

# TRAINING GENEROUS HEARTS

*Leader  
Guide*



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# WELCOME *to* TRAINING GENEROUS HEARTS



"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life." 1 Timothy 6:18-19

## *The Vision*

Training Generous Hearts was created out of a desire to have every adolescent in the United States learn to reflect God's generous heart. We believe a foundation for lifelong generosity can be laid long before an adolescent's earning potential begins. This foundation is laid through two avenues. First, through learning God's heart for biblical generosity, and secondly, through being given opportunities to apply their learning in practical ways.

It is our prayer that a whole generation of adolescents will catch the vision for living generously with the time, talent, and treasure God has given them (and will continue to give throughout their lives!)

Biblical generosity is counter cultural, and we long to see the next generation live freely and generously according to scripture. The teaching and practical experiences they will be given through the Training Generous Hearts program will provide the framework for this learning to happen, but the facilitation and partnership of your group will be equally important for their hearts to be captured by our generous God.

As your students begin to learn about God's heart for generosity, we pray that a whole generation would live in the freedom that surrender to God provides, creating a ripple effect for centuries to come.

# Our Values

Training Generous Hearts has been established to embody three values. The curriculum and program are designed around these three values:

## Generosity

Generosity truly makes an impact when God's people discover what God is passionate about and align their hearts with those values.

## Stewardship

Training students to have a biblical view of stewardship and wealth.

## Experience

Providing students with hands on experiences that provide autonomy, group problem solving, and knowledge of the impact organizations are having around the world, prior to their ability to earn a paycheck.

# Program Details

Training Generous Hearts is a 12 session program designed to train and challenge students in biblical generosity. This unique program not only provides students learning experiences to discover biblical teaching on the topics of money, stewardship, and generosity, but additionally provides groups of students the opportunity to put their learning into practice.

Each group facilitating the Training Generous Hearts program will be challenged to not only learn about generosity, but also to take on a generosity project of their own. Through creative problem solving, and fundraising efforts, groups will choose an organization to partner with, and then students will craft a fundraising plan to raise money for that organization.

As a leader, you will help the students in your group identify churches, agencies, organizations, and nonprofits that are making an impact in the areas of passion the students have chosen.

Students will research the organizations of their choice and then decide which organization to allocate their time, talent, or treasure to. This can be done within individual families or with a larger group, depending on how you are running the Training Generous Hearts program with your students.

At the end of the program, students will organize a fundraiser for the chosen organization and then donate the proceeds. The goal is not only to encourage generous giving but also to allow students to experience and witness their transformation as they develop a passion for different causes and learn how to collaborate with those organizations.

We believe generosity flourishes when an element of sacrifice is involved, so students are encouraged to contribute personally through the giving of their time, talents, or treasure for the benefit of the organization of their choice.

# Facilitation

The Training Generous Hearts program can be facilitated through an existing class or co-op, in individual families, or through a group of families partnering together to promote the program.

The program is designed to adapt to what works best for your group and will provide the backbone for further study and experiences, as desired. The curriculum can be adapted and expanded as the facilitators see fit, but it can also be utilized as it is. Each session is designed to take 15–30 minutes, which includes both teaching and group activity time.

The responsibility of the leader includes:

1. Learning, teaching, and implementing the curriculum.
2. Assisting students in researching and communicating with organizations they desire to research.
3. Assisting students in setting up their fundraising efforts. (We encourage the students themselves to run the fundraiser as much as possible.)
4. Assisting students in the distribution of funds from the fundraiser (as needed.)

# Homework

Students will be given homework to complete after most of the 12 teaching sessions. These activities can be done during the time the group is gathered or outside of the group time, depending on the leader's preference. Homework will consist of journaling, looking up Biblical passages on the topics of money, stewardship, and God's heart for the vulnerable and downtrodden.

Homework will also consist of personal activities where students will detail what time, talent, and treasure they have been given, examine how their passions align with God's heart, and explore organizations they would like to have the group support. Leaders will determine when this homework is completed and whether it is done individually or in a group setting.

# Goal

It is our desire that by implementing the Training Generous Hearts program in your group, you will be empowered to explore with your students God's heart for generosity and that many organizations across the globe will be blessed by the process your students go through to learn, grow, and experience God's heart for stewardship and generosity.

# Contact

If you have any questions regarding the details of the program or curriculum, please reach out to Training Generous Hearts at [traininggeneroushearts@gmail.com](mailto:traininggeneroushearts@gmail.com).



# Session 1: Money, Money, Mon-ey... Mon-ey!

## What Does God Think About Money?

### Session Objectives

1. Students develop an understanding of the purpose and overview of the Training Generous Hearts program.
2. Students develop an understanding of money and resources from God's perspective.
3. Students begin thinking about what God has given to them (time, talent, treasure).

