TRAINING GENEROUS HEARTS

Teacher Guide



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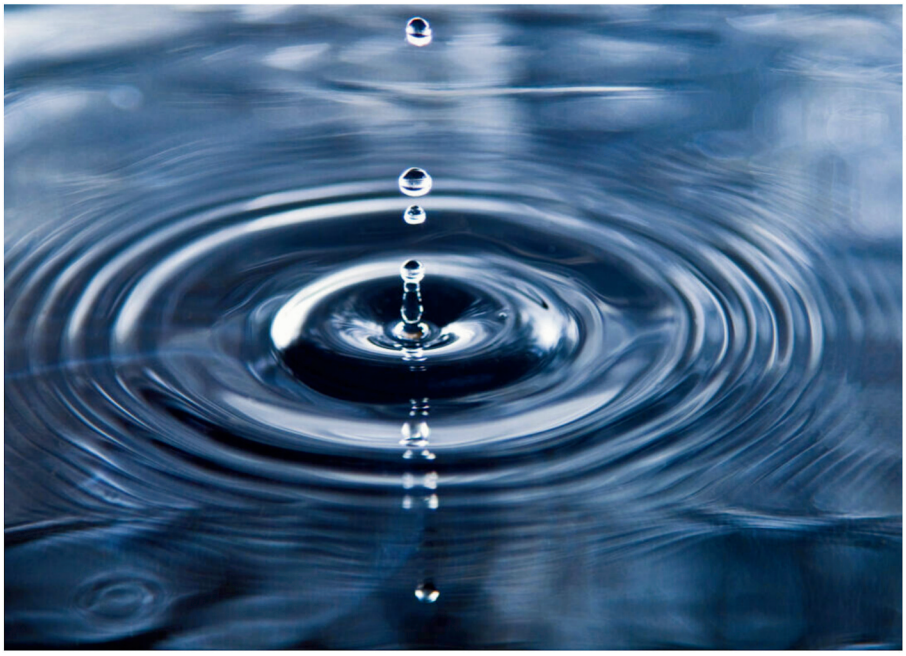
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Training Generous Hearts
www.traininggenerousheart.org

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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 the school 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 Middle School 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 11 session program designed to train and challenge Middle School 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 school facilitating the Training Generous Hearts program will be given $5,000 in grant money, to be given away to organizations that the students and facilitators collectively feel called to partner with, supporting the work God is doing through them.

The program facilitators will help students identify churches, agencies, organizations, and nonprofits that are making an impact in the areas of passion the students have chosen. These organizations will then be invited to come and present their projects to the students.

At the end of the sessions, students will then have the opportunity to vote on how to divide the money between the organizations and what projects they would like to see funded. Instructions about money distribution are detailed below in the Distribution section.

Grant amounts will total no more than $5,000 and organizations will need to meet the criteria of Training Generous Hearts, prior to being awarded the grant money.

The grant money will be completely funded by Training Generous Hearts and the school is not required to provide any of their own money to the grant projects. With that being said, we believe generosity flourishes when an element of sacrifice is involved, so students are encouraged to contribute additional dollars or time volunteering to partner with one of the organizations that is presented to their class.

Facilitation

The Training Generous Hearts program can be facilitated through an existing class like leadership, spiritual formation, or a business course. It can also be added to an exploratory course on the topic, it can be adapted to be facilitated outside of the classroom through a club, such as student council, or special course offered by the school. 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 class activity time.

Schools will be required to provide at least one (but can be more) staff or volunteer who will facilitate and champion this program on their campus. The responsibility of the facilitator includes:

1. Learning, teaching, and implementing the curriculum.
2. Welcoming and introducing representatives from the organizations the class has chosen.
3. Facilitating the voting of where the grant money will be distributed with the students.

Additional responsibilities that can be taken on by the facilitator or another person identified as a school sponsor include:

1. Being the school liaison for the organizations who will receive grants.
2. Communicating with Training Generous Hearts about the organizations each class chooses to receive the grant money.
3. Any follow up with the organizations after their visit to the school.

Distribution

Schools will be awarded $5,000 in grant money from Training Generous Hearts that will be distributed to the various organizations in the amount of their choosing. Organizations which are invited to a school to present their organization will need to go through a short vetting process by the facilitator, school champion, and Training Generous Hearts. The vetting process will include a short conversation between school facilitator and/or sponsor, and Training Generous Hearts.

