

How to Live a Generous Life

For the children and families of Grace Chapel

January 2017

Share the following information with your children in an age-appropriate way. For kids Grade 2 and under, talk about only one point at a time. For older children, use this worksheet together, inviting them to fill in the blanks.

Perhaps do one section each evening over dinner. Build up knowledge by having kids find ways to identify the points in their daily lives, it helps children think of practical ways they can learn to be stewards of what God has given them.

Part 1: THE BASICS:

_____ in the world belongs to God.

- Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it."
- That means that every *thing* we have, everything we enjoy every day, and everything we are as people comes from God. We don't have the right to control anything.
- I am thankful to God for my _____.

Four Part Guide:

- The Basics
- Time, Talent & Treasure
- What's a Tithe?
- Check Your Attitude

We must be _____ with what God has provided.

- Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."
- It's up to us to take care of everything according to what God wants. When we do that we are honoring God and obeying him by being good managers of all that he provides.
- One responsibility I can share in our family is to _____.

God will ask us what _____ with everything he has given us.

- Matthew 25:21 says, ". . . Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"
- Since God is the owner of everything, he wants to know what we do with it all.
- We need to account for how we live – and especially with things like our Time, Talents, and Treasure.



Part 2: TIME, TALENT & TREASURE:

Being generous is more than just spending money or giving things away.

Our **time** has to do with how we give of _____ to others.

- Helping around the house, listening to friends when they want to share, being with someone when they ask, and serving in the church – are ways we give of our time.
- **SHARING MY TIME:** I would like to help at church by _____.
(examples: serve with a parent in the childcare classes, serve on the tech team in Kidstown, help the Kidstown large group team with singing, help my small group leader with supplies for our small group, greet at the doors of the church with an adult, help usher during worship with an adult)

Our **talents** are _____ that God has given us.

- Special gifts are things we're good at or just like to do - like playing an instrument, sports, art, math, reading, or just being kind, full of energy, caring and nice to others, and having fun. Our passions are the things we really care about or LOVE to do!
- When we discover those gifts and passions, and use them for others, we are pleasing God by becoming the person he made us to be, and we are living generously.
- **SHARING MY TALENT:** Something I'm good at is _____ and I can use that in the church by _____.
(Examples: caring – making new kids feel welcome; singing – joining the choir or helping lead songs in KT large group; art – making cards for people on the prayer list, etc.)

Our **treasure** has to do with the _____ God has given us.

- Money is a gift from God. Whether it comes from someone else or something we have earned, God is the one who made it happen.
- God loves us to be generous with our money – not because we have to – but because we want to.
- **SHARING MY TREASURE:** Get 3 glass jars. Label one, "Share," the second one, "Save," and the third one, "Spend." Determine how much you will put in each jar from your allowance, money you receive as a gift, or money you earn doing chores around the house. Bring the "Share" money each week to worship or Kidstown to give to God.

WHAT'S A TITHE?

A tithe is an offering (usually money) _____ of what you have.

- Proverbs 3:9 says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."
- Abraham gave the first tithe to honor God for what he had done (Genesis 14:18-20).
- If you have a dollar – one-tenth would be 10 cents.
- Tithing is a way to obey God's commands and honor him with your possessions.
- You don't have to tell people how much money you give – that's between you and God.
- Giving an offering reminds you that everything you have comes from God.
- Talk as a family about ways that everyone can give a tithe – such as putting aside one-tenth of a birthday or Christmas gift, or from money earned by doing chores.

CHECK YOUR ATTITUDE:

What does the Bible say about the type of _____ you should have when you give of your time, talents, or treasure?

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
- God wants you to obey him and give him your offerings, but he wants you to have a good attitude about giving.
- Being a church member involves responsibilities and privileges. One responsibility church members have is to give offerings.
- Ask God today to help you have a positive, cheerful attitude when giving.

Answer Key:
The Basics : 1: Everything 2: responsible 3. we have done
Time, Talent and Treasure: 1: ourselves 2: special gifts and passions 3: resources
What's a Tithe?: 1: one-tenth (10%)
Check Your Attitude: 1: attitude