

generous living



CHILDREN'S RESOURCES
LEADER'S GUIDE





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WELCOME

Welcome to the new “Generous Living” Leaders’ Resource for Children.

Friends,

Thank you so much for all you do in teaching children the truth of God’s Word! As a children’s ministry leader you have been given the wonderful responsibility and opportunity to make a real—and eternal—impact in the lives of the young people God has entrusted you to teach.

There is just something so powerful about sowing into the next generation. Children’s ministry can be great fun with all of the games, activities and adventures you embark upon, but leading the children into a place where they are able to encounter God, and then seeing them experience the presence of God—Wow! What a privilege!

Proverbs 22:6 says “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” By helping children establish their foundation upon God now, it will help them determine the way they will choose to live their lives. So it’s vital to set aside time every week to pray for the children in your class and to personally delve into each week’s scripture reading. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insight and understanding and live out the key lessons in your own life, so you can teach out of personal experience.

And so to our new theme: Generous Living...

Have you ever thought about the generosity of God? Have you taken the time recently to notice and marvel at all that God gives you? If not, try it every day during this series—you’ll be filled with authentic, genuine gratitude! A few starters...wonder at God’s creation, his gift of life, the gift of Jesus, the gift of his mercy and forgiveness, the gift of a fresh start, the gift of his presence, his strength, his comfort, his guidance...every breath you take...

As disciples of Christ, we’re called to live generous lives. Did you know that Jesus taught more about generosity and stewardship (money and possessions) than any other subject except for the kingdom of God? That’s because the way we handle money directly influences the way we relate to God.

It’s not about what God wants from us, but what he wants for us! God wants us to experience the blessings that come when we return to him the first and the best of all that we have.

When we honour God with our time and with the talents, abilities and resources he has given us, he will use and multiply our offerings in an incredible way! (Think ‘Widow and the Oil’ (2 Kings 4:1-7) or ‘Loaves and Fishes’ (John 6:9-13).

We’re blessed by God to bless others. Live in such a way that other people’s lives are richer because of your interaction with them.

We hope you enjoy teaching this series and that you will be encouraged, challenged and inspired to live even more generously. Our team is praying for you and your team—we pray that as you honour our awesome God you will experience his abundant, extravagant, amazing love and provision in your life each day!

The THQ Generous Living team.

P.S. If you have any questions, suggestions or requests, feel free to call us or send us an email anytime.

Ph. (03) 88782393 or 88782404

E. planned.giving@aus.salvationarmy.org.

You can check out more resources at

www.sarmy.org.au/generousliving



AIM:

This four week program is designed to give primary-school aged children an understanding of God's awesome generosity and show them how we can all live a generous life too!

Educating and encouraging children to put God first in all areas of their lives is so important—this includes honouring God with our tithes and offerings.

HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL:

This material can be used in conjunction with the Corps Generous Living Series (at the time of Planned Giving renewals) or as a stand-alone teaching series.

It can be used in Kids Church, kids' clubs or Junior Soldier lessons. Whilst it is aimed at children 5-11 years old, elements of the program can be adapted to cater for younger or older children in your group.

Understanding that time frames for Corps' children's ministry programs can vary, we have provided content for a one hour session each week, with a variety of suggestions and options for you to choose from to best suit your group and your time frame.

Bible stories, games, activities and craft projects are included, as well as ideas for making the Kid's ministry room look inviting and exciting!

The fun, interactive format uses different 'zones' each week (similar to the *Kidzone* curriculum) to create an environment that is engaging to children. The following pages give a summary of each 'zone'.

Each week's teaching material is prepared with a full outline, with the leader's words in *italics*. This is simply done to assist you in your teaching and communicating with the children, however please feel very welcome to change or reword as appropriate to suit your personal style and group.

As a quick reference, an outline for each one hour lesson plan is included on page 14-17, with suggested time allocations for each zone.

We really encourage you to be as generous as possible with your prep time for each session. It will yield great results!

The Leader's Guide is available in booklet form, or you can download it from the Generous Living Website (www.sarmy.org.au/generousliving).

FOUR WEEK OVERVIEW:

WEEK 1: begins with discovering God's amazing provision and generosity through creation.

WEEK 2: focuses on God's greatest gift to us—Jesus!

WEEK 3: teaches the importance of putting our time and energy into our relationship with God, rather than 'things'. The children are given the opportunity to thank Jesus for his generosity and take up the challenge to live generously as Jesus intended.

WEEK 4: is party week! The children are encouraged to continue thinking about how they can respond to God's generosity to them. A specially designed pledge card is given out to each child, and all the children are invited to write their name on the card to indicate their desire to honour God. "I promise to try to live generously with everyone. I can show God's love in all I think, say and do!"



ZONES:



(Sign-In)

This is the area where you ask the parents/care-givers to sign their children into the program and includes the welcome activity to introduce the theme for the week.

FYI: We include the following list of things which may be helpful to consider when preparing the sign-in area for children's events in general:

- Will you set up the sign-in area in a different space (eg. foyer/entrance) to where the 'Welcome Zone' activities are set up?
- Where will new parents/caregivers register their children and receive further information? What paperwork will you need for this?
- How will you set up the sign-in desk so that it appeals to the children and sets the theme for the lesson?
- Who are the leaders who will welcome parents and their children and introduce new children to others?
- The 'Welcome Zone' can include activities and craft options for the children to choose from when they arrive. The amount of time your program runs for will determine how long you make these activities available for. Some can be done individually, in small groups or as a whole group.
- If you provide a range of different activities, allow children free choice when it comes to this zone, which may mean that some only visit one activity while others engage in everything that is offered. It is good to have a leader responsible for each of the activities to help the children fully connect, explore and engage with what is provided.



(Games and Activities)

The 'Fun Zone' is, of course, all about fun! Suggestions for additional games and activities are given at the end of each week's lesson plan, for programs with extended time frames.



optional for shorter programs
(Singing, dancing, giving offerings)

Songs to sing out loud in praise to God! Suggested worship music has lyrics directly from the Bible. SING! LEARN! MEMORIZE! Hide God's Word in your heart! Jesus has a purpose for our lives!

Playing the DVD song clips (with hand movements) is recommended as it really helps the kids to relax and join in singing.

Suggested song clips are available from *Right Now Media*. These resources have been made freely available to all Corps Officers. There is a link on our website to the following songs:

Right Now Media: Kids—Singalong Kids Shows—Seeds family worship—Session 1

'Praise the Lord'	Seeds of Praise	Song 12
'Sing For Joy'	Seeds of Praise	Song 14
'Treasure'	Seeds of Purpose	Song 5
'Undivided heart'	Seeds of Praise	Song 10

OFFERING TIME:

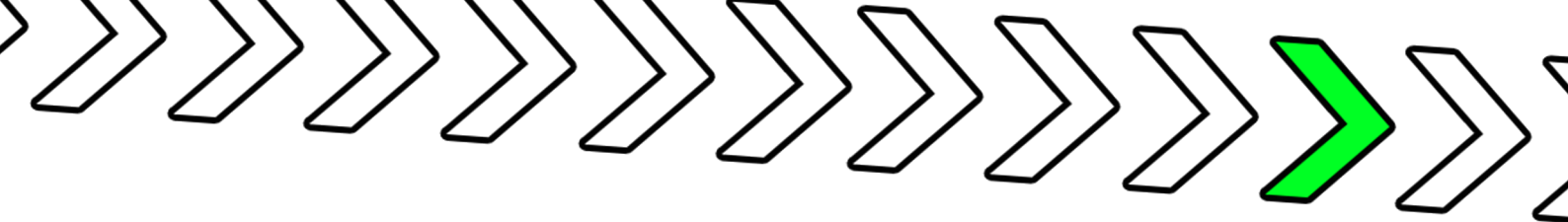
In this series, the offering time is included in the 'Praise Zone'. This series on Generous Living is an ideal time to introduce weekly giving if it has not been a regular part of your children's program. If you have new children present, particularly children of parents who do not attend church, please consider carefully how you introduce this.

- Decide beforehand on a project you will use the offering money for (eg. Missionary appeal, helping to sponsor a child, or towards running your Corps children's ministries, etc.) Let the children know what their offering money will be used for, saying that we give our money to help show God's love to people and as a way to thank God for all that he gives us.
- If you have limited time and choose not to have a 'Praise Zone', please include another time for the children and leaders to give their (money) offering to God.



(Main teaching and focus of lesson)

'God Zone' and 'Zone In' are the most important times in the weekly program. In 'God Zone', the leader will help the children to explore and focus on the key Bible lesson. It is done as a whole group.



All other leaders are asked to participate by sitting with the children, listening and giving their attention to what is being taught—this demonstrates to the children that this is a significant time.



(Small groups / Going deeper)

‘Zone In’ usually immediately follows ‘God Zone’. Children of a similar age get together in small groups with their small group leaders to discuss the Bible lesson in more depth.

Leaders foster a sense of exploration and wonder as the children engage with the theme and think about what it means for them in their faith journey and how they can apply the teaching to their daily lives. This means building healthy relationships within the group and creating a safe space for children to question things. Discussion should be encouraged, with the group leader providing guidance and correct Bible teaching. (And it’s okay to not always know “the answer”!)



Activity optional for shorter programs
(Memory verse)

Each week the children are encouraged to memorize a Bible verse. The verse is introduced during the lesson in a fun way and then the children are challenged to learn it off by heart during the week. An opportunity is provided the following week for each child to say the verse to their small group leader—and earn a reward!

- If you have limited time, and do not use the ‘Word Zone’ activity, please still encourage the children to memorise the verse during the week at home.



(Home activities)

This is a fantastic way of providing children and parents the opportunity to continue the conversation about generous living, at home. Each weekly kid’s magazine includes a ‘Beyond the Zone’ section to foster further learning in the home environment.

ACCOMPANYING MAGAZINES

There is an interactive magazine to accompany each of the four lessons.

The magazines all contain work sheets, scripture verses, puzzles and colouring.

They also function as a stand-alone evangelical tool if children are unable to attend the program outlined in this resource.



MEET COBIE AND CHARLIE



Cobie and Charlie are the latest addition to the Generous Living family.

This dynamic duo make an appearance in the magazines provided and are the voices throughout the publication.

They will provide instructions for lessons and games, and will become a tangible visual for a somewhat visceral topic.

GIVING ENVELOPES

- Children's giving envelopes are available to order for use on Week 4 during the response time. These feature pictures of Cobie and Charlie. (Alternatively, each child can decorate an envelope to place their offering in on this occasion).
- Sets of 50 envelopes (1 year supply) can also be ordered for each child, to encourage regular giving each week.
- If you would like the sets of envelopes printed with each Sunday's date and/or have the name of your Corps or Kids Church/children's program printed on them, please ensure you place your order with us **3 weeks prior** to the date you wish to give these out to the children.



BANNERS

Large banners of Cobie & Charlie are available to order from the Generous Living Team at THQ.



HALL SET UP:

MAKE THE ROOM LOOK INVITING AND EXCITING!

Set the theme for this series by using your imagination to ‘re-create’ God’s generous, awesome Creation!

The following suggestions are dependent upon the available space, resources and prep time you and your team have. If you’re able to leave the creation display up throughout the series, building upon the theme each week, that’s fantastic! Any other groups using the room can see and enjoy what the children are learning about—and add to the display if appropriate!

Tips:

- Coloured circle mats or round, plastic tablecloths (available from party shops) taped to floor with masking tape, are a great and easy way to create a particular area or define a space.
- Large cardboard background scenes can be purchased from some party stores (eg. Spotlight) or get the children or youth-group to help you make them!
- If space is limited, consider investing in large pin-up boards which can be used throughout the year for visual displays.
- Lengths of different coloured material hanging on the walls or from the ceiling can be used as backgrounds for children to add pictures of God’s creation.
- Create a collage using a long strip of thick paper (Check with local print shops for any spare rolls of canvas or other suitable materials. Wall paper could also be used).
- Create wall posters using coloured card and pasting on pictures (downloaded and printed from the internet or cut from magazines). For example:

Black: Night sky—stars and planets

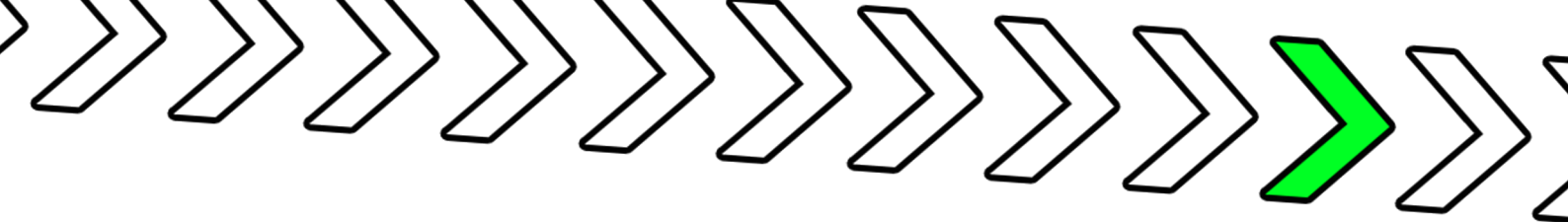
Blue: Ocean creatures

Green: Trees, plants, flowers (include unusual species)
(or rainforest or jungle scene)

Yellow: Desert or beach scene

Orange: People of all different nationalities, flags

Purple: Animals and birds



OR: Set up each corner of the room to show a different part of God's creation. For example:

(1) SKY: hanging solar systems, stars, sun, moon. (Make your own from card or check online educational suppliers such as Modern Teaching Aids for solar system resources).

