

God sees our hearts

The Goal: To understand that when we give, Jesus sees our hearts. As God's Son He can do all that God can do. When we act and live with generosity, we are aligning (bringing into line) our hearts and actions with God's heart and actions. This is one way we show we are His children.

Leader's Notes: This is an immersive experience designed for ages 6-18. The duration is 30 minutes or can be extended by completing the GIVE activities together.

Please read through all pages of the adventure before starting the session. Please read the **Leader's Guide** for further guidelines on the adventures. Have fun!

The Generosity Adventure Path

Engage in a **giving** adventure to experience generosity more fully as a recipient OR as a giver

Gather around the Bible and discuss what it means.



Play an experiential **game** to raise curious thinking, then answer some reflection questions.

Game — Sharing Chain



What you need: Paper / sticky notes, markers or pens for each player. The goal of the game is to show the **power of sharing**, and how even something small can lead to big and positive outcomes.

Play this game together

- You'll need paper, and markers or pens.
- Give each player a piece of paper and pen.
- Each player must think of a small gift or talent they have that can be shared with someone. Think of something simple like a drawing, a joke, a piece of advice or any small act of kindness.
- Each player writes their small gift on their piece of paper. While they do, use some other pieces of paper to form a chain on the floor, symbolising a 'sharing chain'.
- Ask everyone to share their small gifts aloud. As they do, connect their paper to the existing chain. Everyone will see how the chain grows. Small acts make big changes.

Verse for the week:

"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." <u>1 Sam 16:7b</u> (NIV)

Reflect together

- How did it feel to give something small?
- Why do you think even small gifts are important to God?
- How do you think God sees our hearts?

Gather



Remember: God looks at our hearts as we give. Although it's easy to get caught up in pride of what we do, and how we give, it's more important to be humble and recognise God as the Giver of all good gifts. Our heart's intentions are what matter to the Lord.

What you need: At least one Bible for each small group

Story of the Bible

Gather in small groups and describe or discuss the Biblical principles around our key theme: God sees our hearts as we give.

PRINCIPLE: When we give to show off, that will not please God, but when we give from the heart, God sees and His heart overflows with joy.



Read Luke 18:9-14 (NIV) out loud together. Consider using this as a verse to remember for the week. You could even write it out and mark the text to highlight God's love and generosity.

Discuss

- What did you notice in the Bible story?
- Of the two men, who do you think has a heart that is right before God?
- When we do great things for others, what is important to remember?

Bible Story: Pharisee and Tax Collector

Reflect together

- What do you think about the video story?
- What are you going to do differently after seeing the video?

Give





- Giving when it costs us something:
- We're going to discover what it feels like to give something that costs us to give.
- Think about what belongs to you: possessions, time, skills and gifts.
- Go through these things in your mind and identify something special that could be an important gift for someone else.
- Write down what you want to give on a sticky note or piece of paper, and to whom.
- Now stop and pray: As a group, let's pray for God to guide us in what to give and who to give it to.

Giving Back (Ages 6-12)

Like Car (Ages 13-16)

Discuss together:

- How did you feel when you gave away something that belonged to you?
- How would you feel if God asked you to give money you were saving up to buy something special to help someone who really needed it?

Gen-G Gem:

When we share something which we really like with others, it might feel a bit tough, but that's called giving from the heart.

Repeat



This adventure is just the beginning of an ongoing journey learning more about our generous God!

You can repeat this experience or choose another! Visit <u>https://generousgenerations.org</u> for more resources and Generosity Journeys with new discoveries, games, and experiences!

Lights, Camera, Generosity in Action!

Share your story of your observations about God's generosity!

If you'd like to share your generosity story, please send a video or audio to the Gen-G stories team. Your story can inspire others to be a part of the Gen-G movement! You can email them to <u>stories@generousgenerations.org</u> or send them via WhatsApp to +27-83-395-4588