

Generosity: Getting Started

Inspiring Words

Training in morals and good conduct is far more important than book learning. A child that is cleanly, agreeable, of good character, well-behaved -- even though he be ignorant -- is preferable to a child that is rude, unwashed, ill-natured, and yet becoming deeply versed in all the sciences and arts. The reason for this is that the child who conducts himself well, even though he be ignorant, is of benefit to others, while an ill-natured, ill-behaved child is corrupted and harmful to others, even though he be learned. If, however, the child be trained to be both learned and good, the result is light upon light. (Abdu'l-Baha, Selections, p. 135)

Printables

Page 1: Spiritual Treasure Box Projects
Page 2: Devotional
Page 3: Booklet
Page 4: Radiant Hearts Book Template
Page 5: Monthly Letter Template
Page 6: Daily Activity #15
Page 7: Daily Activity #17

See the "Printable" document for these pages.

Questions to Consider

How do I currently model Generosity?

What are ways I would like to model Generosity better?

How does my child currently exhibit Generosity?

What aspects of showing Generosity can I help my child work on?

Generosity: Foundation

Prayer

O Lord! Unto Thee I repair for refuge, and toward all Thy signs I set my heart. O Lord! Whether traveling or at home, and in my occupation or in my work, I place my whole trust in Thee. Grant me then Thy sufficing help so as to make me independent of all things, O Thou Who art unsurpassed in Thy mercy! Bestow upon me my portion, O Lord, as Thou pleasest, and cause me to be satisfied with whatsoever Thou hast ordained for me. Thine is the absolute authority to command.

(The Bab, Baha'i Prayers, p. 55) Generosity

Quotation

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 93)

Generosity

Introduction to the Virtue

Generosity is sharing what you have because you want to, and not because you expect something in return. When we are generous, we truly believe deep down in our heart that there really is enough for everyone. Being generous means we value the opportunities to share what we have been given in life because we feel great joy from giving to others. When we practice generosity, we show others we love them and care for them.

How do your parents show Generosity?

In what ways can you practice Generosity?

What does it feel like when someone shows Generosity to you?

Generosity

Songs

Generosity

(Nabil H., *Virtues In Us #30*)

A smile is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away

A smile is something if you give it away
Then it comes right back to you

Generosity

The Sharing Song

(Raffi, *Singable Songs for the Very Young #17*)

It's mine but you can have some
With you I'd like to share it
'Cos if I share it with you
You'll have some too

Generosity

Generosity: Daily Activities

Activities for Every Month

1. Spiritual Treasure Box project (prayer).	2. Assemble the booklet.	3. Make a Monthly Letter.
4. Spiritual Treasure Box (quotation).	5. Make Radiant Hearts Book page.	6. Add a jewel to the Crown of Virtues.

Games and Role Plays

<p>7. “Today we’re going show Generosity by donating some items to others.” Many of us have things we can do without which others would find useful. Choose some items to give away to a specific person or a place such as a Women’s Shelter or school. Talk about detachment with your child. If they are particularly attached to an item they do not need, have them take a picture with it before giving it away. This honors the sentimental value so they can “keep” the memory but allow someone else to benefit from the object. Giving lets more people enjoy it! Generosity</p>
<p>8. “Today we’re going to practice Generosity by offering our time to someone else.” How we spend our time is a very important decision to daily life. Time is limited and we all only have so much. Do we spend it working, learning, being entertained, or serving others? Choose some time you can offer to help someone else. Generosity</p>
<p>9. “Today we’re going to learn about giving with our whole heart.” Map out a short running route with your child. Now take turns running as hard as you can without hope of something in return, just for the sake of giving your all. Next imagine running in a race to win a medal or a prize. This is doing something with hope of a reward. The first exercise helps us think about giving fully and selflessly. Generosity</p>
<p>10. “Today we’re going to brainstorm how we can be generous by thinking about what others need and choosing a way to help someone.” Name some people you know and think about things they may need. Now choose one person and one way you can be generous towards them. Have fun being generous! Generosity</p>
<p>11. “Today we’re going to find ways people are generous in our community.” Talk about (and visit, if possible) places in your community which offer free services to people such as second-hand shops, soup kitchens, and libraries. When we are generous, we trust deep down that there will be enough for everyone, we give what we can, and are willing to sacrifice for others. Some people dedicate their whole life to giving to others and get nothing in return. We can learn from them. Generosity</p>
<p>12. “Today we’re going to play Generous Giant.” Place some people (figures or pictures) on the ground and some fruit on a table that your child can reach. Have your child pretend they are a giant who comes across some people who cannot reach fruit on a tree. The giant could easily pick the fruit all for himself but he chooses to enjoy offering service to those in need. How does it feel? Generosity</p>

Generosity: Daily Activities (continued)

Creative Arts

<p>13. "Today we're going to show Generosity by sharing food with someone." There are many people in our community in need. Think of someone who may especially appreciate a home cooked meal such as a family expecting a baby, a family with a baby, a family who recently went through a loss, or an elderly person. Prepare a dish or a simple meal for them, and deliver it together. Generosity</p>
<p>14. "Today we're going to learn about sacrifice and memorize a phrase to use to remember how to practice Generosity." The nature of sacrifice is that you give up something lower for something higher. When you give something physical away you may not have it any more however you gain something even better; the joy from giving. You can remember what sacrifice is by saying "Sharing is caring." Generosity</p>
<p>15. "Today we're going to see how a candle represents Generosity." Print out page 6 of the Printables which explains how 'Abdu'l-Baha likened Himself to a candle which weeps its life away in order to give light to others. You may like to light a candle while you read the quotations and discuss the questions on the page. Generosity</p>
<p>16. "Today we're going to draw a picture of a time we saw Generosity practiced." Talk with your child about times people were generous to them, and choose one to illustrate. When we think about all we are given in life, we are often inspired to give more to others. Write on the page "I am thankful for Generosity in my life." Generosity</p>
<p>17. "Today we're going to see how when we practice Generosity, everyone benefits." Print out page 7 of the Printables and act out the story (Stone Soup) using the pictures provided (which you can cut out and glue onto another piece of paper) or real vegetables. By then end of the activity everyone offers something to create a delicious soup to share, made possible only through everyone's Generosity. Generosity</p>
<p>18. "Today we're going to be generous by sharing one of our artistic talents." Talk about how our life is made more beautiful when people share their talents with us, such as singing, playing music, making beautiful art, or creating beauty in our homes through organization and nutritious food. Choose one of these you can share today. Generosity</p>
<p>19. "Today we're going to list ways each of our family members is or can be generous." Draw a picture of each family member with their arms open and list ways they can be generous on top of their hands, as if they are ready to give each of these things. List ways they currently are or ways they would like to be generous to the family and their community. See if there is a way your family can be more generous. Generosity</p>

Visit the Online Lesson where you can see example photos of the daily activities, listen to the songs, and download the "Printables" document for this lesson:

<http://www.enablemetogrow.com/generosity/>