1. The criteria through which each organization will be vetted to receive the grant includes the following: Is the organization an established nonprofit that can receive funds?

Organizations must have registered tax status as nonprofit, no funds can be given directly to individuals, businesses, or for-profit industries.

2. Does the organization work to further causes that are in alignment with the values reflected in scripture and consistent with orthodox Christianity. Both the school and Training Generous Hearts should feel comfortable and confident in the organization being recommended for a grant.

Once the class decides which organizations will receive the grant money, the school facilitator or school champion will be responsible for communicating with Training Generous Hearts.

Distribution (Continued)

Training Generous Hearts will send the grant money directly to each organization. Because of the time organizations are giving the school by presenting their work to the classes, it is our desire that any organization which comes and presents to the class will receive at least a small distribution of the grant money (at least $100).

The grant money will be stored and managed by Training Generous Hearts, no money will come directly to schools, rather schools will communicate with Training Generous Hearts to direct the funds.

Grants will be made to the organizations from Training Generous Hearts on behalf of the school. Organizations will receive their funds within 2 weeks of the request by means of a check issued to them. Any unused portion (if any) of the grant money will remain with Training Generous Hearts.

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Homework

Students will be given homework to complete after most of the 11 teaching sessions, with the exception of Session 5. These activities can be done during class time, or at home, depending on the facilitator's preference. Homework will consist of journaling, looking up Biblical passages on the topics of money, stewardship, and God's heart for the oppressed.

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 class support. Facilitators 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 school, 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 **traininggenerousheartsgmail.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
Projector to show a short video clip



Introduction to the program

NOTE: As a facilitator you can use this script or adapt it as you see fit for your teaching of the curriculum.

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, and your passions; and then aligning your passions with God's heart for the world.

As part of this program, we have been given a $5,000 grant that our school will split up and give away to organizations doing God's work in the world. Our class will have representatives from those organizations out to talk about what they do, and then we as a class will vote on which organization will receive the most money. 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 each one of you to commit the next 11 sessions of Training Generous Hearts to participating in the class 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 that to further God's work in 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 student's beliefs. In this part you will want to not correct students on their current beliefs, but rather just get to articulate them.

Break the class up into several groups. Once they are in their groups, say:

I'm going to ask you a series of three questions. I want you to share with your 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.

Ask: When you think of money what comes to mind? (Have students raise their hands or shout out their thoughts.)

Ask: When you receive money as a gift, or earn it, whose money is it? (Have students raise their hands or shout out their thoughts.)

Ask: What is the purpose of money? (Have students raise their hands or shout out their thoughts.)

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. I'm going to ask a few of you to look up a few verses and read them aloud to the class. 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 in groups, if you prefer the group to look up the verses together.

"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.”

Psalm 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 stuff, 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/)

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 class but 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

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 Teacher'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 school (30 minutes), school (6 hours), doing homework (2 hours), free time after school (6 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 the students. 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 whole class: 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 class 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...

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

What the Bible Says About: Stewardship and Tithing

Break up students into groups to read the various passages together. Tell them after they read the passage together, they will discuss as a group the following questions and be prepared to report as a group on their answers. The passages they will be looking up are: **1 Chronicles 10:14-17**, **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 10:14-17

"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 groups look up the passages and discuss their answers, have them make two lists on the white board titled:

1. What people are asked to steward

2. Qualities of a good steward

Next have students get back into their groups to look up another passage together and discuss the following questions:

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 groups look up the passages and discuss their answers, have them make two more lists on the white board titled:

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 that 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 class.

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 in-class exploration of scripture 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 class 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 class 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



Introductory Activity

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

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

Think About This!

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

Ask: Think about another time someone was generous to you. Who would like to share their experience with the class?

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

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 a few of you to look up a few verses and read them aloud to the class.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

Psalm 19:17

"It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice."

Psalm 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 the discussion around the multiple ways someone can be poor- poverty of resources (money, food, education), poverty of spirit (not knowing Jesus), poverty of emotions or intellect (people who are challenged due to a disability).

Break students into groups to look up the following passages together. Have each group look up three verses and one group look up four verses.

As they read the verses have them fill in a list on the white board which reads:

What does God care about?

