

Character Trait November 5 to 11 is Generosity

Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright guides them”

CHARACTER: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Generosity: Carefully managing my resources so I can freely give to those in need.

Weekly Verse: II Corinthians 9:7 “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (This is the next verse in the chapter after last week’s verse.)

Bible Story: Acts 4:32-37 tells of the believers sharing everything they owned.

Quote: "We make a living by what we get, but make a life by what we give."

Leadership:

If you are in a position of leadership, you are given many opportunities each day to be generous. As a leader, I have discovered three areas where being generous will make a difference: with my time, with my attention, and with giving grace. All three of those are difficult for me because they run counter to needing to accomplish a long list of items. However, I also know that time spent in these areas more than compensates for any task I might have been doing.

Application:

Generosity is more than just a one-time gift or donation. Generosity is a mindset that should govern all aspects of our lives. One of the most well-known stories in the Bible about being generous is the Good Samaritan, who gave of his time, his skill, and his money. Generosity is also not about the size of our gift. Jesus cared more about the reasons behind the giving, such as the story of the widow who gave a small gift in relation to others, but a large gift in relation to what she could give.

I think most people instantly think of money when they hear the word “generosity”, but we can give many different things. We can give our time, our skills and talents, our attention, love, the use of our home, or other gifts.

Discussion Questions:

1. Based on our definition of generosity, would you say God is generous?
2. Is it hardest for you to give time, talents or treasure?
3. What would you say is the opposite of generosity?
4. What is the main reason people aren’t more generous (in your opinion)?