



ACTS OF
Generosity

GROWING UP
TO BE LIKE JESUS



A PRAYER FOR WISDOM

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray to embrace love and faithfulness; That we understand the power of loving words and actions; That you write kindness on our hearts, and it never leaves us. Amen.



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

A NOTE ABOUT GENEROSITY

Generosity is one of the most important biblical concepts we can teach our children. The best example of generosity that has ever been seen upon the earth is the gift of salvation we have through Jesus Christ. It is through this gift that we are able to show a heart of true generosity toward God and his people.

It can be challenging to turn our child's ear toward generosity in the midst of such a me-driven culture. Developing a heart of generosity takes time and practice. And it will help if your child sees your spirit of generosity first and foremost.

We hope this booklet will give you the tools to begin exploring generosity in everyday life with your family.

Please help your children fulfill these acts weekly and discuss the corresponding scripture, wrapping up the week with this prayer each time:

**Dear God, It is so easy to want things for myself.
Please help me think of others instead. Amen.**

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Learn the Lord's Prayer.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

My house shall be called
a house of prayer.

(MATTHEW 21:13)

COMMENTARY

Learning the Lord's Prayer, the same prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, is a great way for us to become a house of prayer.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Write a nice chalk message or verse in front of a neighbor's home.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Heaven and earth shall pass away,
but God's words will not pass away.
(LUKE 21:33)

COMMENTARY

One of the best ways to encourage our neighbors is to share an encouraging verse from God's Word, the Bible.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Donate gently used outgrown clothes to kids in need.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

The poor have the gospel
news preached to them.
(MATTHEW 11:5)

COMMENTARY

When Jesus preaches the Gospel to the poor, to those in need, he does it through words and actions. In the same way, to donate our stuff to children in need is like sharing the Gospel with them.



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Read the Creation Story
and talk with your family about
how to care for the earth.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

The word became flesh
and dwelt among us.

(JOHN 1-14)

COMMENTARY

Jesus is God, yet became a
baby for our sakes and dwelt
among us so that he can save us.
And through us, God wants to
redeem all of creation because
creation was created good.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Donate supplies to a women's shelter.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name
shall be called Emmanuel, which means God with us.

(MATTHEW 1:23)

COMMENTARY

Mary was a poor woman who was in need,
and God helped her through Joseph. Likewise,
women at women's shelters are also in need.
And God can use us to bless and help them.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Draw a picture for immigrants at the border.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love. And we should show that love by what we do.

(1 JOHN 3:18)

COMMENTARY

Jesus fled to Egypt to escape the tyrannical rule of Herod, where Herod and his armies wanted to hurt families and children. When we care for those who are fleeing suffering, we are doing for them what kind people did for Jesus, Mary and Joseph when they found refuge in Egypt.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Donate socks for high school kids at Incarnation House.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

He is mightier than I, whose sandals I am unworthy to untie.

(MARK 1:7)

COMMENTARY

Jesus is greater than us! He is the king of the whole universe. And just like John the Baptist, we too must remember that we are not worthy to even untie his shoelaces or his sandals. Yet, Jesus loves us dearly and sacrifices his life for us. So, when we give socks away, it's our small sacrifice to remember that Jesus is much greater than us, but he loves us. So, we should love others too.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Read a book or story about being generous.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, in favor with God and with man.

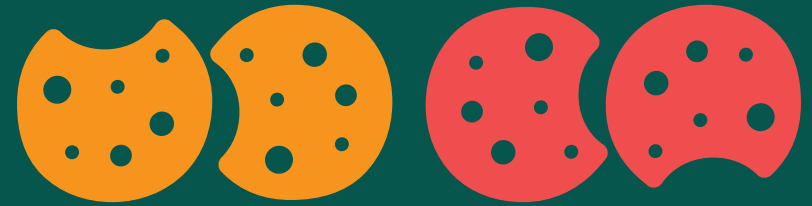
(LUKE 2:52)

COMMENTARY

When Jesus was a young boy, even though he is God, he still had to grow in wisdom. Wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit. Wisdom is to know God's character and how to obey and follow him. So, reading a book on generosity teaches us about God's own generosity and how we can be generous. So, read a book!