### Materials Needed

Student Workbooks  
Bibles  
Computer to show a short video clip



### Introduction to the program

NOTE: As a leader, you can use this script or adapt it as you see fit for your student(s).

**Say:** We are going to be starting a new program/curriculum called Training Generous Hearts today. I'm really excited about it! This program will help you discover God's heart for living a generous life, and what it means to be a good steward of the resources he gives you. Training Generous Hearts is all about discovering God's passions, your passions, and aligning your passions with God's heart for the world.

As part of this program, you'll have the opportunity to research, communicate with, and fundraise for amazing organizations that do fantastic work around the world!

This program is designed especially for you. What you get out of it will be determined by what you put into it. I want to challenge you to commit the next 12 sessions of Training Generous Hearts by participating in the group sessions and the homework (the homework will be fun!) so you can become aware of what God has given to you, and how you can use what you have to join God in the work he is doing around the world!

## Think About This!

**NOTE:** The purpose of these introductory questions is to have students begin to articulate their current beliefs about money, wealth, and what God thinks about money. These questions are meant to draw out students' beliefs. In this part, you will want to refrain from correcting students on their current beliefs, but instead allow them to articulate their beliefs.

**Say:** I'm going to ask you a series of three questions. I want you to share with the group your thoughts about them. Please be respectful of others' opinions and viewpoints. This will provide each of us a safe space to discover together what God thinks about money.

**TIP:** (These questions can be facilitated one-on-one or in a larger group setting, depending on how you are running the program.)

**Ask:** When you think of money, what comes to mind?

**Ask:** When you receive money as a gift, or earn it, whose money is it?

**Ask:** What is the purpose of money?

## What the Bible Says About: Time, Talent, and Treasure

Today, we are going to investigate the pages of the Bible and seek to find the answers to our three questions. They are: **1 Kings 3:9-12, 1 Chronicles 29:11, 1 Chronicles 29:16-17, Psalm 24:1, Haggai 2:8**

**NOTE:** This can also be done individually or in groups. Break up the verses in a way that works best for your student(s). There is space in the student workbooks for students to write down what they find in each of the passages.

“Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.”

**1 Kings 3:9-12**

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.”

**1 Chronicles 29:11**

“O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart, I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you.”

**1 Chronicles 29:16–17**

“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”

**Psalms 24:1**

“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.”

**Haggai 2:8**

### Digging Deeper: Follow Up Questions to Develop Understanding

**Ask:** According to the Bible, which we know to be the word of God, straight from his heart, who does money and wealth belong to? What does God own?

**Ask:** In the passage from 1 Chronicles 29:16–17, they were building a temple, where the Lord could be worshiped. God had blessed them abundantly with resources, and what did they do with those resources? Who did they receive the resources from?

**Ask:** In the passage from 1 Kings 3:9–12, what does Solomon desire more than wealth? What is God's response?

**Say:** God owns everything we have. You are simply given it to steward. That means any money you have, your possessions, your abilities, your body, and your mind. Everything is a gift you have been given from God.

### Closing Reflection

Have students watch the video at this link: <https://generousgiving.org/generosity-palindrome/>

(This video is from a wonderful organization called Generous Giving. You can find more information about their organization here: <https://generousgiving.org/> )

**Say:** As we finish up this first session together, I want you to think about two questions—you don't have to share this with the group, but can think about them.

Do you believe and do you act like everything you have been given is a gift from God? Or do you believe and act that everything you have is something you are entitled to, deserve, or have earned?

# Homework

**Say:** The homework in the Training Generous Hearts curriculum is meant to be applicable and helpful for you. I want you to really take these exercises seriously because they will help shape you as a person. This isn't just for intellectual knowledge, but it's for your own discipleship. God desires to make you into a generous disciple and that begins with you figuring out what God has given to you.

Today's homework will be an inventory exercise for you to figure out what resources of time, treasure, and talent you have available. In future sessions we will discuss what you do with what you have, but for now, just do the inventory.

NOTE: Student homework pages are included in the Leader's Guide for reference.

# Session 1 Homework

Take some time to make three lists. The first is the time you have available in your schedule. The second is the talents you have been given. The third is the treasure or resources of money and possessions you have been given. Challenge yourself to list as many items as possible on each of the lists.

TIME

What time do you have available in your schedule? List the activity and how much time each takes. For example: getting ready for the day (30 minutes), schoolwork (3 hours), activities (4 hours), family time (2 hours).

TALENT

What are the skills and abilities you have developed or have been given? For example: I am a good listener, I can create art, I love being around younger kids, I speak well in front of people.

TREASURE

What possessions or resources have you been given? List as many as you can!



# Session 2: Caring for All God Gives To You

## Stewardship and Tithing

### Session Objectives

1. Students will develop an understanding of what stewardship is, and God's call to each of us to be good stewards of all we are given.
2. Students will develop an understanding of the biblical concept of tithing.
3. Students will begin mapping opportunities for stewardship and tithing in their own lives.

