



GENEROSITY WEEK

**Material to start to explore stewardship with
Children and Young People**



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Generosity and Stewardship

Stewardship is an important topic for all ages to consider and gives us an opportunity to consider how churches use and develop everyone's gifts and talents to live out the mission of the Church.

If you are getting involved with Generosity Week it might be helpful for the children and young people to use these ideas in their sessions and then share their thoughts with the rest of the church family.

Think about what you can do with the information and how you might share it with the wider church and community.

In particular, please consider:

- If there are challenges and/or suggestions for the church or group, how will you take them forward?
- Please do not make promises you can't keep, rather think about the opportunities to move forward together.

How to use this material

This material can be used over one or more sessions, the outline below may help:

- ⇒ Icebreaker
- ⇒ Bible reading and reflection questions
- ⇒ Questions to consider
- ⇒ What next?
- ⇒ Prayer

In the activity, discussion and response time, please do not influence or censor answers but listen to and record thoughts and responses!

Thinking about Generosity

For this session you will need:

- Copies of the bible reading and reflection questions
- At least 3 large pieces of paper, flip chart paper is ideal
- Post-it notes/pens/felt tips
- Prayer resources for your chosen activities; card, pens, holding cross, candle

Ice breaker: Generosity

What's the most generous thing anyone has ever done for you, or that you've seen someone else do?

Bible Study: Jesus Teaches About Giving

Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21 (ICB version)

“Be careful! When you do good things, don't do them in front of people to be seen by them. If you do that, then you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“When you give to the poor, don't be like the hypocrites. They blow trumpets before they give so that people will see them. They do that in the synagogues and on the streets. They want other people to honour them. I tell you the truth. Those hypocrites already have their full reward. So when you give to the poor, give very secretly. Don't let anyone know what you are doing. Your giving should be done in secret. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

God Is More Important Than Money

“Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth. Moths and rust will destroy treasures here on earth. And thieves can break into your house and steal the things you have. So store your treasure in heaven. The treasures in heaven cannot be destroyed by moths or rust. And thieves cannot break in and steal that treasure. Your heart will be where your treasure is.”

Reflection questions:

- I wonder which part of the story you like best?
- I wonder which part of the story is the most important?
- I wonder which part of the story you like the least?



Going Deeper

- Get at least 3 large pieces of paper, one for each set of the wondering questions below, leaving space between each question. If you have a large group, you may want to have more than one copy of each set of questions.
- There are no right or wrong answers, this is an opportunity for the children and young people to share their thoughts.
- Encourage the children and young people to interpret the questions as they wish. It is more important to listen to what they want to say than to stick rigidly to the questions.
- It might be helpful to give the children and young people the chance to answer individually, using the post-it notes if they wish and then to have a discussion as a group. Alternatively, give everyone the chance to look at all the questions and then have a group discussion around each sheet - every group is different and you know your context.

Sheet 1

I wonder...

- What makes you unique?
- What gifts or talents has God given you?
- Where and how you use the gifts and talents that God has given you?
- If there are any of your gifts and talents that you do not use?
- If there are other ways you would like to use your gifts with or in the Church?

Sheet 2

I wonder...

- What you think is the best thing about God?
- When and how you say thank you to God for his gifts?
- What does and should the Church say thank you to God for?
- How our Church family thanks God for the things he has given us?

Sheet 3

I wonder

- Do you get pocket money or an income from a job?
- If you give money to charity, which charities do you give to?
- How our Church decides what to spend money and time on?
- How our Church spends time and money helping people in our community?
- How our Church spends time and money helping people in other parts of the World?

What next?

When you have had a chance to consider the questions, encourage the group to think of one thing they might do as a result of their discussions. If they ask some examples might include:

- thinking about how they use their gifts,
- as a group it to find out how the church makes decisions about money.

It's important not to impose something; so after asking the question, move to a time of prayer....

Prayers

Give thanks for your time together and then consider what would be appropriate for your group, for example:

- ✝ You could make “Thank you” cards to give thanks for the things God has given. These could be taken into the Church and offered with all the prayers of the Church at the next service.
- ✝ You could design ‘pledge’ cards to help people offer their gifts/talents in the group/church
- ✝ You could light candles/tealights* and spend some time quietly asking God to help you think about ways to be generous with time, talents and money.

*make sure children and young people are supervised appropriately and complete risk assessments for all activities.

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