

# LENTEN SHARING GROUP

## SESSION THREE: Almsgiving

### Coffee and chat.

**Opening Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, where two or three are gathered in your name you are present in their midst. Be with us as we gather to grow in closeness to you and each other. Give us open and trusting hearts. Help us surrender to your Holy Spirit and be transformed by his liberating power. We want to be your true disciples. Be with us as we grow. AMEN.*

**Introduction:** The third traditional practice of Lent is almsgiving, that is, providing practical support to those in need. Care for the poor and other works of charity have always been valued in the Christian life. Many saints were noted for their generous care of the poor and the sick.

### Scripture: James 2

*If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (Read this passage a second time with a different reader.)*

**Sharing:**

1. How do you personally provide support to those in need?
2. Why is caring for the poor important in the Christian life?

### Scripture: Mathew 25

*'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'* (Read this passage a second time with a different reader.)

**Sharing:**

1. Do you experience any benefit from helping the needy?
2. How could you enhance your charitable support for others?

### Spontaneous Intercessions

"We pray to the Lord." "Lord hear our prayer"

### Our Father

**Closing Prayer:** *"How good and how pleasant it is when Christians dwell in unity." Heavenly Father, we thank you for our time together, for our sharing and the challenges you have set into our hearts. Give us patience and perseverance in our spiritual journey and refashion us in the image of Jesus your son. We ask this through that same Christ our Lord. AMEN.*