

LIVING GENEROUSLY

(curriculum for adult classes or retreats or youth groups or families)

1. We don't have enough: using the story of Jesus' feeding of the 5000, explore our society's myths of scarcity, beginning to clarify how much is *enough*.
2. Becoming unbound from our fears of *not enough*: using the story of Jesus' unbinding of Lazarus, identify what binds our attitudes of generosity, our struggles and anxieties about *not enough*, and how generosity can be unbound.
3. Enough to make a difference: using the story of the Good Samaritan, explore how we might make a difference with the assets we have.
4. Enough for transformational giving: using Jesus' response to the brother's request to divide the inheritance, the story of the man who kept building bigger barns, imagine how the giver as well as the recipient might be transformed.
5. Enough generosity is good for the body: using the story of Ananias and Sapphires, explore the role generosity plays in the health of Christ's Body the church as well as our own personal well-being.
6. How much is enough to leave to our children? Using Jesus' parable of the talents and a case study of a family, explore how we will multiply our talents and what we want to pass on to our loved ones.

Purpose: Use teachings of Jesus (1) to explore ways to counter the prevailing and destructive myths: *there is not enough, more is better*, and *this is just the way it is* and (2) to find ways to enter more fully as partners in what God is doing among us to bring God's peace, justice, wholeness to all.

Time frame: Lesson plans for a series of six one-hour adult church school classes with possible modification for a retreat setting and with encouragement for using with young adults or youth.