Live to Give

Children’s Generosity

Bible Poems & Activities

www.GenerousLife.org
www.MAXIMUMgenerosity.org
Is it possible to steal from God?
The Bible says some do.
It isn't speaking of crooks and thieves
But people like me and you.

We wouldn't steal from a neighbor or friend,
Not even a dollar or two.
Yet God says we often steal from Him,
Not knowing that we do.

The tithe belongs to Him, you see,
One-tenth of all we possess.
When we keep all or most for ourselves,
He receives less and less.

God isn't asking a lot of us.
A tithe isn't much to give back.
Seeing all that He has given us.
We've never had a lack.

If we give to God first it's easy to do,
From a dollar, give Him a dime.
Then when we get ten dollars,
Give Him one dollar every time.

If we learn to tithe when we are young,
When we don't have much to give,
It becomes a habit we won't want to break
As long as God lets us live.

When giving to God what belongs to Him,
His promise will always come true.
He will "open the floodgates of heaven
And pour out His blessing on you."

And when we learn to give a tithe,
We'll find we won't stop there.
We'll then give offerings and extra gifts
As we seek God's will through prayer.

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children
and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
How do people rob God?
Read Malachi 3:8-10

If you got $50 for your birthday, how much of that $50 belongs to God? How much is left for you? (Younger children may need help with understanding the 10% concept. Use money such as a quarter, two dimes, one nickel to represent dollars; use tally marks; or draw an example on a dry erase or chalkboard.)

GOD: $
YOU: $

But...there’s a fantastic toy you’ve been wanting to buy. It costs $50. What will you do?

Prayer
Ask God to help you get into the habit of giving one-tenth of everything you have. If you already do this, seek God on how you can begin to give extra offerings.
“Give and it will be given you,” or “To give is to receive.”
It’s a message straight from Jesus’ lips
To all who in Him believe.

It’s the opposite way that most folks think
But is much of what He taught.
“The last shall be first” and “to lose is to win.”
Popular ideas they’re not!

For those of us who are His children
He teaches a new way to live.
Instead of thinking up new ways to get
Try thinking up new ways to give.

Do we use a large measure when giving,
Or decide a small measure will do?

“With the measure you use,” the Bible says,
It will be measured back to you.”
“The more we give, the more we receive,
This is the way God plans.
The more we give to others
The more we get from His hands.

Instead of thinking only of me
And what I want to buy.
I’ll try thinking of somebody else
Whose needs I can supply.

“Give and it shall be given you.”
God’s promises are true.
When we bless others by giving to them
We find God blesses us, too.

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
You may be thinking, I don’t have much money to give. That’s where you can be creative and think of ways you can give. Sharing what you have with others is one way.

Draw a picture of some things at home you can share such as food for a food pantry. Clothes that don’t fit any more. Toys and books you don’t use. Or, you can make a meal to give to a family.

Prayer

Ask God to help you think of new ideas to bless others.
“Come into My kingdom,”
they heard the King say.
It’s all prepared for you.
You fed me when hungry and gave Me to drink
And then you clothed Me, too.”

“When I was sick you cared for Me,
When a stranger, you invited Me in.
You visited Me in prison
Shared love again and again.

The righteous began to question Him,
“We don’t remember, Lord,
When it was we did this for You,
And yet we believe Your Word.”

When Jesus explained it all to them
It was then that they understood.

It was the poor and needy
To whom they gave the food.

He called them “the least of My brothers,”
Those who had been in great need.
And because the righteous cared so much,
Jesus saw every good deed.

“It’s important to share with others,” He said,
“It’s not just for them, you see,
For when you give to My brothers,
You’re doing it for Me.”

“How can we give to Jesus?”
The answer now is plain.
When we give to help out others,
He rewards us again and again.

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children
and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
When we give to help others, it’s the same as giving to Jesus.

Write or draw some ways you have fed someone who was hungry, gave a drink to someone who was thirsty, gave clothes to someone who needed them, or cared for someone who was sick.

When you see a needy person on the street, what is the first thing you think?

When we help the needy person, it’s as if we’re helping Jesus.

Prayer
Ask God to use you to help the poor and needy.
All the people were building houses,  
A place to call their own.  
But God’s house was in ruins,  
A fact that was well known.  

