

GENEROUS STUDENTS

LEARNING THE 7 WAYS
OF LIVING GENEROUSLY



1ST GRADE • TEACHER GUIDE

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



LESSON 1

WHAT IS GENEROSITY?

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Who can I show generosity to?

LEARNING TARGET: I can be generous to my friends and family.

DEFINITION: To give, share and show you care.

OBJECTIVES:

- Write and Illustrate in the Gratitude Journal
- Listen to James 1:17 and apply the meaning of the verse to life
- Identify traits of a generous person and ways students can be generous to friends and family

LESSON PREPARATION:

- Gift-Wrapped Box (or box) with class picture inside (make sure to take a picture ahead of time)
- Display the Bible Story Poster
- Preview the video Meet The Generosity Giraffe
- Prepare copies of paper strip template for headbands on cardstock
- Display character traits or personality trait images (Teacher Portal)
- Prepare Adventure Companion and send home at the end of the lesson

LESSON AT A GLANCE

- ☐ **Enter the Adventure** (Gratitude Journal): Throughout the lesson
- ☐ **Explore The Bible** (Bible Connection): Listen to and James 1:17 and complete My Good Gift Activity
- ☐ **Discover with Friends** (Story Time): Meet the Generosity Giraffe
- ☐ **Hit the Trail** (Application Time): I'm A Gift Activity
- ☐ **Be Bold** (Live it Out): I Can Be Generous Activity



1 GENEROUS STUDENTS™: The Adventure Starts with Me!

Kindergarten Program Introduction for Students



Teacher Talk is
highlighted &
italicized

Throughout the Generous Students program, teachers are encouraged to share personal reflections, stories, and connections. A great way to begin the Generous Students program is for teachers to tell their students about an adventure he/she has taken. Sharing photos or videos, telling stories, and showing excitement for the thrill and fun of an adventure is a great way to get the Generosity Adventure started!

An adventure is an unusual and exciting experience that can include risks. After experiencing an adventure, we can often see the world from a different view and learn new things about ourselves and others. If you like to explore, and you like exciting opportunities, you probably like to take adventures. As a class, we are going on an adventure to learn about Generosity! The good news is that our only risk on this adventure is having our hearts and minds changed for the better.

The words "generous" and "generosity" might be new to you today, or maybe you already have the generosity bug! By the time we finish this adventure, you will be experts! We are going to learn about generosity from God's Word, and we'll meet some new friends along the way who will teach us about generosity. We'll put our learning into action and help make the world a happier place with our generous hearts.

Are YOU ready for an adventure? Of course, you are! So, let's Enter the Adventure, Explore The Bible, Discover with Friends, and Be Bold TOGETHER!

Distribute Generous Students booklets and give students an opportunity to look through the pages to preview and build excitement for the program.



2 ENTER THE ADVENTURE: Gratitude Journal

Direct students to **Page 5** titled "Enter the Adventure".

As we set out on our adventure, you'll notice the word GENEROUS comes up a lot! To be generous is to give. We can give something to a person, or we can give our heart and love to others. Another word for generous is "kind." When we are kind, we want to do good and bring happiness to others. It means having a good, loving heart and doing things for others. Can you think of ways you have been kind to someone else? (student response)

Some examples of what it means to be kind or generous include:

- Cheerfully giving your favorite candy bar to a good friend*
- Spending time with a visitor at your house even though you'd like to do something else*
- Asking for a sticker for your sibling when the grocery store clerk gives you one*
- Sharing your crayons during art time*
- Having kind thoughts about yourself*
- Giving your classmate a compliment*

There are so many ways YOU can be generous! The best way to get your mind ready for a generous adventure is to look around and think about something or someone that makes you happy. When you think about the people and things that bring you joy and that you're thankful for, it's called being GRATEFUL.

A grateful heart is the best place to begin a generous adventure. Each time we gather to learn about generosity, we're going to Enter the Adventure by thinking of something or someone we're thankful for and draw a picture of it. You can also write about WHY you're thankful for that person or thing. Why does it make you happy? What about that person or thing brings you joy and adds something special to your life?

Teacher models how to complete the Enter the Adventure Gratitude Journal with a personal entry.

Now it's your turn! Let's begin by closing your eyes and thinking about a person or thing that makes you feel like you could burst with joy and thankfulness...Got it? Let's go!

