Generosity

Lesson Introduction

The mark of a godly person will be the reflection of God in their life. This will come through all of life's actions as they are focused on pleasing God. We serve a powerfully generous God and our actions should be filled with godly generosity.

If someone believes that their God is selfish or stingy, they will be the same. Our lives here will pass quickly. Only what is done and given for Christ will have any lasting value on the long side of eternity. An easy way to dwarf our Christian character is by being selfish.

Generosity as with all character traits, must be done with wisdom from the One we serve. Generosity for the sake of generosity can easily lead to foolish waste. That is not what God calls us to. Give as directed by the King. When giving be responsible with your gifts.

We are to promote godly character. If giving promotes laziness, and or ease of another to supply themselves with addictive substances or actions, then our gift is best reserved for those to whom it will be of value.

May the greatest Giver of all, guide our generosity and give us wisdom! Generosity is like fuel. If generosity is a daily part of our life it will help to fuel our Christian growth and character.

Flash Point

Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.

LESSON SIXTEEN

Memory Verse

There was a disciple named Dorcas, who was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36

Flash Point

Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.

PREPARATION LIST

Prepare all songs and story pictures. Trace and color the songs and pictures onto transparencies or larger pieces of paper. If any items are not available, attempt to locate acceptable substitutions.

Welcome: Mad Scientist (MS) costume
National Anthem: National flag
Game #1: Peanuts and two empty jars
Game #2: Old toys, two buckets
Special Emphasis:
Offering: Containers for offering
Announcements: Flyers for next meeting
Lesson Introduction:
Memory Verse: Transparency or posterboard
Bible Story: Material, needle and thread
Object Lesson #1: Vinegar, jar, baking soda
Object Lesson #2: Fish, plate
Object Lesson #3: Coin, paper cup, candy
Object Lesson #4: Measuring cups, pot and popcorn

Kids Club Rally

Welcome:
KIDS Rules
Prayer _____
National Anthem _____
Theme Song _____
Praise Songs _____
Review Questions #1 _____
Game #1 Drop 'D' Nut
Review Questions #2 _____
Game #2 Poor Teddy
Special Emphasis
Offering _____

Worship _____
Special Ministry _____
Announcements _____
Lesson Introduction Generous ...
Flash Point: Generosity gives...
Memory Verse Acts 9:36
Bible Story A True Disciple + Me
Object lesson #1 Sign - Post Map
Object lesson #2 Fish Today
Object lesson #3 It's Not Generous!
Object lesson #4 'D' Big Cup
Story Time A Child Shall Lead Them
Ending Prayer

GENEROSITY

Welcome

Props: Mad Scientist (MS) costume. Two candy or potato chip bags.
Preparation: Dress a volunteer to look like a mad scientist. (Be creative.) Empty one of the chip bags.
Leader: We have been learning about Character. Remember there is a difference between being a character and having character. Part of godly character is patience. Generosity is also a part of having godly character. Practice the two **Flash Points:** Character and Patience.
Generosity is when you give to others. I brought a bag of chips and want to share them with you. Who would like a chip. (Give a sample of your chips).
Mad Scientist: Interrupts, coming out eating chips with a big (empty) bag of chips in his hand. "Hi everyone, here I am! Remember me I'm a character! Do you want a bag of chips?" I'll give this bag of chips to the first person who tells me they want it. (He encourages the kids to shout, "I do! I do!") He then selects one of the louder kids and gives them the empty bag of chips (demonstrating it is empty), and then exits laughing, Ha, Ha, I gave you the chip bag, I didn't say I was going to give you the chips, I already ate them. Ha, ha, ha, you need to learn to be a character like me. **MS Exits.**
Leader: Taking the empty bag of chips, "I don't think you want to be that kind of character." Giving a bag of chips away, can be generous, but not if there are no chips inside. We may not have a lot but if we share what we have that is learning to be generous. Today we are going to learn more about what it means to have godly character. By learning to be generous.

Kids Rules
Opening Prayer

Select a child to pray. (Alternate with different children from week to week).

Suggested prayer: Dear Jesus, Please help us to have fun while we learn about being generous, like you are. Please help us all to be generous, and to be patient with each other as we learn to obey you. Thank you Jesus. Amen.

National Anthem
Praise Songs
Review Questions

1. What was last weeks Flash Point? Patience: Hard 2 find. Important 2 have!
2. What was the Bible Story. Saul offering the sacrifice without Samuel.
3. Last weeks Memory Verse.
4. One of the Four Rules of Life.

