

North Texas Conference

Holy Spirit

Director Edition

Summer 2018 Conference Camp Curriculum

Wednesday – Afternoon

Generosity

Supplies: Bibles, battery operated candle, green beads, random objects from supplies, sheets of paper (1-2 per camper), origami paper (1-2 per camper)

For the Leader...

We are asked to be generous not only with money but in our lives. We can be generous with our time, with our praise, with our kindness and love, in service, and in countless other ways. Don't get bogged down in the offering plate imagery in the story, but in what it means to give from and with our all. Some translations use "goodness" instead of generosity.

Opening/Centering Prayer – led by Student

Supplies: candle

Suggested Time - 5 min

Adult lights the candle, invites the group to gather around it and a student to pray the following prayer.

God, as we light this candle and it shares its light with us, help us to share your light with others. Help us to be generous with those we meet today fueled by our love for you. Let us not be burned out on giving, but instead be reignited to find ways to share our gifts. Amen.

Activity for Introductions & Reintroductions

Supplies: random objects from supplies

Suggested Time - 10 min

Have each student pick out a random object from the group's supply bucket. Invite each student to share what they picked and why as well as what they think their object is worth. Then ask the group the questions below.

- How do you determine the worth of something?
- Can something be worth a lot but not cost a lot of money?
- What do you think is valuable to God?

For the Leader...

The widow gave two lepta (the smallest Greek copper coin, each worth 1/128 of a single day's pay). This obviously contrasts greatly with what the rich persons were contributing. It is important to note from the passage that the widow was willing to give God everything.

Scripture Lesson & Discussion

Supplies: Bibles

Suggested Time - 15 min

This afternoon we're focusing on generosity. There are two accounts of the Widow's Mite in the New Testament, both are included here. We are reminded in this story that generosity is more than the gift, but the attitude with which it is given. Generosity is about coming from a place of abundance rather than wealth.

Mark 12:41-44 (CEB)

⁴¹Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. ⁴²One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. ⁴³Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who's been putting money in the treasury. ⁴⁴All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on."

Luke 21:1-4 (CEB)

¹Looking up, Jesus saw rich people throwing their gifts into the collection box for the temple treasury. ²He also saw a poor widow throw in two small copper coins worth a penny. ³He said, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than them all. ⁴All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had to live on."

- Why did the widow give? Why do we give to the church?
- Why do you think it is important to be generous or happy when we give?
- How have you been shown generosity in your life?
- How have you shared generosity with others?

Children's Focus:

- Have you ever given someone a gift? What was their reaction?
- Who do we give gifts to? Why?
- Many of us don't have our own money. Aside from money, what are other things we can give?
- What are some talents or things you're good at that can be used to help others?
- What do you think it means to be generous?

Jr. High Focus:

- What is one of the best gifts you've ever received? What made it great?
- When you receive a gift do think about returning the favor? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the widow's gift was important to Jesus?
- Many of us in middle school are going through, or just went through, Confirmation. The membership vows of the church are to offer God "our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness." How can we be generous in these ways?

Sr. High Deep-End:

- How was the widow's giving different than everyone else's?
- Why did Jesus say that the widow gave more than everyone else?
- What do you think it means to "give our all" to something? How do you know when you have given your all?
- Is it possible to give too much?
- Normally scarcity & fear drive us to withhold our giving & generosity. How do you think the Holy Spirit frees us from this mindset?

Hands-on Activity: Bracelets

Supplies: green beads

Suggested Time - 5 min

Each session, we will add a small colored bead to represent the Fruit of the Spirit that is studied. For this session add a small green bead to represent GENEROSITY.

Quote/Life Example or Testimony/Relatable Story: A Small Project, A Big Idea

Supplies: none

Suggested Time - 10 min

*Source: **Paper for Water** (www.paperforwater.org/background)*

When sisters Katherine and Isabelle Adams were 5 and 8 years old, they learned that millions of people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water. This knowledge had a profound impact on them, and they decided they wanted to make a difference. They made handcrafted origami that they would exchange for donations to build a water well for a community in Ethiopia. With this decision in 2011, Paper For Water was founded.

In that original project, their goal was to raise \$500. After it was completed, they had raised almost \$10,000. Since then, they haven't stopped. To date, these two girls, who are now 11 and 14, have worked with hundreds of volunteers to raise over \$1.3M and have helped fund over 150 water projects in 14 countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, India, Mexico, Uganda, Peru, and Zimbabwe.

