



Weekly Resources for Collective Worship, Spiritual
Development and Pastoral Care

PHASE: PRIMARY

**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.

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.

BIBLE STORY OF THE WEEK:

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



The Widows Mite by Jesus Mafa

TO CONSIDER AS YOU PREPARE

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=K6K85pIlnHM>

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 as you begin.

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



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. A widow is a lady whose husband has died. 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.

Whilst we listen to the story, have a think about:

Who was the most generous person and why?

Share the passage together:

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>

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?

I wonder where those two copper coins came from – did someone give them to the widow? Did she find them? Did she earn them? I wonder what work she did to try to survive?

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 away. I wonder if she smiled when she did so? I wonder who or what enabled you to be generous?

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.

I wonder how this story makes you feel?

REFLECT:

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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 which part of this passage made you think?

I wonder how this passage made you feel?

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

As you continue to sit quietly, ask the children if they think being generous is only about money?
Invite them to reflect on ways that can be generous without using any money.

Prayer together:

Father God we thank you for your generosity.

We thank you now for (Invite the children to fill in the blank with someone or something they 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.

2. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

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

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

How is your journal going? Look back through what you have written and included in it. Give thanks for all you have experienced and learnt by keeping a journal so far.

Add your thoughts and reflections about generosity to your journal— perhaps making a list of ‘people who have shown me generosity and people I have been generous to’.

You could write in your journal a pledge to be more generous by Reflect and ponder about how you could be more generous.

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:

Have you ever stopped to think about how generous the world around us is? Christians believe this is a sign of God's generosity! Fruit, flowers, water, sunlight, crops, fish, birds and animals, weather.

Think of blossom, which comes in huge abundance and the tree looks absolutely beautiful for a few days, and then all the blossom falls and the moment is over. It seems like such an extravagance gesture to provide so many flowers which are so beautiful for such a fleeting moment.

Go outside and look around at creation and how generous it is. You may want to praise God for the beauty and all creation provides. You may prefer to reflect on how the abundance of nature makes you feel.

When it next rains, consider the provision of water and reflect on those who do not have enough.

Creation is a gift which we need to care for and nurture so that everyone can enjoy it, not something we exploit for our own gain. Sharing the good gifts of nature and taking care of it seem to be part of this concept too – even something simple like not picking wild flowers so that everyone can enjoy them rather than being selfish and taking them home for yourself.

I wonder how you can ensure that creation continues to be generous in the way it blesses each of us?

What could you plant or help preserve in your garden or local area?

How could you use less of something to make sure someone else has enough? Could you save some water, recycle more or buy less food?

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.



CONVERSATIONS STARTERS that can help develop **RELATIONSHIPS-COMMUNITY**:

What does it mean to be generous?

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, a soak in the bath 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 could you share your generosity with others?

Could you pledge to give regularly to a local food bank?

Could you make time to talk to your neighbours rather than just saying hello?

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/_T0R2l4Uwho

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?

GOING DEEPER/FURTHER RESOURCES

On its own, the story of the Widow's Mite might suggest to children that giving is something that Jesus asks especially of the poor. It may also seem to place emphasis on giving very small amounts.

The real lesson of the Christian Gospel (and of the Widow's Mite) is that generosity is asked of everyone, and is modelled by Jesus as being sacrificial. Those who have received much are expected to give much. 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.*"

Use this poem to reflect on your own generosity.

And when you give

Give like the widow would
Quietly and thoughtfully
Wholeheartedly and consciously

And when you give
Give hilariously
Generously
Be gutsy till angels agree
On the degree
To which you plunge
The depths of your karki jeans

And if in doubt
Just focus on the tree
And the costly sacrifice
He willingly made
For you and me.

Give like the widow would -
Like it's just between you and God
And then you'll be free.

Taken from 'And when you give by' Steve Page #hellopoetry

Read - Consider other Gospel stories in which Jesus talks about giving in different contexts:

- When Zacchaeus comes to believe in Jesus, he gives away half his wealth and compensates those whom he has cheated by giving them back fourfold (Luke 19).
- When the Rich Young Man asks Jesus what he must do to be truly obedient to God, Jesus tells him to sell all his possessions and give to the poor (Luke 18:18-30).
- Jesus once said that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter God's Kingdom. This is not because having wealth is wrong, but because once we have lots of good things, we are at risk of holding on to them instead of using them for the benefit of other people (Luke 18:24-27).

Notice that all the illustrations in this section come from Luke's Gospel. Luke is particularly concerned with marginalised in his society, I wonder what this tells you about Luke and the society he lived in. I wonder how these stories and the compassion for the marginalised in Luke's Gospel impacts on you?

Watch

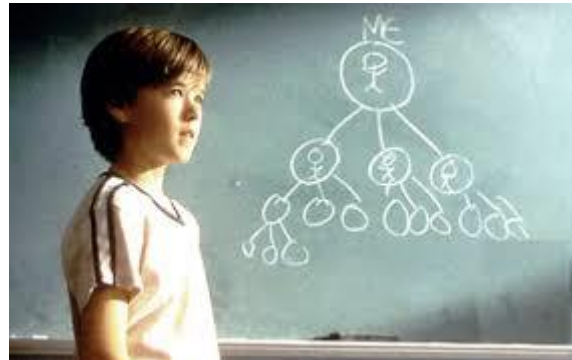
Extend your understanding of the Bible's view of generosity by watching this video from the Bible project.
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/generosity/>

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?



Generosity

It is not fame I seek. Not even slight recognition. But if in my life I can help just one person, I will be satisfied. I don't need to change the world. But I can change somebody's world. That's all that matters. Think of the greatness we could achieve if every single person carried this same mentality. If humanity was motivated by such altruism, we would unlock unlimited potential and a new kind of peace.

By Alana #hellopoetry

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?