Teacher directs students to complete their first Enter the Adventure Gratitude Journal on page 5.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE: Scripture Connection

Direct students to **Page 6** titled "Explore the Bible".

As we begin our adventure with Generosity, I want to show you something special. Teacher reveals a gift-wrapped box or bag with tissue) *I have a special gift. What do you notice about my gift? (student responses: wrapped nicely, pretty ribbon, wrapping paper, etc.) Receiving gifts is very exciting, especially when it's wrapped so nicely. I really enjoyed taking my time to wrap this present and I was so joyful when I thought about what I was going to put inside of it! Should we see what's inside?*

Teacher opens the gift and reveals to the class what's inside: A picture that includes all of the students.

You probably understand why I was so joyful as I was wrapping this gift because each of you brings me so much joy! You are a gift to me, and it's a gift for me to be your teacher. Every day when we come to school and spend the day together, it's a gift. Seeing you learn and make connections is a gift. Watching your friendships grow is a gift. Hearing you laugh and giggle is a gift. YOU are a gift.

When God made you, it is as if he wrapped a present and put a very sparkly bow on it, preparing a one-of-a-kind gift for your family and friends. It's true! Here's what the Bible says about God's gifts (display Bible poster):

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. James 1:17

Our God, the creator of all the lights in the heavens (and that's a lot of lights!) made you in His image, and you are a gift. Our God is generous! When you think about all the good things in your life, all the people that you love, each of those things is a reminder that God is generous.

Receiving gifts like toys, clothes, and games is always exciting. These are usually given during a celebration, like a birthday or Christmas. As fun as our toys can be, they'll never be able to fill our hearts with joy like the love of God, or the love we receive from our parents, siblings, grandparents, or friends.

Think for a moment about your parents, your sisters or brothers, your grandparents, your aunts, and uncles, or your close friends. Gifts are people you get excited to see, the people whose hugs make you feel good, the people who teach you about Jesus, and the people who make you feel known and loved. Who is a gift in your life, and WHY? (student response)

Today we're going to think of a special person who is our gift. Then we're going to remind them they are a "good and perfect gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens!"


Have students identify someone in their life, a family member or friend, who is a gift from God. Then, direct students to pair up and share WHY that person is a gift. Ask students to verbally share their answers to the following questions to encourage deeper thinking about their "why."

- How does this person make you feel? (loved, special, important, cared for)
- What does this person do that gives you joy? (makes me laugh, plays with me)
- Why do you enjoy being around this person? (I feel happy, it's fun)

When I think about someone who is a gift in my life, ____ comes to my mind. This person is a good gift from God because... (teacher shares personal reflection and displays "My Good Gift" example sentence)

Direct students to Page ____ called "My Good Gift." Students will write their name on the gift tag, then illustrate a family member or friend who is a gift in their life, and write that person's name in the circle. Last, students will complete the sentence: ____ is my good gift because ____.

When students are finished, have a class prayer of thanksgiving for God's generosity and all the gifts represented on the "My Good Gift" pages. Encourage students to take this home and give it to the person they illustrated, which will be a very special GIFT to that person.

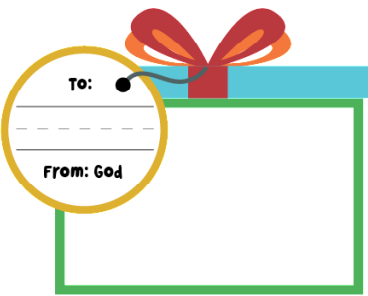


EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Scripture Connection

My Good Gift

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." - James 1:17



TO: _____

From: God

_____ is my good gift because _____

ENTER THE ADVENTURE: Gratitude Journal

Direct students to **Page 7** titled “Enter the Adventure”.

Refer back to page 2 of the Teacher Guide for talking points about how to use the Gratitude Journal.

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NOTES & IDEAS

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DISCOVER WITH FRIENDS: Story Time

After reading the class these clues, direct students to **Page 8** titled "Discover With Friends".

Now that our hearts and minds are in a grateful place, it's time to discover generosity! You might be familiar with some of the animals in the Generosity Jungle, or you may be meeting them for the first time. Our animal friends will help us learn about generosity by telling us fun stories and helping us find ways we can be generous to our friends and family.


