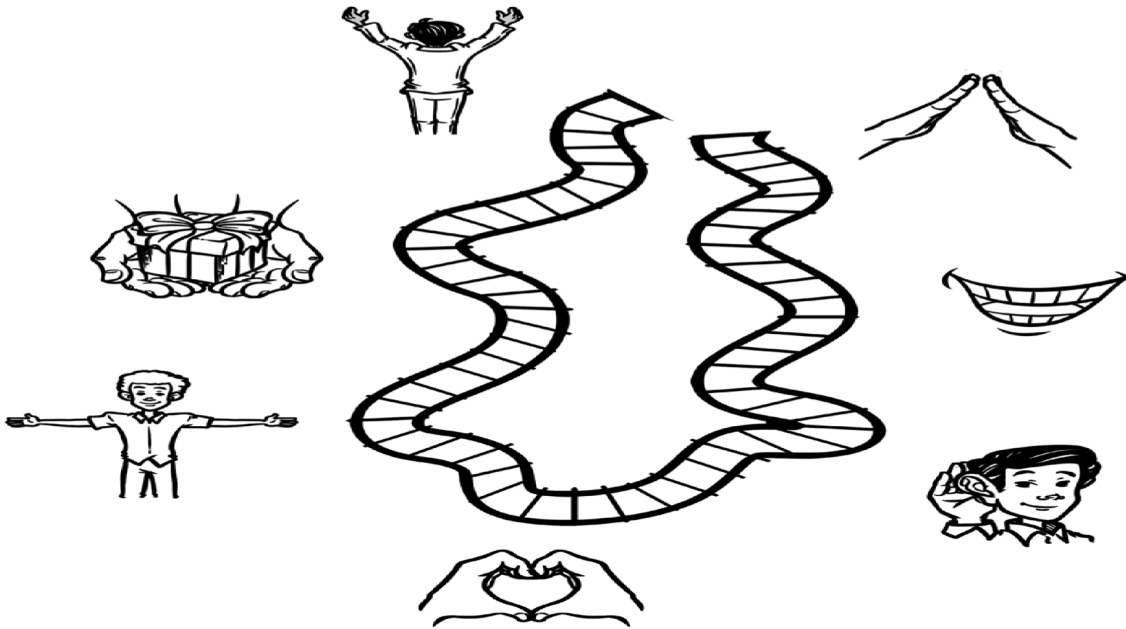


Introduce the Seven Stations of Generosity

On this journey, there are seven stations, like bus stations or train stations. Every station has three things: a name, a motion, and a verse.



Arms Outstretched

1) God Owns Everything

Psalm 24:1 -- "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

Exodus 19:5: "All the earth is Mine."

Deuteronomy 10:14: "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it."

Job 41:11: "Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine."

Hands Offering Gift

2) God Provides Enough

Luke 12:32 -- "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Arms On the Cross

3) God Gave Generously

John 3:16 -- "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son."

Hands Form a Heart

4) We Respond Lovingly

1 John 3:16 -- "Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

Ear With a Hand Cupping to Hear

5) We Hear God

John 10:27 -- "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Smiling Face

6) We Find Joy

Acts 20:35 -- "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

House in Heaven

7) We Store Treasure

2 Timothy 1:12 -- "He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."

Matthew 6:20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. NIV

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And lean not your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.



Ask God –

“Why do you have
me here today?”



Acts 20:32-35

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace,
which can build you up and give you an inheritance
among all sanctified people.

I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing.
You yourselves know that these hands of mine have
supplied my own needs and the needs of my
companions.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of
hard work, we must help the weak, remembering the
words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to
give than to receive.’”



HANDFUL OF RICE —- <https://vimeo.com/40037661>

Handful of Maize in Malawi —- <https://vimeo.com/769067358>

HANDFUL OF RICE

The story below is true and comes from friends in India.