### Materials Needed

Student Workbooks  
White board/White board markers  
Bibles  
A dollar bill (in any denomination)



### Introductory Activity

Begin with a short demonstration with your student(s). Hold up a \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100 bill (Whatever you have). Then tell the students you are going to give it to one of them. Ask who wants it and choose one person to give the bill to. (It will be helpful for this demonstration to give it to a student who is responsible and willing to share their opinions and thoughts with the class.)

But before you give it to the student, tell them that you are just giving it to them **to take good care of it, not giving it to them to keep...**

Ask the person who you give it to: What are you going to do with the money? Listen for their response.

Ask the group: What should (student name) do with the money? (Emphasize it's your money, they are just to take care of it.)

Let the student hold the money for the entire session, and you will revisit the exercise at the end of the session.

## Think About This!

**Ask:** What does it mean to steward something? Have the group share with the person next to them, and then come back as a large group to share their answers.

The Greek word for stewardship is oikonomos (Oi-ko-na-mas), which means manager.

**Ask:** What have you been given to manage in your life? Have students list 3–5 things they have been given to manage in their student workbooks.

Let's look into what the Bible says about stewardship.

## What the Bible Says About: Stewardship and Tithing

Assign the verses to the student(s) to look up and read. Tell them that after they read the passage together, they will discuss with you the following questions and be prepared to report on their answers. There is space to write their answers in the student workbook on the pages for session 2. The passages they will be looking up are: **1 Chronicles 29:14–17, 1 Chronicles 29:10–13, Matthew 25:14–30, 1 Corinthians 4:1–2**

**Ask:** 1. What are the people in this passage asked to steward?

2. What qualities of a good steward are found in the passage you read?

“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you.”

**1 Chronicles 29:14–17**

“Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.”

**1 Chronicles 29:10–13**

**Facilitator Note:** This passage is not about investing money. It's meant to be read in the larger context of the Kingdom of God. The point we want the students to understand in this parable is that investing in the Kingdom of God, is what God requires of us- but it's also fun! Those who take what they have been given with their time, talent, and treasure and invest it into the Kingdom of God will see God multiply it for his eternal purposes (not for their own fulfillment.)

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

**Matthew 25:14-30**

“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

After the group looks up the passages and discusses their answers, have them make two lists on a white board or a sheet of paper (they will make their lists based on the passages they will read next. The two lists should read:

**1. What people are asked to steward:**

**2. Qualities of a good steward:**

Next, have students look up another passage together and discuss the following questions. From their discussion, they will fill in the two lists.

**Ask:** 1. What has God given to those in the passage?

2. What are people commanded to do because of God's generosity in the passage?

"Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord. If a man wishes to redeem some of his tithe, he shall add a fifth to it. And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the Lord. One shall not differentiate between good or bad, neither shall he make a substitute for it; and if he does substitute for it, then both it and the substitute shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.' These are the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses for the people of Israel on Mount Sinai."

**Leviticus 27:30-34**

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you. At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do."

**Deuteronomy 14:22-28**

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

**1 Timothy 6:17-19**

After the group looks up the passages and discusses their answers, have them make two more lists on the white board or a piece of paper. Have them fill in their answers based on all the passages they looked up:

**1. What God gave:**

**2. What the people are commanded to do:**

**Say:** The Bible makes two distinctions for stewardship and tithing. The biblical standard for a tithe is 10% of whatever you earn. An offering is also a standard practice in the Bible. An offering is given at different times and for different reasons. You will have different times in your life when you will want to give an offering to your church that is above and beyond what you are already tithing.

## Digging Deeper

As you look at these four lists, begin to think about the following things for your life:

1. What have you been given by God to steward?
2. How are you stewarding what God has given to you?
3. What would it look like to give back to God what he has given to you?

## Closing Reflection

Go back to the student you gave the money to at the beginning of the group.

**Ask:** Do you still have my money? What did you do with it?

Then challenge them to answer this: After hearing what God has given to you and what you are commanded to do from scripture, what would you do with my money if I were to give it to you to actually spend?

Have a fun discussion with them and then end the session with this quote:

“God is the most generous of all givers. God’s grace has blessed us with goods, skills, and opportunities to generate what we need in our lives and a rich and wonderful world in which to live out His calling. God gave at a level beyond anything we can fully comprehend, He gave His Son, whose life bought our salvation. God’s giving to us is like the filling of a cup, and our giving to others reveals the cup running over. In the context of our own blessings and gratefulness, we learn to be generous givers. We didn’t earn it; we never will. God’s gift was the highest demonstration of unconditional generosity.” – **The Journey of Generosity**

## Homework

This session’s homework will build on the exploration of scripture students just did and will challenge students to think about what God has given to them, how they can begin tithing, and what it would look like practically to be a good steward.

Student homework pages are included for your reference.

