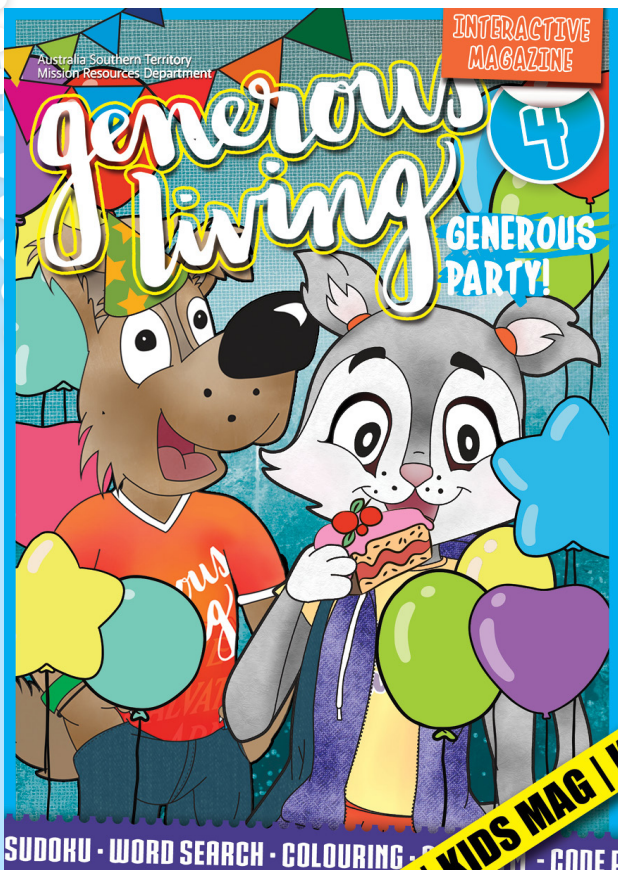


# WEEK FOUR – GENEROUS PARTY

*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:**

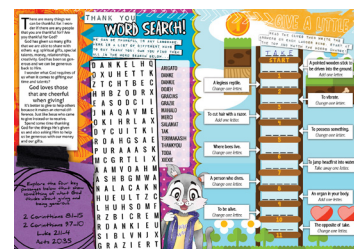
(Small group leaders or parents to assist younger

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:

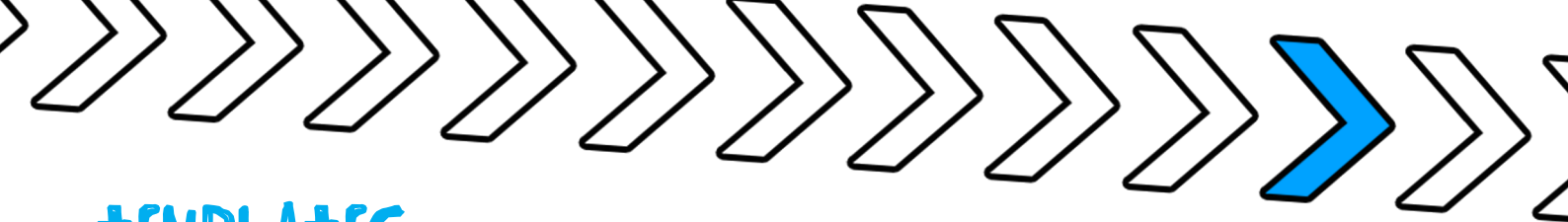
## PAINTING CLAY TREASURES

### 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