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

· **Group 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 thekingdom of heaven." **(Teaching children about Jesus)**

Group 2: Look up the following verses:

- **Psalm 103:6** "The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed." **(Oppressed and enslaved)**

- **Psalm 107:3 "**He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (**Hurting)**

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- **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)**

Group 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)**

Group 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 about, 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 can often wonder why these issues seem to remain in the world. Why isn't there more justice and righteousness that is visible in the world, and why do the poor continue to suffer and why there is so much hurting? But 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.

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 class 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 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 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
Projector to show a short video clip



Introductory Activity

Have students pair up and look through the homework they completed from session 3.

The last three sessions we have explored God's generous heart to each of you in giving you 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 person you are paired up with 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

Make a list on the board of the items God cares about. Have students write their names underneath the items they circled. This activity will give you and the students the opportunity to start to see the causes that God has placed on their hearts.

After the students have written their names by the topics, begin to group them by topic. Students will have multiple topics they wrote their names by, so you will need to use your discretion about size of group and where students should focus their research as a class.

Some options to do this include having students choose one topic their name is under, assigning students one of their topics, allowing the class to decide who researches each topic, or another idea you come up with.

Regardless of group size, you will want to make five groups by narrowing down the topics to five, based on where the students placed their names. It's likely that many students will have put their name under one of these five topics, however you will have a handful of students who don't have their names under one of these five topics. Have those students choose which topic group they would like to be in.

Digging Deeper

After students are grouped, give them time to research their topic. They can do this with many different resources (books, videos, internet searches, etc.) You will want to give them some clear direction about what to research on their topic, as well as guide them to reputable resources on the topic (for example, leading them away from opinion-based blogs and to sites with quantitative or qualitative research.) Here's 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 don'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. We are going to watch a video which shows the power of being used by the compassion of God to use what you have, to give to 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 effected 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 class 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 about your area of passion. You might want to revisit a website you found in class, or you might want to broaden your search. 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 which 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 their groups the organization that they would like the class to help fund.

2. Groups will present to the class the one organization they would like the class to give to.

3. The class will identify the five organizations they want to invite to class.

Materials Needed



Student Workbooks
Any visuals the students want to use for their group presentation

Introductory Activity

You have begun researching organizations that are making an impact in your areas of passion. I hope that has been a fun process. Today's session will be all about narrowing down the organizations that we could give the grant money to as a class and identifying five that we will invite to our class to learn more about what they are doing to make an impact.

Have students get into their groups and answer the following questions with their group:

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 lasting and eternal impact?

4. What is the impact the organization is making?

Digging Deeper

After each person has presented to their group, have them decide as a group the one organization that they will present to the class.

Give each group time to present their chosen organization to the class. Each group should give a 1–3-minute overview of the organization and why their group chose them.

Write the list of organizations that are presented on the board. These will be the organizations which are invited to come and talk to the class about the impact of their work.

The teacher or sponsor will send out emails to a representative of the organization inviting them to the class. Details for these sessions are outlined in Sessions 6–10.

Closing Reflection

As a class, pray for each of the organizations that were presented. Students can do this in groups, or the whole class can pray together.

Homework

There is no homework for this session.

Instructions for Inviting Organizations to Present to Your Class

After your class has determined the five organizations they want to hear more about, you will want to invite them to your class. This invitation can come from either the teacher or the sponsor, if the class has a sponsor working with them. Be specific about the invite. Organizations who know exactly what is expected of them for this time, will have a greater chance of saying yes!

Determine the following to include in your ask:

Date and time you want them to visit the class.

What you want the representative to present on.

Tell them what your class has been studying, and that students will be asking them questions about their organization.

Sample Email

A sample email is included below to give you an idea of what you can say in your invitation:

Dear (Leader or representative name),

Greetings on behalf of the 8th grade class at (insert school's name)! This year our 8th grade class was selected to participate in a program called Training Generous Hearts. The Training Generous Hearts program exists to help students explore Biblical generosity and discover how to partner with God in the work he is doing in the world. Students have been researching organizations who are doing work that is making an impact in the areas they are passionate about. Our school has been given grant money through the Training Generous Hearts organization to bless non-profits with.

Our class has identified your organization/ministry/agency as one they want to learn more about and bless with a portion of the grant money.

