



SAYING THANK YOU

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The

Presbyterian Church

in Canada



SAYING THANK YOU

Four Seasons

ABOUT LORI



- B. Math (Statistics)
- Master of Theological Studies
- D. Min. at Tyndale University College and Seminary
- Research posted online www.lgreesor.com

ABOUT LORI



- Keeps a 'happy file' of special thank-you notes she's received
- Inadvertently made a number of charitable gifts at the same time. Used it as an experiment in how long it took charities to say thank-you.
- Would like to talk to Apostle Paul in the hereafter, has more questions about Collection for Jerusalem



SAYING THANK YOU

Four Seasons



CHILDREN'S GIVING

HOW WOULD YOU SAY THANK YOU TO A 4 YEAR OLD?

- Personal
- Prompt
- Pictures/Story – what difference did your gift make?





SAME PRINCIPLES APPLY TO GROWN-UPS

- Personal
- Prompt
- Pictures/Story – what difference did your gift make?



THEOLOGY OF GIVING



Abundance of a Generous God

God's Grace is Limitless

A wide-angle, high-angle shot of a sandy beach. The sand is light-colored and shows numerous footprints and tracks, suggesting a busy beach. Scattered across the sand are various pieces of debris, including what appears to be a white plastic cup, a piece of wood, and other unidentifiable trash. The lighting is bright, creating soft shadows from the footprints and debris. The overall scene conveys a sense of environmental neglect and the impact of human activity on a natural space.

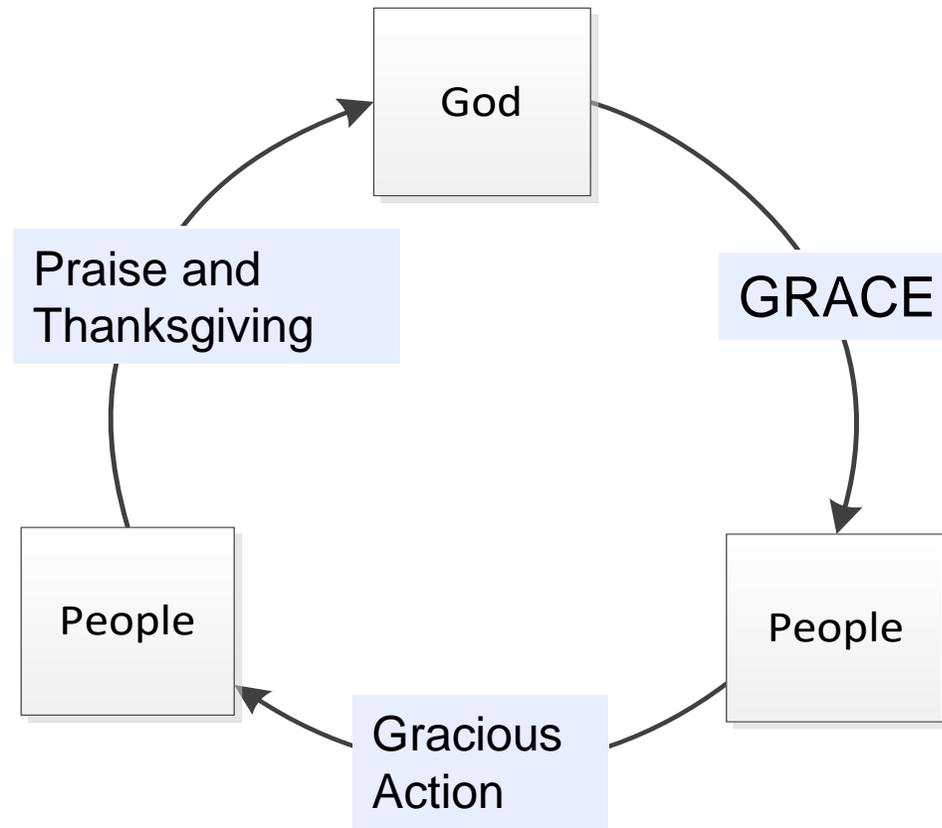
**Scarcity
Never Enough
Money**



ANXIOUS OR GRATEFUL?