(2) LAND & WATER: mountains, river, trees.

Land—use large (eg. Fridge) cartons to cut out a mountain or trees the children can decorate, add a length of blue crepe paper for the river or a rectangular blue plastic tablecloth cut in half (more durable) and taped to floor.

OR:

Use a pop-up tent and create a camping scene, with cardboard trees, animals, etc.

Water—to represent the ocean use a blue net hanging from ceiling with foil sea creatures, (available from party shops) blue/green crepe paper strips hanging down to represent water. Children can make sea creatures to add, or bring along light-weight soft toy animals.

(3) ANIMALS: create a background scene, add small animal figures or soft toy animals that the children already have, or get some from a local op-shop. Pictures printed from the internet could be pasted onto thick card, adding a photo frame stand.

(4) PEOPLE: set up a table and place a world globe in the centre. Add flags from different countries and cut-out strips of people for kids to decorate. (Felt cut-outs of people are available from craft shops or educational suppliers online).

GENEROUS LIVING (CHILDREN LEADER'S RESOURCE - SUMMARY SHEET: WEEK 1

TITLE	Generous God	(60 minute outline)
KEY SCRIPTURE	Genesis 1:29-31, 1 Timothy 4:4	
WELCOME ZONE	<i>(As parents arrive, give out "Parent's Letter #1, if not previously sent out. Seek permission for their child to be included in group photo).</i>	
	Activity 1: Recreating God's Creation OR Activity 2: Sensory Stations	10 mins.
PRAISE ZONE	DVD Clip: (Suggest using song clips showing hand motions) 'Praise the Lord' or 'Sing for Joy'	8 mins.
	Intro. offering time	
FUN ZONE	Activity 3: Multiplication Game!	8 mins.
GOD ZONE	Generous Creation – PPT slides Group photo	10 mins.
ZONE IN (1)	Introduce new kids magazine Magazine activity -page 5 & discussion	10 mins.
WORD ZONE	1 Timothy 4:4 Activity 4: Gum Tree Words	10 mins.
OR ZONE IN (2)	Magazine puzzle -page 6 Prayer	
BEYOND THE ZONE	Introduce ideas in magazine -page 7	4 mins.
For Next week:	Invite children to bring picture or item to add to creation display Colour in picture on page 8 of magazine, bring to show next week.	

ADDITIONAL GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR WEEK ONE:

- (1) Game: The Taste Test
- (2) Game: Starry Space Relay
- (3) Activity: Painting God's Creation



GENEROUS LIVING (CHILDREN LEADER'S RESOURCE - SUMMARY SHEET: WEEK 2

TITLE **Generous Jesus** (60 minute outline)

KEY SCRIPTURE John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 9:11
Mark 5:1-43

WELCOME ZONE **Activity 1:** Hand-print Wall Hanging 10 mins.
Children to say memory verse to leader
Add to display any pictures brought by children

PRAISE ZONE & OFFERING 5 mins.
DVD Clip(s): 'Praise the Lord' or 'Sing for Joy' or 'Treasure'

GOD ZONE **Activity 2:** Passing It On 8 mins.

FUN ZONE **Activity 3:** Snatch & Grab! 8 mins.

GOD ZONE Group Bible readings & discussion
Activity 4: Three Miracles in One Day! 15 mins.

ZONE IN How can I be generous?
Choose one of the magazine puzzles on pages 3, 4 or 5 to discuss together 5 mins.
Prayer

WORD ZONE 2 Corinthians 9:11
Introduce the magazine puzzle on page 6 for children to decipher at home 5 mins.
Give out 'Word Zone' rewards

BEYOND THE ZONE Introduce ideas in magazine -page 7 4 mins.
Give out recipe for Edible Treasure Boxes (download from web page)

For next week: Invite children to bring picture or item to add to creation display

ADDITIONAL GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR WEEK TWO:

- (1) Memory Verse Game: Invisible Writing Game
- (2) Colour in picture on page 8 of magazine (pin up on display)

PLAN AHEAD:

- FOR NEXT WEEK: Playdoh & modelling clay (see pages 31 & 32)
Prepare Parent's Letter #2 and party invitations (provided on final pages of this resource or available to download from web page)
- FOR WEEK 4: Make an Egg Carton Garden

GENEROUS LIVING (CHILDREN LEADER'S RESOURCE - SUMMARY SHEET: WEEK 3

TITLE **Generous Giving** (60 minute outline)

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6: 19-21, Luke 12: 13-21, Galatians 5: 22,23

WELCOME ZONE *(No separate welcome activity this week)* 5 mins.
Add to display any pictures brought by children
Invite children to find their own handprints on the wall hanging created last week
Children to say memory verse to leader
Have the 'Praise Zone' song playing in the background

FUN ZONE **Activity 1:** Treasure Hunt! 10 mins.
(Have rewards for winners)

GOD ZONE **Activity 2:** Stuff Bingo! 10 mins.
Activity 3: Rust & Stuff!
Bible Readings: Luke 12: 13-21, Matthew 6:19-21
Prayer

ZONE IN **Activity 4:** Creating Treasures (with Playdoh & DAS modelling clay) 20 mins.
Activity 5: Heavenly Treasure Crossword

WORD ZONE Luke 12:21 10 mins.
Activity 6: Monopoly Money Game
OR
Activity 7: Magazine puzzle - page 6

BEYOND THE ZONE Introduce ideas in magazine -page 7 5 mins.
Give out Parents Letter #2 & party Invitations

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK THREE:

'Giving Envelopes' (in preparation for next week)



GENEROUS LIVING (CHILDREN LEADER'S RESOURCE - SUMMARY SHEET: WEEK 4

<u>TITLE</u>	Generous Party Day!	(60 minute outline)
<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	Key verses: Acts 20:35, 2 Corinthians 9:7	
<u>WELCOME ZONE</u>	Welcome all visitors. Children to show guests the room displays Have praise music playing as everyone enters	5 mins.
	STORY: <i>Magic Glasses</i>	5 mins.
<u>FUN ZONE</u>	Activity 1: Passing on the thanks!	10 mins.
<u>GOD ZONE</u>	OBJECT LESSON: Honouring God with our tithes (Illus: Mud-cake)	5 mins.
<u>PRAISE ZONE</u>	DVD Clip: 'Praise the Lord' OR 'Sing for Joy' OR 'Treasure'	5 mins.
<u>GOD ZONE</u>	Activity 2: Happy vs. Grumpy Givers	15 mins.
	Bible readings – your choice of: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Luke 21:1-4, Acts 20:35.	
	OR	
	Activity 3: Stingy & Generous Egg-carton Gardens	
<u>ZONE IN</u> (as one large group)		15 mins.
	Activity 4: Compliments Game Bible Reading (to be read together): Acts 20:35	
	Activity 5: Introduction to Pledge Card, prayer, offering (Music / song suggestion while children write on pledge cards: 'Undivided Heart')	
<u>GIVE OUT:</u>	Party bags & week 4 kid's magazine. (Include flyer advertising next week's new theme)	

PARTY MORNING TEA!

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:
Painting Clay Treasures

WEEK ONE — GENEROUS GOD

God's provision and generosity through creation.



PURPOSE

For the children to explore and understand how God is generous and provides for us through creation over and over again—continuously.



SCRIPTURE VERSES

'God said, "Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you. I have given all the green plants to all the animals to eat. They will be food for every wild animal, every bird of the air and every small crawling animal." And it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day.'
Genesis 1:29–31 (ICB)

'Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks.'
1 Timothy 4:4

CONSIDER AND PREPARE

Read Genesis 1:1–31 (Creation)

In this first week of the teaching, we will:

- Wonder at God's amazing generosity in creation.
- Explore God's continual provision through creation.
- Think about ways we can give back to God for his generosity, such as looking after the environment, looking after people and animals, being a friend to God.

PLAN AHEAD

This week we suggest you take a group photo to include in the visual display celebrating God's creation.

If you choose to do this, ensure you first have a signed permission slip from each child's parents. (Refer to parent's letter #1 included at the end of this guide or simply download from the *Generous Living* website).

Arrange to print a large copy of the photo and add to your creation display in Week 2.



WELCOME ZONE

Have a leader ready to welcome each child as they enter the room and say that today we're discovering more about God's awesome creation and how generous he is to us! Invite them to explore the room!

- Have some music playing in the background of different sounds of nature (download from the internet or readily available on CD's).

Choose ONE of the following activities to set the scene and introduce the theme for this week:

1. Re-creating God's Creation
2. Sensory Stations

WELCOME - ACTIVITY ①

Re-creating God's Creation

PURPOSE:

Setting the overall theme for this series and making the room look inviting and exciting!

PREPARATION:

Refer to the 'Hall Set Up' ideas, pages 12-13. Depending on what you choose to do, involve the children in creating or adding to the different visual displays.

WELCOME - ACTIVITY ②

Sensory Stations

PURPOSE:

This activity allows children to explore creation using five key-senses. It helps the children to begin thinking about how very generous God is.

PREPARATION:

- Set up five tables or areas (or one large table if space is limited) that can be used as 'sensory stations'. These 'sensory stations' are to represent hearing, sight, smell, taste and touch.
- Have a leader to supervise each station, but allow the children the freedom to explore and chat with other children about the things on each table.

- Below is a list of all the items needed for the suggested sensory stations:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Tables
- Sea shells
- iPhone or iPod loaded with music of your choice (see 'Hearing' Activity)
- Computer with PowerPoint (see 'Sight' activity)
- Flowers (that have a scent)
- Foods that have a scent—strawberries, lemons, fresh herbs, fish etc.
- A platter of fruit, seeds and vegetables cut in bite size pieces
- Toothpicks
- Salt
- Water
- Bread
- Eggs (hard-boiled!)
- A bowl of sea shells
- If you are able to, arrange for a pet rabbit or guinea pig to visit for the children to pat.
- A bowl of water for the children to swish their hands through
- Rocks
- Plants (with various textures)
- Sand
- Tree bark
- Grass (if you able to, take the children outside and let them run with bare feet on the grass)
- Pack of hand wipes to clean hands afterward

Hearing:

Provide a 'hearing experience' for the children to explore.

- Sea shells—encourage children to hold the shell up to their ears to 'hear' the ocean.
- Provide sounds through an iPhone or iPod such as bird calls/singing, waterfalls, ocean, thunder, wind, rain, people laughing and chatting and animals.
- If you able to, take the children outside to listen for nature sounds.
- Have music playing as a symbol that God created music.

Sight:

Provide a 'seeing experience' for the children to explore.

Using a computer device, set up a PowerPoint of pictures/photos of what God has created. Waterfalls, lakes, oceans, waves, beaches, forests, animals, birds, dolphins, stars, planets, people, sunsets, snow and ice, clouds, flowers.

**Creation PowerPoint available to download from the Generous Living website.

Smell:

Provide a variety of smelling experiences for the children to explore.

- Flowers (that have a scent)
- Foods that have a scent—strawberries, lemons, fresh herbs, fish etc.
- Talk about the smells on a farm with the different animals.
- Talk about the smells of the rainforest etc.

Taste:

Provide a 'tasting experience' for the children to explore.

*****For this sensory station you will need to be aware of any allergies amongst your children and leaders.**

Provide the following food for the children to taste.
• A platter of fruit, seeds and vegetables cut in bite size pieces (provide toothpicks to encourage hygiene).

- Salt (to represent salt of the ocean)
- Water
- Bread
- Eggs

Touch:

Provide objects that the children can touch that God has created.

- A bowl of sea shells
- If you are able to, arrange for a pet rabbit or guinea pig to visit for the children to pat.
- A bowl of water for the children to swish their hands through.
- Rocks
- Plants
- Sand
- Tree bark
- Grass (if you able to, take the children outside and let them run with bare feet on the grass).



**PRAISE
ZONE**

Announce to all the children that you are now going to enter the 'Praise Zone'!

Ask the children to leave the activities they're doing and come to the designated area. Talk to them briefly about the welcome activity and then introduce the 'Praise Zone' as a time to worship God by singing songs of praise and thanks to him.

Introduce the song you've chosen and invite all the leaders and kids to join in singing and dancing. If you usually take up an offering, do this during the song. If not, introduce this after the song, as a way of thanking God for all he has given us.

SUGGESTIONS:

Praise the Lord!

Session 12, Song No. 12

OR

Sing for Joy!

Session 12, Song No. 14

**Both songs available from Generous Living website link to RightNow media Kids' worship resources. 'Seeds of Praise' Video Worship Series, Session 12, Song Nos. 12 & 14.



**FUN
ZONE**

FUN ZONE-ACTIVITY ③
Multiplication Game

AIM OF THE GAME:

To introduce the idea of 'multiplication'.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Small coloured plastic balls (available from Kmart or Big W for approx. \$10)

HOW TO PLAY:

- Ask the children to sit in a tight circle.
- Once they are in the circle throw one of the balls to a child and ask them to throw it around the circle as quickly as possible, keeping it off the ground.
- As the children continue to throw the ball gradually

add extra balls into the circle until there are lots of balls!

ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION:

Particularly appropriate for younger children:

Have children sit in a circle around a parachute, once they have each taken the handles, add a few balls to see which ones go highest. Keep on adding balls! You could also do this to music—choose music that has a fast beat then a slow beat. The children need to listen and jiggle the parachute accordingly!



RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Pumpkin seeds
- PowerPoint slides as outlined below. (**Available to download from the Generous Living website).

TEACHING POINTS:

“Did you notice that as the game was played, more and more balls were added into the circle? It was as if the balls kept multiplying! More and more balls just kept on coming!”

Genesis 1:11–12 tells us that God created plants that had their own seeds so that they could keep on reproducing over and over again!”

POWERPOINT SLIDES:

1. *‘God’s creation is designed to keep on reproducing and giving, and giving, and giving again!’*
“I wonder if you know what this could mean?”

2. *Picture of pumpkin seeds (have some actual seeds to show children as well).*

“I wonder if any of you have grown vegetables at home? Or planted fruit trees?”

Seeds come from inside the fruit or vegetable and if you dry these out and plant them in the right conditions they will grow into a new plant!

When God created the flowers, fruits and vegetables he made them with seeds so that those seeds can be planted to grow even more of the same flowers, fruits and vegetables!”

3. *Picture of trees in spring, summer, autumn, winter...spring.*

“I wonder what you think happens when we move into a new season, such as winter to spring?”

New life is born on the tree and the flowers that grow turn into new fruit. The ice from winter snow melts and turns into water that runs down our mountains into our river and lake system. Animals come out of their winter sleep and many new animal babies are born in spring. Birds build new nests and lay eggs.

The change of seasons shows us that creation keeps on going!”

4. *Picture of a baby animal and a human baby.*

“When God made animals and people he made them to be able to keep on reproducing through generations. God didn’t create the world in the beginning and stop there. He wanted the world to continuously reproduce and never stop ending. He was generous with his creation and wants everyone to enjoy his creation every day of our lives.”

5. *God is so very generous!*

GROUP PHOTO: *“Okay everyone, it’s time to celebrate us! We’re all a part of God’s most amazing creation!”*

INTRO. THE NEW KID’S MAGAZINES

- Show PowerPoint slide of Cobie and Charlie.

**A reminder that large banners and A2 posters of Cobie and Charlie are available to order from THQ.

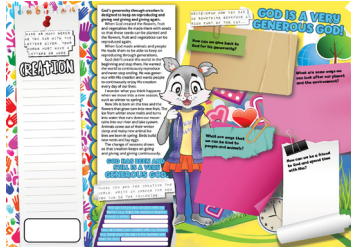
Excitedly introduce Cobie and Charlie and the new Generous Living kids’ magazines. Tell the children they will get a new magazine each week for the next four weeks, to use during the ‘Zone In’ time and then to take home and keep!

Briefly talk about the different sections in the magazine, then ask the children to go to their small groups with their group leader to receive their very first mag!



ZONE IN

'Zone In' leaders, give each child a magazine and ask them to turn to page 5 and think about the first two questions. (You may like to 'brainstorm' ideas first as a group. Children then write in their own answers (or favourite answers):



- How can I share God's creation with my family?
- How can I share God's creation with my friends?

Small Group Leader:

"God is a very generous God, he gave us all these things to enjoy, use and have fun with.

How would you like to have been there when God threw that first sparkle of light out into the blackness of the universe? How would you like to have been there when God threw the stars out into the dark night sky? It would have been like the best fireworks show ever!

Have you ever wondered why God took the trouble and time to create the world? After all, he knew what would happen in it—sin, hatred etc. Why do you think he still went ahead and did it?

Because he was generous, God created a whole universe full of people like us that he could love forever. He wants us to enjoy his creation, he wants us to enjoy his friendship and he wants to enjoy our friendship."

Discuss the following questions with the children and get them to fill in their answers in their mag.

"How can we give back to God for his generosity?" (e.g. Look after God's creation by looking after the planet and the environment, being kind to people and animals that he created, by being his friend and spending time with him.)

"Can you think of some ways we can look after our planet and the environment?" (e.g. Don't litter as rubbish could travel into the waterways. Recycle plastics and glass. Start a compost bin etc.)

"What are some ways that we can be kind to people and animals?" (e.g. Donate clothing, blankets and food to a homeless shelter. Spend time with a lonely person. Share with your friends. Feed and exercise your pet, etc.)

"How can we be a friend to God and spend time with him?"

(e.g. ask Jesus to be your friend, say sorry for the things we have done wrong, read stories in the Bible about Jesus, talk to him, talk to your friends and family about God).

Leader calls children back to the large group teaching area and announces that everyone is now going to enter the 'Word Zone'!



WORD ZONE

PowerPoint slide:

'Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks.'

1 Timothy 4:4

WORD ZONE-ACTIVITY ④

Gum Tree Words

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Gum leaves or leaf templates provided
- Permanent markers
- Textas/pens
- Bibles
- An interactive magazine for each child

PREPARATION:

- Pre-cut a large gum tree (trunk and branches) out of brown cardboard (or draw on class white-board).
- Cut out 18 leaves (templates provided on page 25) and write the words of 1 Timothy 4:4 on gum leaves with permanent markers (one word per leaf). Laminate and cut around each leaf.

WHAT TO DO:

Read the verse aloud together, then have the children arrange the gum leaves (with blu-tack) on the tree branches in order of the verse. Turn off the PowerPoint slide and take away a leaf one at a time until the children have memorized the verse.

ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION: Have the leaves already on the tree, all mixed up. Ask one child at a time to pick a leaf from the tree and then the children need to get in the right position in a line until the words are in the right order. Repeat the memory verse several times in different ways (eg. girls vs. boys, loud vs. soft voices, using actions, etc.).



PRAYER

Small group leaders to pray with their group to conclude the lesson.

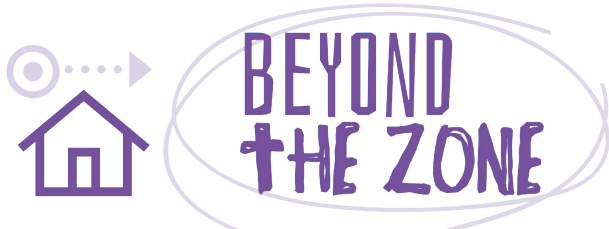
The children return to their small group tables and turn to page 6 in their magazine to complete a puzzle to help commit this verse to memory.



TO BRING NEXT WEEK

If you've chosen to create a visual display of 'God's generous creation', invite the children to bring a picture along next week to add to it.

Colour in page 8 of the magazine and bring it to show next week!



Ask the children to turn to page 7 of their magazine and introduce the 'Beyond the Zone' activities.



• "With your family, make time this week to enjoy the outdoors by going on a picnic or on a bike ride. Chat with your family about all the things that God has created and how generous he has been to us.

• Thinking about how God has been so generous with us with sharing his creation, start thinking about how we can be generous and give back to God.

• Put into practice one of your ideas for looking after our planet and environment. Share this idea with your family."

Encourage the children to complete their magazine at home during the week and memorize the Bible verse, ready to say it to a leader next week (to earn a reward!)

WEEK ONE-ADDITIONAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES:

BONUS GAME ①

The Taste Test

****You will need to be aware of any allergies amongst your children.**

AIM OF THE GAME:

Fun!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Blindfolds
- Large garbage bags with pre-cut hole
- Hand wipes
- Large table with chairs for each contestant
- Plastic forks and spoons
- A variety of foods (that may be hard to guess!)

Suggestions: Passionfruit yoghurt, Honey-Soy Chicken chips, fresh raspberries, Top-Deck chocolate (milk & white choc), Feta cheese, spinach leaves, a jar of baby food (eg. Pureed Pear).

HOW TO PLAY:

- Choose a number of contestants.
- Ask each contestant to choose a partner.
- Contestants wear a large garbage bag with a hole pre-cut at top of bag for their head.
- Blind-fold the contestants.
- Their partner feeds them a variety of yummy and not-so-yummy foods!
- The contestant who tastes and names the most foods correctly wins!

*****Be generous in applause!**

BONUS GAME ②

Starry Space Relay

A simple but fun relay race with each team member racing to add stars to the night sky!

MATERIALS NEEDED (per team):

- A large sheet of black cardboard
- A pack of foil stars (available from party shops) or (large) star stickers
- A timer/stop watch (optional)

HOW TO PLAY:

- Children form relay teams at one end of room.
- At the other end of the room, have a table set up

for each team with a sheet of black cardboard and tray of stars (and glue-sticks if necessary).

- When the leader yells "Go!" the first child from each team runs up and sticks one star onto the night sky, then races back, tags the next team member who then does the same and so on.
- The winning team is the one who has put the most stars in the night sky when the leader calls "Time!"

PRIZE: Star-burst lollies!

*******(Idea: Display the finished 'starry night' posters as part of God's creation).

BONUS ACTIVITY

Painting God's Creation

(Appropriate for younger children)

"With just paint and our fingers, we can make pictures of whatever we imagine. With just his voice, God created the world, the sky, the animals, you and me!"

Children can create paintings/finger paintings of God's awesome creation! Individual children could paint one 'day' of God's creation. Paintings can then form a room display under the heading, 'God's Generous Creation' (Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3).

The first day: God made the light, the day and the night...

The second day: ...the water and the sky

The third day: God made the land and all the plants that grow in the ground.

The fourth day: Sun, Moon, Stars—God made everything we see in the sky.

The fifth day: Fish, birds, animals—God made every creature that swims in the water and flies in the air and walks on the land.

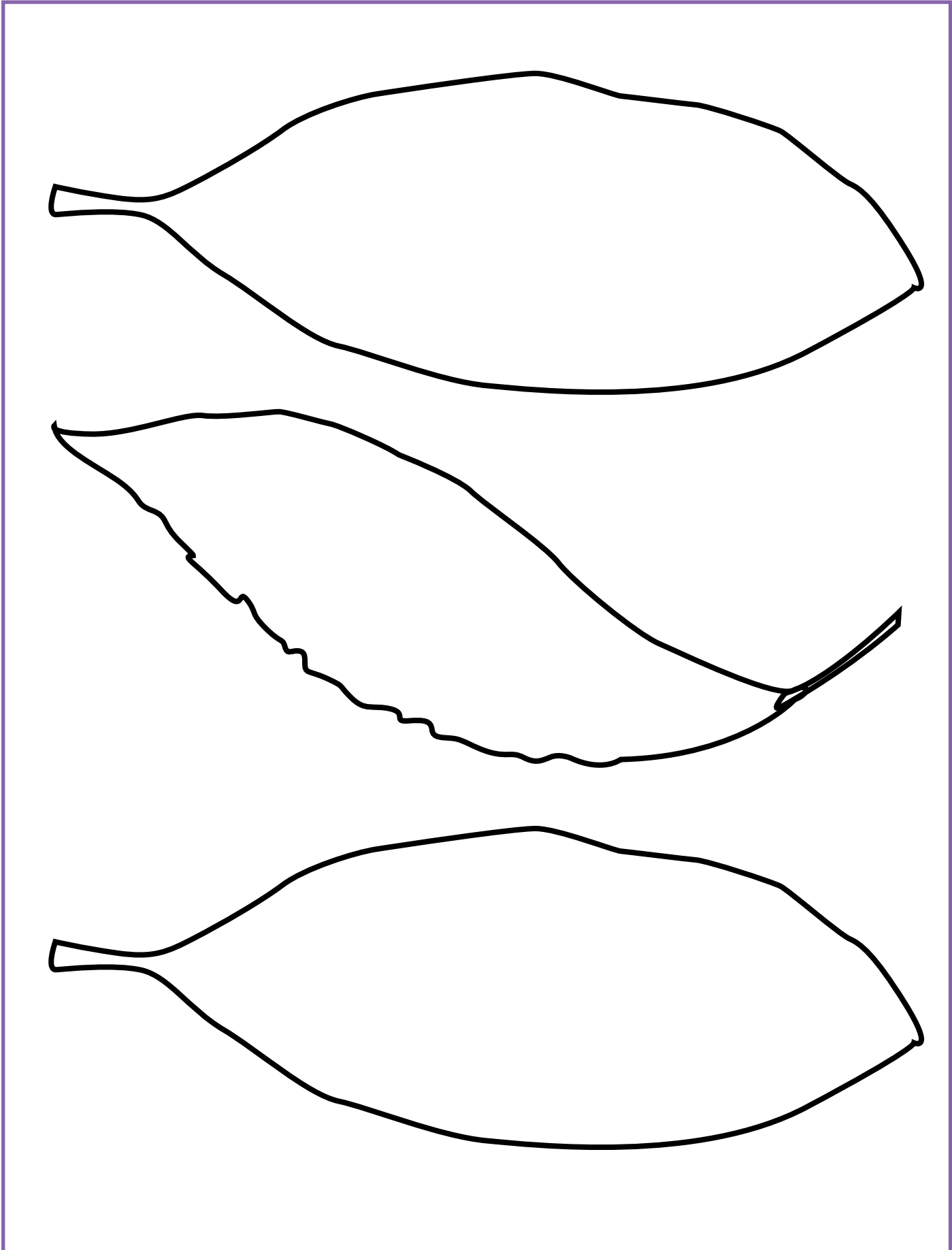
The sixth day: God made people!