# Session 2 Homework

In your group you learned about two concepts– stewardship and tithing.

What does it mean to be a good steward?

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Look back on your lists from session one of time, talent, and treasure. What does it look like to be a good steward of your time?

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What does it mean to be a good steward of your talents?

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How is God calling you to give from the treasure you have?

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# Session 2 Homework

The second concept you learned about in your group was tithing.

What does scripture say a tithe is? If you need some help, go back to the passages you explored in class for some ideas.

What does tithing look like in your life?

You can think of God's call to tithe and steward what you have been given as local, national, and international. Jesus' ministry was first to Jerusalem (a local city), then to Judea (a nation), and then he commissioned his disciples to make disciples of all nations (to the ends of the earth.)

List below the locations what you can give (time, talent, treasure) or what God is calling you to give (time, talent, treasure.)

**Local**

**National**

**International**

# Session 3: Generous God, Generous Hearts

## Being Generous Toward the Things God Cares About

### Session Objectives

1. Students will develop an understanding of biblical generosity.
2. Students will explore the topics on God's heart.
3. Students will begin connecting biblical generosity with the things that concern God.

### Materials Needed

Student Workbooks  
Bibles  
White Board/White Board Markers  
or paper and something to write with



### Introductory Activity

Choose something that your group will be really excited about, that they normally must earn (reading time, free time, snacks, a party, etc). Announce to the group that you are going to gift them whatever they typically must earn, just because you want to be generous to them.

Look for their reactions and reflect to them what you see.

### Think About This!

**Ask:** When I told the group they could have (fill in the blank), how did that make you feel?

**Ask:** Think about another time someone was generous to you. Have students share with the group about that experience. If time permits, have students share about that experience with one another or with you.

## What the Bible Says About: Being Generous and God's Heart

**Say:** Today, we are going to look at what the Bible has to say about generosity and about the things God cares about.

First, I'm going to ask you to look up a few verses and read them aloud.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."  
**Psalms 19:17**

"It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice."  
**Psalms 112:5**

"Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor."  
**Proverbs 28:8**

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."  
**2 Corinthians 9:10-12**

**Ask:** What do these passages teach us about generosity?

**Ask:** What does it mean for someone to be poor?

Facilitate a discussion on the various forms of poverty, including poverty of resources (such as money, food, and education), poverty of spirit (lacking knowledge of Jesus), and poverty of emotions or intellect (for individuals with disabilities).

Have your student(s) look up the following passages together. Have each student in the group look up three verses, and one student look up four verses. If you are facilitating the program on a one-on-one basis, choose a couple of verses from each group of verses for your student to look up.

As they read the verses, have them fill in the list of topics in their student workbook.

**What does God care about?**

**NOTE:** The topics are included in bold after each verse in the leader's guide, if students are having a hard time parsing out the topics in their groups.

### Student 1: Look up the following verses:

- **Genesis 2:15** “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” **(The Earth)**
- **Deuteronomy 10:17–18** “For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.” **(Orphans)**
- **James 1:27** “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” **(Widows)**
- **Matthew 19:14** “but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” **(Teaching children about Jesus)**

### Student 2: Look up the following verses:

- **Psalms 103:6** “The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.” **(Oppressed and enslaved)**
- **Psalms 107:3** “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” **(Hurting)**
- **Matthew 5:10–11** “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” **(Those persecuted for their faith, martyrs)**
- **Matthew 25:34–40** “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” **(Imprisoned, hungry, strangers)**

### Student 3: Look up the following verses:

- **Lamentations 5:21–22** “Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old—unless you have utterly rejected us, and you remain exceedingly angry with us.” **(Restoration)**
- **Proverbs 24:11** “Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.” **(Protecting life)**

- **Deuteronomy 16:19–20** “You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” **(Justice)**
- **Proverbs 31:8** “Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.” **(Destitute)**

**Student 4: Look up the following verses:**

- **Deuteronomy 15:11–12** “For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’” **(Poor and needy)**
- **Luke 14:13–14** “But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” **(Lame)**
- **Isaiah 42:16** “And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.” **(Blind)**
- **Matthew 4:24** “So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.” **(Sick)**

## Digging Deeper

**Ask:** As you look at this list of what God cares in your student workbook, what do you notice?

**Ask:** What do you care deeply about that is on this list? (There’s no right or wrong answer)

## Closing Reflection

We often wonder why these issues persist in the world. Why isn’t there more justice and righteousness that is visible in the world? Why do the poor continue to suffer, and why is there so much hurt? But when we focus on all that is wrong, we struggle to see how God is working out his righteousness. Instead, our focus should be on God. God’s generosity is what leads us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who are poor, hungry, and hurting. Allow your focus to be on God and listen for him to guide you to be generous towards the causes he has placed on your heart.

