



Weekly Resources for Collective Worship, Spiritual
Development and Pastoral Care

PHASE: SECONDARY

**WEEK 8 THEME:
GENEROSITY**



KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

**Our generosity is a response to God's generous love for us –
it is good to share this love.**

Giving is good for our mental health - the **goodness of giving**. The little things are just as important when it comes to giving. This links to 5 Love Languages (Gary Chapman) - giving and receiving in different ways.

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

The story of the generous widow (Luke 21: 1-4)



The Widows Mite by Jesus Mafa

TO CONSIDER AS YOU PREPARE

KEY QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

'It is when you give of yourself that you truly give' - Kahlil Gibran

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:

Jocelyn, a pensioner who has run a soup kitchen for over 30 years:

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

PRAY:

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to seek reward, except that of knowing that I do your will.

Amen (*St. Ignatius Loyola*)

I. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - *Invitational, Inclusive, Inspiring.*

GATHER:

Find a place where you can be still, without interruptions. You might like to light a candle (with parents/carers permission) as you begin to remind you that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Christians believe that God is generous. God created our amazing world and gave us the privilege of living in it and looking after it. Jesus showed the ultimate act of generosity by coming into the world and dying for our sins.

ENGAGE:

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? Invite the children to spend a while looking at this image. What do you notice? I wonder what you think is happening? I wonder who you think the characters are?

In the Bible, Jesus explains to his disciples the importance, not just of what we do and are seen to do, but the reason **why** we do something – what is in our mind and our heart when we choose to do something is as important as **what** we do.

He compares the acts of the “teachers of the law” (the Scribes or Jewish Leaders) with the act of a poor widow. In Jesus' time, widows were often poor because they did not have their husbands to protect them anymore and bring money home to live on.

“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.”

- I wonder who you think was the most generous person in the story? Why do you think that?
- I wonder why Jesus told this story? What do you think he wanted his followers to learn from it?

Jesus noticed the poor widow. He saw that she knew and loved God and that she trusted God to meet her needs, in every area of her life. This meant she was free to be generous and give her two copper coins.

Be Inspired:

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.

REFLECT:

REFLECT:

Read this passage from Proverbs together. Allow some time and space and invite the children to reflect on the words within this passage - Proverbs 3:27-28:

**“Never walk away from someone who deserves help;
your hand is God’s hand for that person.
Don’t tell your neighbour “Maybe some other time”
or “Try me tomorrow”
when the money’s right there in your pocket.”**

I wonder what you might do differently after reflecting on this passage?

SEND OUT:

See if there is an opportunity to help this week, for example could you contact someone who you think may be lonely or in need? For example: Preparing, cooking or sharing food at home. Doing the washing up. Making a cup of tea. Contacting a friend.

PRAY:

Loving Father
you have made us your people,
richly provided us with good gifts
and called us to live for you;
may gratitude be in our hearts;
may generosity be in our hands;
may justice and righteousness guide our feet
and may the life of your kingdom and the joy of
heaven be found among us.
Amen

2. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Use the **EXAMEN** prayer to reflect on generosity. It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for someone who has been generous towards you today.
2. ASK FOR HELP to be more generous towards those who find it hard to be generous with.
3. REFLECT on all that you have and think about what you could share with others.
4. SAY SORRY for a time when you have not been generous and should have been.
5. DECIDE how you could be more generous with your time and words this week.

ACTIVITIES that can help develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

DEVELOPING GRATITUDE:

Ideas include: **BLESSINGS JAR** (and decorate it!)- every time you are thankful for something write it down and add it to the jar. Alternatively write in a journal rather than making a jar if you would prefer.

PEBBLES AND MARBLES- each time that you recognise a blessing in your life, put a pebble/marble in a jar and count it at the end of the week (works with jelly beans too!).

CONVERSATION STARTERS that can help develop RELATIONSHIPS-COMMUNITY:

- Think about how different people receive love and how you can tailor your generosity to them.
- How have you been supported before? What difference did this make to you?
- How could we eradicate the need for foodbanks?
- Is being generous a choice?
- What stops you from being generous?
- How could we spread generosity through our relationships and actions?
- Is it important that people see our generosity?

3. PASTORAL CARE - *ideas for looking after...* Ourselves & Our staff

How can you be generous to yourself?

• Relax – What helps you relax? Is it time with a book or a walk outdoors? Find some time to treat yourself. Be generous to yourself.

How can you be generous to each other in school?

Could you set up a secret angel system? Each member of staff is given the name of another member of staff. They then have to do thing anonymously to bless their person. It could be a note of encouragement or, chocolate bar, favourite drink etc.

Our families & Our community

- How can you be generous to each other at home?
- Could you use your words to be more generous to those you live with?

- Could you be generous with your space or time?

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/_T0R2I4U