Game #1
Drop 'D' Nut

Props: Peanuts and two empty jars.
Preparation: Give each player five peanuts. Set the team jars on the floor at the front of the audience so the game action can be seen easily.
Participants: Recommend eight players. Equal numbers of boys and girls. All ages may play.
Game Rules: Have the children stand in a line with their peanuts in hand. Explain that when the music begins the contestants are take turns standing over their jars (placed on the ground) and as carefully as possible, (while standing) they are to each drop all five of their peanuts into their team jars by rolling the peanuts off the end of their noses (demonstrate). The peanuts that enter the jars will be counted to determine which group wins. Have watchers on hand to keep the game and players going properly.

Review Questions

1. Is godly character rude or patient? Patient.
2. When we get to heaven, what will Jesus give those who please Him? (Hint kings wear them on their heads.) A crown.

3. Flash Point: Character... with actions.
4. Memory verse, I Cor. 15:33. Do not be fooled: Bad company corrupts good character.
Create more questions for additional contestants.

Game #2
Poor Teddy

Props: Old toys, two buckets.
Preparation: Mark a line for shooting the basket. Place a garbage can or bucket in front of the audience. Use old or broken toys. Make sure the audience can see the game. Have cheer leaders and helpers ready.
Players: Two groups. Size to your choice.
Playing: Line contestants up at the shooting line. On the signal to shoot the ball, the first in line of both team takes a shot at the basket. Keep score. After each shot is scored, return the toys to the teams. The next team member prepares to shoot the hoop on the signal, continue until each team player has had a chance to shoot the basket. The winner are declared by the baskets scored. If a tie, play until the tie is broken.

Offering
Children in Special Ministry
Worship
Announcements

Lesson Introduction
Generous with God

Presentation: Let's play a special game. In order to be part of this game you have to be able to tell me what God has given you. I will start. One of the things God gives me each day is the air I breathe. Give additional children opportunity to express what God has given to them. Make sure to emphasize how generous God is us to give us these things. (The list of what God gives us each day is unending, such as air, water, love, light, rest, strength, etc.) From the volunteers form two group of contestants. Large is good. Divide the two groups evenly. Tell the groups that the contest will only last 15 seconds. The two groups are to see who can give God the loudest praise for 15 seconds. They can shout their love to Him in whatever way they want. They can wave, they can jump. On the signal to start, play fun praise music in the background. After 15 seconds turn off the praise music and announce the winners. All who praise God are winners. God is so generous with us, we ought to be generous with our praise of Him.

Memory Verse

There was a disciple named Dorcas, who was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36

Props: Transparency or poster of today's scripture verse. May want to use it as a coloring page for the class or as a take home.
Preparation: Practice and become familiar with today's memory verse. Use the music provided on the Kids Praise and Worship tape.
Presentation: Dorcas was a disciple of Jesus. We who love and follow Jesus are in training to be His disciples. Dorcas was an very good disciple of Jesus and the Bible records her as doing good and helping the poor. As we are disciples of Jesus, we should do the same. As we learn today's memory verse we need to apply it to our lives. Sing today's memory verse.

Flash Point

Review: Practice two previous weeks **Flash Points** with actions. **#1. Character** is the good or godly actions that come from our heart. Character is not found in what we know. Point to your head, *meaning knowledge*. Shake your head no. **It's not there.**

Character is **not** just what we do. Point to your hands, shake your head no. There are people who know how to work hard, but that does not mean they have good character. What we do, does not necessarily mean we have good character. **It's not there.**

Good character comes from the heart. Point to your heart. Shaking your head yes. If you have godly character it comes from knowing and serving God. Having God in your heart and following Him is the best way to develop good character. Good character comes from the heart. **It is there!**

Last week's lesson taught about one part of godly character, **"patience."** If we love God and learn to be patient we are learning to develop godly character. **#2. Patience hard 2 find. Important 2 have.** Today's **Flash Point: Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.**

Quiet Seat Time

Bible Story

A True Disciple + Me

Acts 9:36-42

Props: Material, needle and thread.

Preparation: Read today's scripture passage in order to familiarize yourself with the beautiful example of Dorcas' life, a disciple of Jesus. Use words, drama and actions appropriate for your group. If possible prepare to give away a special gift from someone who wants to bless a child in the group you minister to.

Presentation: Come out sewing on a piece of cloth. (Perhaps a cross stitch). Being a disciple and a person of godly character, means that we work hard to copy Jesus.

One of the things Jesus did was, He always went around doing good. In today's Bible Story in the Bible the book of Acts we read that there was a disciple named Dorcas. She was a lady who liked to sew. Hold up the material with the needle and thread. When she sewed, she did it with love. She gave away many of the clothes she made. People all over her town knew her as a kind and giving lady. She was very generous. In the Bible story we find that Dorcas died and many people were very sad. They even called Peter an Apostle of Jesus to come pray for her after she died. People came from all over and held up clothes that she had made for them. Peter knelt down (kneel) and prayed for Dorcas, even though she was dead, and Jesus raised her from the dead.

