

## OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

Tell about a time that you helped others raise money for some good cause.

## DIG

The earliest Christ followers had a lot of challenges, including many people who were displaced from their homes and others who needed help.

**Read ACTS 4:32-33** to see their strong bond of unity with one another.

*"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all."*

To what degree would you say that you are of one heart and mind with people of your own church? What factors influence this sense of unity?

How did the early believers demonstrate their spirit of unity?

What was the work of the apostles and how effective were they?

**Read ACTS 4:34-37** to see examples of generosity.

*"There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."*

In order to help others, how did believers distribute money from the sale of assets?

What was special about Barnabas and why was his generosity highlighted?

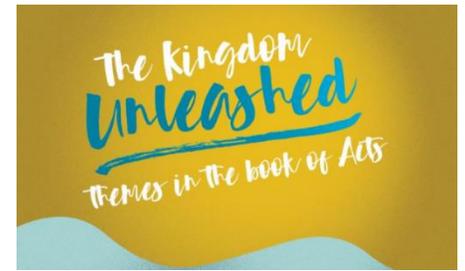
If the church leaders were to give you a nickname, what names might they consider for you? Get help for this answer. Let other group members suggest possibilities.

## APPLY

How does our own church compare to the example of these early believers?

What are the best ways to show Christian generosity in your own life?

-GLR



## Leaders

### Sermon Series

This discussion guide is based on a sermon series entitled "The Kingdom Unleashed: Themes in the Book of Acts." The series is designed to motivate people to embrace the Kingdom of God in their lives, making disciples of others.

### Big Idea

This lesson demonstrates how some early church members were exceptionally generous with their belongings. It is a challenge for us to be eager to give and help others.

### Prayer

Pray for God to give us courage and opportunity to demonstrate generosity.

### Group Discussion Reminder

When the weather permits, plan some outdoor adventure with your group. Sometimes a group needs to do something fun together.