



THE FAMILY **GENEROSITY** CHALLENGE

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A 5-day devotional series to help parents instill generosity, humility, and thankfulness in their children

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY GENEROSITY CHALLENGE!

Welcome to the Family Generosity Challenge!

I'm so glad you've decided to join us! I hope this challenge will be encouraging for you as you seek to instill generosity, humility, and thankfulness in your children.

My name is Christine, and I'm here to guide you through each day of the challenge, and to offer some additional application points for you to put into practice the theme of that particular day. I'll also be the one emailing you with each devotional to keep you on track!

I'm looking forward to going on this journey with you.

Joyful,

Kelsey Terschak
Compassion International

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DAY 1: BEING THANKFUL

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BEING THANKFUL?

Read About It: 1 Samuel 7:1-12

What do you think of when you hear the word “Ebenezer”? You might picture Ebenezer Scrooge, the character in “A Christmas Carol” who is unkind until some ghostly visitors teach him a few lessons.

But the Bible is much older than the Charles Dickens story. In the Old Testament, the prophet Samuel named a rock Ebenezer! No, it wasn’t his pet rock. Samuel and other Israelites were gathered in a town called Mizpah when they came under attack from a violent group of people called the Philistines. The frightened Israelites asked Samuel to pray for help. Samuel prayed for protection, and God listened. The Israelites defeated the Philistines!

The Bible tells us what happened next: “Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, ‘Thus far the Lord has helped us’” (1 Samuel 7:12). Samuel used the rock to remind his people that God had helped them and to thank their Creator for saving them.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What could you use as your own Ebenezer—an object that will remind you to thank God for helping you?

Think about kids who live in poverty. Many don’t have food, clean water, medicine, doctors, clothes or houses. How is your life different from theirs? Remember to pray for them.

ACT ON IT:

- Paint your own “[gratitude rocks](#).”
- Choose a toy or other object to name Ebenezer. Use it as a reminder to feel thankful even on hard days.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, thank You for giving my family a warm home, medicine, clothing, food, water and the chance to go to school. Please bless the children around the world who don’t have these things. Help me remember to give thanks for all the blessings in my life. In Your name, amen.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION:

We’ve put together a whole prayer and Bible study plan around the topic of thankfulness that would be great to go through with your spouse or kids. You can start the plan on YouVersion for free [here](#)!

DAY 2: HUMILITY

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HUMILITY?

Read About It: *John 13:1-17*

You've probably never washed anyone's feet. It's not common in our part of the world these days, but it was common in biblical times. Back then, many people wore sandals or went barefoot while walking along dirt paths and roads. So their feet got dirtier than ours usually do. Also, people didn't have the indoor showers and bathtubs we have today, so they couldn't easily wash off the dirt.

So during Jesus' time on Earth, people would wash their feet with buckets of water and rags. Even today, many families in poor countries can't afford to live in homes with showers or baths. They use buckets of water and soap to bathe.

Washing other people's feet in biblical times was a way of serving them. Many households had servants, and it was usually their job to wash their masters' feet. But in John 13, Jesus surprised His disciples by offering to wash their feet! The disciples thought that since Jesus was God and Master of all, they should wash His feet. But Jesus wanted to show them that it's not a sign of weakness to serve someone — it's a sign of love, strength and humility. Humility means you don't view yourself as better than other people.

Jesus' disciples learned from His powerful lesson, and you can too!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How would it feel to wash someone's feet?

How do you think Jesus' disciples felt when He washed their feet?

What are some other ways you can serve others today or tomorrow?

ACT ON IT:

With an adult's help, offer to wash a family member's feet. Get a bucket of water, add some soap, and then take it to an area where it's okay to make a mess. Use a washcloth to wash someone's feet.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, Give me an opportunity to serve someone else in a practical way. Help me be aware of the needs around me. I know it's not a sign of weakness to serve others. Help me be loving and see others as before myself. In Your name, amen.

COMPASSION CONNECTION:

Water is an important part of everyday life, but for many children who live in poverty, the water isn't safe to drink. Read the story of a [9-year-old sponsored girl from Tanzania](#) and how Nyabwiri's day revolves around water.

DAY 3: TRUE TREASURES

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT TRUE TREASURES?

Read About It: *Matthew 6:19-24*

To find out, set a course for God's Word and start exploring!

Modern-day treasure seekers think they have found the ship and sunken treasure of Captain Kidd, a famous pirate who sailed the high seas in the late 1600s. They think his ship got off course and sank off the coast of Madagascar near East Africa, and they hope to find gold when they explore it!

Sometimes kids are looking for treasures, too, like a better bike or a new doll. But these aren't true treasures. To discover true treasure, set a course for God's Word and start exploring!

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jesus is saying that a happy life doesn't depend on the things we have. The true treasures that make us happy come from loving Jesus and loving others.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How can you find true treasure?

Do I own toys and books that I no longer need?