## Homework

Students will look through the list of topics on God's heart and write about the things they care about from this list. This exercise is meant to begin a reflection process to explore the passions God has placed on their hearts to be generous toward.

Student homework pages are included for your reference.

# Session 3 Homework

Look through the list of topics on God's heart from your group discussion. Read through it slowly. Then take some time to pray, asking the Lord to show you the things he cares about and that he has uniquely designed you to care about as well.

If you don't know what to pray after you read the list, try praying this:

God, you have a generous heart, and I thank you for the generosity you have shown to me. You also have a compassionate heart. As I study the list of things you care about, guide and direct my heart to also care about the things you care about. Show me the passions I have been uniquely created to care about, and show me how I can be generous and come alongside the work you are doing in the world.  
Amen.

Circle three items from the list below that God has placed on your heart.

| <u>What does God care about?</u> |            |                                |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Earth                            | Orphans    | Widows                         |
| Oppressed and enslaved           | Hurting    | Martyrs                        |
| Evangelism                       | Evangelism | Restoration                    |
| Protecting Life                  | Justice    | Poor and needy                 |
| Lame                             | Blind      | Sick                           |
| Destitute                        | Imprisoned | Training up children disciples |

What items from the list did you circle?

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Why do you think God placed these on your heart?

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What have you already done to help those in the areas you circled?

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What could you do to be generous toward those in the areas you circled?

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# Session 4: You Have Abundance

## Pairing What You Have With God's Heart

### Session Objectives

1. Students will connect the things on God's heart with their passions.
2. Students will learn more about the topics God has placed on their hearts.
3. Students will work together to gather information about the topics God has placed on their hearts.

### Materials Needed

Student Workbooks  
White Board/White Board Markers  
Any books/computers/other items students can use to research their topics  
Computer to show a short video clip



### Introductory Activity

**Say:** The last three sessions, we have explored God's generous heart to each of us in giving us time, talent, and treasure. We have also explored the topics that God cares about and his commands for us to be good stewards of the things he cares about. Today, we will begin exploring the topics God has placed on your heart and how you can be generous with your time, talents, and treasure with those who need it most.

Share with the group the things you circled on the list of things God cares about, and why you think God placed those items on your heart.

## Grouping Students By Topic

As students share with one another, or with you, look for patterns you are seeing in the group, or with your particular student. If there is overlap with students' passions (and you have a group of students), pair the students with similar passions together.

Alternatively, if you only have one student and you are leading the program with just them, have a discussion with them about the list of things they circled. Encourage them to dive into why God placed those items on their heart, and point out ways you see God molding and shaping them to have passions in those areas.

## Digging Deeper

After students are grouped, or you have a discussion with your student, give them time to research one of the topics they circled. They can do this with many different resources (books, videos, internet searches, etc.) You will want to give them clear direction on what to research on their topic and guide them to reputable resources (for example, steering them *away from* opinion-based blogs and *towards* sites with quantitative or qualitative research).

Here are some guiding questions for their research:

1. What factors are affecting this topic locally, nationally, and internationally?
2. How many people are suffering because of this issue?
3. What is being done for this cause?
4. What are four interesting things you discovered about your topic that you can share with others?
5. How might you narrow your topic from broad (the items on the list) to more specific? (For example: Hurting people are on God's heart. How might you narrow that to a more specific type of hurt?)

## Closing Reflection

When looking at topics that you care about and are on God's heart, you can get overwhelmed. Sometimes the hurting world can feel too big to care about, paralyzing you from doing anything. But know that just because something feels big doesn't mean you can't do anything about it.

You always have something to give. Remember, God is the one who owns everything, so his economy works differently from the world's economy. We are going to watch a video that shows how God's compassion can empower you to use your resources to meet the needs of others.

Show the students the video on this link: <https://generousgiving.org/bishop-hannington/>

This video is from a wonderful organization called Generous Giving. You can find more information about their organization here: <https://generousgiving.org/>

After the video, leave the students with this question:

What did you see in the video which changed your mind about giving generously?



## Homework

The homework for this session will expand on the students' research they did in class. It will also have them narrow and identify organizations which are making an impact in the areas of the student's passions.

NOTE: The homework for this session will take students longer than the others.

The Student Homework pages are included for your reference.

# Session 4 Homework

This session's topic focused on learning more about the topic that God has placed on your heart. Today's homework will help you go deeper into finding out what is being done to help those affected by the topic your group is going to focus on. This topic can become an area of passion for you as you come to learn more about it, and we hope it does!

Begin today by reflecting on what you learned in your group about your area of passion:

What was something new you learned?

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What is a question that you still have about your area of passion?

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Next, begin researching your area of passion. You might want to search a website, or you might want to broaden your search with conversations with people you know, reading books, or looking up articles on the topic. Start with the questions you wrote down and see if you can find out something more to answer those questions. Write what you discover below.

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Now, you will begin identifying organizations that are making an impact in the area you are researching. You may have already identified some in your time of research in class that you want to revisit.