Today, I'm going to introduce you to a very special friend who is coming on our Generosity Adventure with us! Today, we'll meet the Generosity Giraffe! The Generosity Giraffe will introduce us to some of his jungle friends and will join us on our Generosity Adventure. We will learn from our Generosity Jungle friends, from what the Bible teaches us, and from one another as we journey toward becoming lifelong givers!

Introduce the Generosity Giraffe stuffed animal and give students an opportunity to see, touch, and even talk to the stuffed animal. Access the teacher portal to explore ideas on how to engage the Generosity Giraffe in your classroom.

Today, the Generosity Giraffe has a poem for us!



WATCH THE VIDEO: MEET THE GENEROSITY GIRAFFE



DISCOVER WITH FRIENDS

Story Time

Meet the Generosity Giraffe

Welcome, my new friends!
An adventure awaits!
I'm the Generosity Giraffe, your new classmate.

On an adventure, we will go.
Along the way, there are new things to know.

Every twist and turn will bring new things to see.
Because when we are generous, we open a world of possibilities.


And don't you worry, there will be plenty of fun.
As we learn the 7 ways, you will meet everyone!

On our journey, we'll give and share
And look for ways to show we care.

Generosity begins with a thankful heart
Gratitude is where we will always start.

So enter, explore and let's discover
How we can live Generously with One Another!

Let's enjoy this adventure until the end
Are you ready to get started? Of course, you are, my friend!



The Generosity Giraffe will visit us often in our classroom - you may even see him pop up at your desk! He's always looking for students who are generous. Let's take a look at him and see what we notice about the Generosity Giraffe... he has glasses to see opportunities to be generous and pay close attention to people... his long neck allows him to be aware of people near and far...and a bow tie because he likes to look snazzy!

Did anyone notice that our Generosity Giraffe told us how many ways we can be generous? That's right! SEVEN WAYS!

We've talked about God's generosity with the good gifts He gives us, and we've met the Generosity Giraffe. Now it's time to define exactly what we mean by the word "generosity" as we adventure together. You might have heard the Generosity Giraffe say it, or you might have an idea of your own. Turn to your neighbor and take turns sharing what you think generosity means.

Develop a brainstorming visual with "Generosity" at the center. Invite students to share ideas about what generosity means while adding word bubbles around the web. Identify common themes and connect student ideas to the Generous Students definition, then share the definition with the class:

Generosity: To give, share, and show we care. This will be our definition for generosity as we learn to be Generous Students! Let's stand up and I'll teach you hand motions that go with the definition!

Direct students to Page 9 and have them fill in the blanks.

GENEROSITY:

TO _____ ,

share, _____

and _____

you _____ .

9

ENTER THE ADVENTURE: Gratitude Journal

Refer back to page 2 of the Teacher Guide for talking points about how to use the Gratitude Journal.



ENTER THE ADVENTURE

Gratitude Journal

Draw a person or thing you're grateful for today! When you are finished with your illustration, write why you're thankful for that person or thing.

Today, I'm grateful for...

because...

10

[illegible]

HIT THE TRAIL: Application Time

Direct students to **Page 11** titled "Hit the Trail".

We recently learned the definition of generosity with hand motions. This is the first part of our Generosity Cheer, which we'll be adding onto throughout our adventure. Let's all stand up and say what generosity means: To give, share, and show you care!

We've been learning how to think about what we're grateful for, and we learned that all good gifts, especially the people we love, are from God. Did anyone have a chance to give their "My Good Gift" to the person they wrote about? (student response, with a focus on how it felt to give)

Let's say our Bible verse together: Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. James 1:17

There's one good gift that comes from God our Father that we haven't yet talked about: YOU! It's easy to think about the people we love and why they are a gift to us. Sometimes it can be tricky to think about ourselves in this way. But, just like your family and friends are good gifts to you, YOU are a good gift to them!

When you give, share, and show you care to your family and friends, it's like they're opening a gift all over again. Giving and sharing things, like your snacks or your toys, is generous. But, the biggest gift you can give is what's inside of you. God made each of us to be one-of-a-kind. You're a gift like nobody else.

