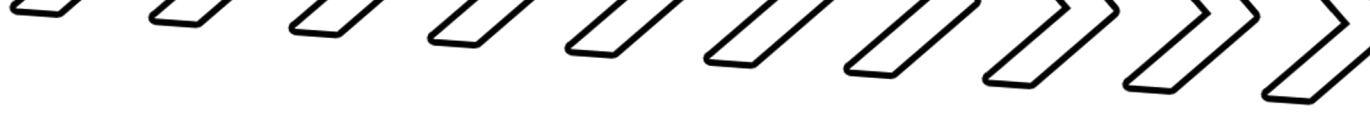


generous living



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).