The seventh day: Rest—God made a special day for us to rest and to remember all he has done.



GUM LEAF TEMPLATES:

for 'Word Zone' activity (page 22)—
Photocopy onto green card or paper and laminate.



WEEK TWO — GENEROUS JESUS

God was generous by giving us Jesus



PURPOSE

- For the children to understand how God was generous by giving us Jesus.
- To learn how Jesus was generous with his time and his abilities.



SCRIPTURE VERSES

'For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.' John 3:16 (ICB)

'Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.' 2 Corinthians 9:11 (NLT)

CONSIDER AND PREPARE

Read: Mark 5:1–43 (Three miracles in one day)

In this second week of the teaching, we focus on God's greatest gift—Jesus.

The lesson has 2 focal points:

- Firstly, God gives Jesus all he needs to be generous with others.
- Secondly, Jesus gives himself in service to others.

The teaching will concentrate on Jesus' earthly ministry—his encounters with his disciples, those he met, helped and healed. We will find that Jesus made time for people and could be generous on every occasion. What God gave to Jesus, he was then able to pass onto others. God encourages this same generosity in us.

PLAN AHEAD

Next week DAS modelling clay and/or playdoh is used for one of the Zone In activities. Refer to page 31–32 for information on DAS clay and the recipe for playdoh.



WELCOME ZONE

- Have one of the 'Praise Zone' songs playing in the background.
- As the children arrive, invite them to have a look around the room to discover what else has been added to the 'God's generous creation' display—including the group photo. If they've brought anything to add to the different displays, (pictures etc.) help them to do so.
- If children have brought back their colouring in sheet (page 8 of last week's magazine) you may like to display them.
- Also use this time for the children to tell their 'Zone In' leader the memory verse from last week. If they know it, the leader writes their names up on a special section of the white-board, ready for their reward at the end of this week's lesson!

WELCOME-ACTIVITY ①

Create a handprint wall hanging

PURPOSE:

Celebrating that we're each a unique part of God's greatest creation!

PREPARATION:

Set up a large table with a long piece of coloured material or thick paper/card. Set up paints and brushes. Have a wash bowl nearby with paper towels for washing hands afterward. Leaders to supervise.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Large table
- Large piece of brightly coloured material (eg. Cotton). Size appropriate for a wall hanging—or large piece of thick paper/coloured card
- (Aluminium poster or banner hangers are available to purchase from the Generous Living team at THQ).
- Range of bright coloured paints
- Paint brushes
- Wash basin with soapy water
- Paper towels to dry hands
- Permanent marker

As children arrive, paint the inside of their hands and ask them to (carefully) put their hands down on the large piece of material or cardboard. After they've washed their hands, get them to write their name next to their hand-prints with a permanent marker.



PRAISE ZONE

Choose a song used in Week 1 or introduce this new song:

Treasure

Session 6, Song No. 6

**Available from Generous Living Website link to RightNow media Kids Worship resources. "Seeds of Purpose" Video Worship Series, Session # 6, Song No. 6



GOD ZONE

GOD ZONE-ACTIVITY ②

Passing it on

PURPOSE:

To introduce the theme of passing things onto others.

PREPARATION:

Set up a table with an assortment of second-hand items that have come to you from another family member/sibling or friend. Include in the collection clothes, toys, teddy bears, music (records/cd's)—anything that you can use to illustrate the concept of something being 'passed down the line'.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Second hand items—clothes, toys, teddy bears, records/cd's etc.
- Small hand held mirrors to pass around (optional)

"Who has something at home that once belonged to someone else?"

You might have a toy or a dress or even a special

plate that has come from another member of your family. Sometimes we call these types of things “hand-me-downs”. Let’s have a look at some of this collection on the table.”

(Pass the items around)

Have a discussion as you pass the items around:

- “Who likes to give things away for others to enjoy after they no longer can use them?”
- Has anyone given clothes or toys to a little brother, sister or cousin?
- Is there anything in your house that mum or dad have promised to pass on to you when you are older?

It’s great to pass stuff on. This is part of being generous. Some of the things we have we don’t use any more—it doesn’t fit us, or we get too old to play with it, and it’s time for someone else to enjoy it the way we have. It’s nice to know that some things might get passed onto us too!”

TEACHING POINTS:

God passed his greatest treasure on.

“Who remembers all the things God has made?

‘The world, stars, animals. People were God’s greatest creation! We’re unique!’ (Refer to handprints).

****OPTIONAL IDEA:** Hand out small mirrors to pass around, asking children to look at their faces—the colour of their eyes, their hair...ask each child to think about what makes them unique! (Use encouraging words to ensure that this is a very positive experience for each child).

“God’s greatest gift to us is Jesus! God sent Jesus into our world to show us how much he loves us and to teach us how to pass on his love to others.

- What do you think Jesus did when he lived on the Earth?
- What things do you think he passed on?

In a few minutes we are going to hear a story of how Jesus could pass on his love—and do awesome miracles, even when so many people crowded around him and wanted to talk to him. But first it’s time to play a game!”



FUN
ZONE



FUN ZONE - ACTIVITY ③

Continuous Snatch and Grab!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A large number of plastic “ball pit” balls
- 5 hula hoops (one for 4 teams plus one for home base)

AIM OF THE GAME:

To show that generosity can go on and on and on!

HOW TO PLAY:

- Place ONE hula hoop in the centre of a large room with ALL of the balls inside it (home base).
- Divide the children into teams (up to four teams) and send them off to corners of the room with a hula hoop each.
- On the leader’s “GO” each team starts to grab balls from the main hula hoop (home base) and take them (one at a time) back to their own hula hoop.
- When no balls remain at home base, teams may start snatching balls from each other’s hula hoops.
- The ‘winner’ of the game is the team that has the most balls in their hula hoop after three minutes are up. HOWEVER, this game can go on and on! Often you simply declare the game over and find that there is NO WINNER.

TEACHING POINTS:

- After the game is over say, “did you notice that as soon as your hoop was full of balls someone came and took from it to fill theirs? And as soon as your hoop was empty, very soon, it was almost full again?”
- This is what generosity is like—it can go on and on and on. Remember how we have been learning about God’s love and generosity? It never runs out. Just when you think God’s love could possibly have run out, it starts all over again!
- Imagine if we could have that kind of generosity.

Now it’s time to hear the story of three amazing miracles Jesus did, all in the same day!”



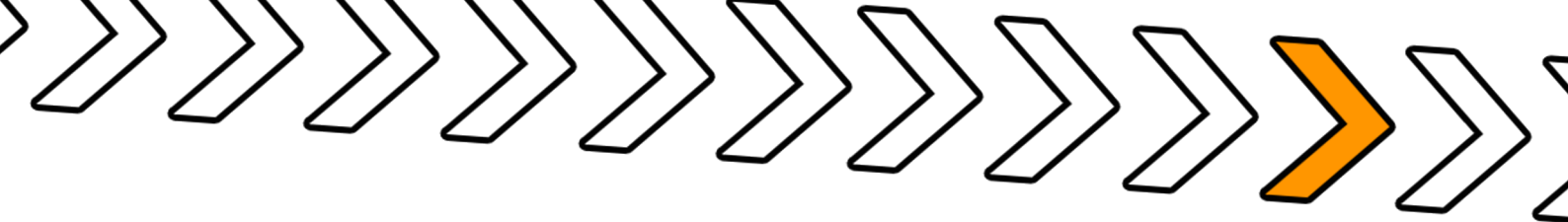
READ: Mark 5:1–43, as below, in the three sections. Ask three different leaders to do one reading each.

The following summarized version is taken from the International Children’s Bible, which is the more appropriate translation for children.

(1) MARK 5: 1–20

Jesus and his followers went across the lake to a place called Gerasene. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man came to him. This man, who lived in the caves, had an evil spirit living in him, which controlled him and made him hurt himself. No-one could go near him. Day and night he would wander around the caves and on the hills, screaming and cutting himself with stones.

While Jesus was still far away, the man saw him. He ran to Jesus and knelt down before him. Jesus



said to the man, "You evil spirit, come out of that man!" But the man shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the most high God? I beg you, promise God that you will not punish me!"

Then Jesus asked the man, "What is your name?" The man answered, "My name is Legion, because I have many spirits in me." A large herd of pigs was eating on a hill near there. The evil spirits begged Jesus, "Send us to the pigs. Let us go into them." So Jesus let them do this. Then the herd of pigs rushed down the hill into the lake and were drowned.

The man Jesus helped was completely well again. Jesus said to him: "Go home to your family and friends. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you." So the man left and told the people in the Ten Towns about the great things Jesus had done for him. All the people were amazed!"

(2) MARK 5:21-34

"Jesus went in the boat back to the other side of the lake. Lots of people gathered around him. A man named Jairus saw Jesus and bowed before him.

He begged Jesus again and again to help his little daughter who was very sick and dying. So Jesus went with Jairus and many people followed them. They were pushing very close around Jesus.

A woman was there who had been bleeding for the past 12 years. She had suffered very much. Many doctors had tried to help her. She had spent all the money she had, but she was not improving. She was getting worse.

When the woman heard about Jesus, she followed him with the people and touched his coat. She thought, "If I can even touch his coat, that will be enough to heal me." When she touched his coat, her bleeding stopped. She could feel in her body that she was healed.

At once Jesus felt power go out from him. So he stopped and turned around. Then he asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

The followers said, "There are so many people pushing against you! And you ask, 'Who touched me?'" But Jesus continued looking around to see who had touched him. The woman knew that she was healed. So she came and bowed at Jesus' feet. Shaking with fear, she told him the whole story.

Jesus said to the woman, "Dear woman, you are made well because you believed in me. Go in peace. You will have no more suffering."

(3) MARK 5:35-43

"Jesus was still speaking to the woman he had healed, when some men came from Jairus' home. The men said, "Your daughter is dead. There is now no need to bother the teacher". But Jesus paid no attention to what the men said. He said to Jairus "Don't be afraid; only believe".

When Jesus arrived at the house lots of people

were crying because the little girl had died. But Jesus said to the people, "Why are you crying and making so much noise? This child is not dead. She is only asleep". But they only laughed at Jesus. He told all the people to leave. Then he went into the room where the child was. He took the child's father and mother and Peter, James and John with him into the room. Then he took hold of the girl's hand and said to her, "Little girl, stand up!" The girl stood right up and began walking. (She was 12 years old.) The father and mother and the followers were amazed! Then he told her parents to give her some food to eat."

GOD ZONE - ACTIVITY ④

Three miracles in one day!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 3 large sheets of paper (eg. butcher paper)/ whiteboard
- Marker pens

PURPOSE:

To invite the children to think about the generous love, compassion and help Jesus gave to people.

- Choose one of the miracles to focus on all together in a larger group—use whiteboard to write up children's responses.

OR

- Choose two or all three miracles, allocating a different one to each 'Zone In' group. Give each group a piece of large paper with the title of one of the miracles, as outlined below:

SHEET ONE: Group 1 Mark 5: 1-20
Jesus casts out an evil spirit.

**This reading is more suitable for older children. Focus on the fact that Jesus made this man well again.

SHEET TWO: Group 2 Mark 5:21-34
Jesus heals a sick lady

SHEET THREE: Group 3 Mark 5:35-43
Jesus heals a dying girl

Ask the children to write or draw pictures of what Jesus had to do to make these miracles happen (you may get some creative responses!) Focus on the help Jesus gave each of these people.

"How was Jesus generous towards these people who needed his help that day?"

(Take time to go through the children's responses

together about some of the things Jesus may have done. Eg. Jesus talked with the people, he prayed, he put his (healing) hands on people, he went into the boat, etc.).

“Jesus had a busy day! He did three miracles in one day! Jesus started the day by getting into a boat and crossing the lake to heal a man. He ended the day amongst a huge crowd, on his way to see a child—just like you—who needed to be healed.

Do you think Jesus was tired? Remember in our game how we had to keep on refilling and refilling? Sometimes, our energy runs out - and we don't feel like being good/generous or doing the right thing.

I wonder what it would be like to have a never ending supply of generosity? Or love?

Do you think we should have this kind of generosity and love in our own lives? What would it be like?

Why should we be generous? (example of Jesus/in obedience to)

How can we be generous?” (with the help of Jesus/ just as Jesus was helped by God's presence)

****PowerPoint slides:**

(1) Jesus can be GENEROUS ALL DAY because God gave him everything he needed to be generous.

Let's read this verse from the Bible together:

(2) “All of God lives fully in Christ (even when Christ was on Earth).” Colossians 2:9

This helps us understand that Jesus can be generous because God lives in Jesus.

There was a man called Paul. He was an apostle—a person who starts the church in a new place. Paul was talking to the new churches about how they can share their money and resources with each other and he reminds them that because God has given to them, they can also be “generous on every occasion”.

This is a lesson they had heard about from Jesus' example. The lesson is for us too—if God is generous, Jesus is generous, so you and I can each be generous too. God doesn't expect us to be doing miracles all day but he really wants us to trust him and rely on him—to “plug into” him, to get our source of generosity from him. We can't do it on our own. Our generosity comes from God.