There are many generous people in the world. Some people like to find someone who is generous so that they can get something from them. The Bible teaches us *we are not to try to **find** generous people, we are to practice **being** generous people.*

I have a gift from a generous person and want to give it to someone here today. (If you have prepared to give away a gift to someone in your class do so now). The person who gave it to me, trusted me to give it away to someone who needed it. They trusted me not to try to sell it, or to even use it for myself. Being generous is learning to be like Jesus. That is what being a disciple is, Following and obeying Jesus. **Flash Point: Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.**

Remember Dorcas. You too can be Jesus disciple. Being generous is learning to copy Jesus.

Object Lesson #1

Sign Post - Map

Props: Vinegar, jar and baking soda.

Preparation: Depending on the size of your audience, secure a jar and cork (or lid) that can be used to seal the top.

(Optional) Make a light weight rocket to go on top of the lid. Practice to make sure you have the proper mixture of vinegar and soda.

Presentation: (Bring out the jar with soda inside.) Growing in Jesus, comes from having Him in our heart and following Him. As we have already studied, having character is not just knowing the right things. (Point to your head). Even evil people often know what is right and what is wrong. If we have Jesus in our heart, it's much like this jar. You can see it has powder inside and yet it is not enough. For the lid to fly off it needs something else. To be a disciple of Jesus, just believing in Him is not enough, we need to also obey Him. Watch as I put in this liquid. (Place in an appropriate amount of vinegar, depending on the size of the bottle and the amount of the soda. Quickly seal the jar. The reaction of the soda and vinegar should send the lid flying. (If you put a rocket on top it too (hopefully) will fly off.

Flash Point: Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go. Our faith without actions will not go anywhere. When we follow Jesus, we will also be like Him. He is very generous and giving, and so should we be generous and giving.

Object Lesson #2
Fish Today

Props: Fish, plate.

Preparation: Place a fish on a plate. May consider either a whole fried fish or a (tuna) fish sandwich. Encourage the one receiving the fish to act excited and hungry, giving appropriate actions and sounds while eating the fish.

Presentation: Select someone to receive the fish (or fish sandwich) as a gift to eat. Encourage them to eat it in front of the audience. Ask if they enjoyed it. Ask them if the fish has helped to make them not so hungry. (Have them reply they are full. Ask them if they are sure that it is enough. They confirm that it is. Next ask them if it will still be enough for tomorrow. They are to reply, "No tomorrow they will be hungry again."

Kids, that's true. There is an old saying that says, "Feed a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." When you are generous to others, try to think about what they truly need. Being generous includes thinking. God gave us air to breathe yesterday, and He is still giving us air to breathe today. Being generous is not just once, it is something we need to do all our lives. **Flash Point: Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.**

Object Lesson #3
It's Not Generous!

Props: Coin, paper cup, piece of candy, dirty or torn clothes, and a paper bag.

Preparation: Dress a small child up as a beggar. Small is better, but they need to be willing to act out their part. Have the child carry a cup for begging. Put a paper bag (representing glue sniffing under their shirt.

Presentation: Have the child come up to you begging. Give the child a piece of candy, ignore the child a moment and walk forward to talk to the audience. Being generous does not mean giving your money to everyone that comes begging for money. If someone comes begging money from me I will listen to Jesus. If He says to do something I will. It is not possible for me to help all the needy and all the beggars in the world. Not even if I took all the food or money from my family or children. Making my family go without food in order to feed a beggar is not what God means when we are taught to be generous.

Go catch the begging child. "Look!" Pull the paper bag out of the child's shirt.

If you are generous and give money to a beggar and they buy Rugby (glue or adhesive) to sniff then you are being a part of their addiction. Do you think Jesus would be happy for you (point at the child) to buy a beggar drugs? Instead of giving money, if you really care and can be generous why not help them by supplying them with something to eat.

What can happen to the money we give to a beggar? (Allow a response.) Remember some beggars can work, but they choose to beg because

it is easier. The Bible says, “If someone is not willing to work, then don’t feed them.” II Thess. 3:10 Being generous means you also need to use your brain. Think about what Jesus would have you to do. **Flash Point: Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.**

Object Lesson #4

‘D’ Big Cup

Luke 6:38

Props: Measuring cups of various sizes. Pot and popcorn.

Preparation: Prepare a large pot of popcorn to share with your class.

Presentation: Bring out different sizes of measuring cups. The Bible teaches us that God will bless us for being generous. Hold up each measuring cup and comment on each one according to it’s size.