SUGGESTIONS:

Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett & Jon Klassen;
Thank you, Omu! By Oge More;
Biblioburro by Jeanette Winter;
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein



ACT OF GENEROSITY

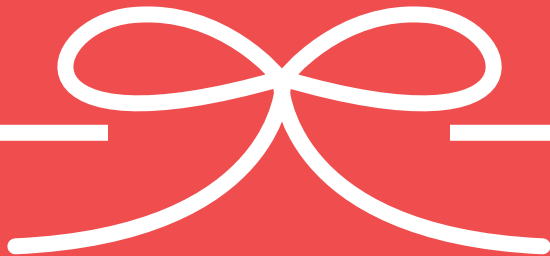
Surprise someone with freshly baked cookies.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Read John 2:1-11.

COMMENTARY

When Jesus performed his first miracle at Cana, he converted the water into wine, and it blessed people. Even the steward was surprised at how good the wine was! It reminded them of God's abundance and grace towards us. So, surprising someone with freshly baked cookies is a wonderful way of being abundantly generous and gracious with them.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Make a care package for a child in the hospital.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Lord only say the word, and we will be healed.

(MATTHEW 8:8)

COMMENTARY

When Jesus cleanses a leper and the Centurion's servant, he shows us his great power to heal the sick. But did you know that the Bible says, "by his stripes, we are healed"? It means that all our healing was purchased by Christ's death on the Cross. This is how he blesses us by healing us. So, how can we help others who are sick? One way is to pray for them, and to bless them by making a care package.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Take a potted plant to a neighbor.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Read Matthew 13:24b-30

COMMENTARY

Faithfulness to God looks like good seed that grows good plants. And these plants are generous to the creatures around them. They give them food, shade, and beauty. But unfaithfulness is like weeds. When we give a potted plant to a neighbor, it's a good way to remember that we want to be like fruitful good seeds.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Invite a friend to watch church with you online or in-person when possible.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Jesus is God's Son. We should listen to him.

(LUKE 9:35)

COMMENTARY

When Jesus was transfigured before his disciples, it reminded them of who he truly was. He is the Son of God! And we should follow and obey him. But how can our friends obey him, if they don't know him? Inviting them to church is a great way to help our friends hear, follow, and obey Jesus.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Thank someone who volunteers at your church.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God

(MATTHEW 4:4)

COMMENTARY

The Church feeds us not with earthly bread but with heavenly bread. And all those who serve in the church, feed us with this heavenly bread—Jesus. How can we thank them for nourishing our souls and bodies with the word of God?

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Donate to a local animal shelter and visit the animals when you deliver your donations.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.

(MATTHEW 15:27)

COMMENTARY

Dogs are God's creatures too. All pets are. And God has created pets to show us that in the same way that we take care of them, how much more does God love us and look after us? But who looks after the pets at the animal shelter? Perhaps we can show them our love and care by giving them some food!

A stylized illustration of a dog and a cat. The dog is on the left, and the cat is on the right. They are both looking towards a central speech bubble. The dog is dark purple, and the cat is pink. The speech bubble is teal and contains the text 'THANK YOU!' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

THANK
YOU!

ACT OF GENEROSITY


Pack a lunch or snack bag to give to a homeless person.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Blessed are those who hear the word of God, and do it.

(LUKE 11:28)

COMMENTARY

A stylized illustration of a teal snack bag. The bag is shown from a three-quarter perspective, with its top flap folded over. The bag is outlined in a darker teal color, giving it a 3D appearance. It is positioned on the left side of the right page.

One of the goals of lent is to serve the poor. God commands us to serve the poor so that we can grow in holiness like him—because he helped us when we were spiritually poor and far from him. So, how can we do his words, to serve the poor? One way to cultivate this holiness is to make a snack bag for a homeless person.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Donate food—to a food pantry or food drive.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Read John 6:1-14

COMMENTARY

See how Jesus helps those in need. When they were without food, Jesus performs a miracle to feed the hungry and needy. By doing this, he proves that he is the bread of heaven who feeds our souls. When we feed the hungry and needy, we remember that God feeds us with his body, the bread of heaven.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Say a prayer for a friend.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Jesus said, “before Abraham was, I am.”