“Go up to the mountains and get the wood  
To build a house for My name.”  
God issued the call through prophets of old  
And then Haggai said the same.  

“It’s not time,” said the people,  
“To build His house; we’ll build ours first of all.”  
But God was not pleased with their answer,  
When they refused His call.  

They ate, but still were hungry.  
They drank, but still suffered thirst.  

They had clothes that could not keep them warm  
Because they failed to put God first.  

For God had sent a drought on the land  
So nothing much would grow.  

He kept the people from prospering  
That his displeasure they might know.  

When we give to God with an open hand,  
We find he will always bless.  

But when we selfishly keep a tight fist,  
It’s then we have less and less.  

It’s important to learn while we are young  
To listen to God’s voice.  

Will we do “our thing” or do His will?  
What will be our choice?

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
The people in this Bible story chose to put themselves first instead of God.

What do you think would have happened had they obeyed God and built a church first?

Draw a picture of an open hand and another of a tight fist. Which one shows giving and which shows selfishness?

Circle the open hand or tight fist to show how you will respond when God calls you to put Him first.

Prayer

Open your hands with your palms up while you pray, asking God to remind you to always put Him first.
Jesus told of a rich man
With more crops than his barns could hold.
He thought of a plan to follow:
Tear down the barns that were old.

He'd build new ones to store all his grain
And all his earthly stuff.
Then he would take it easy.
Just relax! He had more than enough.

“I’ll eat, drink, and be merry,” he said,
“And enjoy my life every day.”
He didn’t have one thought of God
Nor of giving some money away.

“What a fool you are!” God said to him,
“Your life will end today.
You’ve saved all you’ve had to spend on yourself
And have given nothing away.”

What a foolish choice the rich man made
To keep everything he had.
He was rich in the world, but poor towards God.
His choice was really bad!

When God gives us more than we’ve had before
Then we have more to give.
It’s called “laying up treasures in heaven.”
What an exciting way to live!

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
Sometimes God gives us more, not to have more stuff for ourselves, but so we can give more to others.

Is your room overflowing with stuff?  

**YES**  

**NO**

Maybe you have lots of books, toys, clothes, or shoes. When you receive extra money or toys, how can you give to God? Write down some ideas.

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you make the wise choice of giving more when we are blessed with more.
“I’m just a child and have nothing to give,”
   Said a little fellow one day.
Not true! We all have a treasure
   That we can give away.

Our bodies are not big and strong,
And though we have no money to give
Yet deep within us is light and power,
Shining through us each day that we live.

The glorious power is not our own.
   It comes from God above.
It’s the result of Jesus within us.
He came to show us God’s love.

We can share the good news with others
   With those who may not know.
God loved the world and gave His Son
   Because He loved us so.

Yes, the greatest gift that we can give
   Is not that of silver or gold.
It’s telling others “God loves you,”
   For many have not been told.

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
You may not have lots of money to give, but there is something even better than money you can give away. The greatest gift we can give someone is the good news of Jesus Christ. Read John 3:16.

Write down some names of people you know who don’t know Jesus. Think of family, friends, or neighbors. How can you share the good news with them?

Prayer

Ask God to show Himself to the people whose names you’ve written, and to help you tell them about the good news.
When he gave the king God’s message, 
He had to run and hide; 
For if the king had found him, 
Elijah would have died.

Elijah did what God told him to do 
And hid in a ravine, 
Which was located east of Jordan 
Near a little stream.

Morning and evening, twice a day, 
God sent him bread and meat. 
The ravens brought the food to him 
And the prophet had plenty to eat.

But one day the little stream dried up 
For there was no rain in the land. 
“A widow in Zerephath will feed you,” God said, 
So he went there at God’s command.

Sure enough, he found her there 
Gathering sticks at the city gate. 
She was there when he came as God had said, 
Not too early, and not too late.

“Please, would you give me a drink,” he said, 
“And bring me a piece of bread, too.” 
She had only a bit of flour and oil. 
What was she to do?

Elijah told her, “Go bake some bread 
And give it first to me. 
Then God will take care of your needs; 
Trust in Him and you’ll see.”

The woman did as she was told, 
Used the last of her oil and flour. 
She quickly baked bread for the prophet of God 
And was back within an hour.

Did she and her son die of hunger? 
Oh, no! God’s promise came true. 
Each time she used some flour and oil, 
He filled the jars anew.

