

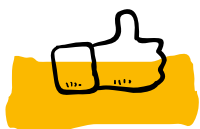
We will be happy if... We have the courage to share!

"Blessed are the poor
in spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3)



Goal

Suscitare la **comunionē dei beni**
materiali, spirituali e dei talenti,
a livello **locale e mondiale**



How did it go?

At the start, there is a moment of welcome,
wherein it is important to allow space
for dialogue and the sharing of what each
one has lived, the experiences made,
and the difficulties encountered. To welcome
means to make each one feel accepted and be
at ease: creativity will help us find the best ways.
We may recall the aims set at the last meeting:
"How did it go?"



Introductory activity

Game of cooperation and problem solving
"GRABBING"

TIME: 30 minutes or 1 hour

MATERIALS: a room with a large table; sufficient number of
clips or buttons or pasta or beans; poster with the rules of
the game.

PROCEDURE: A maximum of 10 players must sit around the
table; the others will sit behind them as observers. For the
players, put on the table 22 clips that will serve as the game
at stake. The rules of the game are read; at the "go" signal,
the youth can take the clips; but the ones left on the table
will be doubled. Whoever gathers 24 clips is the winner.
Repeat several rounds until the young people understand
that they can all get rich but only a little each time.

SUGGESTION: It is necessary to repeat the game several times
to reach the conclusion that it is enough to lessen the desire
to grab so as to allow everyone to "win". Accompany this
game with reflection and encouragement, so that the youth
themselves will see how to do it.

DEBRIEFING: At the end of the game, lead a discussion to
deepen topics about the unequal distribution of resources
in the world, interdependence, and interculturality. They
must arrive at the idea that egocentrism/ethnocentrism
must be overcome so as to be open towards sharing.

From "Economy at stake", M. Morozzi, A. Valer, ed. EMI 2001.



We live this way

The practice of the culture of giving can transform the life of entire villages. This happened in Esmeraldas, a region in Ecuador where the poor are almost 80% of the population. The houses are made of reeds; there is no drinking water or school. Unemployment is rising and, with it alcoholism. Many youth of our age, not seeing any future, become delinquents.

Having met some youth in the region, we visited them. A friendship was born that continues, even if seeing their living conditions was very difficult for us.

Thanks to the scholarships, a fruit of the collaboration with many Teens for Unity in the

world, some of them were able to go to school.

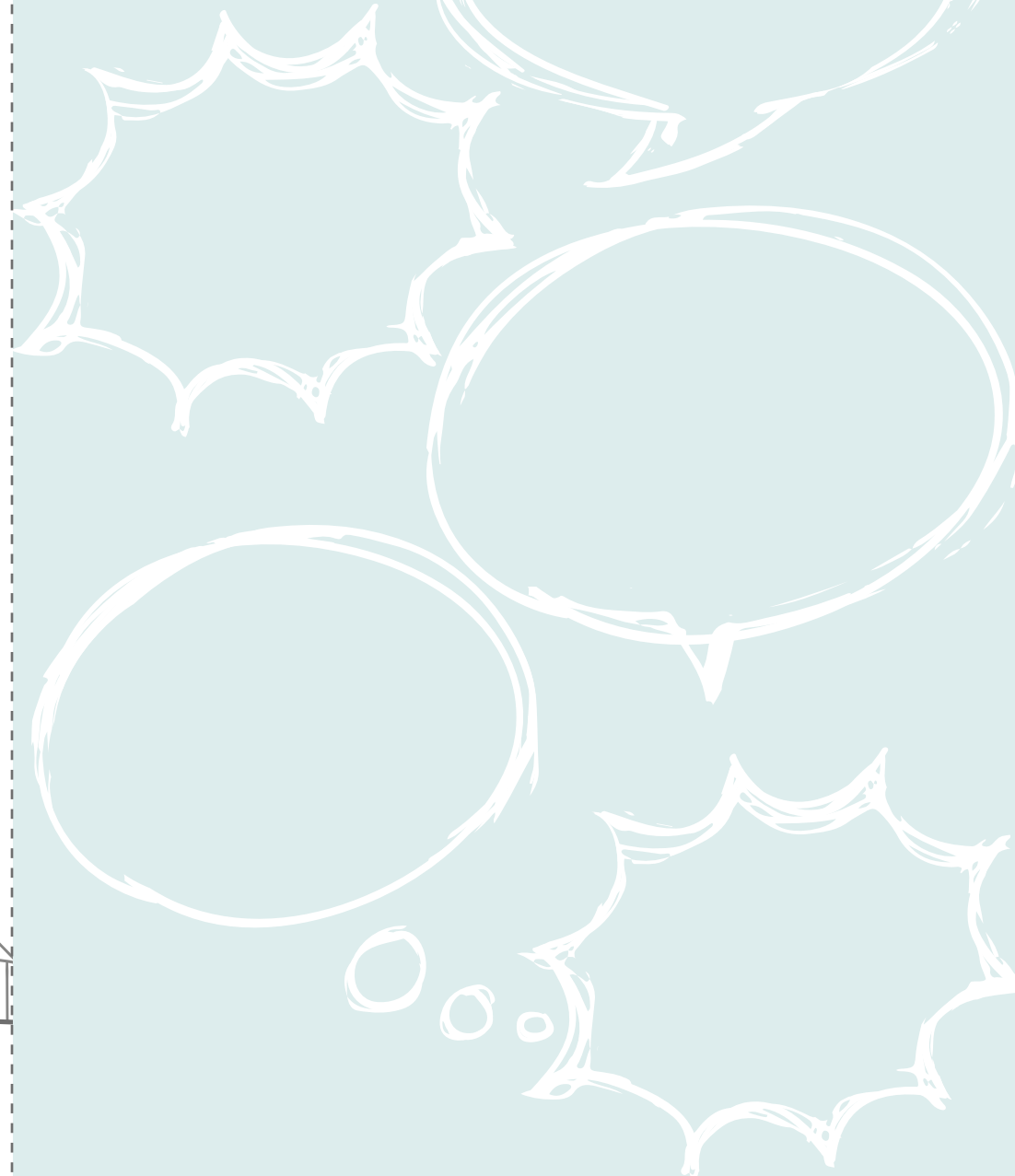
Seeing the lack of hygiene in the area, we organized a “Day for Health”: a doctor gave free services and some pharmaceutical laboratories donated medicines. The following month the lady doctor returned with three colleagues.