CIRCLE OF GRACE MODEL





QUESTIONS

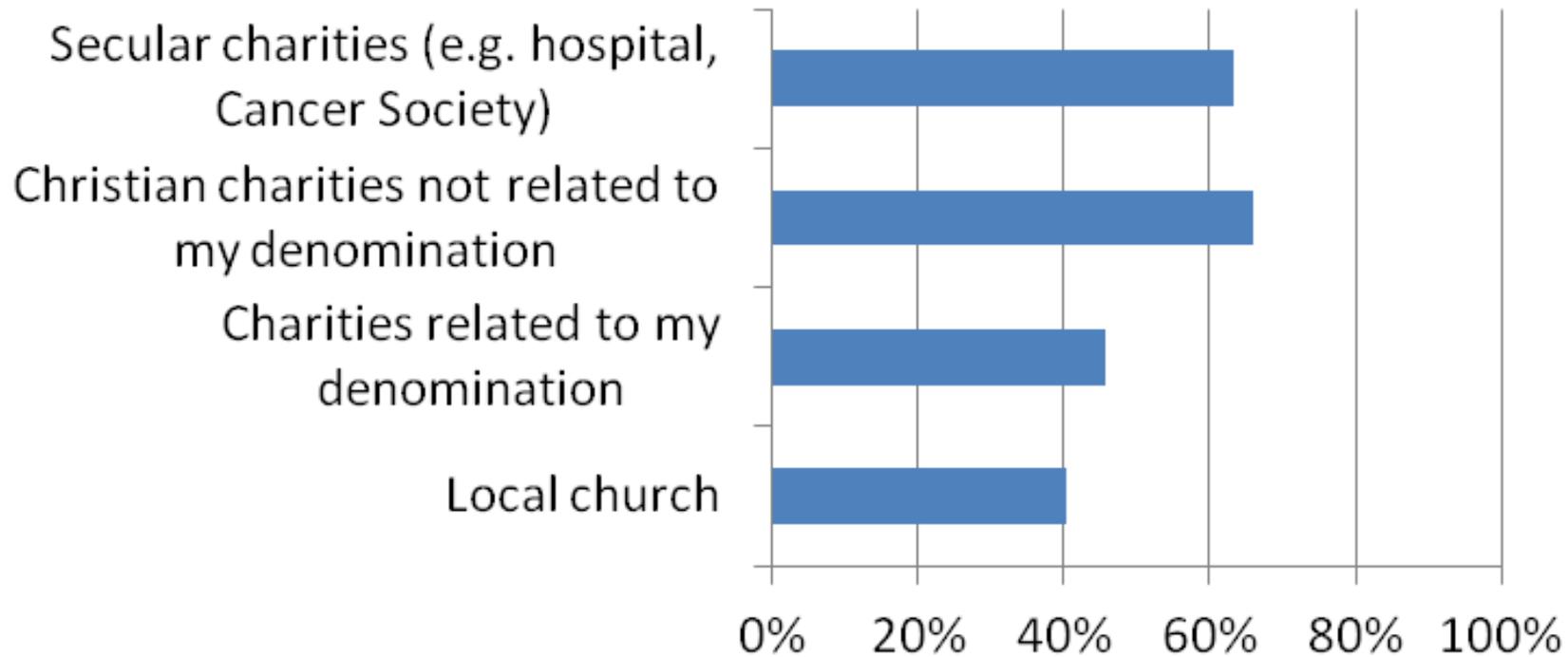
- Please type in your questions, the moderator will read them out