Ask the children to go to their 'Zone In' groups. Give out the Week 2 kids' magazine and guide them through ONE of the following activities:

- Page 3: draw something they could pass onto others.
- Page 4: find the following prompts: This week...
 - I can think of things I can pass down.
 - I can do a generous act for someone.
 - I can make a generous all day plan.
- Page 5: write or draw how you can do something generous at each part of the day...(morning/afternoon/night).



Encourage the children to decipher the Bible verse, on page 6 of their magazines, at home this week.



****PowerPoint for everyone to read together.**

“Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.”
2 Corinthians 9:11

****ADDITIONAL GAME:** A memory verse game is provided at the end of this lesson if time permits.



BEYOND THE ZONE

Ask the children to check out the activities on page 7 to do during the week with their families.

- *“Work with your parents on passing things down. Have a chat about things you could clean out—old clothes and toys you could take to Salvos Stores or pass onto family or friends”.*



GIVE OUT

- > Recipe for Edible Treasure Boxes
- > A reward to each child who memorised last week’s Bible verse.

PLAN AHEAD

PREPARATION FOR WEEK 3:

DAS modelling clay and/or playdoh is used for one of the ‘Zone In’ activities next week.

- **DAS Modelling Clay:** This clay has a smooth texture. It air dries and hardens in 24 hours. Once dry it can be decorated with poster or acrylic paints and varnishes. It is non-toxic and safe. It is available in white or terracotta colour, online from Educational Suppliers, at Craft Shops or at Officeworks. (Approx. \$16 for 1 kg or \$10 for 500g).
- **Playdoh:** see recipe—page 32.

WEEK TWO-ADDITIONAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES:

BONUS GAME ① Invisible writing

AIM OF THE GAME:

Memory Verse Activity.

MATERIALS NEEDED (per team):

- Table
- White crayon or candle (wax)
- Large tray
- White cardboard
- Food colouring in disposable container
- Paint brush
- 'Apron' (garbage bag with hole cut at top for head)

PREPERATION:

Write the memory verse with a white crayon (or wax), on white cardboard. Cut the card into three strips. Do this again for however many 'Zone In' groups/teams you have.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Place each set of strips (ie. one full memory verse) on a tray, with a paint brush, an 'apron' and a (disposable) plastic container that has food colouring inside.
- On "go" one child from each group collects a tray and very carefully takes it back to group table. Another child puts the apron on and paints over the cardboard with the food colouring. The words will then 'magically' appear as the food colouring adheres to the crayon.
- The group then works out the right order of each strip of paper and learns the memory verse.
- The first group to run and say it correctly to the main leader wins!

RECIPE ①

EDIBLE TREASURE BOXES

INGREDIENTS:

- You will need 5 rectangular sweet biscuits (milk coffee biscuits)
- ½ cup icing sugar
- Yellow food colouring
- Lollies, jubes, chocolate coins

METHOD:

1. Cut one of the biscuits in half
2. Mix up two teaspoons of warm water and two or three drops of yellow food colouring. Mix together to form a thick but spreadable paste (add more water if necessary).
3. Ice three of the whole biscuits and the two half biscuits (sides and lid of treasure chest) and decorate with lollies (jewels). Allow icing to dry.
4. Ice the top of the remaining biscuit and then place two of the whole biscuits and the two half biscuits around the edge of the base. Use the icing to paste the sides together to form a rectangular chest. Allow icing to dry.

**Hint: place small objects against the side of the chest to hold them in place while they dry.

5. Fill the treasure chest with jubes (jewels) and chocolate coins and add the lid. Yum!

RECIPE ② PLAYDOH

INGREDIENTS:

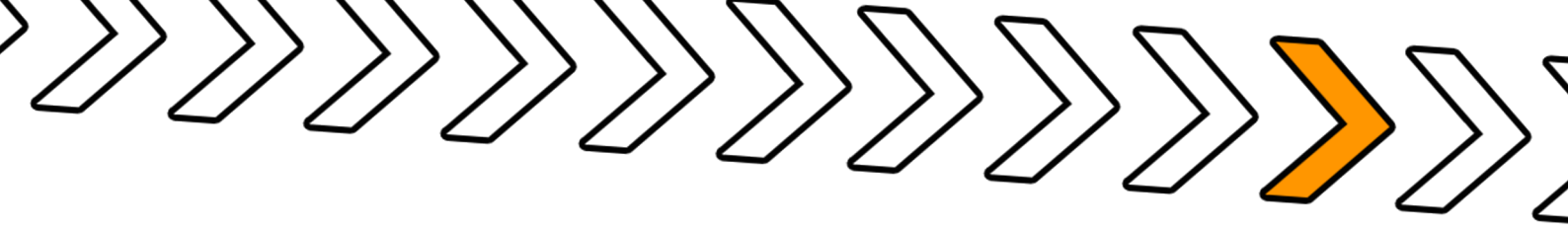
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 cup plain flour
- 2 tbs cream of tartar
- 1 cup water
- 1 tbs oil
- 3 drops liquid food colouring

METHOD:

1. Mix all ingredients together in a medium sized saucepan.
2. Stir over heat with a wooden spoon until dough is pliable.
3. Allow to cool and then store in a well-sealed plastic bag or container.

(Place playdoh in the fridge in hot weather. If it becomes too hard to use, put in micro-wave for a minute or two, to soften).

**This recipe can be made the week before—if kept in an air-tight container. You may like to make several batches of different colours.



WEEK THREE — GENEROUS GIVING

Treasures in Heaven.



SCRIPTURE VERSE

'Don't store up treasures on Earth! Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, store up your treasures in Heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will always be where your treasure is.'

Matthew 6:19–21 (CEV)

CONSIDER AND PREPARE

READ:

Luke 12: 13–21 (The Rich Young Ruler)
Matthew 6:19–23 (Treasures in Heaven)
Galatians 5:22, 23 (Spiritual treasure)

These scriptures reinforce the importance of putting our time and effort into eternal things such as our relationship with God, rather than building up a store of 'things' that don't last.

Jesus says that if we are primarily concerned about our 'treasures' on Earth, we are not focused on God and the life he wants us to lead. He teaches the principle "your heart is where your treasure is".

What you value most is what you live for! What we give and the way in which we give reflects our hearts. Jesus is not concerned about the size of your wallet—he is concerned about the size of your heart. God wants us to truly understand that what really matters in life is our relationship with him, and with others.

PURPOSE

- For the children to explore and understand that Jesus teaches "our heart is where our treasure is".
- For the children to understand that it is more important to focus our time and energy on our relationship with God, rather than on things.

PLAN AHEAD

If you choose to do the "Stingy and Generous Egg-heads" activity in week 4, prepare a sample one this week, to allow time to 'grow'. Refer instructions on page 49.



WELCOME ZONE

**Have the 'parent's letter #2' ready to hand out to children at the end of lesson. This is provided at the end of this leader's guide to photocopy, or download from the website and print.

- As the children arrive have the 'Praise Zone' song used last week playing in the background.
- Invite the children to have a look at the 'hand-prints banner' and find their own hand prints.
- Use this time for the children to tell their 'Zone In' leader the memory verse from last week. If they know it, the leader writes their names up on a special section of the white-board ready for their reward at the end of this week's lesson!
- Put up any colouring pages the children have brought back.



FUN ZONE

👍 FUN ZONE-ACTIVITY 1

Treasure Hunt!

AIM OF THE GAME:

To help the children understand that heavenly treasures are more precious than earthly treasures.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Enough items to hide. This will depend on the number of children that you have and how many items you would like them to find each.
- **Photocopy onto card and cut out: coins, crosses and hearts (see attached templates on pages 41 & 42).
- **Coins are worth 1 point each, crosses are worth 10 points each and hearts are worth 5 points each.

HOW TO PLAY:

- You will need to hide enough coins, crosses and hearts around the room to ensure that all children will be able to participate fully.

**To help the children understand that heavenly treasures are more precious, hide more of the coins

and less of the crosses and hearts.

- Tell the children: *"Today we are going to have a treasure hunt!*
- *There are lots of pieces of treasure hidden around the room for you to find. Each treasure is worth a different amount of points.*
- *The coins that are hidden are worth 1 point each, the hearts that are hidden are worth 5 points each and the crosses that are hidden are worth 10 points each."* (show the children a sample of what each of the items looks like).
- *"The aim of this treasure hunt is to collect the most amount of points."*
- Give them three minutes for the hunt. When time is up, add everyone's points up and congratulate the child with the most points.

ALTERNATIVE IDEA:

Hide chocolate coins instead of cardboard coins.

If using alternative idea, at the end of the game, ask the children:

"I wonder if you wanted to find more choc coins than hearts and crosses, even though the coins were each worth only one point? They might be yummy but once you eat them, they're gone - and you don't win!

Sometimes we just want things that will make us happy NOW! Sometimes we forget that if we do what's right and more important, we will receive a better reward later.

Did you know that Jesus actually promises us rewards in heaven? How cool is that! But right now, I have a reward for the (top three) people who chose the better thing to do—and collected the most crosses!"

- Hand out 'REWARDS' to winners.



GOD ZONE

**'God Zone' follows on immediately after playing the 'Treasure Hunt Game'. Two activities are suggested. These activities may best be done as one large group, with one main leader. All the children can either be seated on the floor with their magazines and pens, or at their 'Zone In' tables/area (with 'Zone In' leaders supervising).

TEACHING POINTS:

"I wonder what your plan was at the start of the hunt. Did you just go and see what you could find

or were you looking carefully for the treasure that had the most points on it?

You might have noticed that there were more coins and not as many hearts and even less crosses. The coins represent all the things that we like to buy or have or get.

I wonder what some of those things might be?

The hearts and crosses represent the things that connect us to God and the benefits from being friends with him. The hearts and crosses had a higher point value because they are more valuable.

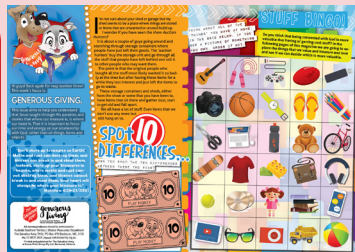
I wonder why you might think that being connected with God is more valuable than having or getting cool stuff?

♥ GOD ZONE-ACTIVITY ②

STUFF BINGO

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Week 3 kid's mags
- Pens/textas (for each child)
- Timer (optional!)



HOW TO PLAY:

“Okay kids, now it's time to do a quick activity in your new kid's mag! It's on page 3 and is called “Stuff Bingo!” You need to cross out the squares of the items you own.”

(Show the children the correct game to go to on page 3 of their interactive magazine. The items include toys, books, games, DVD's, clothes, sports equipment, computers etc.)

When “time's up” ask:

“Who crossed out everything on their page? Wow! What a lot of stuff we each have!

Today we're going to think a bit more about the things that we value and treasure and love—and see if we can decide which is more valuable!”

♥ GOD ZONE-ACTIVITY ③

RUST & STUFF

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Old items that have started to rust to show the children.
- Photos of junk room or garage filled with junk!
- Bible readings (as below)
- Butchers paper/whiteboard

“Have you ever been exploring in an old shed or garage? What sorts of things did you, or might you find, if you were exploring in there?”

(Allow time for responses).

“I'm not sure about your shed or garage but my shed seems to be a place where things are stored or items that are unwanted or unused build up!”

**Just for fun, SHOW PHOTOS of your own—or one of the other leader's—messy garages!

“Have you watched the show on TV called Auction Hunters? It's about a couple of guys going around and searching through storage containers where people have just left their goods.

The auction hunters buy the storage unit and go through all the stuff that people have left behind and sell it to other people who may want it. The point is that the original people who bought all the stuff most likely wanted it so badly at the time, but after having these items for a while they lost interest and just left the stuff there to go to waste.

The storage containers and sheds have items that sit there and gather dust, start to get old and fall apart, and the items that are made from metal start to rust!

Have you ever seen an item that is starting to rust?”

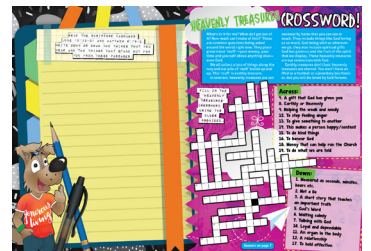
**Show items you have brought that are beginning to rust.

“Lots of these items that end up in a shed or garage or junk room are items that are not used anymore. Sometimes you just update and get a newer model, or buy something that you think is better and add it to your ‘stuff’ and put the old one away in the shed.

I think that we all have a lot of stuff—even stuff that we don't use any more but still hang on to! Let's have a look at the Bible and see what it says to us about collecting a lot of ‘stuff’.”

BIBLE READINGS

Tell the children that as you read you want them to listen carefully for the things they think are important, because they will then write or draw them in their magazine.



READ:

Luke 12:13–21 (NLT)
“The parable of the Rich Fool”

Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate

with me.” Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and enjoy life!”’

But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’

Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.

READ:

Matthew 6:19–21 (ICB)

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.

“Okay everyone, now turn to page 4 and write down or draw what you think was important in those readings.”

Allow children to share what they have drawn/ written.