If you haven't identified any in your research, now is the time to do that. Some quick Google searches on your topic will likely bring up some organizations. If you are having trouble identifying organizations, below are some keywords you can search:

- Christian Organizations that help (insert your topic)
- Nonprofit organizations that help (insert your topic)
- (Insert your topic) + how to help

After your search, go to three or four of the websites of these organizations. Fill out the following information as you research:

Name of organization:

What does the organization do for people in your area of passion?

Is the work of the organization supported by scripture as being important to God? How?

What is the impact the organization is making?

How is the money donated used?

Why or why not would you choose to give to this organization?

Name of organization:

What does the organization do for people in your area of passion?

Is the work of the organization supported by scripture as being important to God? How?

What is the impact the organization is making?

How is the money donated used?

Would you choose to give to this organization? Why or why not?

Name of organization:

What does the organization do for people in your area of passion?

Is the work of the organization supported by scripture as being important to God? How?

What is the impact the organization is making?

How is the money donated used?

Would you choose to give to this organization? Why or why not?

Name of organization:

What does the organization do for people in your area of passion?

Is the work of the organization supported by scripture as being important to God? How?

What is the impact the organization is making?

How is the money donated used?

Would you choose to give to this organization? Why or why not?

# Session 5: Generous Hearts

## Exploring Organizations to Fund

### Session Objectives

1. Students will present to the group the topic that they would like to help fund.
2. The student(s)/group will identify the three organizations they want to contact and research.
3. The student(s)/group will begin narrowing down the organization they will fundraise for.

### Materials Needed

Student Workbooks

Any visuals the students want to use to present on their topic or organization.



### Introductory Activity

**Say:** You have begun researching organizations that are making an impact in your areas of passion. I hope that has been an enjoyable process. Today's session will focus on narrowing down the organizations you could fundraise for in order to live out what we are learning about generosity.

Have students split into pairs or share their answers to the following questions with you.

1. What organization did you identify in your homework as the organization you would like to know more about?
2. Is the work of the organization supported by scripture as being important to God?
3. If the work is done well by the organization, will it have a lasting and eternal impact?
4. What is the impact the organization is making?

## Digging Deeper

After each student has talked about the organization they want to research more, give students time to give a 1–to 3–minute overview of the organization and why they would like to fundraise for it. Alternatively, if you only have one student, have a discussion about their passion and possible organizations that help with that area of interest.

Have the student(s) write a list of organizations that they could research, and discuss how they can learn more about them. **Say:** You can achieve this through various methods, including phone calls, watching organization videos, setting up meetings with local chapters, or reaching out to your network to see if someone you know is connected to the organization.

Make a plan for how your student(s) will find out more about the organizations they want to research.

## Closing Reflection

As a group, pray for each of the organizations that were talked about. Ask God to bless them, help them meet the needs of the people they serve, and help your group to know how best to use your time, talent, and treasure to help.

## Homework

There is no homework for this session.

# Sessions 6-8: Organization Communication

## Session Objectives

1. Students will communicate with the organizations they are interested in fundraising for through a variety of techniques, including, but not limited to: visits to the organization, calling or emailing the organization, watching videos about the organization, and interviewing people who have been involved in the organization.
2. Students will develop an understanding of generosity in action as they hear about how the organizations are impacting the people and areas they serve.
3. Students will develop a greater passion for the topics God has placed on their hearts and hear about ways they can use what they have, to make an impact in their area of passion.

## Materials Needed

Student Workbooks

Thank You card for organization

## Plan

Encourage students to make a plan for how they will learn about the three organizations they plan to research. After their plan is made, have them begin implementing their communication plan.

A sample email is included on the next page that your student(s) can adapt as they contact the organizations.

As they receive contact from and research the organization, have them fill out the worksheets in their student book, that corresponds to sessions 6-8, with their findings about their research.

## Reflect

Encourage the students to take notes on what they learn and be prepared to ask some insightful questions. A list of good questions to ask the organizations can be found in the student workbooks and are included in the following pages for your reference. Encourage students to come up with their own questions as well. Learning what organizations are doing to help in their areas of passion can spark lifelong learning. Use this as an opportunity to spur that on.



After students receive communication from the organizations, or have the opportunity to ask them questions, encourage them to write notes and reflect on what they learned. Becoming critical thinkers about how to be generous is part of the process. We want to ensure that this is not just a transactional exercise, but rather is a transformational activity for your student(s). Once your student(s) have visited with the organization, we recommend having them send a thank you card to the person who communicated with them.

## Sample Email

Dear (insert representative name),

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a (insert grade) student who is participating in the Training Generous Hearts program. In this program, we are learning all about God's heart for generosity. Over the last six weeks, I have been studying the Bible and what God's heart is for (insert topic, passion, or people group that organization helps).

