

## INTRODUCTION

The reflections during the *Building Bridges of Hope* series aim to capture the big ideas of the weekly sermon. The sermon series will focus on CG Midtown's core values through the lens of the book of Acts.

## CG MIDTOWN VALUE: GENEROSITY

*We give of our resources (including time, talents, energy, attention, and finances) to participate in what we believe to be God's work in this world locally and globally. We interact with a generosity of Spirit in relationships, extending God's love, patience, and kindness to individuals at all points of their spiritual journey.*

## SERMON REFLECTION

**Read:** Acts 4:32-35

**Overview:** In the Garden, just before his death, Jesus prayed that all believers would be one, just as he and the Father are one. Unity in Jesus is the bedrock for generosity in the Church. When we are united, then what is mine is also yours. The early believers "shared everything in common." The value of generosity is directly connected to our value of belonging. Common Ground Midtown expresses this generosity not only financially, but by living openly and freely with all the resources God has given us. When we think of how generous God has been with us, we remember that nothing is ours to hold onto. Everything exists for the purpose of joining with God in caring for His creation.

### **Reflect:**

- On a piece of paper or a whiteboard, write down all the synonyms that come to mind when you hear the word generosity.
- How does it strike you that generosity is not limited to finances, but to stewarding all that God has given us (time, talents, energy, and attention)? Are there any other resources we can be generous with?
- Share a story of a moment when someone was particularly generous with you. Which category of generosity would that story fit with?
- What are barriers for people when it comes to being generous?
- Why do you think this story is important for the Church today?
- What is an area of generosity that God is inviting you into right now?

## PRAYER

- Take a moment and linger with these thoughts: God loves a cheerful giver and He refreshes those who refresh others. Imagine yourself experiencing God's rich love through your generosity.