We need four people to play these roles:

Mizo Villager 1 Mizo Villager 2 Old Person Pastor

Mizo Villager 1: There are many ways of serving the Lord. Some people do great things. Some people are good preachers, some people give lots of money. But we give a "Handful of Rice." It is very humble. I live in a small house with a large family. My kitchen is small and simple. As I cook a meal, I hear chickens in the yard and motorcycles in the distance. Our meals always include rice. I start the coals for our fire. When the water boils, I put in the rice. And then I do something you might not expect. I take one handful of rice and put it in a jar. It is for the Lord. Our part of India is one of the poorest places on Earth. But we want to have the joy of giving to God.

Old Person: Because I am old, I spend my day sitting on a bench here in the market. I watch people buying and selling. I see children playing and laughing. I look up at the hills around our village. People often come and sit next to me here on the street. They ask me to tell stories about the past. I don't know all the answers. But I know about the Handful of Rice. For more than 100 years, women in our part of India, the state of Mizoram, have been giving a "handful of rice" to God.

Mizo Villager 2: I've helped my mother make meals since I was young. She did it, and she learned it from her parents. At the end of the week, we go to church. We take the jar of rice for God. As we walk to church carrying our jar, we see all the other families carrying theirs. We smile and greet each other.

Pastor: Each family brings the rice they have set aside. They give it to the church. Our women started this. We may not have much money, but we want the joy of giving to God. It's a way to thank him for giving to us. Our church sells the rice. We use that money to send out missionaries.

Old Person: Some people think that I'm so old that I must have been here when "Handful of Rice" started. I'm old, but not that old! My parents told me it started around 1910. The Christians wanted "Bible women" to spread the Gospel here in Mizoram. But those Bible women needed money. The church's "Handful of Rice" started paying for them. We are proud of the Bible women. They are our missionaries. We are not rich, but we can still send out missionaries. Just like the people did in the early church.

Mizo Villager 1: Sometimes I have thought, “I would have more rice if I didn’t do that.” Then I think about what Jesus did for me. That changes my heart. He gave everything, not just a little bit. I want other people to know him too. So at least I can give a little bit of rice. Anyone can do this. Not just rich people or business people.

Pastor: Now more than 90 percent of people here are Christians. The missionaries were faithful and the people were generous. We are so blessed. Our government makes it hard for foreign missionaries to come into India, so we send Mizo missionaries all across India. They do a great job.

Mizo Villager 2: I’ve given other things to the church. Not just rice. Like vegetables or fire-wood. Generosity means giving what God has given you. Of course, we tithe to God on our income, and then we give this “Handful of Rice.”

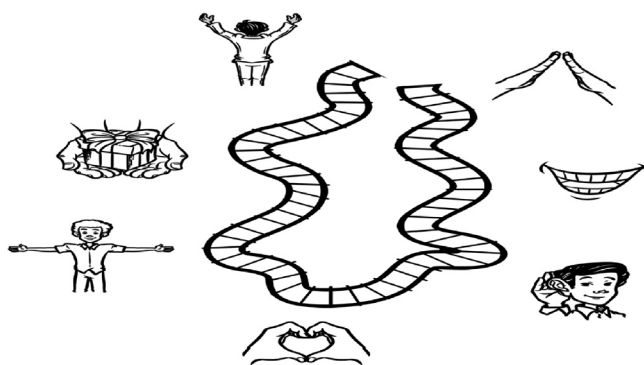
Old Person: Our churches provide for themselves now. We don’t need anything from people from other places. We are proud of that. I’ll tell you some numbers so that you can see what God has done. The first year, the church raised less than two dollars US in all of Mizoram. Not much! Now, the average family in Mizoram gives almost 16 dollars US. It adds up to enough money that we can send hundreds of missionaries.

This change in giving reflects a change in our hearts. We trust God to keep providing. We may be poor, but we are rich toward God.

Miso Villager 1: People say Mizoram is “backwards.” It’s true that we are poor. But if being generous to God is backwards, maybe more people should be backwards!

Pastor: We now send out missionaries. You know, people sometimes think, “What is God going to do for me?” But we all must understand what God has ALREADY done for us. Then we all ask a better question: “What can I do to thank God?”

Miso Villager 2: We have a saying in my village, “As long as we have something to eat every day, we have something.”



Dedicatory Prayer