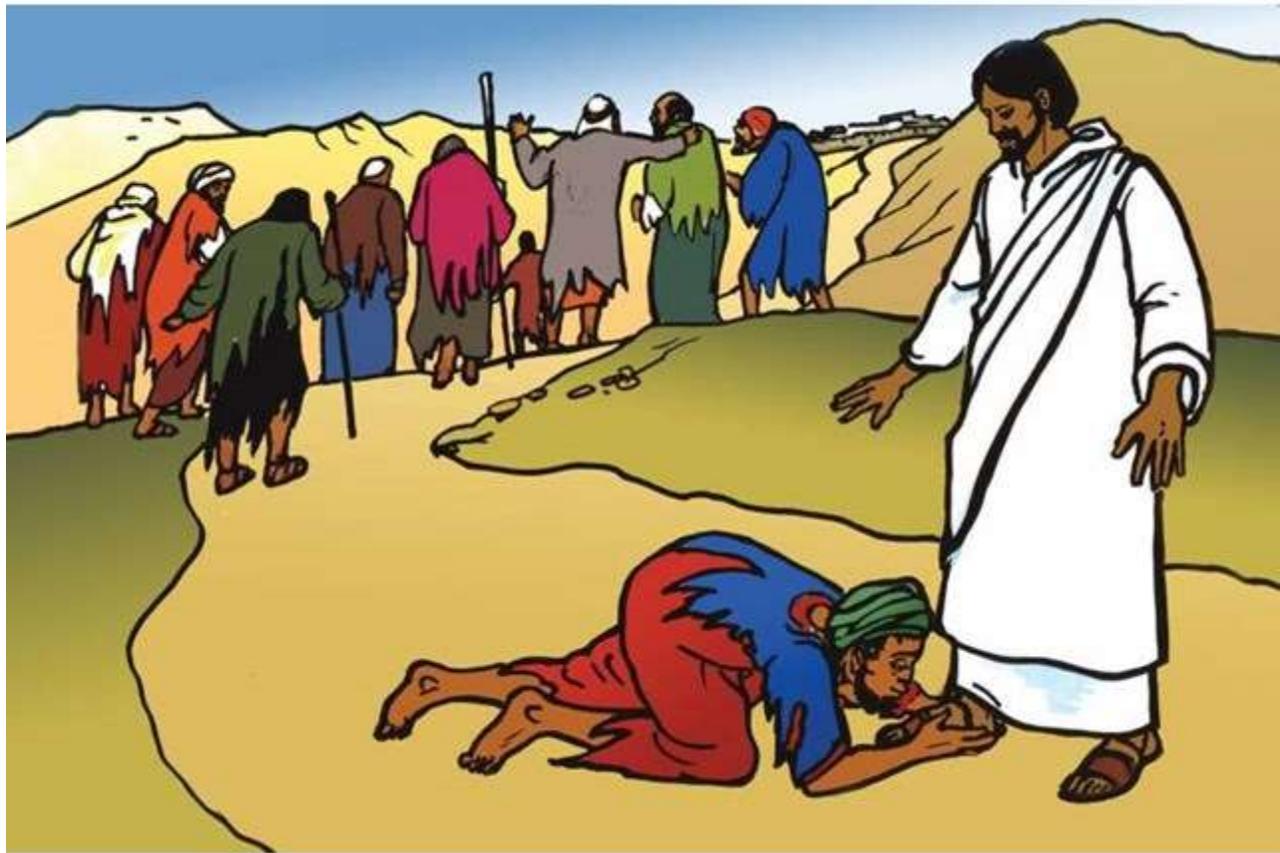
The background of the slide is a soft-focus image of autumn leaves. On the left side, there are several large, detailed leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The rest of the background is a blurred mix of these warm colors, creating a cozy and seasonal atmosphere.