If we give a small amount, it is like we allow God to give back to us in a small way. It is the same law that controls the farmer in his field. If he plants a little. He will get a small return.

Holding a larger measuring cup. If we give more, we free God to bless us more. Would you like God to be generous to you? (Encourage a response.) Then practice being generous with others. The laws of God will work for you.

Bring out the pot of popcorn. Here’s my measuring cup. Let’s enjoy.

Flash Point: Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.

Story Time

A Child Shall Lead Them

Based on a true story. Adapt the story and names to fit your audience.

Picture 16:1 The family was eating dinner on Christmas Day in a small restaurant many miles from their home. They were the only family with children in the restaurant. The mother put her young son Jomer in a high-chair.

Picture 16:2 Suddenly, Jomer squealed with excitement and said, “Hi! Hi!” He pounded his baby hands on the high-chair tray. His eyes were wide with excitement, and his mouth single tooth smile. He wriggled and giggled. (Story teller is encouraged to act it out).

Picture 16:3 Jomer’s mom looked around and saw what he was laughing at. It was a drunk, a man with a tattered, dirty greasy, worn shirt. His pants were baggy with a zipper half down, and his toes poked out of worn out shoes. His hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard and his nose was red from the effect of alcohol. We were too far from him to smell, but no one was sitting next to him for that reason.

Picture 16:4 His hands waved and he played peek-a-boo with Jomer. “Hi baby; hi there, big boy. I see you!” The man began shouting from across the room, “Do ya know patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo!” The mom . He was obviously drunk.

LESSON SIXTEEN

My husband and I stared at each other, "What should we do?" Jomer continued to laugh and answer, ""Hi, hi there." Everyone in the restaurant was watching. The drunk was creating a nuisance with my baby. Our meal came, my husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence. But not Jomer, he was doing his cutest tricks for the drunk bum. The drunk man also shouted back playing with Jomer from his stool.

Picture 16:5 We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband payed the bill and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat between me and the door. "Lord, just get me out of here before he speaks to me or Jomer," I prayed. As I tried to pass the man, I turned my back trying to sidestep him and avoid any smell he might have. As I did, Jomer leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's pick-me-up, plea.

Picture 16:6 Before I could stop him, Jomer had wiggled out of my arms into the man's. Suddenly a very old smelly man and my very clean little baby came together with a big hug. Jomer in an act of total trust and love laid his tiny head upon the man's dirty shirt. The man's eyes closed, and I saw his tears. His grimy dirty hands full - gently, so gently cradled my baby.

Picture 16:7 I stood in shock. The man rocked and cradled Jomer in his arms for a moment, and then his eyes opened and he looked squarely at me. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby." Somehow I answered, "I will," though I felt like I had a rock in my throat. He pried Jomer from his chest unwillingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby, and the man said, "God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift." I said nothing more than a muttered thanks.

Picture 16:8 With Jomer in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Jomer so tightly, and why I was saying, "My God, my God, forgive me." I had just seen Jesus' love shown through the innocence of my baby who saw no sin, who made no judgment; my baby who saw a person, and me a mother who saw only a dirty drunk. I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking —"Are you willing to share your son for a moment?" When He shared His for all eternity. The dirty drunk man, unknowingly, had reminded me, "To enter the Kingdom of God, we must become as little children."

GENEROSITY

Generosity is not limited to children. Yet if you learn it as a child you may grow to be a strong disciple for Jesus. Remember if you want to grow learn to give. **Flash Point: Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.**

Picture 16:9
The teenagers were bored. After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's pastor once again slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit, and gave a very brief introduction of his childhood friend. With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit to speak.

Picture 16:10
He began: "A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing on the ocean between some islands. Without warning fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, the boat bucked under the waves and the two boys were swept into the ocean." The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story.

Picture 16:11 He continued, "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most painful choice of his life... to which boy he would throw the other end of the line. He only had seconds to make the decision.

The father knew that his son was a Christian, and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the angry torrent of waves. As the father threw out the line he shouted, 'I love you, son!' The line fell into the grasp of his son's friend. By the time he pulled the boy back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beyond the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered." By this time, the two teenagers were sitting straighter in the pew, waiting for the next words to come out of the old man's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus, and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son. How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us."

Picture 16:12
With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room. Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," started one of the boys, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian." "Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face, and he once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it?

But I'm standing here today to tell you that THAT story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me." "You see... I was that son's friend."

Wrap Up

True godly generosity is born in the heart of a person who knows God. Generosity does not make sense unless you understand and know God.

Closing Prayer

Suggested prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Please help us to be your disciples. Help us to be generous in what we do and say. Thank you Jesus. Amen.