(JOHN 8:58)

COMMENTARY

Jesus is God! He hears our prayers and answers them according to his wisdom because he is God of the universe. We can pray to him for our friends and trust that he will answer our prayers according to his will.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Make and send a card to a member of the armed services.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Read Matthew 27:1–66

COMMENTARY

Those who are in our armed services put their life on the line for us. They are willing to sacrifice themselves so that we can enjoy our freedoms and liberties. Their sacrifice also points us to the greater and larger sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, who sacrificed himself to save us from sin, the devil, and death, so that we can freely enjoy God, be friends with him, and obey him.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Take a treat to first responders to thank them for their service.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Read John 20:1-10

COMMENTARY

Just like how our armed services protect us and keep us safe, our first responders also keep us safe and give us health. Their work also points to the resurrection of Christ, how one day we too will share in Christ's resurrection, and death will no longer have any power over us.





ACT OF GENEROSITY

Smile at everybody.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Jesus said, "receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven. If you don't forgive, they are not forgiven."

(JOHN 20:23)

COMMENTARY

We can smile at everyone, even those who have hurt us, when we are filled with God's forgiveness. Jesus give us his Holy Spirit so that we can be filled with his forgiveness. So, we can smile with joy, even with those who have hurt us, because we have forgiven them in the same way that Christ has forgiven us.

Thank You

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Write a handwritten thank you card to one of your teachers.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."

(JOHN 10:11)

COMMENTARY

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He looks after us like sheep. And sometimes he does this through other shepherds in our lives, like our teachers. How can we thank our teachers for sacrificing their time and loving us?



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Call a friend you have not seen in a while to say hello.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Jesus said, "you are sad now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you."

(JOHN 16:22)

COMMENTARY

Sometimes, when we don't see a friend in a long time, we can miss them and feel sad. And sometimes they miss us too. In the same way, Jesus is our best friend and sometimes we miss him because he helps us and looks after us. How can we become like him? How can we be a good friend to others? One way is to call a friend that we have not seen in a while and see how they're doing.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

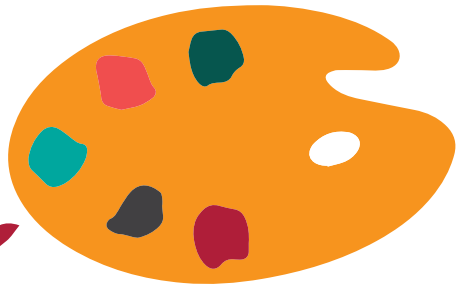
Share your artistic talents with someone.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

(JOHN 16:13)

COMMENTARY



Sometimes people need to be encouraged, in the same way that God's Holy Spirit encourages us. And God has blessed us with so many wonderful gifts and talents to encourage others.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Take treats to your local fire station.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

In the world, you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.

(JOHN 16:33)

COMMENTARY

Jesus has overcome the world through his resurrection! And now he keeps us safe from sin and evil. When firefighters rescue people, it reminds us of how Christ overcomes the world and rescues us from our tribulation.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Memorize and discuss Luke 6:38 with your parents.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

(LUKE 6:38)

COMMENTARY

The truth in this verse is a perfect illustration of God's law of sowing and reaping. It opens up the door for us to see God's promise of harvest to the giver. It also gives our hearts the ability to know that God sees us and will reward us for our obedience. Be careful, though, not to give as something we do to receive. Rather, be blessed as a by-product of God's innate goodness and our obedience to give.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Pick up litter in your neighborhood.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

If you love me, you will keep
my commandments.

(JOHN 14:15)

COMMENTARY

How do we grow and become like Christ? How can we keep his commandments? When we love him, we will hate sin, and love obeying him. Sin is like the litter and trash in our hearts. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we should confess our sins to the Lord so that our hearts can be clean. Picking up litter in our neighborhood is a good reminder of how we can also clean up the litter in our hearts.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Memorize and discuss
John 3:16 with your parents.

