TRAINING GENEROUS HEARTS

Student Workbook

training generous hearts

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WELCOME *to* TRAINING GENEROUS HEARTS



Biblical generosity is counter cultural, and we believe your generation can live freely and generously, according to scripture, creating a ripple of generosity for centuries to come.

Over the next 12 sessions, you will embark on a journey into the heart God has for generosity through studying what the Bible has to say about the different topics God cares about. You have an amazing opportunity this year, before you start earning a paycheck, to come to learn God's design for stewardship with your time, talents, and resources! (And, don't worry if you don't really know what the word stewardship means right now, you will learn!)

Biblical generosity is counter cultural and we believe you can learn to live freely and generously, rather than living according to the ways of the culture. It will be so fun to see what your generation does because of learning the freedom of living generously. We can't wait to see what God does through each of you!

Not only will you learn in the Training Generous Hearts program, but you will also get to apply what you learn to the passions God has placed in your heart. This program is designed to be practical to you and your life, so your participation in the group sessions and homework will be key. What you put into it, you will get out of it- and our prayer is that God reveals some areas of passion that can be lifelong pursuits of generosity for you.

Ready to get started? Let's jump in!

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

What Does God Think About Money?

Think About This!

When you think of money what comes to mind?

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

What is the purpose of money?



What Does the Bible Say About Time, Talent, and Treasure?

As these passages are read in your group, write down what you think each passage has to say about time, talent, or treasure.

1 Kings 3:9-12

1 Chronicles 29:11

1 Chronicles 29:16-17

Psalm 24:1

Haggai 2:8

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

Think About This!

What does it mean to steward something?

What have you been given to manage in your life?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.



What Does the Bible Say About Stewardship and Tithing?

As these passages are read in your group, write down what you think each passage has to say about stewardship and tithing.

1 Chronicles 29:14-17

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Matthew 25:14-30

Leviticus 27:30-34

Deuteronomy 14:22-28

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Session 2 Homework

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

What does it mean to be a good steward?

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?

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

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

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 your group 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

Think About This!

Think about a time someone was generous to you. How did their generosity impact your life?

What does it mean for someone to be poor?



What Does the Bible Say About Being Generous?

Psalm 19:17

Psalm 112:5

Proverbs 28:8

2 Corinthians 9:10-12

When we focus on all that is wrong, we have a hard time seeing 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.

What is on God's heart?

Make a list of the things God cares about as a group. After each passage, write the topic.

SCRIPTURE	TOPIC
Genesis 2:15	
Deuteronomy 10:17-18	
James 1:27	
Matthew 19:14	
Psalm 103:6	
Matthew 5:10-11	
Matthew 25:34-40	
Lamentations 5:21-22	
Proverbs 24:11	
Deuteronomy 16:19-20	
Proverbs 31:8	
Deuteronomy 15:11-12	
Luke 14:13-14	
Isaiah 42:16	
Matthew 4:24	

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.

What does God care about?

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 as disciples

What items from the list did you circle?

Why do you think God placed these on your heart?

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

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

Session 4: You Have Abundance!

Pairing You Have With God's Heart

Think About This!

What topics did you circle on the list of things God cares about?

Why do you think God has placed those things on your heart?

The topic I will focus my research on is: _____

The people I will work with to research are: _____

Digging Deeper: Questions To Guide Your 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?
5. How might you narrow your topic from broad, to more specific?

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 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 than the world's economy.



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?

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

Next, begin researching your area of passion. You might want to revisit a website you found in your group session, or you might want to broaden your search by having a conversation with someone you know, or reading a book or an article 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.

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 your group 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

Think About This!

1. What organization did you identify in your homework as the organization you would like to present to your group?

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: The Organizations Our Group Wants to Fund

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Ways to pray for the organizations your group will fund:

- Pray that God would continue to use the organization to help those who need their care the most.
- Pray that God would bring people with generous hearts to help fund the organizations.
- Pray that your group would be a blessing to the organization.



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...

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...

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 Presentation #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...

Name of organization: _____

Three interesting facts I learned during the presentation:

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

Review how God is calling you to respond to each organization you researched and communicated with. Circle the items in your research that stand out, and then list the important items about each organization below:

Look up the following verses, and write what each one teaches you about discerning what God wants you to do.

Isaiah 30:21	Jeremiah 6:16	Hebrews 13:20

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God for discernment...
Ask God to help you know his voice...
Ask God to use you to bless others...
Ask God to bless the organizations you researched...
Ask God for wisdom in knowing His plans...

Out of the three organizations you researched and communicated with, which one are you most excited about giving to? Why?

Choose an organization that you feel called by God to support, that you are excited about, and that you can come up with a fundraising plan for. Which organization will you (or your group) choose? Why?

Session 10: Fundraising Plan

Make a list!

What are your time, treasure, and talents that you can give to raise money to be generous to the organization of your choice?

Time:

Treasure:

Talents:

Ways to fundraise for my organization...

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...

Things I have for the fundraiser...

Things I need for the fundraiser...

Who will help me...

How much I hope to raise...

The date(s) of my fundraiser...

Session 11: Fundraise For Your Organization

Things to keep in mind for your fundraiser...

- 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 you can be a good steward of it.

Reflections on the fundraiser:

Session 12: Giving Day!

Time to Give!

It's time to donate the money you raised. Work with your leader to ensure your donation is securely processed, and then write an email or letter to the organization to tell them about your process of discovering a passion, fundraising for it, and then donating to their organization.

Write a letter or email to the organization you are donating the money to. Here's some things to include in your email or letter:

- Share about your passion for what they are doing and the people they serve.
- Share about how you discovered this passion
- Share about your fundraiser, including things you learned, people who got involved, and how much you raised.
- Share anything else you think the organization would be interested in knowing about you or your fundraising project.

Think About This!

1. What were the one or two things that you learned during the Training Generous Hearts program?

2. What has God taught you specifically 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...

We pray you learned about God's generous heart as well as identified some passions God has put into your heart. This is just the beginning though. Our prayer is that you would continue to learn about God's heart, and ways you can be a good steward of the time, talent, and treasure he has given to you. May you find the freedom of living generously with all the resources God places in your life!

Step into the freedom of living a generous life!

training generous hearts

www.traininggeneroushearts.org