ACT ON IT:

Here are some ideas for finding true treasure!

- Make and give a gift to a friend.
- Share your toys with someone who doesn't have as much as you.
- Make two toy piles in your room: one for toys you use and one for toys you don't use anymore. Consider giving away the toys you don't need to a friend who could use them.
- Talk to your parents and see if you can sponsor a child through Compassion International.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, thank You for all the good gifts You have provided for me and my family. Help me take care of them and know how to help others who have less. Thank You for teaching me about true treasures, like You, my family, friends and Your creation. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY 4: SERVING

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT SERVING?

Read About It: Mark 10:35-45

“Me Last!” Have you ever been the last person to be chosen for a team? Do you go to the end of the line because your last name starts with Z?

Do you run to get “first dibs” on the front seat of the car when piling in for carpool? How does it feel to be first in line for the water fountain when you are hot and thirsty? Jesus had some curious things to say about first and last.

In the Bible, two brothers asked Jesus for a big favor. They wanted special seats, one on the right and one on the left of Jesus’ throne after He was anointed King! They said, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory” (Mark 10:37).

The other disciples heard about it, and they were mad. Maybe they wanted the best seats, too! Jesus decided to gather them all together to talk about it. How did He answer them? We learned that in our verses today! Mark 10:45 says, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did Jesus show His disciples to serve others?

How does Jesus want you to serve others? Here are some ideas!

ACT ON IT:

In God’s kingdom, the servant is the greatest. Let’s act on it!

- In your neighborhood, rake leaves for elderly neighbors or help them with trash.
- In your school, in the lunch line, let others go ahead of you instead of wanting to be first. Help a friend with her backpack.
- In your home, do one of your chores before you are reminded. Take out all the garbage in the house.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, Thank You for teaching me how to serve. Help me to forget about me and to start thinking about others. Thank You for the ways my family, teachers and leaders in my church show me how to be a servant-leader, too. Help me to encourage others to be great leaders! I pray for _____, who needs someone to care about, listen to, or help out today. Jesus, I pray for Compassion-sponsored kids around the world who are learning to be servants in their Bible classes like me! In Jesus’ name, amen.

DAY 5: BEING GENEROUS

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BEING GENEROUS?

Read About It: Acts 20:32–35

You may have heard the saying before, “It is more blessed to give than to receive!” Did you know that this popular saying is actually biblical? When Paul spoke to the Ephesians in Acts 20:32-35, he wanted them to understand two things: that the grace of God is far better than any material thing they could ever have, and the value of a life lived generously for the sake of the Gospel.

If we truly believe that God’s grace and the glory of eternal life with him are better than the material things we get or have in our lifetime, the root of our greed and covetousness is severed, and it shrivels up and dies. When we no longer feel greed for those things, we can become passionate about meeting the needs of others with what we have.

In other words, the joy and favor with the Lord that you will receive when you are generous with your time and possessions will be worth ten times over what you give up.

Generosity isn’t something that we naturally have as human beings, but through dedication to the principles we learn in Acts, we can learn to find immense joy, and glorify the Lord, through becoming generous people.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is something you have been holding on to that you could give away today?

Where else in Scripture can you find evidence of people finding joy through their generosity?

How does Jesus want you to be generous with your time and possessions?

ACT ON IT:

- Go through your closet or toy box this weekend and pick out a few things to take to a donation box in your city. Some great options are Salvation Army, Goodwill, or your local church may have a clothing or toy drive to contribute to.
- Surprise your kids at the end of the week with a [Compassion child](#) that you sponsor on their behalf that will be their new pen pal!

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, Thank You for the way Paul set a great example of a generous life in Acts for me to follow. Help me to seek out ways to share, to give generously to others, and be less greedy with my things. I pray that when I do this, it would bring joy to someone who needs it. Jesus, I pray for Compassion-sponsored kids who are in need, that they would be blessed by the generosity of their sponsors and the people who help them grow up. In Jesus’ name, amen.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION

CONGRATULATIONS ON FINISHING THE CHALLENGE!

Before you go, we'd like to offer you one more application opportunity to show your child what generosity looks like by looking through the list of children waiting for a sponsor who share a birthday with them.

There are children just like yours in other parts of the world who are waiting to be loved and cared for by a Christ follower like you.

Right now, over 100,000 children in poverty are waiting to be sponsored. Some have been waiting over 1 year for someone like you to care for them. With your generous contribution of \$38 a month, they get life-changing opportunities such as:

- an opportunity to attend or stay in school
- medical care, which often saves lives
- nourishing food
- mentoring and a safe environment through a local evangelical church
- and most important, opportunities to hear the gospel.

And while that child benefits from being partnered with you, your own children can build a friendship with a child all the way across the world through special letters and gifts, and experience the joy that true generosity brings as well.

Take the first step towards sponsoring a child, and find your child's birthday match today by visiting [Compassion.com/birthday](https://www.compassion.com/birthday).