TEACHING POINTS:

“I wonder what you think earthly treasure is?”

“I wonder what you think heavenly treasure looks like/ how would you describe it?”

“After talking about and looking at all the stuff we have, I wonder why you think Jesus has told this story?”

“Earthly Treasures are things that we have already been talking about—our ‘stuff’. We collect lots of things along the way and our pile of ‘stuff’ builds up and up. It is objects and items that people want to get more and more of, even if sometimes, like the stuff sitting in the shed going rusty, we can’t use them!

Heavenly treasures are not necessarily items that you can see or touch. They include things like God loving us so much, God being with us wherever we go, they also include spiritual gifts God has given us and the ‘fruit of the spirit’—things like: patience, kindness...who can think of some of others? “

(List/write up the list found in Galatians 5:22–23)

“These heavenly treasures and our connection with God are things that last forever! You won’t have an iPod or a football or a jewellery box forever, but you will be loved by God forever!”



ZONE IN-ACTIVITY ④ CREATING TREASURES!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Whiteboard/Butcher’s paper
- Markers
- Playdoh
- DAS White modelling clay (optional)
- Tables or round plastic table-cloths taped to floor as ‘mats’.
- Plastic plates for each child to put their Play-doh or clay on.
- Small container for each child to put their ‘treasure’ in (eg. shoe-box or noodle box)
- Powerpoint: 1) Matthew 6:19(a)
2) Matthew 6:20,21

WHAT TO DO:

- Use whiteboard or two pieces of butcher’s paper with the headings “Earthly Treasure” and “Heavenly Treasure”. Get the children to brainstorm briefly for different things they think could go under each heading.
- Ask the children to go to the designated area (‘Zone In’ tables or sit around on plastic ‘mats’ on the floor).
- Give each child a small amount of playdoh, saying: ‘Use the playdoh to make one thing that we have spoken about today that represents an earthly treasure or ‘stuff’. It could be something from the first list we just made, or from the stuff you circled in your magazine earlier, or something different you can think of!’
- When finished creating their play-doh treasure, ask the children to read the verse out loud together. Then say: ‘Ok everyone! Squash your earthly treasure!’
- If you’ve bought DAS modelling clay, give this out now.

SAY:

- “This time I want you to make something that represents a heavenly treasure. This might be

from the second list we made, or from other things we've talked about."

- When the children have finished making their 'treasures' with clay, read the verses together.

SAY:

- "We're going to keep the item as it is now, to remind us that putting our time into our relationship with God is something that will last—it is a heavenly treasure."

SUGGESTION:

Children can either take home their clay creations (in a shoe-box or noodle box) or leave them with you for this week to air dry (24 hours min.) and paint as an additional activity next week.

- "Over the past few weeks, we've been exploring and talking about how God is generous to us through his creation and how God is generous to us by giving us Jesus.
- Today we have been talking about how earthly treasures don't last, but heavenly treasures are forever!
- I wonder what we can give back to God to say thank you? (Ask children for their ideas, then suggest the following):
 - Our hearts—what does this mean? (Guide answers).
 - Our time—spending time with God getting to know him.
 - Our talents—offer God the skills and talents that he gave us. (Give examples)
 - Our offering—money that can help run his Church and for the Church to use to help people less fortunate than ourselves.
- God gives us so much and we want to give back to him!"

WORD ZONE-ACTIVITY ⑥

MEMORY VERSE GAME
(optional—if time permits)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Monopoly or play money (see templates pg 43). Play money is also available from Kmart

WHAT TO DO:

- Write the words of the verse on the back of the play money and have the children arrange the money in order of the verse.
- Then take away a note one at a time until the children have memorised the verse.
- Give each child a 'note' and ask them to write on the back of the play money the verse from Luke 12:21. They can take the money home as a reminder of the verse.

WORD ZONE-ACTIVITY ⑦

MEMORY VERSE PUZZLE
(optional—if time permits)

WHAT TO DO:

- Children go to page 6 of this week's kid's magazine to find a code puzzle for this scripture verse.



**Remind children to learn the memory verse during the week for a reward.

ZONE IN-ACTIVITY ⑤

HEAVENLY TREASURES
CROSSWORD

- See page 5 of kids magazine.



PRAYER

Pray together, thanking God that his love lasts forever!



WORD ZONE

'Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.'

Luke 12:21

ANNOUNCE

Excitedly announce that next week everyone's invited to a 'Generosity Party!'

- Give out invitations to each of the children and encourage them to invite their family along too!
- Give a reward to each child who memorized last week's Bible verse.
- Give out Parents Letter #2 for children to pass on to parents included at the end of this leader's guide.



BEYOND THE ZONE

Refer page 7 of the kid's magazine:

- Think about what you can give to God. Perhaps you would like to ask Jesus to be the most important person in your life; your best friend. Think about ways that you can offer your skills and talents to God. If you earn any pocket money, think about giving some of that money to help people learn about God's love.



WEEK THREE-ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:

BONUS ACTIVITY GIVING ENVELOPES

***This activity can be used if Children's Generous Living Envelopes have not been previously ordered (with THQ).*

PURPOSE:

For each child to decorate an envelope to place their offering in and bring it along next week during the special offering time (when Pledge cards are also given out).

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible verse: 'God loves the person who gives happily'—2 Corinthians 9:7
- Bibles for children to look up verse, or verse can be pre-printed on labels or written on white-board/power-point slide for children to copy
- White or assorted colourful envelopes—one per child
- Textas, coloured pencils, pens
- Assortment of small stickers
- Glitter, glue

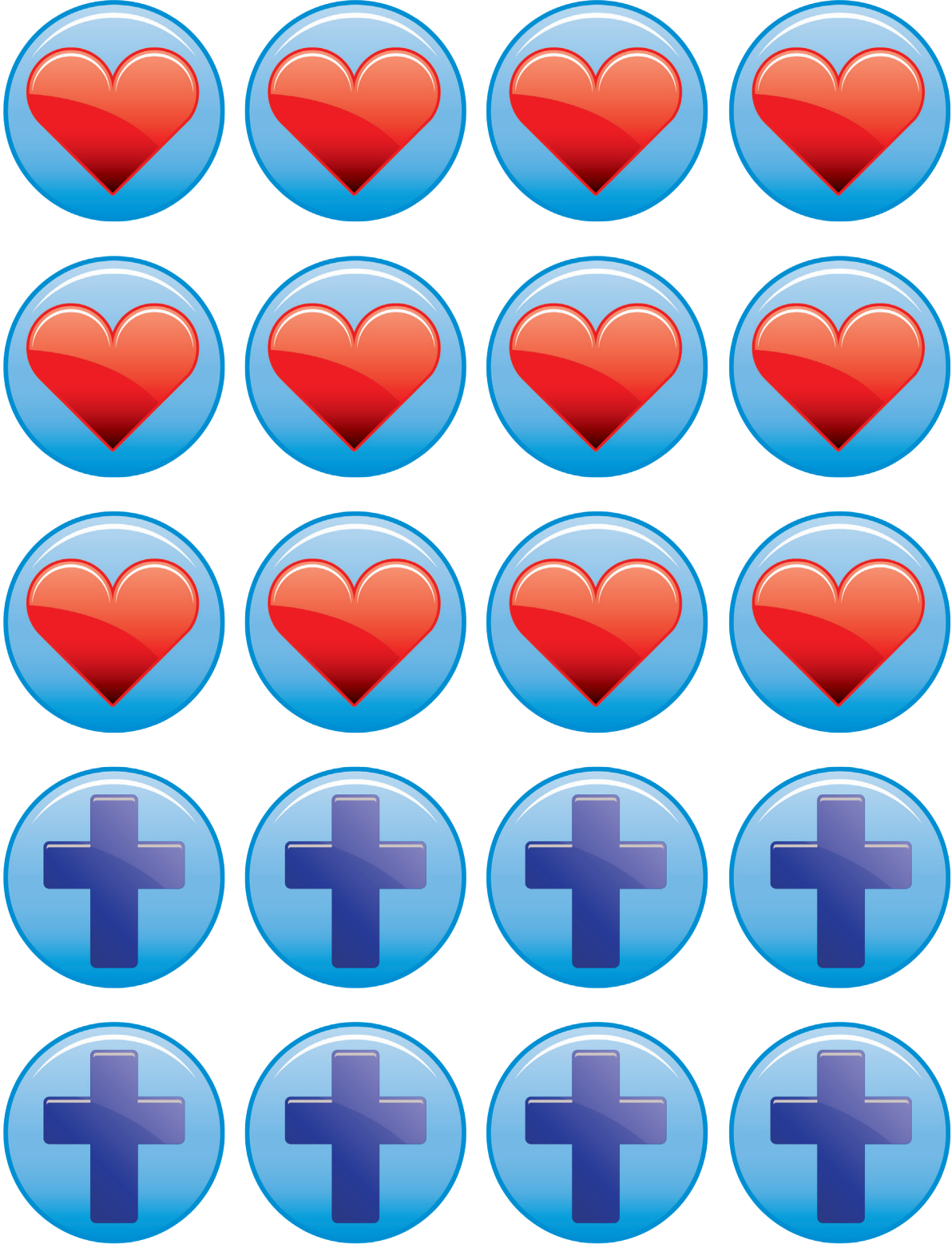
WHAT TO DO:

- Allow children to choose a coloured envelope. Ask them to write the Bible verse on the front of the envelope (or add a pre-printed label) and decorate. Ask children to take home their envelope and put a coin offering in it to bring back next week.



TEMPLATES

for 'Fun Zone' activity (page 35)—
Photocopy onto card and cut out individual tokens.



TEMPLATES

for 'Fun Zone' activity (page 35)—
Photocopy onto card and cut out individual tokens.



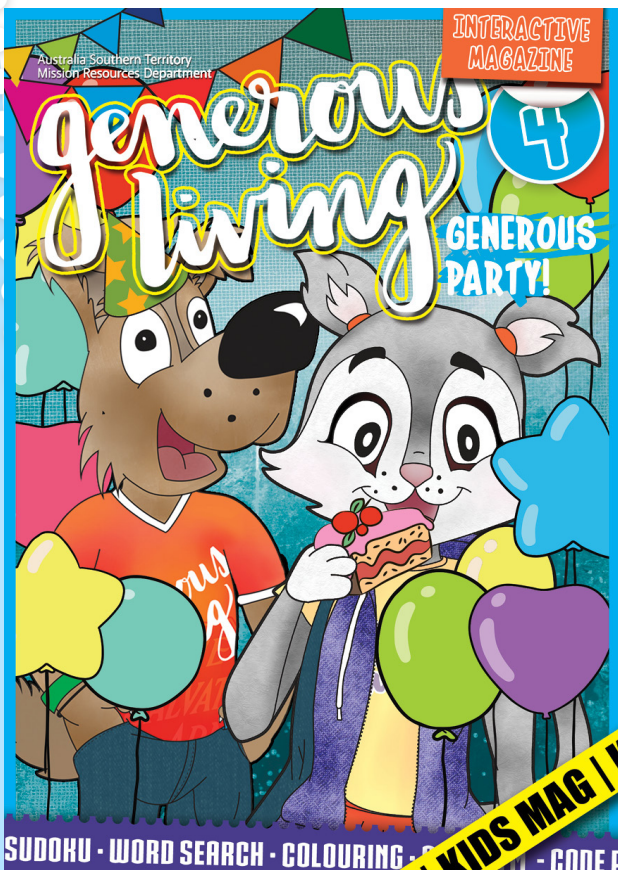
TEMPLATES

for 'Word Zone' activity (page 38)—
Photocopy onto card and cut out individual notes.



WEEK FOUR – GENEROUS PARTY

Our response to Jesus.



SCRIPTURE VERSE

'Keep remembering that Jesus said, "You're far happier giving than getting."

Acts 20:35 (MSG)

CONSIDER AND PREPARE

READ:

2 Corinthians 8:1–15,
2 Corinthians 9:7–10
Luke 21:1–4, Acts 20:35

It's important to teach children that Jesus will help us all live generously if we ask him to and if we are willing to do our part.

Emphasis should be made of the truth that all we have is due to God's generosity to begin with.

Our focus is not so much on 'giving' to God but on 'giving back' to God out of all he's given us. We can give back to God by using our time, abilities, energy and passion to serve others in his name, yet we must also understand the importance of honouring God by giving our tithes.

Ultimately, it's about giving back to God **the first and best** of all he gives us, and trusting him to provide for us.

The children begin to learn that working with God to achieve his aims in the world is a partnership. God needs us to do our bit and we need God to do what only he can do. We become partners with God in extending his Kingdom.

As we conclude this series, the children are asked to think about their own response to God's great love and provision. Pledge cards are given out to each of the children to fill in if they wish to, as an act of worship and as a way of showing they want to

PURPOSE

For the children to explore and understand how we can make a response to God's generosity through offering our time, talents, abilities and money, but most of all our love for him.

try to honour God in all they do.

LEADERS NOTES:

- Following the suggested object lesson this week, there is opportunity to remind the children what their offering money is being used for. Make sure you have decided on this with your team. It is important to be transparent about how the money is used.
- If you chose to do the “Egg carton activity” have the one you prepared last week ready to show the children.
- Have party bags ready to give out to children at end of this week’s lesson.