Now, at Esmeraldas, the project involves also many mothers who, wanting to share their time and experience, have created a dress-making shop.

(Ecuador)



This happened to me...



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we have the courage to share!



In depth

LEAVE MORE SPACE TO GOD



*Chiara Lubich,
Rocca di papa,
20 giugno 1975,
Congresso gen 3,
Le beatitudini*

The world calls rich people happy and Jesus calls poor people happy and, in fact, he even tells rich people, "Woe to you, because you already have your reward." In fact, if a boy has his pockets full of money, he's always thinking about what he can buy and how he can have more than his friends, and he wants everyone to admire him. His pride swells and his heart becomes increasingly deaf to the voice of God and it's almost inevitable that he ends up like the rich young man in the Gospel, who, even though he was called by Jesus in person, didn't succeed in following him because he was too attached to his material possessions.

Instead, if someone is poor, he doesn't deceive himself into thinking he is self-sufficient, but since he is often in need, he puts his trust in God, he confides in him, and little by little he finds

that not only does he receive what he asked for, but he begins to feel that God is near him. In fact, God has become his all-powerful friend, and he does everything together with God and no longer feels he is poor but rather rich and secure.


Many Christians - such as the saints, for example, and nowadays many Gen, too - have understood that in order to possess God not only is poverty, if accepted with love, not a misfortune, but it's even worth your while becoming poor. This means detaching yourself from excessive comfort and wealth that fill your heart so much that they don't leave room for God.

*Note: The video is also available at the website
<http://assistentigen3.focolare.org>*



St Francis of Assisi, for example, was one such person when he was young. He understood very clearly that the wealth

of his father, the feasts where he threw his money away with his friends, kept him from experiencing true happiness, and so he gave all he had to the poor in order to live being as poor and as free as a bird. Then God became his wealth, and overflowing with joy, he cried out in his heart: "My God and my all!" He never would have exchanged his poverty for all the wealth of the princes of the world.

For us Gen, too, doesn't it happen that we feel happy in that very moment when we have put everything we have into common? Then nobody lacks anything that's essential; we all have what we need and the kingdom of heaven is among us. 

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EVERYTHING IN COMMON

*Chiara Lubich,
Rocca di papa, June 25, 1968,
The Rainbow Revolution*



I would like to see the Gen as Christians of the twentieth century who are capable of realizing the ideal of Jesus the way the first Christians did.

Even if you are young, you must have heard that the first Christians put everything in common. It was not compulsory, but this communion of goods constituted one of their main character-

istics – something that they felt dearly.

Unfortunately, today's Christians prefer to emphasize the fact that it is not compulsory instead of imitating Christ's first followers.

What, therefore, must the Gen do?

They must give importance only to what pleases God and, fired by love for him, share what they have.

Of course, if there are Gen who do not feel up to it, they should not be judged. They also may not do it. However, this must not be the rule but, rather, the exception. To share everything completely should always be the norm.

You can very well see that, if the thousands of Gen throughout the world do this there will be a revolution.

Who ever thought of such a thing? Many boys and girls keep their own money to buy toys and books

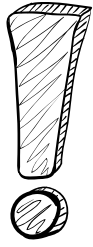
with which to amuse themselves.

Whoever thinks of creating with their money a capital that is placed at the disposal of the needy as the early Christians did?

Well then, we want to go back to the way of life of the first Christians of Jerusalem.

The older generation, I repeat, I don't think they have the strength. Today there are very few, only those who are totally consecrated to God, who walk along this path. However, your generation is called, by the demands of the times, to authenticity, to the most genuine ideal. 💡

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We will try!

1. Practice the communion of goods continually with the other Gen 3, as the way to live among us the culture of giving. Then together, we will decide what is necessary or not, and we will give what is superfluous to those who need it most, keeping in mind the other Gen 3 in the world. The communion of goods is about money, one's own objects, but also one's talents and ...one's own time or needs.
2. We can also write some reflections or experiences on the culture of giving. Read together the write ups and choose the most interesting to put together in an article and send to the editorial board of Teens – email: teens@cittanuova.it (magazine written by young boys and girls) or to the Gen 3 World Center: gen3m@focolare.org e centrogen3f@focolare.org .
3. Print out the brochure on the culture of giving to bring with you at the end of the meeting. It will help you not to lose sight of our lifestyle based on communion.

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At what point we?

To reach a goal, we must practice daily and keep note of the positive changes and the difficulties encountered.

This will help us until the next meeting when we shall allot time for sharing our experiences.

Did we set a date to periodically evaluate what we can put in common as a group?

Difficulties encountered

Have we shared to other youth and to the community the experience of the communion of goods?

Results obtained

For the gen assistant



Evaluation after the meeting

- Did the proposed activities increase the youth's interest for this beatitude?
- Has a particular area emerged from the Gen 3 in which they feel it is difficult to become poor in spirit?
- What commitment have they taken to live it? Aim at accompanying and supporting them in their commitment until the next meeting.
- Do I consider the topic finished or is there still something to discuss at the next meeting?
- Did difficulties arise? What must we keep in mind to improve next time?