There was plenty of bread for her family 
And for Elijah, the man of God, too. 
God provides for us when we give generously 
To others as He wants us to do.

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
The widow gave from what she had, which wasn’t much. Read I Kings 17:12.

She was gathering sticks to prepare her last meal. God had other plans for her and her son. Read I Kings 17:15-16.

When the widow shared the last of her food, God miraculously kept her jars of flour and oil full. We may not think we have much to share, but God can use the smallest gift and make it large.

Write down or draw something you have that you can share.

Prayer

Ask God to help you obey as the widow did, even when things seem impossible.
Jesus stood in the temple and watched
As the people gave gifts that day.
The rich dropped coins in the offering box
And then went on their way.

They had more than enough to live on
And never had gone without food.
They gave coins from their large purses
And it made them feel very good.

But as Jesus watched the people go by
He noticed a far different sight.
A little old woman whose husband had died
Dropped in her “widow’s mite.”

‘Twas only two little copper coins,
Much less than the others gave.

But Jesus knew it was all she had
She kept nothing back to save.

“She has given more than the others,” He said,
For the others had more to give.
The poor little woman gave all she possessed—
All she had on which to live.

Jesus doesn’t care about the size of our gifts
When we give out of hearts of love;
For He always knows how much we have left
He sees us from heaven above.

We don’t have as much as the rich people had
Just a dollar now and then.
If we give because we love the Lord,
He will bless us again and again.

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children
and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
Joey has a $10 bill. Johnny has $1. Joey gives $1 of his $10 in the offering plate, his 10% tithe, leaving him with $9. Johnny gives $1, leaving him with nothing.

(Use coins, bills, or tally marks to illustrate.)

Who gave more?

Like the widow, Johnny gave all he had. Do you think that was hard for Johnny to do?

What’s even more important is how we give. If Joey and Johnny gave out of loving hearts toward God, He is pleased with both of their offerings.

Prayer

Ask God to increase your love for Him. When you have a loving heart toward God, you’ll naturally want to give to Him.
LITTLE BOY’S LUNCH  
John 6:5-13

“Send them away,” the disciples said.  
“There’s nothing for them to eat.  
No pizza parlors or restaurants and  
No Burger King down the street.”

Jesus looked out on the multitude,  
Thousands and thousands of them.  
“Give them to eat,” He said to His friends—  
The children, the women, and men.

“Give them to each? A crowd as big as this?  
“Impossible!” all the disciples said.  
“All we can find are two little fish  
And a few small loaves of bread.”

“One little boy brought his lunch today.  
He wants to give it to You.  
But it’s just not enough to feed this crowd,  
Not more than one or two.”

“Have the people sit down,” Jesus said,  
As He took the boy’s lunch in His hand.  
He looked up to heaven and blessed the food,  
But His disciples just didn’t understand.

He broke the loaves and divided the fish  
Over and over again.  
He put the food into baskets  
And gave them to His men.

They passed the baskets out to the crowd.  
The people all took and ate  
Until all had eaten as much as they could.  
By then it was getting very late.

The disciples gathered the leftovers,  
Twelve baskets full of food.  
The people got up and started home,  
Feeling so full and so good.

Jesus had started with one little lunch  
Brought by a generous little boy.  
Being unselfish, he gave it to Jesus  
For others to enjoy.

It doesn’t matter how much you have,  
A little or a bunch.  
Give it to Jesus and He’ll make it more.  
Just remember the little boy’s lunch.

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children  
and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
The Bible has so many stories of how God multiplied even the smallest gifts. Imagine how the little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus felt when He saw the miracle happen.

Write down what you think the boy may have told his family or friends who weren’t there to witness the feeding of the 5,000.

Prayer

Ask God to remind you of the little boy’s small offering, and how God can take a small thing and make it big.
The Bible doesn’t tell us how much to give
When we’re giving to the Lord.
But we find a lot about how to give
When we look into His Word.

We’re not often told just what we should give,
Like water that has no cost.
If we give it to others in Jesus’ name,
Our reward will not be lost.

We’re told the most important thing
That we can ever give,
Is to first give our own selves to the Lord
For as long as we shall live.

“Freely you have received, freely give,”
Found in Matthew ten, verse eight.
God has given so much to us,
Giving back shows we appreciate.

