



PRETEEN
NOVEMBER 2024

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GENEROSITY AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35, NIV) However, sometimes generosity doesn't come naturally to us. We want the newest and best things, or we want everyone to notice what we have. When we really enjoy the things we have, sometimes that makes it harder for us to be willing to share with others. However, with the help of God's Spirit, we can learn that HOW we give is more important than even WHAT we give. It's about our hearts. God showed us the ultimate example of generosity by sending Jesus. This month, we'll take a look at how we can respond by being generous to others.

CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for GENEROSITY

Restoration through participating in God's Story

I am designed to participate in God's story to restore a broken and hurting world.

God was generous to us by sending Jesus. Not only is Jesus the greatest gift—He is also the best example of someone we can look to when we give. Because of God's generosity toward us, we can also be generous to everyone around us.

GENEROSITY is about making someone's day by giving something away

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT GENEROSITY WITH KIDS

In week 1, as you talk about the perfect things God gives us, be aware that kids may focus on physical belongings. Acknowledge the good things in our lives that we can see (such as family, clothing, food, etc.)—but also point kids to the things God gives us that we may not be able to see (life, the world around us, gifts and talents, guidance, wisdom . . . and, of course, Jesus). Please be sensitive to kids who may be experiencing food or clothing insecurities as you talk about the things God has given us, or what we have to give. Be sure to connect with the correct people if you discover situations in which the safety of a child is in question.



FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

WEEK 1

Key Question: **What good things has God given you?**

Sometimes we can get so caught up in the things that other people have that we forget about the good things WE have. It's easy to hone in on our physical possessions and forget that God has blessed all of us in different ways. We hope this question invites preteens to open their minds to the various ways God cares for them.

We start the month with an insight from **James 1:17a**: "Every good and perfect gift is from God." (NIRV) Every good thing in our lives comes from God, starting with the gift of Jesus. When we take the time to reflect on all that God has given us, we can respond by being generous to others.

Bottom Line: **God gives us good things.** Some of the best gifts in life don't come with wrapping paper. Sometimes the best gifts in life are free because they were thought out and made especially for us. We have all received good things because of God's generosity. From the air we breathe to the things we enjoy in our everyday lives, everything good comes from God.

WEEK 2

Key Question: **What do you have to give?** Sometimes we may not think we have much to give. But have you heard the phrase "a little goes a long way"? Whether we have an abundance of something or only a little, we all have something we can give: time, gifts, or even knowledge. We hope this question helps preteens to discover unique ways they can help others with what they have.

In week 2, we read about a miracle found in **1 Kings 17:7-16**. During a time of drought, the prophet Elijah visited a widow in Zarephath. This woman barely had anything left for her family, let alone for him. Yet, she trusted God and gave everything she had to Elijah . . . and God provided for them above and beyond what they expected.

Bottom Line: **You always have something to give.** Can you think of a time when someone gave something to you or shared with you, even when they didn't have much to give? Just the fact that they thought of you made their gift so much more meaningful. When we trust God with what we have, God is able to do more than we can think or imagine.



FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

WEEK 3

Key Question: How do you feel when you give? Have you ever noticed how excited some people get when they watch others open gifts? The gift isn't even for them, and yet they can't wait to see someone they care about receive something they'll enjoy! Our hope for this question is that preteens will stop and think not only about why being generous is important, but also how important our attitude can be when we give.

In week 3, we take a look at Paul's words in **2 Corinthians 9:7**. Paul was writing to the church in Corinth, encouraging them to give. When we give, it pleases God—not just because of what we give, but because of the way we give it. When we give with a good attitude, we can help others see what God is like.

Bottom Line: Give with a good attitude. Have you ever shared something really nice with someone, but you didn't do it with the best intentions? Maybe, if you were honest, you really didn't want to share what you had in the first place. Our attitude makes a big difference when we give. It doesn't matter what kind of gift you give if your heart isn't in the right place. As Paul explained, God loves it when we give cheerfully!

WEEK 4

Key Question: When has someone been generous to you? Can you think of a moment when you really needed something and someone came through for you? Maybe it was something small, like lending you a pen . . . or maybe it was something bigger, like letting you borrow their car. When we think about the moments when others have helped us, we see how we can be there for others too.

We close out the month in **1 John 3:16-18**. John was writing to a group of believers to encourage them and remind them about Jesus' love for them. John described how Jesus gave the greatest example of love when He gave His life for us. To love IS to give. Whether we give our time, our talent, or our things, we can show the love of Jesus when we give to those in need.

Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to give. Giving can be difficult sometimes. Maybe we want to give the very best gift . . . or maybe we feel like we don't have the right resources to be able to give. But, when we look to Jesus, we can learn what generosity is all about. Because of Jesus' example, we can learn how to give and invite others to experience the love of Jesus for themselves.