

The Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Study Program

A Leader's Guide for Group Discussion

Generosity
Song: "*The Grail Prayer*"
CD 1, Track 6

Insert F-1 through F-4
Composer: Margaret Rizza
Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD

Materials Needed

Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible and Music CD, CD player, Participant's Worksheet, one Non-perishable Food Item, one 4" x 6" Index Card each, Pen.

Setting the Stage

Before this session, mail (or e-mail) any member of the group that may not have been present at the last session the Participant's Worksheet for this session. Also, send a reminder of the date and time of the session as well as directions to the meeting place (if different from the church). To enhance the theme of **Generosity**, have the song "*The Grail Prayer*" playing in the background when the participants arrive.

Warm Up – Optional (15 minutes)

Arrange the participants in a circle as much as possible. Ask each person to put her name on the top of a 4" x 6" index card. As soon as all are finished, ask everyone to pass their card to the person on their right. This person then writes on the card (in as few words as possible) how they think the person whose name appears at the top of the card exhibits generosity. When all are finished, each member passes the card to the next person on the right and that person writes another way they think that this person (whose name appears at the top of the card) exhibits generosity. No one can duplicate an answer that is already on the card when they receive it. Continue passing the cards to the right until each card returns to the person whose name appears at the top of the card. Have each participant share with the group what is written on her card.

Opening Discussion (10 minutes)

Have everyone read the **Faith in Action** article "*A Lifetime Lesson*" on insert page F-3. When finished, discuss their answers to the following questions: What does the author of this article mean by giving "out of our need not just out of our surplus?" Why is that so important? Ask the participants to discuss their thoughts on the phenomenon of why it is that often people in the most need are the most generous.

Spiritual Awakening - Opening Prayer

Invite everyone to read together the **Prayer** at the top of insert page F-2.

Spiritual Awakening - Recognizing (5 minutes)

Have the participants read (as a group) each of the Scriptures in the **Recognizing** section of **Spiritual Awakening** on insert page F-2. Remind the participants that each reader will pause for a few seconds of silence after each passage to allow anyone to offer any spontaneous thought, prayer, praise or thanksgiving that this Scripture might inspire. After the final Scripture is read, ask the group, "What else do these Scriptures teach us about **Generosity**?"

Spiritual Awakening - Reflecting (15 minutes)

Read (as a group) the story of Abigail in **1 Samuel 25:2-43 (Page 302 OT)**. Ask the participants to share with the group a time in their life when generosity brought about healing and reconciliation. Discuss what other lessons the story of Abigail teaches us?

Spiritual Awakening - Reflecting (15 minutes)

Read **Romans 12:6-8 (Page 231 NT)**. Then, ask each participant to identify for the group a gift or talent she thinks God has given her. Discuss how God may be asking each of us in this Scripture to share our talents and gifts with each other, with the Church, with the community or in society at large. How is sharing our talents a form of generosity?

Group Prayer (10 minutes)

Leader: Heavenly Father, we praise You and adore You. We recognize Your loving generosity in the people, and gifts You have given us. In that same spirit of Generosity, we ask You to accept our praises, hear our thanks and answer our prayers for the intentions we voice and for the intentions we keep in our hearts: **enter aloud all individual intentions.** We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Each participant should now hold the item they have brought to donate to the needy.

Leader: *Dear friends, our generosity is a reflection of God's generosity to us. We end our session today by bringing forth a small token of our thanks to God and our recognition of the need for generous spirits in today's world. As we bring our item forward to place in the box or basket, we each offer a simple prayer of thanksgiving to you.* ***After each member brings her item forward and says a spontaneous prayer of offering and or thanksgiving, all respond, "We Thank You, Lord."***

The basket of food can be donated to the parish food pantry, the community food pantry or to a needy family in the parish or community.

Fellowship (15 minutes)

After the session is completed and while refreshments are served, play softly in the background: "*The Grail Prayer*" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD.

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