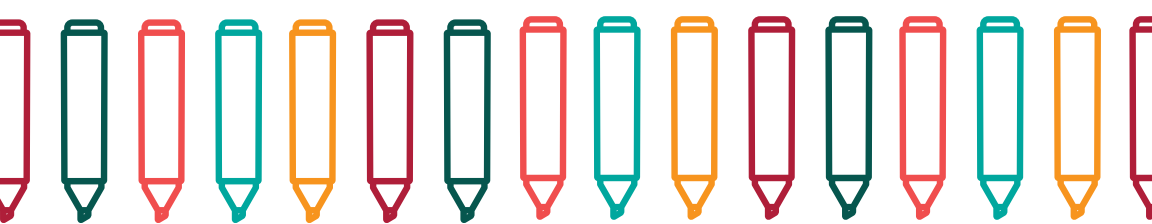
CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

For God so loved the world that he gave
his one and only Son, that whoever believes in
him shall not perish but have eternal life.

(JOHN 3:16)

COMMENTARY

This verse is truly the gist of all generosity. God loved us so much that He gave us the most generous gift in the world; salvation through His only son Jesus Christ. The depth of this gift is hard to explain, but it can be understood through stories, songs, and even biblical shows.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Collect school supplies for a school in need.

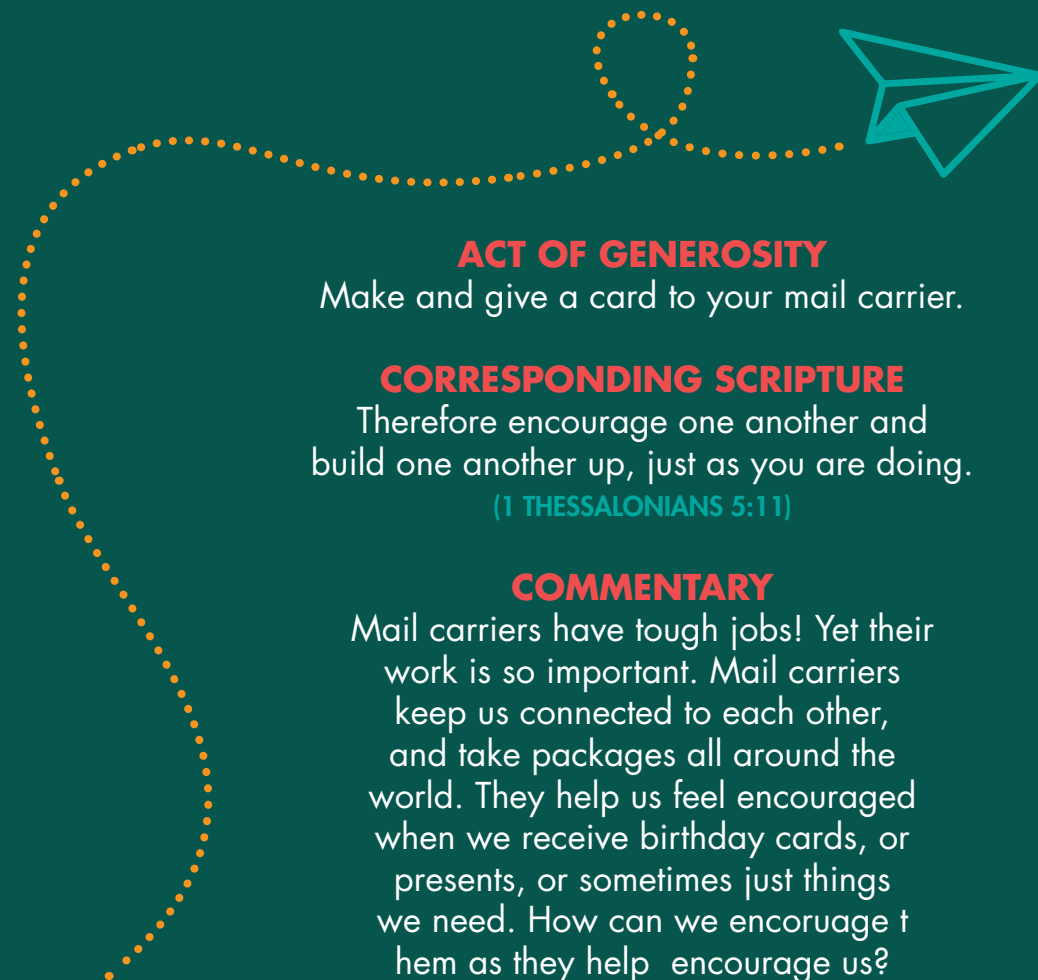
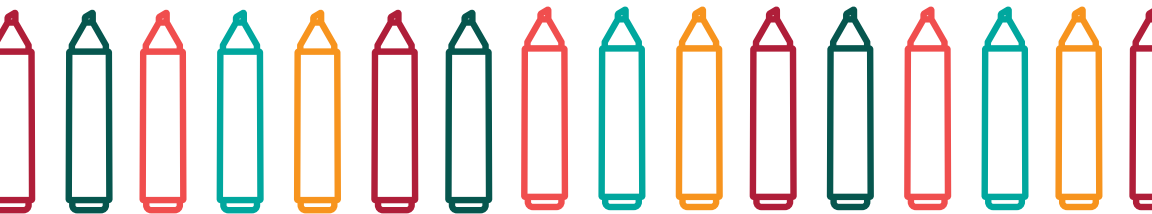
CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

