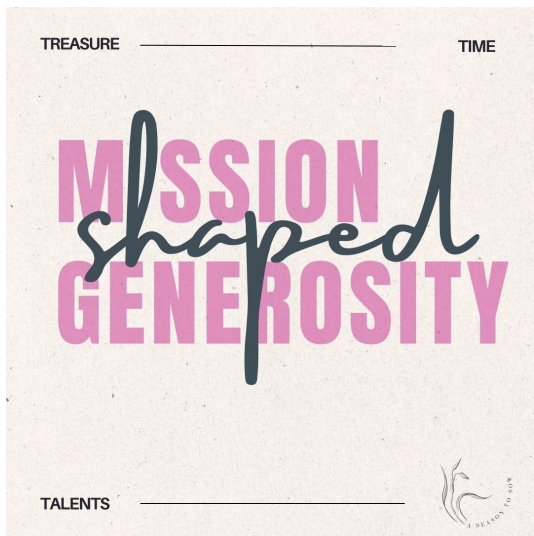


Session 1



- How does this generosity fit in with their earlier prayers?
- How does this challenge us?

READ: **Acts 4:33**

- The good news of Jesus is proclaimed boldly and God's grace is powerfully at work.

The author of Acts, has described: prayer, expectancy, faith, filling with the Holy Spirit, power and the boldness of proclaiming Jesus. But in the middle is radical generosity. As a church if we desire God's mission to be seen, it goes hand in hand with this mission shaped generosity.

OUT: Reflection

What does this look like for us?

In **John 6:1-14**, Jesus fed thousands of people. The start of this miracle was a boy giving an utterly insignificant meal. This tiniest of offerings was all he had that day - he was radically generous. In the hands of Jesus it was transformed to feed the multitudes.

Mission Shaped Generosity begins by asking: 'what have I got in my hands?' and choosing to give that to God.

The impact on our lives is this: Proverbs 11:24-25

'The world of the generous gets larger and larger, the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed, those who help others are helped.'

- How does the story of the boy and the reading from Proverbs encourage and/or challenge you?

End with a time of prayer.

'Mission Shaped Generosity'

UP: Introduction

- Have you ever been the recipient of an act of generosity?

What was it? How did you feel? How did you respond (practically, attitudes, actions)

IN: Explore

READ: **Acts 4:29-31**

(The context - Peter & John have been arrested for healing someone. They are threatened to keep silent about Jesus. They refuse! Are released from prison and go back to their church and pray these words in Acts 4)

- How did the church respond to the persecution?
- What characterised their prayers?
- What was God's response?
- How does this challenge us?

READ: **Acts 4:32**

- Following this fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit - what did the church do?