HALL SET UP: Create a party atmosphere, by decorating the room with streamers, balloons, etc. You may wish to make a large colourful sign that says ‘Thank You God for your generosity.’

- Have praise songs playing while everyone enters.
- Invite the children to show their parents the handprint banner and/or various visual displays around the room that have been created during this series.
- Have leaders ready to guide the children and parents to the section of the room where you will begin with a fun story or the first game. (Have a large coloured mat to sit on, or chairs set up in a semi-circle (for story) or circle (for game).

LET'S BEGIN!

Welcome everyone to God’s Generosity Party and especially welcome any visitors/family members.

Explain that today we are going to spend time thanking God for his generosity and thinking about how we can be generous in ways that please God.

Briefly talk about the importance of saying ‘thanks’ and being thankful—not just when someone does something nice for you or gives you something, but as a continual attitude to God and others.



WELCOME STORY

Magic Glasses

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- One very large pair of colourful glasses (available from party shops).
- Some treats for everyone to eat while you’re reading the story.

****Optional idea:** Include a pair of fun ‘party glasses’ in each child’s take home party bag, to be given out at the end of the session. Party glasses can be purchased cheaply in packs from \$2 shops or party shops.

INTRO TO STORY:

“Have you ever stopped to think about how beautiful God’s world is? The beauty of God’s world is all around us if we will just look for it. And of course, God made colour too! He must have liked blues and greens because he created so much of those colours! God gave us this world to enjoy. We all need to help take care of God’s creation, and we should praise God for all the beauty he created.

Thousands of years ago, King David did just that! He looked at God’s creation and wrote songs of praise (psalms). Here’s some of the words from one of his songs:”

****PowerPoint slide:** “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the Earth proclaims his handiwork!”

“This morning, just for fun, I want to tell you a story about a man nobody liked. Now, it’s certainly not a fun story because nobody liked him—that’s really sad—but listen to what happens!”

STORY:

“Once there was a man who didn’t have a friend in the world! Even his own family didn’t like him. Why? Because he could never see the good in others, or any beauty in the world.

Instead of thinking good thoughts, he was always thinking the worst and complaining about everything and everyone!

His son was always discouraged. When he brought home his school report card with all B’s, his dad said, “Why couldn’t you get A’s?”

He complained about his wife’s cooking instead of being thankful for food to eat.

Whenever rain came, he complained that he’d just washed his car, or that the rain would make the grass grow more quickly—which meant he’d have to mow the lawn sooner!

If he saw a beautiful pink sunset he complained it would be too hot the next day!

He complained when the birds work him up with their singing—making such a noisy racket!

He was just so miserable!

Then one day an angel appeared and promised to help him with some 'magic' glasses. The angel told him: "They will let you only see beauty in other people and in God's creation. But in three days time I must have these glasses back". Well, the man was just so excited that at last he could be happy!

On his way home he saw an old woman stumble and fall. Without those magic glasses, he would have said, "Silly old woman, why are you so clumsy? Get out of my way!" But he didn't.

Now he could see she had slipped on a banana peel. He helped her up and was rewarded by her thankful smile which made him even more happy!

He arrived home to see his son playing cricket with a friend on the front lawn. His son thought, 'Oh no! Dad's going to yell at us for playing on the lawn!'

But the father remembered the magic glasses and looked to see that the friend was disabled. He knew other children didn't play with him much, and all of a sudden he was proud that his son was taking the time to be a special friend. So he said, "Hi boys, I can see you're enjoying yourselves, can I come out and join you?" His son couldn't believe it!

The family was so excited and happy about the change.

That night it rained and the man thanked God for water to help the garden grow.

The next morning he awoke to the sound of birds singing and thought how lovely they sounded! He even got up to see God's beautiful sunrise!

But then he began to worry! Soon he would have to give back the glasses! He didn't want to be miserable again. He liked being happy.

The angel returned—and told him a secret! The glasses were not really magic after all! Anyone who was willing to try could learn to see good in others and the beauty all around them! He was willing!

From then on he tried to be the best dad, husband and friend ever, because he had learned the secret: anyone who is willing can see good in others. And he prayed to God to help him."

Okay, so that was just a fun story, but it contains a truth from the Bible:

We can all see beauty in God's wonderful creation. God wants us to give thanks and praise to Him for the amazing world he has made—and to help others. Not only because it pleases him, but because he knows that when we live thankful, generous lives, we will enjoy life far more. Why?

Because he created us to live that way!

- Let children know that in their party bags to take home at the end of the session, they each have a pair of 'magic glasses' to help them remember this truth.



ACTIVITY 1 PASSING ON THE THANKS!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Lots of different coloured pieces of paper in a brightly coloured container (eg. gift box or party bag). You will need one for each group.
- Music

AIM OF THE GAME:

For children to explore ways and things to be thankful for.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Have everyone sit in a circle and pass the container around the group like 'pass the parcel'.
- When the music stops, the child that has the container pulls out one piece of paper and gives thanks for something that is that colour and says why. Eg. red—'I thank God for apples to eat', blue—'I thank God for police who help to keep us safe.'

**Tip: If you have a large group, split into smaller groups to play so every person gets at least one turn.

TEACHING POINTS:

"There are so many things we can be thankful for! Who are the people that you are thankful for?"

(Go around the circle and encourage each of the children to say the name of one person that they are thankful for and the reason why).

"I wonder if you are thankful for God? Why?"

God has been so generous to us and we can be generous back to him."



OBJECT LESSON HONOURING GOD WITH OUR TITHES

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- One large chocolate mud cake (Safeway mud-cakes are cheap and delicious!)
- Tray, knife, small plates (x10)
- Whiteboard and markers (optional)

“Okay everyone, who likes chocolate mud cake? All of us? Who would like \$100? All of us!”

I don't have \$100 but we are going to use this mud cake to represent \$100.

I need you to think of all the things that you spend money on as a family each week, and depending how much you spend on each item, I'll cut the cake into bigger or smaller pieces.”

(Ask one of the older children or visiting parents to be your assistant and write down the item and amount of money on the whiteboard as the children call them out. Eg: House payments, food, petrol for car, clothes, games, toys, movies, mobile phone credit, school items).

WHAT TO DO:

- Cut the cake into slices, with sizes according to the amount of money the children think necessary for each item, until the '\$100' has been all used up. This will no doubt go very quickly! Once the whole cake has been cut up, suddenly say:
- “Oh no! All we've got left is the crumbs! We've used up all our 'money' but we've forgotten something really important! I wonder if you know what it could be?...”
- (Children to offer suggestions—if someone suggests money to give God, congratulate them for remembering. If not, say: “We've forgotten to put aside some money to give back to God, to thank him for everything he gives us!)
- “It's so easy to use up all our money for things we need and want. But do you know that God actually asks us to set aside the first 10% of the money we earn each week to give back to him? In the Bible this is called a 'tithe' and this is one way God wants us to 'honour' him.”

- **PowerPoint slide: “To honour God means to love God with all our hearts and to show this by the way we live—what we say and do.
- Giving our tithes isn't about the amount of money we give, it's about putting God first and trusting him for everything we need.
- In fact, God promises us that if we honour him with our tithe, he will always provide what we need, when we need it! How cool is that!
- Maybe you don't earn any money yet—that's okay—you can honour God in many other ways. But if you do get pocket-money, maybe you'd like to talk to your parents about giving the first part of it as a tithe, to honour God.
- We've been taking up an offering here in Kid's Church each week. Thank you so much for your giving. God really loves it when we give happily. The money that you give is used to help our church do God's work. We use it for _____.”

**Serve the mud-cake at the party morning tea.



“And now it's time for 'Praise Zone'! So everyone up, and let's sing and dance in praise to God.”

**Use one of the songs you have already played during this series, so the children will be familiar with it and can join in singing.



Choose ONE of the following activities:

GOD ZONE ACTIVITY 2 HAPPY VS. GRUMPY GIVERS

This activity is best done at tables in small groups. You may prefer to have the main leader speak from the front of the room (using a microphone) to all the groups, rather than each small group leader doing so.

PURPOSE:

For children to think about how they can be generous with what they have.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- One sheet of paper per child (or use template provided and photocopy)
- Textas
- Bibles
- Whiteboard and markers

WHAT TO DO:

- Write the dictionary definition of “Generous” on the whiteboard. Explain that the dictionary states that GENEROUS means ‘larger or more plentiful than is usual or necessary.’
- Ask small group leaders to discuss with their children what they think the word generous means. Ask one child from each group to give their group’s own definition and write this on the whiteboard too.
- Give each of the children a sheet of paper for them to write or draw on for the next part of the activity. Ask the children to divide their piece of paper into three columns. Then give them these instructions:

IN COLUMN 1: Write or draw a list of 5 items that you share (e.g. toys, bedroom, car, DVD collection, pets, video games).

IN COLUMN 2: Write or draw a list of 5 items that you like to keep to yourself (e.g. lollies, books, toys, jewellery, iPod and other special items).

Now put a number from 1–10 beside each of the items in each column that show how happy you are when you have to share these items with others: 1 for ‘grumpy’, 10 for ‘happy’.

IN COLUMN 3: Write a list of 5 other things that God has given us that we can share. (Eg. special talents—singing, drawing, sending an encouraging note, giving an encouraging word to a friend, helping someone with their homework, giving money to someone in need, showing kindness in relationships, showing forgiveness, using our creativity to help at church or school or just to brighten someone’s day).

- “I wonder if any of the items you’ve listed could be used to worship God?” (Ask children to share their answers).
- Explore the following four key passages that show something of what God thinks about giving and being generous. You might like to choose ONE to focus on or divide into groups and look at all four.

2 Corinthians 8:1–15

2 Corinthians 9:7–10

Luke 21:1–4

Acts 20:35

BIBLE READINGS

READ:

2 Corinthians 8:1–15 (ICB/MSG) ‘Christian Giving’

Friends, I want to tell you about the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia . They have been tested by great troubles. And they are very poor. But they are they are incredibly happy and they wanted to give many generous gifts! I was there and saw it for myself! They gave whatever they could—far more than they could afford. No one told them to do it. But they asked us again and again to let them share in this service for God’s people. And they gave in a way that we did not expect: They first gave themselves to the Lord and to us. This is what God wants.

You are rich in everything – in trusting God, in speaking, in knowledge, in truly wanting to help, and in the love you learned from us. And so we want you to be rich also in this gift of giving. This is what I think you should do: Last year you were the first to want to give. And you were the first who gave. So now finish the work that you started. Then your “doing” will be equal to your “wanting to do.” Give from what you have. If you want to give, your gift will be accepted. Your gift will be judged by what you have, not by what you don’t have. At this time you have plenty. What you have can help others who are in need. Then later, when they have plenty, they can help you when you are in need. Then all will be equal.

READ:

2 Corinthians 9: 6–11 (ICB)

Remember this—the person who plants only a few seeds will have a small harvest. But the one who plants a lot will have a big harvest. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. You should not give if it makes you sad. And you should not give because you think you are forced to give. God loves the person who gives happily. And God will generously give you all that you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. God is the One who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread to eat. And God will give you all the seed you need and make it grow. He will make a great harvest from your goodness. God will make you rich in every way so that you can

always give freely. And your giving will cause many to give thanks to God.

READ:

Luke 21:1-4 (ICB)

Jesus saw some rich people putting their gifts into the Temple money box. Then Jesus saw a poor widow. She put two small copper coins into the box. He said, "I tell you the truth. This poor widow gave only two small coins. But she really gave more than all those rich people. The rich have plenty; they gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had."

READ:

Acts 20:35 (MSG)

Help those in need, and keep remembering that Jesus says, "You're far happier giving than getting."

- As a group or small group, read the scripture you choose together. Then ask:
 - "What do you think God is saying about giving or being generous in this passage?"
 - How would you tell others about God's message about giving?"
- Talk about how it's better to give to help others because it makes an eternal difference and let the children know that when we give, we become more like Jesus. He came to give instead of receive.

ACTIVITY ③

STINGY AND GENEROUS EGG-CARTON GARDENS

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- The bottom of an egg-carton cut in half (one per child)
- Cotton wool
- Alfalfa seeds
- Eye stickers
- Textas
- Water

"I wonder what God requires of us when it comes to giving."

God loves every person who is cheerful whenever they are giving, whether it's their money, or their time, or using their abilities, or anything else they are giving."

WHAT TO DO:

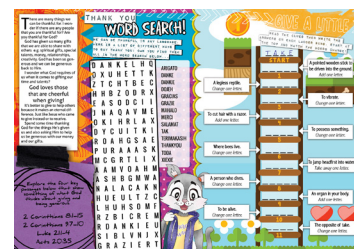
(Small group leaders or parents to assist younger

children):

1. Fill the egg-cartons with cotton wool so they are all even; moisten the surface with some water.
2. Add eye stickers or draw a face on the outside of the egg carton (so that when the seeds grow it looks like hair).
3. In one half of the egg carton, sow a LOT of alfalfa seeds and then in the other half sow the seeds sparingly (only a couple of seeds).
4. Tell the children that when they get home they need to place in a sunny position and give it some water (being careful not to drown the seeds!)