(COLOSSIANS 2:3)

COMMENTARY

All things that are true, come from God. This is why Jesus is the Truth. So, when we learn new things that are true, good and beautiful, it's a way to learn more about God's character and his work in creation. In this way, all knowledge draws us closer to God and makes us marvel at his majesty.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Make and give a card to your mail carrier.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

(1 THESSALONIANS 5:11)

COMMENTARY

Mail carriers have tough jobs! Yet their work is so important. Mail carriers keep us connected to each other, and take packages all around the world. They help us feel encouraged when we receive birthday cards, or presents, or sometimes just things we need. How can we encourage them as they help encourage us?

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Say a mealtime prayer before dinner this week.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food.

(PSALM 145:15)

COMMENTARY

All our food comes from God. God creates and makes everything, and that's how we are fed and nourished. He feeds us with the body and blood of his Son to nourish our souls and bodies. And he feeds and nourishes us with earthly food so that we can follow and obey him in our earthly lives. When we thank him for food, we are thanking him for providing us for all the nourishment we need, so that we can follow him.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Buy a \$5 McDonald's gift card for a homeless person.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

When I was hungry, you fed me.

(MATTHEW 25:35-40)

COMMENTARY

Jesus always talks about the poor as those who have a lot in common with him, because he became poor so that he could save us. The Son of God left the comforts of heaven and dwelt among us, so that we could be raised up to new life with him. So, how we treat the poor with generosity reflects how well we understand and are thankful for how God became poor for us.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Thank your parent(s) for taking good care of you.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Honor your father and mother.

(EXODUS 20:12)

COMMENTARY

Parents make a choice to look after us and care for us. Everyday they sacrifice their lives, their strength to shape and form us so that we can grow up to be Christ-followers. Even Jesus had parents to teach him how to love his heavenly father. To honor our parents is to honor the Lord who has blessed us with these parents so that we can learn to follow him.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Start a gratitude journal and list something you are grateful for each week.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever.

(PSALM 136:1)

COMMENTARY

Generosity begins with gratitude. The more we recognize the many blessings that God has given us, and count them, the more we can be reminded of how generous he is with us, and how we have so much that we can also give away.

