

# Generosity

*Readiness or liberality in giving; freedom from meanness or smallness in mind or character.*



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December 2009  
Theme  
Of the  
Month

This month our  
weekly lessons  
will cover:

## Dear Parents,

The holiday season is in full swing! This time of year brings family and friends together to enjoy the love and

friendship we have between one another. Acts of kindness and generosity abound during this time of year. Not only do retailers see their largest sales of the year during this time as we purchase gifts for loved ones, but charitable organizations also receive the majority of their donations during this period, too, as we seek to help those who are less fortunate.

However, this attitude of generosity shouldn't be limited to a few days in November and December of each year. It's also important to remember that you do not have to spend or donate money in order to be a generous person. This holiday season, encourage your child to develop a generous attitude that will last throughout the year.

## Other Things Parents and Caregivers Can Do to Help Their Children Demonstrate Generosity

**Talk to them about ways to be generous that do not include money.** Too often we limit the notion of generosity to the giving or spending of money, but we can also be generous with our time, our words, and our labor. Discuss with your children how they can develop this attitude in every area of their lives.

**Model a generous attitude.** As you well know, you are the biggest influence in your children's lives. Help them learn generosity by seeing it in you. This will be the most effective way to teach them this important characteristic. Remember this Latin proverb, "Let him who exhorts others to give, give himself."

**Share with them the impact of someone's generosity on your life.** Real life examples are an excellent way to connect with children and teach important lessons. Help them understand the real impact a simple act of kindness can have on a life by discussing your own experience with them.

**Make generosity a family affair.** Whether it's becoming involved with a charitable organization, adopting a family in need, or some other activity, choose a project or activity in which the entire family can be involved. Not only will this increase the impact of your generosity, but it also will strengthen your bond as a family.

## Week One:

*"We make a living by what we get,  
we make a life by what we give."*  
– Winston Churchill

## Week Two:

*"They who give have all things; they  
who withhold have nothing."*  
– Hindu Proverb

## Week Three:

*"Mighty of heart, mighty of mind,  
magnanimous – to be this is indeed  
to be great in life."*  
– John Ruskin

## Week Four:

*"It is more blessed to give than  
to receive."*  
– Acts 20:35

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