While we effect change abroad, we are also working to create a local movement in our North Texas community. To be more precise, Paper For Water:

- Provides access to clean water and sanitation for the global poor worldwide;
- Educates others about the world water crisis;
- Promotes servant leaders who follow Christ's message to serve with joy and compassion;

- Uses the creativity and energy of our local community to connect individuals and transform the world;
- Emphasizes character building through living a meaningful and purposeful life;
- Equips and develops leaders; and
- Empowers an entrepreneurial spirit that seeks solutions for the world's problems.

After reading about the above group, ask the following questions:

- What do you think about the Paper for Water project?
- How do you think this demonstrates the generosity that God wants us to have?

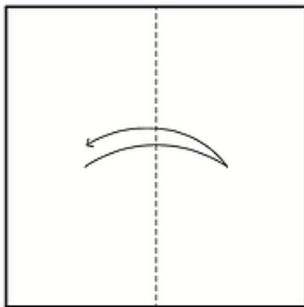
Hands-on Activity/Game:

Supplies: sheets of paper (1-2 per camper), origami paper (1-2 per camper)

Suggested Time - 15 min

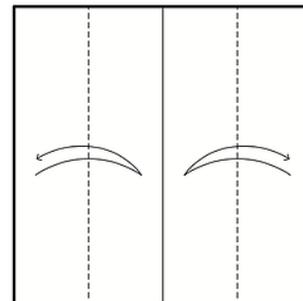
While continuing to reflect upon the Paper for Water project above, let the students themselves make some origami that will be sent to Paper for Water. You might have younger students you want to practice on pieces of normal copy paper before trying the origami paper. However, the origami paper will be easier to fold. Below is a basic pattern. This instructions can also be found online at <https://www.paperforwater.org/origami> and more origami with videos can be found at <https://www.paperforwater.org/more-origami>.

1)



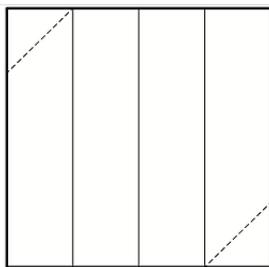
FOLD IN HALF, THEN UNFOLD

2)



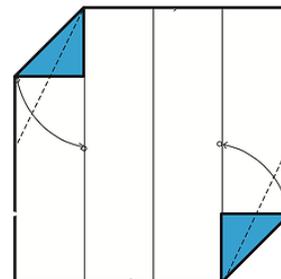
FOLD INTO QUARTERS, THEN UNFOLD

3)



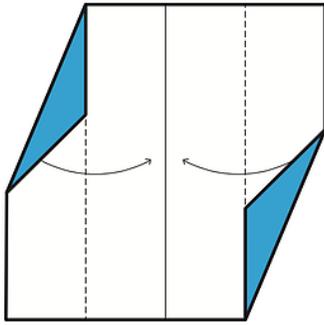
FOLD TOP LEFT AND
BOTTOM RIGHT CORNERS IN
TO MEET LINE

4)



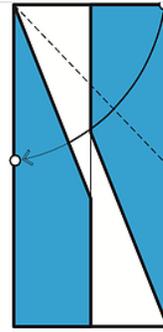
FOLD TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM
RIGHT CORNERS IN TO MEET LINE AGAIN

5)



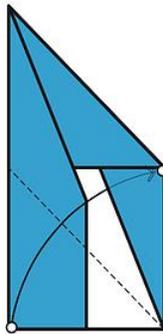
FOLD OUSIDE QUARTERS
BACK IN TO MIDDLE

6)



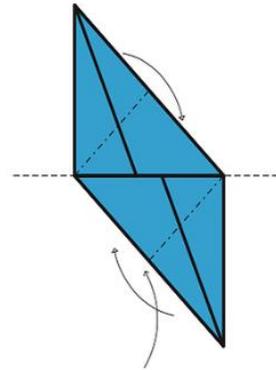
FOLD TOP RIGHT CORNER
DOWN TO MEET LEFT EDGE
AND SLIDE UNDER FLAP

7)



FOLD BOTTOM LEFT
CORNER UP TO MEET RIGHT
EDGE AND SLIDE UNDER FLAP

8)



MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY
FOLD ALONG LINES AS SHOWN

<p><i>How is generosity evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit?</i></p>
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You do not have to be rich to be generous.

Closing Prayer/Benediction – led by Adult

Supplies: none

Suggested Time - 5 min

Lead a time of prayer with the prayer written below.

God of all we know and see, help us to step into Your call for us. Help us to give all of who we are to You. Help us be part of Your kingdom here on earth and be someone that becomes Your hands and feet. In Christ's name. Amen.