We're going to look at some pictures that show people giving their unique gifts to others. You'll notice that nobody is passing a gift-wrapped present in the pictures, but they're giving by showing love and care, and joy to others. Let's look at the first one together. You'll notice it's a picture of kids laughing together and it says "I'm a joyful friend." Does anyone here like to laugh with others and give people joy? Does anyone like to cheer up their friends by making them smile? In this picture, we see gifts of friendship and joy. Stand up if you are a joyful friend. Your joy and friendship are a gift!

As we move along and see more pictures, first we'll identify what good gifts are shown, then you can stand up if you believe God gave you that gift. You might stand up for every single one, or you might stand up for one or two - we're all unique in how God made us.

Show slides that include visuals of kids with a variety of character and personality traits, along with a word or phrase. Examples: I love to laugh, I'm a good listener, I'm patient, I like to help, I have good ideas, I'm a good big brother/sister, I like to be a leader, I share my toys, I like to smile, I'm good at cheering people up, I'm a quiet friend, etc.

Wow! That was a great way for us to get to know each other better! Our classroom is filled with unique gifts. Today you're going to choose one of the gifts God has given you (one of the reasons why you stood up) and make a headband that lets others know what gifts you have to give! You are generous when you simply allow God to use the unique way he made you to care for others.

Direct students to Page 11. As students color and cut out their "I'm a Gift!" picture, the teacher either writes or helps students write their unique gift (example: I'm patient and fun, I'm a good listener, etc.) on a sentence strip. The gift cut-out will be stapled to the sentence strip, then the sentence strip will be sized and stapled as a headband. These headbands will be great conversation starters at home! Optional: Purchase self-adhesive bows from the store and place them on the front of the headband.



HIT THE TRAIL

Application Time

Color your own gift head band.

1. Color the picture of the gift box.
2. Your teacher helps you write your unique gift on the dotted line.
3. Cut out the gift box and sentence strip along the yellow dotted line.
4. Attach both to your head band to wear and remember that you are a gift!



11



Note to Teacher: Page 12 in the Student booklet is designed with a full page graphic so that students can color the opposite side and cut it out for the activity, without losing any of the curriculum content.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ENTER THE ADVENTURE: Gratitude Journal

Direct students to **Page 13** titled “Enter the Adventure”.

Refer back to page 2 of the Teacher Guide for talking points about how to use the Gratitude Journal.



NOTES & IDEAS

[illegible]

BE BOLD: Live it Out

Direct students to **Pages 14** titled "Be Bold".

We know what generosity means and that all good gifts come from God. We identified someone who is a gift from God in our life, and we thought about what special gifts we can share with our friends and family. Today, we're going to think about specific things we can do to give, share, and show we care. When you're with your friends and family, at school or at your house, what can you do to give love, share something, or show you care about them? Let's start by thinking of all the ways we can be generous in our classroom - how can you give, share, and show you care right here?

There are endless ways to be generous in our classroom. Now, it's time to think of specific ways you can give, share, and show you care to your family and friends. Turn to page 14 and let's read the directions together.



BE BOLD

Live it Out

I Can Be Generous!

You are a gift from God, and you have gifts to give others. How can you be generous to your family and friends? Illustrate specific ways you can give, share, and show you care! In the next few days, pick one person who you would want to give, share and show you care toward.



Give



share



show I care

11

14

GENEROUS STUDENTS™

LEARNING THE 7 WAYS
OF LIVING GENEROUSLY



1ST GRADE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

LESSON 1

WHAT IS GENEROSITY?

Meet the Generosity Giraffe





ENTER THE ADVENTURE

Gratitude Journal

Draw a person or thing you're grateful for today! When you are finished with your illustration, write why you're thankful for that person or thing.

Today, I'm grateful for...

because...

