

faith at home

WEEK 8 THEME: GENEROSITY

KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

Being generous is a conscious decision from the heart to do something with what you have. Christians believe that God calls his people to be generous with what he has given to them. It is a sign of trust in God, that there will be enough for everyone, so share it. Being generous isn't always about money, we can be generous in so many other practical ways.



KEY QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"The person who gives with a smile is the best giver because God loves a cheerful giver." Mother Teresa

LISTEN:

A Generous Heart by Mark Atrogge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqIG4yKrX-k>

Generosity by Jerome Collins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nF3yJg45NZY>

A wonderful worship song with lyrics at the centre; 'We need more generosity, more love for you and her and me'

For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVQFEgT7E6c>

This beautiful choral hymn performed by the Cambridge Singers with accompanying slideshow of scenes from nature would make an excellent background to reflection time or to set the scene for an act of collective worship.



WATCH:

A short clip to help you contemplate the generosity of the widow. Depending on the age of your participants, you might want to use this in an act of collective worship. Good for KS2 aged children - thinking about percentages and ratios:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6K85p1InHM>



THINK:

Our Bible story of the week is the story of the generous widow Luke 21: 1-4

The Widow's Offering - Luke 21: 1-4; New Living Translation

"While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. 2 Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins.

3 "I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. 4 For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has."

Or, you might like to join in with the story as The Reverend Canon Dr Rob James tells it with simple actions. <https://youtu.be/ac8gTjb5hE4>

All children:

Find a place where you can be still, without interruptions. You might like to light a candle as you begin.

Look at this picture? I wonder how it makes you feel or what it makes you think about?



I wonder what you think generosity means? If you are with someone, have a chat with them about what they think it means. Do you both agree?

The dictionary defines generosity as, "the quality of being kind and generous." Do you agree with this?

Can you think of a time when someone was really generous to you? Or when you have been generous towards someone else? What happened? How did it make you feel?

How many different ways can you think of to be generous that don't involve spending or giving money?

All children:

Here is an example of generosity in action:

Project Malachi - This is an exciting housing project for homeless people, that was inspired by 5 year old Malachi, who gave his £5 tooth fairy money to the Salvation Army to build houses for homeless people. 3 years later 42 units have been built to give those who don't have a home a place to live.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88ounhVIPbA>

(It is 5 minutes long, so you might want to just watch from 45 secs to 3 minutes 40 seconds)

<https://popuphostel-ilfordsalvationarmy.nationbuilder.com/about>

How is this an example of generosity?

Malachi, like the widow in the story, gave all he had, look at the difference it made.

I wonder how this story makes you feel?



All children:

How can you be generous with your words?

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/donate-your-words/>



Cadbury and Age UK have joined forces to tackle loneliness; A campaign called 'Donate Your Words.' Who could you ring and talk today? Who could you donate your words to?

Watch how Manchester United helped to support this campaign. https://youtu.be/_TOR214Uwho

How can you be generous with your time?

Watch how this generous group of volunteers who give up their time to tidy and clean the paths along the canal. <https://youtu.be/sZpMc3s3lxk>

I wonder how you could be generous with your time to make your local area clean and more inviting to your community?



Kilminorth Activity: (Please email us with a photo of your tree.)

Could you create a generosity tree?

Could you decorate it with symbols of generosity?

I wonder what these would look like?
Think about all the people you care about and then reflect on how you could be generous to each of those people.

Keep the tree up as a reminder to be generous.



Cardinham Activity:

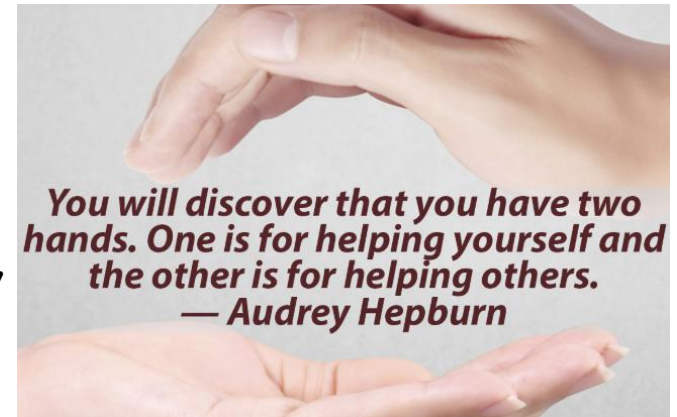
(Please email us your ideas)

Are you still writing a diary? Look back through what you have written and included in it. Give thanks for all you have experienced and learnt by keeping a diary so far.

Add your thoughts and reflections about generosity to your diary - perhaps making a list of 'people who have shown me generosity and people I have been generous to'.

You could write in your diary a pledge to be more generous by

Reflect and ponder about how you could be more generous.



Going Deeper - if you want to explore Generosity in Greater Depth:

Christian generosity springs from loving our neighbour as ourselves, so it involves sharing all that we have. The model of sacrificial, self-giving is the sacrifice which Christians believe Jesus makes of himself, of his very life, on the Cross. The Widow makes a sacrifice by giving very little, because she has very little.

Christian generosity is about giving because others are in need, to treat them as we would like to be treated ourselves. John the Baptist says, in Luke chapter 3, "anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Extend your understanding of the Bible's view of generosity by watching this video from the Bible project.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/generosity/>

Watch this clip and trailer from the film 'Pay it forward'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qsmkz8HHCo>



What impact does the little boy's generosity have on others?
Is it really possible to change people's lives by being abundantly generous?

Finally:

PRAYER:

Father God we thank you for your generosity.
We thank you now for (Fill in the blank with someone or something you are thankful for)
Thank you for all those people in our country who have given generously during the Covid pandemic.
Teach us God to be generous following your example.
Help us give our time, words, energy, love and possessions with a cheerful and generous heart.
Amen

SEND OUT:

I wonder what you could do as a person, as a family, as a group of friends or classmates to be truly generous?

"The person who gives with a smile is the best giver because God loves a cheerful giver." Mother Teresa
How could you be a cheerful giver in all you do this week?

Blow out your candle as a sign that your time of worship has finished.