In my research on the topic, I came across your organization. I was impressed by \_\_\_\_\_ and would love to know more about \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to connect with you and your organization further. Would you be available for a phone call where I could ask you more questions about the organization?

OR Would you take some time to answer the following questions, so I can learn more about how you and your organization are helping \_\_\_\_\_?

OR I would be interested in visiting your organization and learning more about it. Would you be available to give me a tour and tell me more about \_\_\_\_\_?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

(Insert Name)

# Session 6: Organization Communication #1

## Organization

## Think About This!

### Questions You Can Ask...

1. What role does generosity play in your organization's work?
2. What problem is your organization seeking to solve?
3. What kind of eternal impact is your organization making?
4. How are people different because of the work your organization is doing?
5. Do you have any stories you can share of people who have benefitted from the work your organization is doing?

## Other Questions I Have...

This image shows a single 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 or other markings on the paper.

Name of organization:

Three interesting facts I learned  
about the organization:

What I like about the organization or  
what they are really good at doing:

Two questions I have about the  
organization or the people group they  
serve:

How is God calling you to respond  
to what you learned?

# Session 7: Organization Communication #2

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## Think About This!

### Questions You Can Ask...

1. What role does generosity play in your organization's work?
2. What problem is your organization seeking to solve?
3. What kind of eternal impact is your organization making?
4. How are people different because of the work your organization is doing?
5. Do you have any stories you can share of people who have benefitted from the work your organization is doing?

## Other Questions I Have...

This image shows a single 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 or other markings on the paper.

Name of organization:

Three interesting facts I learned  
about the organization:

What I like about the organization or  
what they are really good at doing:

Two questions I have about the  
organization or the people group they  
serve:

How is God calling you to respond  
to what you learned?

# Session 8: Organization Communication #3

## Organization

## Think About This!

### Questions You Can Ask...

1. What role does generosity play in your organization's work?
2. What problem is your organization seeking to solve?
3. What kind of eternal impact is your organization making?
4. How are people different because of the work your organization is doing?
5. Do you have any stories you can share of people who have benefitted from the work your organization is doing?

## Other Questions I Have...

This image shows a single 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 or other markings visible.

Name of organization:

Three interesting facts I learned  
about the organization:

What I like about the organization or  
what they are really good at doing:

Two questions I have about the  
organization or the people group they  
serve:

How is God calling you to respond  
to what you learned?



# Session 9: Choose An Organization To Give To

## Session Objectives

1. Students will think critically about the research they have conducted and choose an organization they will fundraise for.
2. Students will learn discernment and wisdom as they make their choices.
3. Students will connect their passion with where God is leading them, giving them an experience of articulating a growing passion and connecting that with the generous heart God desires each of us to live with.

## Materials Needed

Student Workbooks

Bible

## Teaching Discernment



Have students review their homework sheets from sessions 6–8, and have them circle or highlight the facts they wrote down about the organizations that resonated with either who God has created them to be, how they are wired, or a statement that really stuck out to them.

Next, have them discuss with you or another student in the group the items they circled.

**Ask:** Why did the items you circled stand out to you, and what was the impact of those items on you?

These moments of self-reflection will help build in them self-awareness of how God has created them, and will help them articulate what God might be doing to grow in them a generous heart.

After your discussion, have your student(s) look up the following verses:

**Isaiah 30:21**– “And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.”

**Jeremiah 6:16**– “Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’”

**Hebrews 13:20**– “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Have a discussion with your student(s) about the following questions?

**Ask:** What do these verses teach you about knowing what God is calling you to be a part of?

How do you think you will know which organization to choose? What criteria will you use?

How will God's voice inform that decision?

As you speak with your student(s), help them to see that God's voice isn't audible, but there are ways they can learn to discern his voice in their lives. Ask your student(s) to pray about this decision, asking God for his voice and guidance in the decision about what organization to fundraise for. Also, talk about how God's will, will never be in opposition to what we find in the Bible.

### Pray For Discernment

After this discussion, spend some time praying about the decision. You can ask the student(s) to pray, or you can pray something like:

God, thank you that you are able and willing to help guide and direct us as we seek your wisdom and peace. Lead and guide (students' names) to hear your voice. Guide these areas of passion you have placed in them. Lead them to the organization you want them to use their time, talent, and treasure for, and may you use them to bless others. In Jesus Name, Amen.

### Choose the Organization

After you pray, ask the student(s) if they need more time to discern which organization to choose, or if they feel they know which one God is prompting them to choose.

As they are ready, have them identify the organization that they will do their fundraising project for in the next session. If they are not ready to choose, yet, give them the space and time to choose. Once they have chosen the organization, they are ready to move onto the next session.

# Session 10: Fundraising Plan

## Session Objectives

1. Students will craft a plan for giving of their time, talent, and treasure to the organization they feel led to choose.
2. Students will problem solve around their plan and prepare to execute it.
3. Students will gather all they need for the fundraiser.