GIVING THANKS

Gratitude gap

Agree: I am regularly thanked for my donations





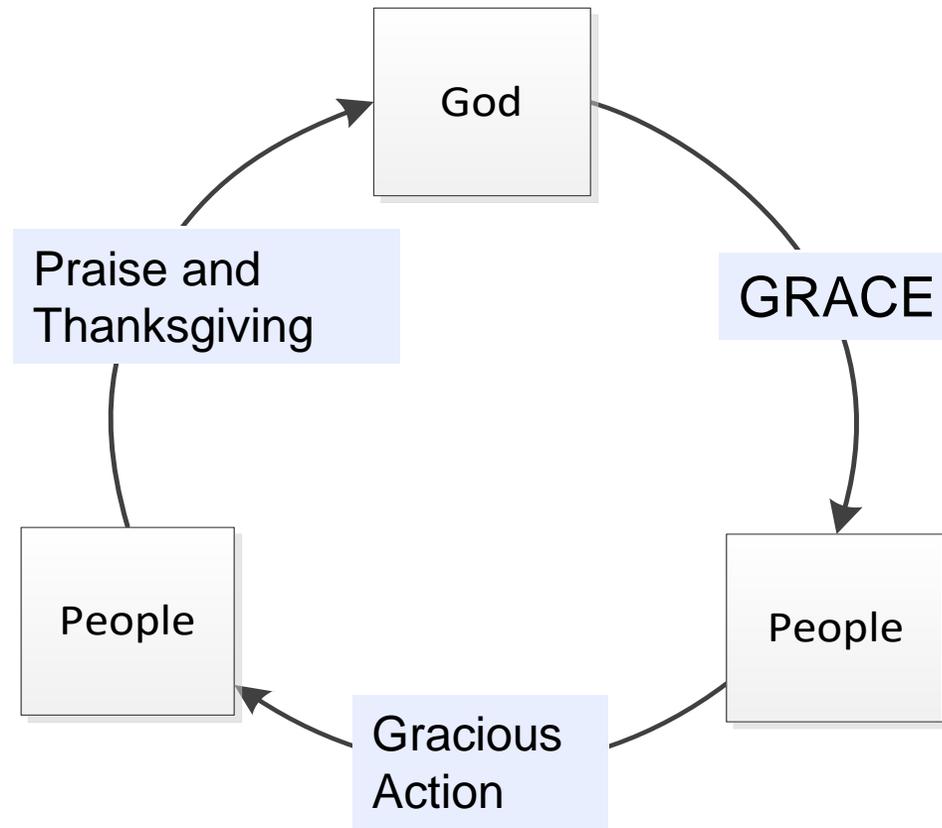


BUT, BUT, BUT...

- Duty to give
- Secret giving

Giving is a spiritual discipline like prayer (the left hand, right hand story talks about both giving and prayer.) Do you pray aloud in your church?

CIRCLE OF GRACE MODEL





WAYS TO SAY THANK YOU

Thank God for generous givers, volunteers, committee members, people who teach Sunday School, serve communion, visit the sick...

Tell stories. The week you thank people who mow the lawn and shovel the walks is the week to be thankful for all the people who use the church building during the week. So grateful to people who contribute to the ongoing ministry of Peach Blossom church – light bill, heat on – so that people can attend AA meetings and find hope. People who tend to our building by shoveling and mowing, by keeping the lights on, tell people who come that Peach Blossom is a place of caring.



WAYS TO SAY THANK YOU

Where can you tell stories?

During worship, in the bulletin, church meetings, by video, on the website, at a special celebration, in the newsletter, at youth group, on the bulletin board, on Facebook, at a seniors' tea...

AGM – Amazing Grace Moments (idea from previous webinar participant)





SEND A NOTE

Or call

Or visit

Email could work too, depending on the person

- Thank people for being a part of the church

- Thank people for donating

- Share a story of what you are grateful for (at the foodbank this week, a family came by who...)

- I have no research to support this, but including a painting from a S.S. child would melt my heart



RECEIPTING

Please include a thank-you letter receipt with your annual receipt.

If you don't know what to say in your thank-you letter, you could base it on an existing letter. This letter from Paul to the Corinthians might give you some ideas:

¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

¹¹ Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. ¹² So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

¹³ As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. ¹⁴ And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. ¹⁵ Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!



QUESTIONS

- Please type in your questions, the moderator will read them out



MEMORIAL GIFTS AND BEQUESTS



MEMORIAL GIFTS & BEQUESTS

MEMORIAL GIFTS

- How does your congregation recognize memorial gifts – gifts made in memory of a loved one?
- Is there an annual service where such gifts are recognized? Are families invited to attend?

BEQUESTS

- Does your congregation actively encourage church members to leave a gift in their wills?
- Do you have a policy for handling bequest gifts? (off-topic but important)
- Do you have a way to recognize and honour such gifts?



QUESTIONS

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THANK YOU!

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