

GLADNESS AND GENEROSITY: FAMILY TALK

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Encourage the CHILDREN to ponder on all that Jesus has done for them...for everyone, and let them read Luke 19:1-11 (When Zacchaeus met Jesus his life was changed, he was so excited he never wanted to be the person he was before. Tell them briefly about Tax Collectors, their love of money, and how unpopular they were in their community because of it.)

- Encourage the children to learn to share the groups offering between 'Church Ministry, Children's treats, and serving the community by GIVING'. They can do this by dividing the money up weekly into three separate JARS.
- Discuss with the children how to use the money they are saving...in community...overseas?
- Organise a time to go out INTO the community with leaders and parents to do tasks.
- Ideas: gardening, clearing the snow in winter, shopping errands, buy a surprise gift for someone locally, sending a colourful letter, decorating stones with inspirational scripture etc
- Think of a classmate, or a relative that might need something, or would like something...encourage the children to ask God to show them what, and how they can demonstrate their Generosity.
- PLAN the generous acts the children would like to do...make it happen!
- Start a colourful JOURNAL; letting them take turns to take it home to write their own testimonies and adventures/acts of generosity as they show Jesus' love to others.
- Purchase a stuffed toy, call it a Generosity Lamb (representing Jesus) that can go out into the community, or to the children's homes to take photos with to encourage them to record their acts of generosity and how the Holy Spirit made them feel Glad as they enjoyed serving in their communities.
- Let the children explore their own ideas, many will have noticed the needs in the community, or lonely people near them.
- Help the children if they are struggling to get their ideas kick started...
- Remind the children that they can show generosity by the way they care for members of their family. Helping at home, encouraging siblings, sharing their toys etc.
- Giving toys away that they don't need or use anymore.

Generosity is infectious, it encourages positivity and reciprocity in others...one shall tell another, and he shall tell his friend...

Remember we are encouraging CHILDREN that they too can let their little light shine before others too. Their generosity will change both their lives and those around them. (Don't forget to give a gentle reminder to children (Safeguarding) not to go doing these generous deeds by themselves without adult supervision, but encourage them to practice the generosity in their homes, and school.)

Marie Jackson

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