## Materials Needed

Student Workbooks

Miscellaneous supplies determined by the student, and their particular plan.



## Introduction

In this session, you will help students craft a fundraising plan so they can generously support the organization of their choice. You will want to assist and encourage, but the heavy lifting for the fundraising plan should be on the student. You will want to ensure that they see both the benefit and the sacrifice it is to give of themselves to God and to others.

Encourage them to make this process joyful and explain how generosity can be really fun! Lead them back to the call that God has placed on their lives to be generous. Generous lives are lives that are free and full. Help them to experience this during this phase of the program.

## Making the Fundraising Plan

Students will now develop a plan for their fundraiser. Begin by having students list the time, talent, and treasure they can contribute to the fundraising efforts. They will record these in their student workbooks.

From these lists, help them brainstorm ways they can turn what they have available into fundraising ideas. Help them be creative, assist them in crowd funding their efforts so it becomes a community effort, and guide them in discussing and planning for what they have and what they need to implement their fundraiser. A sample list of fundrasier ideas can be found on the next page.

In their student workbooks, they will find a page to organize their fundraiser and develop a plan. This page is also included in your Leader Guide, on the next page for your reference. Support their efforts and encourage them to be creative and community-oriented. After they have made their plan, ensure they have a date(s), ways to keep track of the money raised, and the supplies they need.

# Ideas for your fundraiser

Lemonade/Popcorn stand

Collect cans and turn them in for cash

Send fundraising letters to friends and family

Do yard work/chores for money to donate

Make something and sell it: bracelets, baked goods, art, salsa, canned goods, etc.

Hold a garage sale

Host a sports tournament: golf, pickleball, ping pong with the proceeds going to the organization

Make a video about your fundraiser and share it with family and friends asking them to donate

# Fundraising Plan

For my fundraiser, I will...

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Things I have for the fundraiser...

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Things I need for the fundraiser...

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Who will help me...

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How much I hope to raise...

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The date(s) of my fundraiser...

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# Session 11: Fundraise For Your Organization

## Session Objectives

1. Students will implement their fundraising plan.
2. Students will experience the joy of putting hard work into being generous.
3. Students will gather people around their passion and raise money and awareness for their organization.

## Materials Needed

Miscellaneous supplies determined by the student, and their fundraising plan.

## Introduction



Your role in the fundraising plan is to help encourage, problem solve, and be the sounding board for your student(s). Your role is not to run the fundraiser for the student(s), nor to be the primary driver of it.

Encourage reflection from your students before, during, and after.

**Ask:** What would it look like for the fundraiser to be successful?

What do you hope other people learn from your fundraiser?

How do you want God to use you during and after the fundraiser to bless others?

## Encourage Your Student(s) To...

- Share information about the organization you are raising money for with the people attending your fundraiser.
- Be ready to answer any questions that people might have about your fundraiser. Be kind, respectful, and grateful.
- Share why you chose the organization you are raising money for.
- Pray that God would use your time, talents, and treasure to bless the organization, people contributing to the fundraiser, and those the organization is seeking to reach.
- Have a system for tracking the money raised so that you can be a good steward of it.



# Session 12: Time to Give!

## Session Objectives

1. Students will give the money that they raised to the organization.
2. Students will reflect on what God did in and through them through the Training Generous Hearts program.

## Materials Needed

The money the student(s) raised.  
Student Workbooks

## Introduction



After the fundraiser is complete, have your student(s) collect any money that has been raised, and find a secure way to donate the money to the organization they chose. Have student(s) be as involved with the donation process as possible.

Have students make the donation and also write to the organization, sharing their fundraising efforts, passion for the organization's work, and the process they went through in the Training Generous Hearts program. This additional step adds a personal touch and helps students articulate what it meant to them to be able to help bless the organization.

Suggestions for this letter are found in the student workbook.

## Reflection

Have a discussion with your student(s) about the impact of their efforts on the people their chosen organization works with. Remind them that the giving of their time, talent, and treasure is not a transaction, but an investment into the priorities of God's kingdom. Then talk through the following questions to close out the program. You can even make this fun by having this conversation over a meal, or ice cream!

1. What were two things that you learned during the Training Generous Hearts program?
2. What has God taught you about generosity during the Training Generous Hearts program?
3. What impact are you going to make with your time, talents, or treasure?



# YOUR *journey* HAS JUST BEGUN



Congratulations on completing the Training  
Generous Hearts Program!

This is just the beginning...

Thank you so much for participating in the Training Generous Hearts program with your students! We are thrilled to come alongside of you to help inspire a life of generosity in your students. May God continue to bless you and your students with inspiration and direction in how to steward the time, talent, and treasure God gives you!

*Step into the freedom of  
living a generous life!*



[www.traininggeneroushearts.org](http://www.traininggeneroushearts.org)