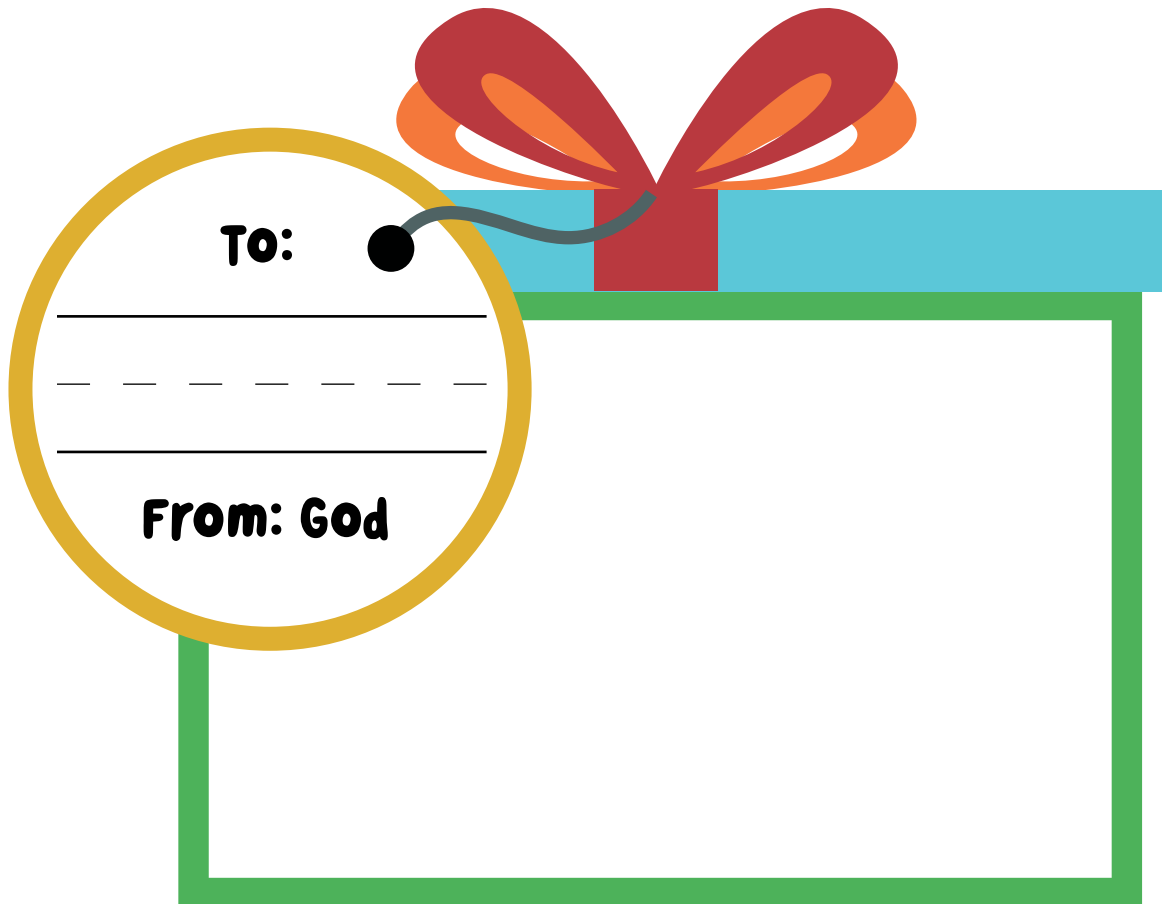


EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Scripture Connection

My Good Gift

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." - **James 1:17**



is my good gift because



ENTER THE ADVENTURE

Gratitude Journal

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I'm the Generosity Giraffe, your new classmate.

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Every twist and turn will bring new things to see.
Because when we are generous, we open a world of possibilities.

And don't you worry, there will be plenty of fun.
As we learn the 7 ways, you will meet everyone!

On our journey, we'll give and share
And look for ways to show we care.

Generosity begins with a thankful heart
Gratitude is where we will always start.

So enter, explore and let's discover
How we can live Generously with One Another!

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Are you ready to get started? Of course, you are, my friend!



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HIT THE TRAIL

Application Time

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1. Color the picture of the gift box.
2. Your teacher helps you write your unique gift on the dotted line.
3. Cut out the gift box and sentence strip along the yellow dotted line.
4. Attach both to your head band to wear and remember that you are a gift!



A rectangular area enclosed by a yellow dashed line, containing three horizontal lines for writing: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

LET'S CONTINUE OUR GENEROSITY ADVENTURE!





ENTER THE ADVENTURE

Gratitude Journal

Draw a person or thing you're grateful for today! When you are finished with your illustration, write why you're thankful for that person or thing.

Today, I'm grateful for...

because...



BE BOLD

Live it Out

I Can Be Generous!

You are a gift from God, and you have gifts to give others. How can you be generous to your family and friends? Illustrate specific ways you can give, share, and show you care! In the next few days, pick one person who you would want to give, share and show you care toward.