Give willingly, for then God says
The gift’s acceptable to Him;
Not grudgingly, or because we must,
But generously as God has given.

“God loves a cheerful giver.”
Perhaps the first verse we were taught.
Do we smile as we give to others?
Or think of things we could have bought?

We decide in our hearts what we should give
Each according to our ability.
Then give with an open heart and hand.
God knows our hearts, you see.

These adverbs describe how to give
All ending in “L” and a “Y.”
Freely, willingly, generously, cheerfully,
And gladly let’s give it a try!

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
Put a HAPPY or SAD face next to each sentence.

I give with love in my heart because God loves a cheerful giver.

I give someone who is thirsty a drink of water.

I give generously from my own money.

I give thinking about what I could have bought for myself.

I give because God has given to me so that I can give to others.

Prayer

Ask God to help you give freely, willingly, generously, and cheerfully.
Laying Up Treasure in Heaven

Some store their treasures here on earth,
Much more than they’ll ever need.
They fail to give to others because
Their lives are ruled by greed.

He didn’t say it exactly like that
But His meaning is easy to see.
I shouldn’t practice being greedy
And thinking only of me.

Jesus tells us in Matthew six
That’s not the way to live.
Our lives will be much happier
When we learn to generously give.

He said, “Lay up treasure in heaven
Where nothing can destroy.”
It’s a message not just for grown-ups
But for every girl and boy.

Besides, a person can lose what he has
If a thief decides to steal
All the money and things that person has saved.
Then how do you think he will feel?

Whenever we give a gift to the Lord,
Even the smallest amount.
If we give it because we love Him,
The size of the gift doesn’t count.

The things we hold so tightly
Will all be gone some day.
Jesus said, “Keep your treasures
By giving them away.”

It’s called “laying up treasure in heaven.”
And like someone else has said,
“We cannot take it with us
But we can send it on ahead.”

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
There’s a story of some children who received shoeboxes from Operation Christmas Child. A pastor was telling these kids of some sick children in the hospital they were going to visit. Do you know what these children did? They took toys from their shoeboxes to give to these sick children. Why? Because they wanted to give to someone needier than themselves. They didn’t have much, but gave out of love from the little they had.

Would you have done the same thing? Write down some ways you can help those needier than you.

Prayer
Ask God to help you lay up treasures in heaven by giving while you’re here on earth.
“What do you want for Christmas?”
Is a question we often hear.
And we think of things we’d like to get
Many times throughout the year.

Jesus had something to say about gifts
Which may be hard to believe.
Regarding giving and getting He said,
“It’s more blessed to give than receive.”

How can giving be more blessed
Than receiving what’s given to me?
If God says it’s so it has to be true
Though at first it’s hard to see.

We’re so used to thinking of ourselves
And things we hope to get.
We fail to think of those in need
Even some we’ve never met.

Why would we give to others,
Even those we do not know?

We give to those who need our gifts
The love of God to show.
There are missionaries far away
And those they minister to
Who depend on gifts from folks back home
From people like me and you.
There are those nearby in need of food
Some who are very poor.
When we give to them, we give to the Lord
And He blesses us more and more.

When we drop some change into the offering plate
We’ve only just begun.
For the more we give the more we are blessed
And we discover giving is fun!

Then we’ll know what the Bible means
When it tells us how to give.
Give cheerfully, not reluctantly
It’s the very best way to live.

(If desired you can give a blank sheet of paper to the children
and have them draw pictures of what they heard on the story)
People who live far away from us need our help with money, food, and prayer so they can tell others the good news of Jesus Christ.

Draw a picture of someone from another country.

There are people who live nearby in your city who need our help with money, food, and prayer.

Draw a picture of a child eating.

How will you help those who are near and far?

Prayer

Ask God to give you ideas of how you can give to a missionary your church supports. If your church supports a local mission, pray about how you can help there.
This children’s curriculum was developed for churches to instruct and inspire greater generosity among children.

Many churches utilize this children’s curriculum as part of a churchwide generosity emphasis, annual campaign or building project campaign that are using the bestselling “40 Day Spiritual Journey to a More Generous” life Bible devotional.

Teachers are invited to review the 12 lessons and choose whichever lesson(s) they would like to use in their class. Teachers are free to photocopy or print any of this material to share in their class.

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