A decorative border surrounds the page, featuring a repeating pattern of stylized gift boxes. The gift boxes are rendered in various colors including teal, orange, red, and yellow, each with a simple ribbon design. The background of the page is white, and the text is centered within the border.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Memorize and discuss 2 Corinthians 9:7
with your parents.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

God loves a cheerful giver.
(2 CORINTHIANS 9:7)

COMMENTARY

The wisdom in this verse helps us introduce our children to the concept of giving from the heart. It gives us a great example of how God blesses us when we give out of selfless love for others. Generosity from the heart is one of the most beneficial lessons we can teach our children.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Memorize and discuss 2 Corinthians 9:11
with your parents.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

You will be enriched in every way so
that you can be generous on every
occasion, and through us your generosity
will result in thanksgiving to God.
(2 CORINTHIANS 9:11)

COMMENTARY

This verse is a beautiful way to illustrate how generosity not only blesses the giver and receiver, but it blesses God too. Through this scripture, we are able to see that giving is an act of worship showing thanks to God. What a beautiful verse about the impact that generosity has on God and His people.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Memorize and discuss Proverbs 11:24
with your parents.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
(PROVERBS 11:24)

COMMENTARY

This verse is a great way to show the importance of giving freely instead of being greedy. Most of us have been greedy (mostly toward one another) at one time or another. Even someone who has the most giving nature has had his/her fair share of being stingy. This verse helps us to realize that God blesses those who freely give.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Take care of yourself—eat well,
exercise, pray, and rest

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

You should know that you
yourselves are God's temple.
God's Spirit lives in you.
(1 CORINTHIANS 3:16)

COMMENTARY

The Church is holy because we are holy, and we are the body of Christ and God's temple. And we should treat our bodies in a holy way. Not only does this mean to avoid sin, and obey God, but it also means to take care of our bodies. To be nourished and exercise so that our bodies can be physically strong to fight away temptation; to pray to God and thank him; and to rest because we know that Jesus has the whole world in his hands.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Turn off the water while you brush your teeth.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord.
The world and all its people belong to him.

(PSALM 24:1)

COMMENTARY

Water is one of the most abundant resources on the earth, but also one of resources we waste the most. Even right now, not only do thousands of our fellow Christian brothers and sisters lack fresh and clean drinking water, but millions of fellow Christians around the world have no drinkable or usable water close by. When we conserve water, not only are we choosing to not be wasteful; we are also standing in faithful solidarity with those who have less than us. As everything belongs to the Lord, even the water. And we want to be good stewards of what he has blessed us with.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Help your parents make dinner.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Children, obey your parents in all things.
This pleases the Lord.

(COLOSSIANS 3:20)

COMMENTARY

When our parents make us dinner, they are doing something for us that we cannot do fully ourselves. But we can still help them! It's a great way to thank them for all that they do for us. Can you wash some vegetables or prepare something? Can you set the table, or put out some cutlery and plates? What about drinks?

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Make an offering to your church.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Read Mark 12:41-44.

COMMENTARY

The widow gave everything she had. Her life shows us Christ's life. Did you know that Christ gave up everything because he loved us? Did you know that he sacrificed everything so that we could be with him? If God has given us everything, how can we show him our thanks? What can we give him as an offering to say "thank you"?

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Pick up trash from a local playground.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.

(GENESIS 2:15)

COMMENTARY

When God created the whole world, it was good. But then sin and death entered into the world because Adam and Eve sinned. But through Christ, God wants to redeem all of the World again. Did you know that your local playground is part of the world that you live in? How can you make it "good" again? when we pick up trash, it make the playground a safe place again for kids and children to enjoy.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Write a note and leave it in a library book.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

The mind of a smart person is ready to get knowledge. The wise person listens to learn more.

(PROVERBS 18:15)

COMMENTARY

Is there a book that you liked from the library? What did you learn from it? Did what you learn remind you of Jesus in some way? How can you share what you learned with others?

When we learn new things, that's called growing in knowledge. But when we see how this new knowledge teaches us to follow Christ more, that's called growing in wisdom.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Make a bird feeder for your backyard.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at thy altars, O Lord of hosts.

(PSALM 84:3)

COMMENTARY

God made birds and God made us. And God looks after them and us. But who do you think God loves more? God loves us so much that he became one of us, and died for us. But God still loves the birds because he made the birds too. So, how can we cherish and enjoy their presence?



