in Kenya and the role of climate change in this. Stephen tells us how acts of loving generosity and working in partnership have made a difference in his context.

Listen In: Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice President of the Methodist Conference (8 min)

Kerry Scarlett is Vice President of the Methodist Conference in 2023/24 and a Learning and Development Officer within the Methodist Church. Hear her speak about growing up in the midst of conflict in Northern Ireland, her ministry experience with communities experiencing economic deprivation, and the places she has encountered generosity in her life.

Get Inspired: Street Banquet, Birmingham (4 min)

In the audio resource above Kerry Scarlett discusses her experience volunteering with Street

Banquet, an initiative of the Methodist Church in Birmingham. Street Banquet offers cooked meals and fellowship to unhoused or vulnerably housed people and invites them to join in the hosting of meals for others. In this video you can find out more about Street Banquet as a place of shared generosity, where guests are invited to become hosts.

Bonus audio: Stef Benstead on the Manchester Poverty Truth Commission (4 min)

Before you discuss the actions below, listen to this short extract in which disability activist Stef Benstead talks about her involvement in a Poverty Truth Commission in Manchester.

Discussion Topics

1. Stephen describes how despair can grow where there is poverty. He also talks about what can be done in response. "Does God love me?" - is this a question you have asked in your life? What prompted this question? Have people around you shown you God's love? What did this look like?
2. In the short bonus audio for this session Stef Benstead outlines her involvement in the Manchester Poverty Truth Commission. Reflect on where in your church and your community the voices of those with lived experience of poverty are being heard and acted upon.

Closing Prayer