

family guide: generosity script

Have you ever heard the word “generosity”?

What do you think it means to be “generous” or to show “generosity” to someone?

Parent/Guardian: Pause here for your children to shout out some answers.

“Generosity” is giving from what you have because God has given to you. It is when we share the things God has given us with others. And God has given us so much! We can be generous by sharing our money or other resources with someone in need, but we can also be generous by sharing our time, energy, and attention with others as an act of love. We can give our time, talents, and treasures. We can be generous to people we love—like our classmates and our neighbors—and to strangers. Ask your kids these questions, and make sure to pause and give them at least 7 seconds to give an answer. You can share a story too: **Have you ever had the chance to be generous? Have you ever received someone else’s generosity?**

Parent/Guardian: Pause here for a few minutes for each person to share their answers.

Imagine you are at school. You reach inside your backpack and you realize, oh no: you’ve forgotten your lunch. You don’t have any money with you to buy lunch either. Your classmate sits down next to you and asks what’s wrong. When you explain that you don’t have any lunch to eat, they open up their bag and say, “Here! Eat half of my sandwich! And I brought extra carrots today. Would you like some?” Imagine how this would make you feel. Your friend showed you love and took care of you by being generous.

All through the Bible, Jesus teaches and shows His followers about how important it is to love others. Jesus set an example of the many ways we can love others, including by being generous. One day, someone asked Jesus about what the Bible really means when it commands us to love our neighbors. Jesus, as he often did, replied not with *rules* but with a *story*. Let’s explore that story together now to see how it can teach us about generosity.

Parent/Guardian: Pull out a Bible and read Luke 10|30-37. After reading the story, work through these questions together as a family:

What did the hurt man in this story need?

(He needed help! He needed medical care and a safe place to stay while his body healed.)

Who showed him generosity? (The Samaritan)

In what ways was the Samaritan generous to the hurt man?

How do you think the hurt man felt when the Samaritan helped him? How would *you* have felt?

When he finished the story, Jesus told his friends to go and show others love, just like the Samaritan did. Whether we're helping someone in an emergency situation or bringing joy to a friend through a surprise, there are all kinds of ways we can be generous. **What are some ways we can show generosity to others?**

Parent/Guardian: Pause here to create a list together.

Just like the Samaritan in Jesus' story, we get to show love to others through generosity. Being generous tells someone: "You are important and worthy of love." There are so many ways we can do this: we can let other kids play with our toys or books, we can give money to people in need, we can cook food for people, we can help a neighbor with yard work, and so much more!

There are times generosity feels really easy, but other times it can be really hard. Sometimes it means we choose to share things that we might not want to share. **When you think about being generous to others, how does that make you feel? What might be something easy for you to share? What might be something hard for you to share?**

Parent/Guardian: Pause here to come up with ideas together and share honestly.

It's okay if generosity feels a little hard or scary. Jesus knows that sometimes we get worried that we might not have enough, which can make it hard to share. When his friends were anxious about not having enough, Jesus told them to look at the birds. That sounds kind of silly, huh? But Jesus pointed out that God always provides food for them. And God loves US even more than the birds, so we never need to worry about having enough (Matthew 6|26-27). In fact, just like your memory verse says, because God first loved us generously, we get to love others generously too. *"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son," John 3|16.* When we are generous, we are loving others and we are loving God.

Let's end by talking about specific ways we can show God's love to others through generosity. Remember that there are so many ways to be generous. Some require sharing money or treasures, but Jesus shows us that sharing our time, energy, and attention is just as important. We can give our time, talents, and treasures to others.

Practicing generosity is like practicing riding a bike or playing piano or dribbling a basketball or speaking a new language – we learn it best when we start slow and simple. So rather than doing something really big to start, it can be helpful to pick something simple that we can commit to for a month or two. As a church, we are ALL going All In for God and committing to give something over the next two years. Sometimes it is good to start with a month and then commit to more as you practice!

Let's look at a few ideas and then we can fill out the commitment card from church and choose how we will live generously. Will we commit to give our time, talents, or treasures?

Idea #1: Give something we have (a treasure) to someone who needs it.

One of the ways we could practice generosity is by sharing with someone in need. We could donate warm winter clothes to people who don't have any. We could give a gift to someone who is feeling down or share a meal with someone. After we give this thing away, we can spend time praying together and thanking God that He always gives us what we need.

Idea #2: Share our time with others.

Another idea is to be generous with our time by hosting or serving someone. We could invite someone from church or school or work over for dinner. We could visit an elderly neighbor and talk with them. We could sign up to help serve dinner at a local shelter. We feel the most loved when we feel the most known, so our goal is to show love by seeing others, listening to them, and learning about them.

Idea #3: Make something for someone (use your talents).

Have you ever received a homemade gift from someone? Sometimes a homemade gift is even more special than an expensive gift, because we made it with our own hands, time, and creativity. We could draw pictures or write kind words to someone. We could make a painted rock for our neighbor's garden or an encouraging card for someone to hang at work. (Parent/Guardian, talk about what talents God has given your kid and help them find a way to use it to give to others. Maybe they are good at crochet or painting, or singing or playing an instrument. Then encourage them.) God gave you that talent and you can choose to use it to give to and bless others.

What do you want to commit to?

Your child has a commitment card where they can decide how they are going to live All In and give like Jesus. Parents, please help your children pray about and make a commitment. There are cards for preschoolers to circle how they can give, and for older kids and students to write down how they can commit to giving. Take a look at these cards now and use it to start a conversation about commitment as a family. If you have an idea, you can write it down now, and bring it back Sunday, March 9 where we will talk about commitment in our small group time.

Parents: Write down the idea each child chooses and any specifics you decide on and put it up where the whole family can see it!

Over the next few months, don't forget to talk about how you are doing with your commitment and once you feel confident, pray and ask God if it's time to keep going or make a new commitment in generosity.

Let's end by praying together that God would help us to be generous and love others like Jesus does.

Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus. Jesus was generous with His time, talents, and treasures and teaches us to do the same. You are generous by giving us everything we need and giving us Jesus. Help us to live generously and give what we have. We ask that you help each of us make a commitment to give like you and show people your love. Help us to stick to it when we make our commitment. We love you God, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Thank you for leaning in to be All In for God. Living generously is a work in progress, but we can ALL give what we have no matter how old we are or how much we have. If you complete the card today, will you share it with us? As you disciple your family and commit to being generous yourself, know that we are in this together. As the church, we can love people the way God shows us. Visit 242community.com/allin for more resources!