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Hold the door open for someone.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Keep on loving each other as brothers in Christ.
(**HEBREWS 13:1**)

COMMENTARY

Jesus tells us to love our neighbor. But did you know that love can mean so many wonderful things? It can mean compassion or kindness too. So you could say that Jesus tells us to be kind or compassionate to our neighbor. Sometimes, holding the door open for someone is a kind and compassionate thing to do. Today, when you hold the door open for someone, do it for someone who is different than you!



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Try to not complain for a whole day. And then try it again for another day. And then another.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Do all things without grumbling or disputing.
(**PHILIPPIANS 2:14**)

COMMENTARY

Did you know grumbling is the fruit of unfaithfulness? When we grumble it's because we don't know how to be thankful. But how can we not be thankful for all the things that God has done for us, especially for saving us from sin and death? So, when we don't complain, it allows space for thankfulness to grow. The Holy Spirit can help us thank God for all that he has done for us.

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Bring your neighbor's garbage cans in for them.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

(ROMANS 12:13)

COMMENTARY

Jesus commands us to love our neighbor. How can you love those who live right beside you? There are many ways, but one way is to bring in their garbage cans. It might not be a big thing to do. But it's a job where we get our hands a little dirty. But it's a good favor to do for our neighbors. It teaches us humility and patience, and that sometimes to help people, we need to get a little messy and dirty.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Donate new pajamas for foster kids.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.

(MATTHEW 25:35-36)

COMMENTARY

Many children don't have parents who can look after them. They want a home and a loving family to look after them in the same way that we do. It's part of how our world is in need. Sometimes children feel loved and cared for when they have their own clothes, like their own pajamas. And when we donate clothes to foster children, it's like we are giving to Christ because Jesus loves children and cares for them, especially for those children who have nobody yet who loves them.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Send a thank you for your service note to your local police station.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

(MATTHEW 5:9)

COMMENTARY

Many police officers want to make a difference in the world. They want to bring peace and help people in need. And peace is a character and attribute of God. But being a police officer is difficult work. So, let's take a moment to encourage them by writing a note.



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Do a chore for someone without them knowing it.

CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

(COLOSSIANS 3:12)

COMMENTARY

When we love people, many times we can show them our love, even if they don't know it. And this love can have many different aspects: compassion, kindness, humility and patience, just to name a few. And our love can also look different: deeds of compassion, kind words, humble prayers, patient hearts. How can you love someone today even if they don't know that you have loved them?

ACT OF GENEROSITY

Donate gently used toys to children in need.

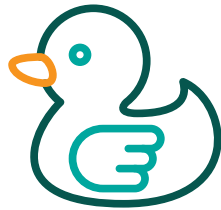
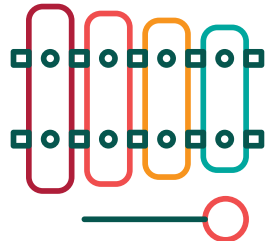
CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

(HEBREWS 13:16)

COMMENTARY

How much fun and happiness do your toys give you? Isn't it so wonderful that there are people who love you and show their love for you in this way? There are many children in need who don't always receive that kind of love, for a variety of reasons. But look at how much God gives us? Is it possible for us to share the many things that God has given us, to those who don't have it, as a way of sharing God's love with them?



ACT OF GENEROSITY

Make a list of everything you did and received today, and give thanks for all of them by name.



CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE

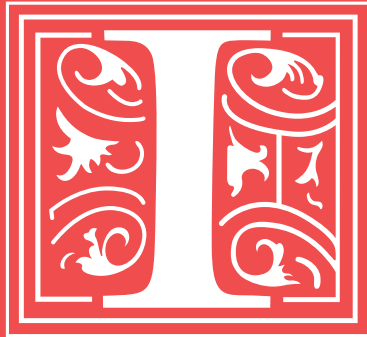
Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(EPHESIANS 5:20)



COMMENTARY

Sometimes we take for granted all the things we receive. This breeds in us a bad habit called "entitlement." Entitlement makes us forget that God gives us everything because he is generous and loves us. But, gratitude is the opposite of entitlement. "Gratitude" means to learn to say "thank you" to God for everything, big and small, even the things we forget to notice.



CHURCH *of the*
INCARNATION