- After the children have finished, say:
 - "I wonder when the seeds grow what the faces will look like? Do you think they will all end up with a full head of hair?"
 - How can this remind us of the attitude that God wants us to have towards giving?
 - As your seeds grow, you might see that some have a 'full head of hair' others are quite bald looking!"
- Show them the one 'you prepared earlier'.
- Discuss with the children the differences between being stingy and being generous.
- **READ BIBLE READING:** 2 Corinthians 9:7-10
- Remind them again that God wants us to be generous and share what he has given us.
- Ask the children to call out some of the different ways we can use our abilities and talents to share God's generosity. (If time permits, discuss with the children (and their parent's) what talents and abilities they each may have to offer God).
- Talk about how we can give our time and our money too, to help build God's family.

*If time allows, the children can turn to page 5 in this week's interactive magazine to complete a puzzle that turns 'take' into 'give'.





ZONE IN



ZONE IN - ACTIVITY ④

COMPLIMENTS GAME

PURPOSE:

To emphasise that being generous in complimenting others is a great thing we can all do! It makes the other person feel special and makes us smile too!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- One A4 piece of paper per child with that child's name written at the top
- Pens for each child
- Envelope for each child (optional)

HOW TO PLAY:

- Ask children to sit in a circle.
- Briefly introduce the purpose of the game and give a few examples of compliments.
- Give each child a pen and a piece of paper with the name of another child in the group on it.
- Ask the children to write a compliment about that person at the bottom of their sheet of paper. Once it is written they fold it over once to hide it.
- They then pass that paper to the person sitting at their right, and everyone repeats the process.
- Papers are passed on in the same direction until every child has written a compliment for every other child in the group.

**Leaders, make sure that children will receive their own 'compliments page' last, or ask children to pass on their own page during the game, to the next person without reading what has been written.

- After everyone has finished, each child could be given an envelope to place their 'compliments page' in to take home and read in private, or you could ask them to open it up and read one compliment aloud.
- Leaders, compliment everyone on a great job!



WORD ZONE

**PowerPoint slide:

'Help those in need by working hard, and keep remembering the words of Jesus. He said "You're far happier giving than getting".'

Acts 20:35 (MSG)

This week, simply ask everyone to read the verse together.



WORD ZONE - ACTIVITY ⑤

INTRODUCTION TO PLEDGE CARD

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Pledge Cards
- Pens
- Special offering container
- Prepared music

"God is awesome! Let's honour God! We can do this right now by making a promise to God to try to live generously with everyone."

Give out the pledge cards and then read the words on it (or refer to PowerPoint slide).

"In a moment, if you would like to, you can write your name and today's date on your pledge card, as a way of showing God that you want to try to honour him in all you think, say and do."

But first, I'm going to pray. If you want to say these words to God too, just say "Amen" at the end of my prayer, and God will know it's your prayer too!"



PRAYER

"Dear God, you are awesome! You are so loving and powerful and generous! Thank you so much for this amazing world you created and for all you do for us and all you give us.

Please help us to try to live generously with everyone, in all the ways we can. We want to honour you in all we think and say and do. Amen."

- Now invite the children to write their name on their pledge card and the date. Let them know that they can keep it as a reminder of the decision they have made to try to honour God.
- Play some music as the children fill out their pledge cards.
- Then invite the children to bring their special giving envelopes with their offering or tithe (with a parent / family member if present) and put them in the offering container you have placed at the front of the room.

GIVE OUT

- A reward to each child who memorised last week's Bible verse.
- Party Bags! (with magic glasses)
- The Week 4 Kids Magazine. (Encourage the children to fill in the magazine puzzles at home this week—and to memorise the Bible verse for a reward next week!)

**Tip: Include a flyer about your next week's program to encourage any new children to continue to come along.

PARTY TIME!

- Celebrate the children's commitment by finishing with some special party food and drink. Why not ask some Corps members who are good cooks to contribute some of the food?
- (Be aware of any allergies/food intolerances). Or check out a "healthy kids party food" website for some good ideas.
- Play music in the background and create a fun, party atmosphere!

WEEK FOUR-ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:

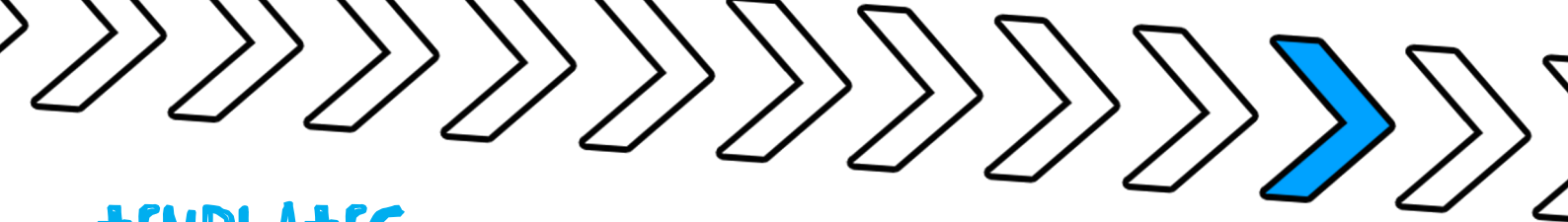
PAINTING CLAY TREASURES

PURPOSE:

Children can paint and decorate the clay treasures they made in Week 3, to take home and keep as a reminder of what true treasure is.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

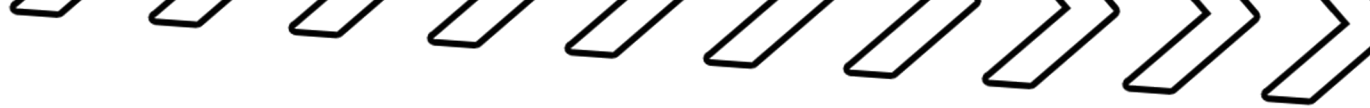
- Children's clay 'treasures'
- Paints
- Brushes
- Paint smocks
- Glitter
- Assorted decorations
- Glue
- Wash bowl and hand towels



TEMPLATES

For use with Activity 2 'Happy vs Grumpy givers' pg 48.

ITEMS YOU SHARE	ITEMS YOU KEEP	GOD GIFTS WE CAN SHARE



PARTY INVITATION:

(To be given out to children on week 3, to invite family and friends to the party morning tea on week 4.)

(Invitations are also available for download from the Generous Living web page).

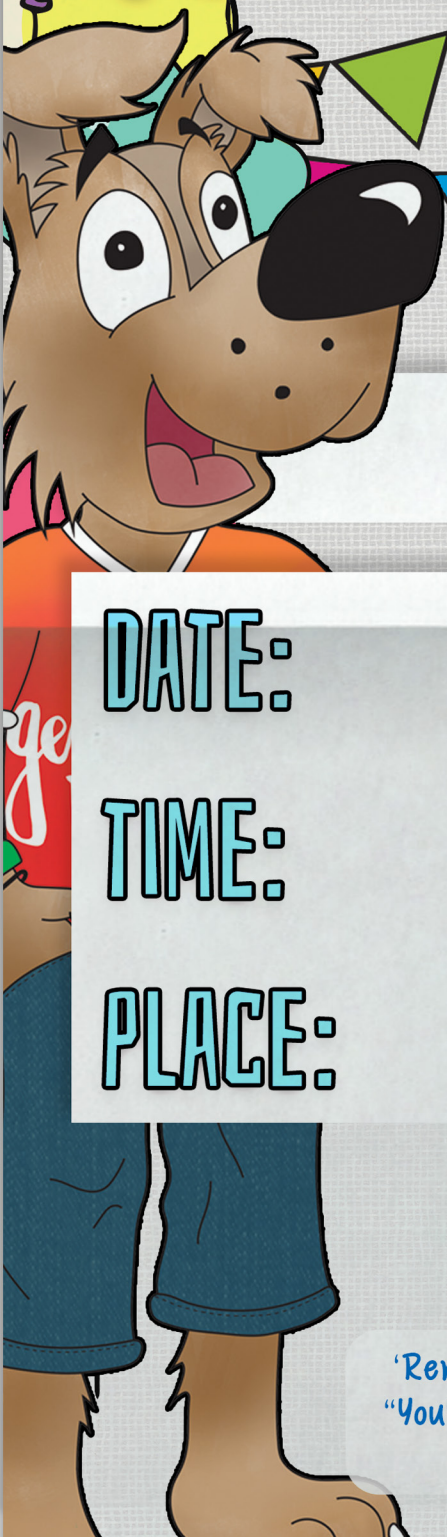


generous living

Australia Southern Territory
Mission Resource Department



YOU'RE INVITED

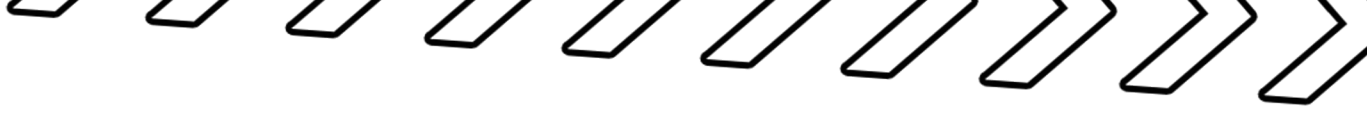


DATE:

TIME:

PLACE:

'Remember the words of Jesus. He said,
"You're far happier giving than getting".
Acts 20:35 (MSG)



PARENTS LETTER #1:

(To be given out to parents 1–2 weeks before commencing the Generous Living curriculum, or when they arrive with their children on the first week).



generous living

Australia Southern Territory
Mission Resource Department



Dear Parents,

We're really excited to announce a new 4 week series called "Generous Living for Kids" starting on Sunday: _____ It's all about giving children an understanding of God's awesome generosity and thinking about how we can all live a generous life too!

- Week one of the series begins with discovering God's amazing, ongoing provision and generosity through creation, and ways we can 'give back to God', such as looking after the environment, looking after people and animals, and being a friend to God.
- Week two focuses on God's greatest gift to us—Jesus!
- Week three teaches the importance of putting our time and energy into our relationship with God, rather than 'things'.
- Week four is 'Party Week'! The children are encouraged to continue thinking about how they can respond to God's ongoing generosity to them. Then we celebrate God's goodness with a party morning tea!

Each week your child/children will receive a brand new interactive kid's magazine filled with puzzles and activities. We'll use them during the lessons and then the kids can take them home, so that you can chat with your child about what they've been learning about. Included are suggestions for fun activities your family can do together.

During the series we'll also be introducing the idea of giving a weekly coin offering as a way of honouring God and giving thanks to him for all gives us. It's not about how much money is given, but rather why it's given—as an expression of our love for God. (Please be assured that if you'd prefer your child not to give a weekly offering, that's fine—we'll simply be receiving any offerings during the 'Praise Zone' when we're all singing and dancing along to a DVD clip.) All offering money received from the children in Kid's Church will go towards _____

We're also making a special visual display called 'Celebrating God's Creation'. We'd like to take a group photo of all the children (during the first week) to include in this display. Please complete and sign the attached form giving your permission to take your child's photo, or let us know if you do not wish us to do so. Please also provide details of any foods your child is allergic to.

Thank you so much for your support and the privilege of teaching your child more about God's love for them!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel very welcome to give me a call anytime,

Kindest regards,

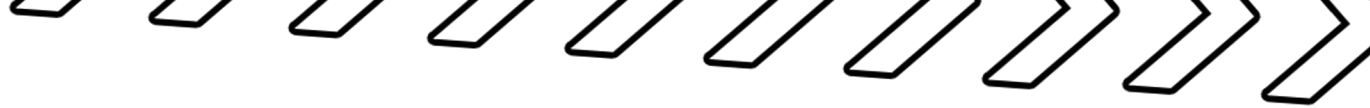


Name of leader

Corps

Phone

Email



PARENTS LETTER #2:

(To be given to the children to take home, at the end of the lesson on Week 3, in preparation for Week 4).



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Mission Resource Department



Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks at Kid's Church/Kid's Club we've really enjoyed exploring God's awesome generosity and thinking about how we can all live generous lives too!

This week we've been teaching the children about the importance of putting our time and energy into our relationship with God, rather than 'things'.

Next week we'll encourage the children to continue thinking about how they can respond to God's ongoing generosity to them. We will be giving each child a 'Generous Living Pledge Card' and invite them to write their own name on it, as a way of showing they would like to "try to honour God in all they think, say and do, and try to live generously with everyone." They can then keep the pledge card as a reminder that they want to try to honour God.

During this series we've also introduced the idea of giving a weekly (coin) offering as a way of honouring God and giving thanks to him for all gives us. It's not about how much money is given, but rather why it's given—as an expression of our love for God and trusting him to provide for all our needs. All offering money received from the children in Kid's Church is used for _____

To take home today, we have given each child a 'special' envelope to put their coin offering in and bring back next week.

Please be assured that all children, regardless of whether or not they choose to participate by taking a pledge card and/or bringing an offering, are always very welcome!

IT'S PARTY TIME!

Next week we're celebrating God's goodness and generosity with a special morning tea! We'd love you to come and join us too! The children have invitations to give out to family members and friends.

Once again, thank you so much for your support and the privilege of teaching your child more about God's love for them!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel very welcome to give me a call anytime,

Kindest regards,



Name of leader

Corps

Phone

Email