Would you be interested in setting up a time to present to our students on behalf of your organization?



It can be in person or over a video call. We'd love for you to share some highlights of your work and the impact your organization is making with us. I can also share with you more about how the Training Generous Hearts program is run and how the grant money will be distributed if you are interested.

Thanks so much for your consideration, and I look forward to connecting with you.

(insert your name)

The organization presentations can be in person, or via video call- if they don't have any local representatives. We recommend you spread them out and have five 20–25-minute sessions with each organization. But you can configure them however you see fit for your class. Some other ideas are having an evening where students and their parents attend and all five organizations present over the course of a couple hours, or pairing organizations up together and do two three-hour long sessions with the class. How you configure the presentations is up to you. But if possible, having a representative in person with the students is preferable.

Sessions 6-10: Organization Presentations

Session Objectives

1. Students will listen to representatives from the organizations the class has chosen, present on the work their organization is doing.

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 impact the world.

Materials Needed



Student Workbooks
Thank You card for organization

Introduction

The teacher or sponsor will introduce the representative and instruct the students that they will need to take notes on three facts they found interesting about the work the organization is doing and to be prepared to ask some follow up questions after the presentation.

Reflection

During the sessions with the organizations, encourage the students to take notes on what they learn and be prepared to ask some insightful questions. These pages can be found in the student workbooks. You may want to also have each group produce a list of questions they want to ask during their organization's presentation. 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.

Here are some sample questions students might ask the representatives who come visit the class:

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?

After the presentations, allow the students to ask some follow up questions to what they have heard, and have each group send a thank you note to the representative who presented.

Homework

Student workbook sheets will focus on reflecting on what they heard in the presentation. These can be filled out in class or given as homework after class. There are two pages per presentation for the students to fill out. They can both be filled out in class or you can assign the second sheet to be filled out as homework. These student workbook sheets are included for your reference.

Session 6: Organization Presentation #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 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 heard in the presentation?

Session 7: Organization Presentation #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 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 heard in the presentation?

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 heard in the presentation?

Session 9: Organization Presentation #4

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 heard in the presentation?

Session 10: Organization Presentation #5

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 heard in the presentation?

Session 11: Time to Give!
Voting Day

Session Objectives

1. Students will be empowered to make choices with the grant money.

2. Students will reflect on their experience going through the Training Generous Hearts program.

3. Students will identify the most impactful things they learned through Training Generous Hearts.

Materials Needed

Student Workbooks
Popsicle sticks (enough for each student to have 3)
Five containers to place the popsicle sticks into



Introduction

This session is the culmination of the program. Students will be given the opportunity to vote on how much money each organization will receive from Training Generous Hearts and will also be given the opportunity to share their learning throughout the program. Make this a very fun session for the students! It can have a celebratory feel to it, and as their teacher you may want to add your own special flair to it with a special snack, recording of the student's learning, or music on while they vote.

Reflection

At the beginning of the session have students reflect on these three questions:

1. What was the one or 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?

Digging Deeper

After students have written their answers to the questions, have some of them share with the class their answers. Celebrate together the growth God has produced in them during these 11 sessions.

After students share, tell them it's time to vote on how much money each of the organizations will get. Line up five containers with each organization's name labeled on it. Give students each three popsicle sticks which will represent a certain amount of money (this amount will vary based on how many students you have participating from your school).

For example: With a school that has 50 students participating in the program each popsicle stick would represent $33.33 dollars they have to give to the organization of their choice, for a total of $100 per student.

If your school has more or less than 50 students participating in the program, you will want to do the math- $5,000 divided by the number of students participating, divided by three will give you the amount each popsicle stick will be for your students.

Instruct students to place their popsicle sticks in the containers according to which organization they would like to receive the money. Students can put all their sticks in one container, or can choose three different organizations to give to, putting each one of their popsicle sticks into a different container.

Once the students vote, count up the dollar amounts for each organization, and report those numbers to the students.

Once the session is over, please contact Training Generous Hearts and report how much each of the organizations will be getting of the $5,000. Training Generous Hearts will need the following to give the grant money:

1. The amount the organization will receive.
2. The contact information of the representative at the organization.
3. The EIN number of the organization.
4. The address the organization's check should be mailed to.

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!

training generous hearts

www.traininggeneroushearts.org