



**GENEROSITY
WEEK**



Generosity for Children and Young People



Bible Verse

Proverbs 3: 1-10

Peace

¹ My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, ² for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.



Love

³ Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ So you will find favour and good success in the sight of God and man.



Trust

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.



Kindness

⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.



Give

⁹ Honour the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.



These resources are a framework for Children's, Young People and Families workers and volunteers to use, adapt and breathe life into for Generosity Week.

There are endless ways to break this passage down for different activities, so please bring your own ideas to these activities, remembering the main things to focus on are that the children have **fun** and remember God's love and **generosity**. We can make sure of this by creating a memorable and enjoyable experience for those attending our group/session.

Demonstration of God's Generosity

Talking about all the things God has freely given to us – family, friends, happiness, parks, joy, the gospel, school etc, blow up a balloon for each suggestion (cap it at around 6-8, or have helpers blowing up balloons). You could also use any other light object such as empty gift boxes. When we try and hold all the balloons/items on our own they should spill over and we end up dropping some of them. Use this as a visual example of how good and generous God has been to us, *“thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over”* from Psalm 23.

Then, because we have been given so much we have something to share. Hand out balloons to others and demonstrate that generosity is about giving out of God's blessings. We all have something to be grateful for as well as something to give.

“Give as freely as you have received!”

Matthew 10:8



Children's Resource

The following ideas are aimed at a group of 5-11 year olds at a Sunday School. Feel free to re-order the session to suit your setting.

Vision/Takeaway:

Create a hand print to help us remember 5 important things, Peace, Love, Trust, Kindness and Giving. *"When we know God's **Peace** and **Love**, we can **Trust** in him, be **kind** and **give** what we can to others in need."*

1. **Ask a helper to read the bible verse. Either print or project the verse, highlighting the 5 words we want to remember.**
2. **Craft:** (*option 1*) Children to make hand prints on paper with paint. Once dry, they will write the key words next to each finger (*option 2*) Draw round your own hand and colour it in, writing or sticking the key words next to it.
3. **Talk:** using the Balloon demonstration, show the children how generous God is to us, and connect with Proverbs 3:9-10 where we are asked to honour God back and bless others with what we have.
4. **Game:** Over the Mountain. Sitting in a circle with one in the middle who says, "Over the mountain if..." and then a statement such as, "if you are wearing shorts!" Those who are wearing shorts must get up from their seat and switch places with someone else wearing shorts, as the person in the middle aims to also find a seat there will always be someone left in the middle who can say another "over the mountain" statement. If a leader is in the middle they might want to steer the game towards generosity, with statements such as; "if you have been kind to someone this week", "if you are good at sharing" etc.
5. **Activity** Create friendship bracelets with 5 coloured beads to represent the 5 things we have learned about.



Song: Mother Hen - St James in the City, All Age Worship





Young People's Group Resource

The following ideas are aimed at a group of young people aged 11-18 on a Sunday or at Youth group. Feel free to re-order the session to suit your setting.

Vision/Takeaway:

*"When we know God's **Peace and Love**, we can **Trust in him**, be **kind** and **give** what we can to others in need."*

Ice breaker:

"Would you rather?" Throw out some ridiculous questions and get the whole group debating... Would you rather...

"Start school again from the very beginning OR grow 10 years older overnight?"

"Sweat Jam OR have Marmite for spit?"

"Have a Parrot permanently on your shoulder OR a Cat asleep on your head?"

"Go on holiday for a month OR go away for 5 weekends of the year?"

"Call your Teacher 'Mum/Dad' instead of Miss/Mr every time OR sing a solo in front of your whole school?"

Activity:

Bible Study - Look at the verses of Proverbs 3:1-10 two at a time (1+2, 3+4...)

- Notice how there is usually an instruction, followed by a reward or a blessing, what do you think this tells us about God?
- What would it mean to have those benefits/blessings in our lives?
- What are our 'first fruits'? How can we honour God with what we have as young people? (Offering our time & talents to others, giving to our church)
- Time for prayer requests and songs to reflect on the passage

Song Ideas:

Wonder by Hillsong United, Everyday by Tom Smith (Soul Survivor)

Game:

"Guess the Bill" (Requires Prep)

Take some of the running costs of your church/youth group and put them into a multiple choice quiz. This will give the young people an idea of what the money from church goes towards and how it honours God...

For Example:

Question 1. How much does it cost to have Tea, Coffee and biscuits after church every Sunday for a month?

A) £10

B) £25

C) £45

Tea, Coffee and biscuits show people they are welcome and are a good way to get to know others, which is part of our ministry as a church.

