

## SOW GENEROUSLY AND REAP GENEROUSLY

### God is our provider — 2 Cor. 9:10

- The word seed is a powerful word. What is wonderful about seeds?
- The Apostle Paul here seems to use the word seed metaphorically about God's provision for us. What is envisaged is provision of seed that we plant to gain a harvest. In what different ways do we plant seed day by day?
- What sources put money into our bank accounts (or into our hands) month by month? How do we help ourselves to see that it is God who is providing through these channels?
- Invite people to tell stories of God's provision.

### All we have has come from him so we are asked to be stewards — 2 Cor. 9:11-12

- There's always a choice with seed: hoard it, or sow it. What does God want us to do with it?
- And what is to be the purpose of our sowing? See verses 11-12...

### 'Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can...' John Wesley

- Read Ephesians 4:28. What does Paul suggest the purpose of work is?
- Read Genesis 1:28. What role did God delegate to humankind at the beginning?
- Read 1 Thess. 4:10-12 and 2 Thess. 3:6-15. What do these passages teach us about a Christian attitude to work and its purpose?
- Read the second half of 2 Cor. 12:14. What does Paul teach here about saving?
- Read 1 Timothy 5:3-4 and 8. What sort of behaviour is described here that pleases God?
- What do we think about John Wesley's advice? Is it out of date at all? How and why?

### God wants us — all of us.

*And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 2 Cor. 8:5*

*Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. 2 Cor. 12:14 (the first half)*

- God does not need your money – but he does want you. How do you give yourself to him and how do you give yourself to your fellowship of fellow-believers?
- "I can't do all that I wish so I won't do all that I can." Why is this bad advice when it comes to gaining, saving and giving money?
- "Another principle I've long taught is to start where you are. If you come to Christ and have financial realities that war against these plans, you should begin with a blend of realism and faith. Start by giving and/or saving 1% (though it will be sacrificial), then 5%, working your way up to the percentages that will both fully honour God and optimally serve your life." James Emery White. What makes this good advice?